

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN, TINSUKIA REGION
PRE BOARD EXAMINATION
SESSION: 2025-26
CLASS-10

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE- 184

MAX.TIME – 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS- 80 MARKS

General Instructions:-

Read the instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

(i) This question paper comprises 11 questions. All questions are compulsory.

(ii) The question paper contains three sections:

Section A – Reading Skills

Section B – Grammar and Creative Writing Skills

Section C – Literature

(iii) Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION –A READING SKILLS- 20MARKS

1. Read the passage carefully.

(10marks)

1.The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has brought into effect a set of rules called the Environment Audit Rules, 2025, that allows the vital activity of environmental monitoring and auditing to go beyond the remit of State Pollution Control Boards. The rules will largely scrutinize whether industrial units are compliant with environmental regulation.

2. The overall framework for monitoring and compliance within the existing environmental framework is presently supported by the Central Pollution Control Board, the Regional Offices of the Environment Ministry, and the State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees. They have, however, been facing significant constraints in terms of manpower, resources, capacity and infrastructure. “These limitations have hampered their ability to comprehensively monitor and enforce environmental compliance across the vast number of projects and industries operating nationwide,” said a press statement by the Environment Ministry. This scheme aims to bridge the manpower and infrastructure deficits faced by regulatory authorities, thereby strengthening the effective implementation of environmental compliance mechanisms.

3. Under the new rules, private agencies can get themselves accredited as auditors. Much like chartered accountants, environment auditors can get themselves licensed and be authorised to evaluate the compliance of projects with environmental laws and their adherence with best practices in the prevention, control and abatement of pollution.

4. Environmental regulation has, in recent years, transcended policing and bookkeeping. Given that human-caused climate change is seen as a problem that nations must collectively fix, new dimensions to environmental regulations have emerged. Thus, audits undertaken by these agencies can also be used for compliance with ‘Green Credit Rules’, under which individuals and organisations can gain tradeable ‘credits’ for afforestation, sustainable water management and waste management among other activities.

5. Beyond industrial units, nearly every company in India will have to account for its direct and indirect carbon emissions. This will entail fairly complex accounting practices, which are beyond what Pollution Control Board officials can handle. However, preparing for the future should not be at the expense of compromising core responsibilities. It is usually at the district, block and panchayat levels that the most flagrant environmental travesties abound, which escape notice usually because of the lack of trained staff. The new regime must seek to empower them too.

1. Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

I. What are the present agencies responsible for environmental monitoring and compliance in India? (1mark)

II. The main reason behind introducing the Environment Audit Rules, 2025 is: (1mark)

- a) To give more power to industries
- b) To bridge manpower and infrastructure deficits
- c) To reduce the number of pollution control boards
- d) To provide tax benefits to companies

III. According to the passage, who are now eligible to be accredited as environment auditors? (1mark)

- a) Government officials only
- b) Chartered accountants
- c) Private agencies
- d) Regional Offices of the Environment Ministry

IV. Infer implicit meaning from context: (1mark)
The statement “Preparing for the future should not be at the expense of compromising core responsibilities” implies that:

- a) Only future-oriented policies matter
- b) Current issues at the local level must not be ignored
- c) Compliance is less important than planning
- d) District-level officers are sufficient for all tasks

V. How Environment Auditors are comparable with Chartered Accountants? (1mark)

VI. Evaluate the given statement and comment on its effectiveness. (2marks)

“The new regime must seek to empower district, block and panchayat levels too.”

VII. The central theme of the passage is: (1mark)

- a) Economic development of industries in India
- b) Empowerment of private agencies over government bodies
- c) Strengthening environmental compliance and monitoring
- d) Carbon credit trading among various agencies

VIII. What problems are faced by Pollution Control Boards, and how will the Environment Audit Rules, 2025 help to overcome them? (2marks)

2. Read the passage carefully. (10marks)

1. A tariff is a tax or duty imposed by a government on goods imported from other countries. The main purpose of a tariff is to regulate trade, protect domestic industries from foreign competition, and generate revenue for the government. By making imported goods more expensive, tariffs encourage people to buy products made within the country. They are an important tool of economic policy and are often used to balance trade relations between nations.

2. The rules of tariffs generally involve setting a specific rate of duty, either as a percentage of the value of goods (ad valorem) or as a fixed charge on each unit (specific duty). Countries decide tariffs based on trade agreements, national interest, and economic strategies. While tariffs can safeguard local industries, they can also invite retaliation from other countries, leading to trade wars.

3. In recent years, America has imposed tariffs on several Indian products such as steel, aluminium, textiles, and some agricultural goods. The United States took these steps mainly to protect its own industries and reduce trade deficits. For India, which exports a significant amount of goods to the U.S., these tariffs have created both opportunities and challenges.

4. The advantages for India in confronting U.S. tariffs are significant. Firstly, such challenges may encourage Indian businesses to diversify and explore markets beyond America, reducing dependency on a single nation. Additionally, tariffs could compel domestic industries to enhance competitiveness and product quality. This scenario also reinforces India's focus on self-reliance and regional trade agreements.

Conversely, the disadvantages include the potential loss of a strong export market, as the U.S. is one of India's largest trading partners. This may lead to reduced foreign exchange earnings from lower export volumes. Moreover, small and medium-sized exporters, heavily reliant on U.S. buyers, may face increased pressure, jeopardizing their viability in a challenging landscape. Also it brings with it the risk of slowdown in industries like steel, textiles, and agriculture which employ millions of workers.

5. To overcome these challenges, India must adopt a balanced strategy. First, it can diversify exports by strengthening ties with countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America. Second, India should focus on trade agreements that provide preferential access to foreign markets. Third, improving domestic infrastructure, reducing production costs, and enhancing product quality will make Indian goods more attractive worldwide. Lastly, policies like "Make in India" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat" and "Local for Vocal" implemented by our honourable PM, can boost self-reliance and reduce dependence on any single country for trade.

6. In conclusion, tariffs are a double-edged sword. While America's tariffs on India have created hurdles, they also offer India an opportunity to rethink its trade policies and expand its global presence. By adopting innovation, diversification, and strong diplomatic negotiations, India can not only overcome these barriers but also turn them into stepping stones for long-term economic growth.



2. Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

I. What is the main purpose of imposing tariffs? (1mark)

- a) To reduce government spending
- b) To protect domestic industries and regulate trade
- c) To stop exports completely
- d) To make imports cheaper

II. The overall tone of the passage can be described as: (1mark)

- a) Humorous
- b) Critical
- c) Informative and analytical
- d) Aggressive

III. Explain how U.S. tariffs on Indian products create new opportunities for India. (2 marks)

IV. Infer implicit meaning from the below line. (1mark)

The phrase "double-edged sword" in the passage suggests that tariffs are:

- a) Always harmful

- b) Both beneficial and harmful
- c) Completely safe for trade
- d) Useful only for America

V. Examine the logical relationship between an assertion and its reason (1 mark)

Assertion (A): America imposed tariffs on Indian steel and aluminium.

Reason (R): To protect its own industries and reduce trade deficits.

- a) Both A and R are true, and R explains A
- b) Both A and R are true, but R does not explain A
- c) A is true, but R is false
- d) A is false, but R is true

VI. Based on the passage, what conclusion can you draw about India's trade policy after facing U.S. tariffs? (1 mark)

VII. The central theme of the passage is: (1 mark)

- a) India's dependence on trade of agricultural produce
- b) Tariffs and their impact on India's economy and trade policies
- c) The rise and fall of the economy of US
- d) The decline of global trade due to pervasive trade policies

VIII. Mention two disadvantages that Indian exporters face due to U.S. tariffs. (1 mark)

IX. Complete the sentence: (1 mark)

To overcome the challenges of U.S. tariffs, India must focus on _____, _____, and _____.

SECTION -B

GRAMMAR AND CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS- 20MARKS

GRAMMAR

3. Answer **any ten** of the following twelve questions, do as directed. (10X1=10)

3.1. Examine the question carefully and choose the correct option accordingly.

_____ book lying on the table has been gifted to me.

- a) A
- b) The
- c) Some
- d) Much

3.2 Read the sentence and fill the correct option below.

Look at the above. The sky is getting darker and cloudy. It _____ rain now.

- a) might
- b) should
- c) may
- d) can.

3.3 Read the dialogue from the play of Shakespeare and fill the correct option below.

Julius Caesar said, "the coward _____ many times before their deaths". That's why, the brave _____ always respected.

- a) dies, is
- b) died, were
- c) die, are
- d) was dying, were.

3.4. Read the sentence and fill the correct option below.

Before Isha _____ me, she _____ my problems very well.

- a) helps, knew
- b) had helped, knows
- c) helps, knowing
- d) helped, had known.

3.5. Complete sentence using correct determiner.

She doesn't have _____ friends in this city.

3.6 Spot the error in the sentence and correct it:

One have to understand one's responsibility in order to lead a happy and blissful life.

Error	Correction

3.7 Read the sentence and fill the correct option below.

If you studied hard, you ____ pass the exam.

- a) will b) would c) can d) should

3.8 Spot the error and suggest correction.

Neither of the boys were present in the class.

Error	Correction

3.9 Apply the correct use of articles.

_____ French may learn _____ English language any time.

- a) the, no article. b) an, a c) a, an d) the, the.

3.10 Convert the dialogue into indirect reported speech.

She said, "I did read Far From The Madding Crowd last night."

3.11 Change this statement into passive voice.

They will announce the results tomorrow.

- a) The results are announced tomorrow.
b) The results will announced tomorrow.
c) The results will be announced tomorrow.
d) The results were announced tomorrow.

3.12 Examine the sentence and fill the correct verb in the blank.

Either Ramesh or his friends ____ coming today.

WRITING

4. Attempt any one from (A) and (B) given below:

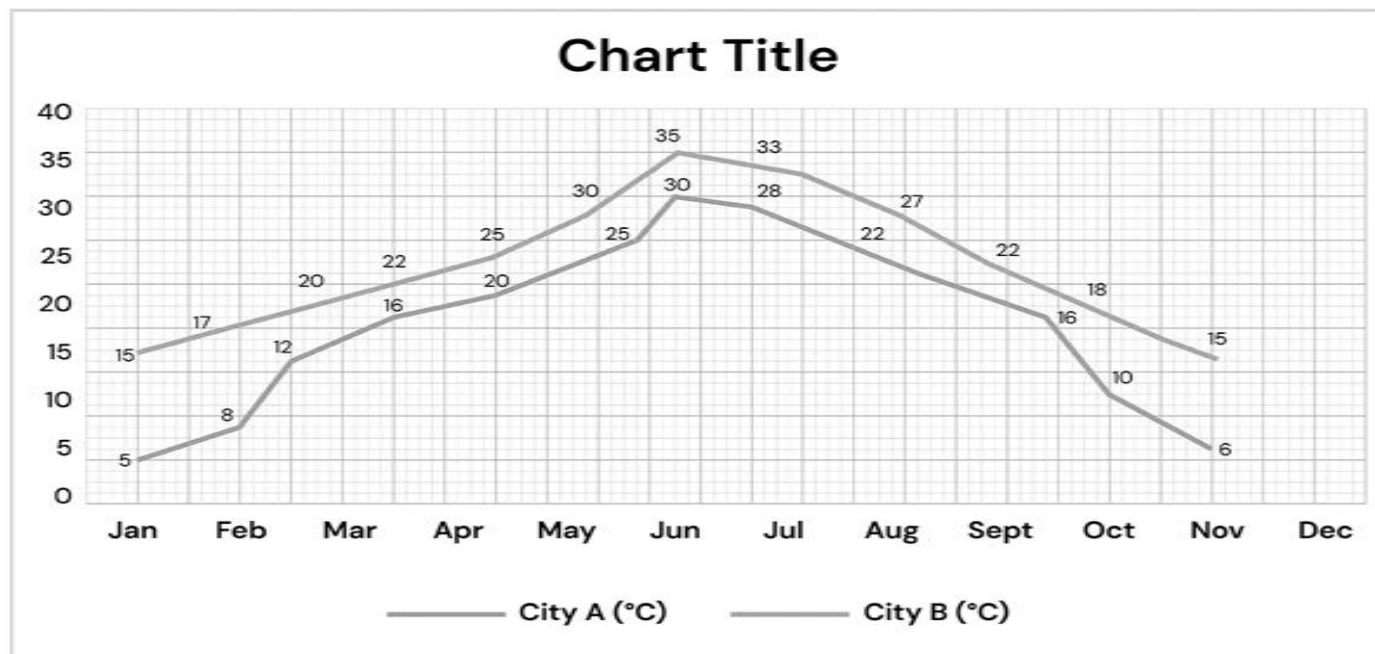
(5marks)

4A. As the Captain of the school's Cultural Club, you have been asked to study the given itinerary provided by a tour-organizing vendor and write an analytical paragraph in 120 words.

- A 3N/2D Educational Tour for the Senior School Students:
- Jabalpur and Ranha National Park (Vandhya Pradesh)
- Tour Travel & sightseeing by bus.
- Accommodation on quad sharing basis.
- One staff complimentary for every 20 students.
- Bottled mineral water throughout the tour.
- Dance Party on 22 November.
- Insurance policy of ₹ 20,000/- per head.
- Provision of Tour Manager's assistance to all places.

OR

4B. The line graph below shows the average monthly temperatures of two cities (City A and City B) from January to December. Write an analytical paragraph based on the data.



5. Attempt any one from (A) and (B) given below :

(5marks)

5A. You are Ravi Kumar, a resident of 24, Green Park, New Delhi. Recently you purchased a Air Conditioned machine from JOY Electronics, Kolkata, West Bengal. The machine has not been working properly since the day it was delivered. Write a letter of complaint to the Manager of JOY Electronics giving details of the problem and asking for repair/replacement.

OR

5B. You are Ananya / Arjun, a student of Class X, Delhi Public School, New Delhi. You feel deeply disturbed by the increasing cases of social injustice such as gender discrimination, caste-based inequality, child labour, and denial of education to the underprivileged. Write a letter to the Editor of The Times of India expressing your concern and suggesting measures to promote social justice and equality in society.

SECTION-C
LITERATURE-40 MARKS

6. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (A) or (B) :

A. Poor Kisa Gotami now went from house to house, and the people pitied her and said, “Here is mustard seed; take it!” But when she asked, “Did a son or daughter, a father or mother, die in your family?” they answered her, “Alas! the living are few, but the dead are many. Do not remind us of our deepest grief.” And there was no house but some beloved one had died in it. Kisa Gotami became weary and hopeless, and sat down at the wayside watching the lights of the city, as they flickered up and were extinguished again. At last the darkness of the night reigned everywhere. - THE SERMONS AT BENARES

(i) Why did people in every house say that the living are few but the dead are many?

(1mark)

(ii) What truth did Kisa Gotami realise while watching the flickering lights of the city?

(1mark)

- a) Death comes only to the poor
- b) Death is inevitable for all human beings
- c) Human life is short and mortal
- d) Old age protects humans from death

- (iii) How did Kisa Gotami's understanding of life and death change by the end of her search for mustard seeds? (1mark)
- (iv) What was the root cause of Kisa Gotami's grief and pain? (2marks)

OR

B. "The following summer, after his freshman year at Harvard University, Ebright went back to the laboratory of the Department of Agriculture and did more work on the hormone from the gold spots. Using the laboratory's sophisticated instruments, he was able to identify the hormone's chemical structure. A year-and-a-half later, during his junior year, Ebright got the idea for his new theory about cell life. It came while he was looking at X-ray photos of the chemical structure of a hormone. When he saw those photos, Ebright didn't shout, 'Eureka!' or even, 'I've got it!' But he believed that, along with his findings about insect hormones, the photos gave him the answer to one of biology's puzzles: how the cell can 'read' the blueprint of its DNA. DNA is the substance in the nucleus of a cell that controls heredity. It determines the form and function of the cell. Thus DNA is the blueprint for life." - THE MAKING OF SCIENTIST

- i. Where did Ebright return after his freshman year at Harvard? (1mark)
- To his school laboratory
 - To the Department of Agriculture laboratory
 - To his home study room
 - To his friend's laboratory
- ii. How did X-ray photos of the chemical structure inspire Ebright to think of a new theory about cell life? (2 marks)
- iii. Which of the following literary devices is used in the phrase "DNA is the blueprint for life"? (1mark)
- Simile
 - Personification
 - Metaphor
 - Hyperbole
- iv. Where is DNA located in a living cell? (1mark)

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (A) or (B) :

7A.

"He stalks in his vivid stripes
The few steps of his cage,
On pads of velvet quiet,
In his quiet rage.
He should be lurking in shadow,
Sliding through long grass
Near the water hole
Where plump deer pass.
(TIGER IN A ZOO)

- i How does the tiger move inside his cage? (1mark)
- ii. Which contrasting idea about the tiger's life does the poet highlight in this stanza? (1mark)
- iii. Identify the poetic device in "On pads of velvet quiet." (1mark)
- Metaphor
 - Personification
 - Alliteration
 - Simile
- iv What does the poet want to convey by showing the tiger locked in a cage instead of roaming freely in the jungle? Find out the contrast in the poem. (2marks)

OR

7B.

“All night the roots work
to disengage themselves from the cracks
in the veranda floor.
The leaves strain toward the glass
small twigs stiff with exertion
long-cramped boughs shuffling under the roof
like newly discharged patients
half-dazed, moving
to the clinic doors.

(TREES)

- (i) Infer the meaning of the phrase by using evidence from the context. (1mark)
“newly discharged patients”
- (ii) What implicit meaning does the “long-cramped boughs shuffling under the roof” suggest? (1mark)
- (iii) Explain the poet’s point of view and his tone in the poem ? (2marks)
- (iv) “All night the roots work”- identify the figure of speech used in sentence. (1mark)
- Simile
 - Anaphora
 - Oxymoron
 - Personification

8. Answer **any four** of the following questions in 40 – 50 words each : (4x3=12marks)

- (i) justify the title of the play ‘the proposal’.
- (ii) How does Valli’s bus journey in the story Madam Rides the Bus become a turning point in her life, shaping her understanding of the world and maturity?
- (iii) Are the post office employees truly a bunch of crooks? Give your personal view with the evidence from the text.
- (iv) Do you think the tiger in A Tiger in the Zoo symbolizes human suffering under restrictions? Explain with examples from the poem and relate it to the struggles of black people under apartheid.
- (v) What kind of picture is painted by the poet through the line, ‘*Ink trickled down to the bottom of the household*’?

9. Answer **any two** of the following questions in 40 – 50 words each: (2x3=6marks)

- (i) ‘Appearance can be deceptive’, Explain in reference to the character of Mr Ausable.
- (ii) How does ‘*The Book That saved the Earth*’ include elements of satire in a science fiction?
- (iii) Make an assessment of Griffin’s morality, ethics and philanthropic attitude.

10. Answer **any one** of the following two questions in 100 – 120 words (6marks)

- (I) You have been chosen to address the school assembly, to speak on the epistemology of loss and the resilience of the human spirit during difficult times of crisis. Prepare a short speech with reference to the commonality of the themes of *The Ball Poem* and *From the diary of Anne Frank*.
- (II) Difficulties come in life but they are not bound to stay forever. They are temporary and transient in nature. Explore this theme on the basis of the text ‘*Fog*’ and ‘*A letter to God*’.

11. Answer **any one** of the following two questions in 100 – 120 words (6marks)

- (I) Trust and compassion has the magical power to transform even a criminal. Discuss in reference to the ‘*The Thief’s story*’?
- (II) Mme Liosel’s over ambition or uncontrollable desire for wealth, beauty and social status causes her downfall and suffering. Do you think the message of *The Necklace* is still relevant in the contemporary society?