KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN LUCKNOW REGION

Pre-Board Examination (2025-26)

Class X **Max. Marks: 80**

SUBJECT: ENGLISH COMMUNICATIVE (101) **Max. Time: 3 Hours**

General Instructions:

1. The Question Paper contains FOUR sections.
   i. Section A - Reading
   ii. Section B -Writing
   iii. Section C - Grammar
   iv. Section D - Literature
2. All questions are compulsory. Internal choices in some questions have been provided.
3. There is no negative marking.
4. Attempt all questions in a particular section in the given order.
5. Ensure correct numbering against all answers.

SECTION – A

1. Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow. **(12)**

The Rise of Sustainable Fashion

Fashion is one of the most powerful industries in the world, influencing how people think, dress, and express themselves. Yet, behind the glamour of runways and celebrity endorsements lies a serious environmental cost. The fashion industry is among the largest polluters, consuming vast amounts of water, energy, and raw materials. The rise of fast fashion - cheap clothes produced rapidly to follow trends—has made stylish outfits affordable but has also filled landfills with discarded garments and polluted rivers with chemical dyes.

The concept of sustainable fashion seeks to transform how we design, produce, and consume clothing. It encourages people to buy fewer but higher-quality clothes that last longer. Brands are now turning toward eco-friendly materials like organic cotton, bamboo, and recycled polyester. These materials use fewer natural resources and produce less waste. Many designers are adopting "slow fashion," focusing on timeless styles that can be worn for years rather than replaced every season.

Technology is also reshaping the fashion industry. Artificial intelligence helps companies forecast demand, reducing unsold stock and waste. 3D printing allows designers to create clothes with zero fabric waste, while digital fashion shows reduce travel emissions. Thrift shopping, clothing rentals, and online resale platforms are also gaining popularity, especially among young consumers who see sustainability as part of their lifestyle, not just a choice.

SUSTAINABLE FASHION TRENDS

Material	Water Used (litres per kg)	Biodegradable	Environmental Impact
Cotton	10,000	Yes	High Water Usage
Polyester	50	No	Non-Biodegradable
Organic Cotton	7000	Yes	Lower Impact

Recycled Polyester	30	No	Reduces waste and energy

The future of fashion depends on mindful choices—by both producers and consumers. Sustainable fashion is not just a passing trend; it's a movement toward protecting the planet, supporting fair labour, and redefining beauty as something that doesn't come at the Earth's expense.

i. What is the *primary contrast* the passage draws between fast fashion and sustainable fashion? (1)
   A. Affordability vs. Aesthetic appeal
   B. Trend-following vs. Responsibility
   C. Quantity vs. Comfort
   D. Brand value vs. Local production

ii. If a company wants to minimize both water use and waste, which fabric should it prioritize? (1)

iii. Materials like organic cotton and bamboo are described as _____. (Answer in one word) (1)

iv. Which of the following *best* explains why recycled polyester is considered eco-friendly? (1)
   A. It decomposes quickly.
   B. It is biodegradable and cheap.
   C. It minimizes waste and energy consumption.
   D. It is made from natural fibers.

v. Artificial intelligence : Forecasting demand :: 3D printing : _____ (1)

vi. **Assertion (A):** Organic cotton is better for the environment than regular cotton. (1)
   Reason (R): Organic cotton uses fewer chemicals but the same amount of water as regular cotton.
   A. Both A and R are true, R is the correct explanation of A
   B. Both A and R are true, R is not the correct explanation of A
   C. A is true, R is false
   D. A is false, R is true

vii. The phrase *"behind the glamour of runways and celebrity endorsements"* suggests- (1)
   A. The fashion industry hides its economic strength.
   B. The beauty of fashion hides environmental harm.
   C. Fashion events are unnecessary extravagance.
   D. Celebrities are responsible for pollution and glamour.

viii. Which word in Para II is the antonym of 'Fleeting'. (1)

ix. Which of the following best captures the *tone* of the passage? (1)
   A. Cautionary yet hopeful
   B. Neutral and detached
   C. Aggressive and accusatory
   D. Sarcastic and mocking

x. The author's attitude toward fast fashion is best described as (Critical/Supportive) (1)

xi. The passage describes fashion as "redefining beauty as something that doesn't come at the Earth's expense." Explain this idea. (2)

2. Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow. (10X1=10)

Digital Privacy and Data Protection

In an era where our lives are lived online — from banking and shopping to education and healthcare — personal data has become the new currency. Every click, search, and scroll adds to the vast digital footprint that tech companies and governments collect to "improve" user experience. However, this convenience comes with a growing threat: the loss of digital privacy.

According to a 2024 report by the Internet Society, over 65% of internet users worldwide feel that they have "little or no control" over how their data is used. Data breaches have become alarmingly common, with more than 2,200 cyberattacks reported daily across the globe — roughly one every 39

seconds. In India alone, cybercrime cases rose by 24% in 2023, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

To tackle this, India introduced the Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDP Act), 2023, a major step toward safeguarding user information. The law defines how companies can collect, store, and use personal data. It requires organizations to seek clear consent before processing user information and grants individuals the "right to be forgotten" — allowing them to demand deletion of their data. However, experts argue that enforcement remains a challenge, especially given India's massive digital population of over 820 million internet users.

Globally, the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) remains the gold standard, ensuring transparency, strict penalties, and user rights. In contrast, countries like the United States still lack a unified federal data protection law, relying instead on state-level rules.

The bigger concern is the trade-off between privacy and convenience. Many people willingly share personal information for personalized ads, discounts, or app features without realizing its long-term risks. As artificial intelligence and data analytics grow more powerful, safeguarding privacy becomes not just a legal issue but a moral and social one. The future of digital freedom depends on how wisely we handle our data today.

i. What is the main paradox highlighted in the passage about digital life? (1)
   A. The internet connects people but also isolates them emotionally.
   B. Convenience and privacy often come at each other's expense.
   C. Cybercrime is rising despite better technology.
   D. AI reduces jobs while increasing productivity.

ii. The US has a single, strict national privacy law like Europe's GDPR. (TRUE/FALSE) (1)

iii. Why does the author describe enforcement of the DPDP Act as a challenge? (1)
   A. Because India has not officially implemented the law yet.
   B. Because companies refuse to comply with any regulations.
   C. Because India's vast digital user base makes regulation complex.
   D. Because the law lacks any legal authority.

iv. Which term in the passage refers to the collection of online activities and data that reveal user behaviour? (1)

v. When discussing global comparisons, the tone of passage is— (1)
   A. Analytical and factual.
   B. Aggressive and emotional.
   C. Casual and dismissive.
   D. Vague and speculative.

vi. Which region's privacy regulation is known as the global benchmark for protecting its user data? (1)

vii. The _____ gives users the power to demand erasing their personal information. (1)

viii. The author's argument that privacy loss is a "moral and social issue" is- (1)
   A. Weak, because it avoids mentioning user choice.
   B. Illogical, because morals have nothing to do with data.
   C. Persuasive, because it connects technology to responsibility.
   D. Incomplete, because it only blames governments and people.

ix. Do you think users are more responsible than companies for data misuse? Justify your answer (2)

SECTION-B

Q3. Write an application to the Principal, in not more than 50 words, requesting a duplicate copy of your lost report card**.** You are Nisha Kapoor, Class X-B. **(1X3=3)**

Q4. Write a factual description of a science model you made for a school exhibition, in not more than 100 words, explaining its purpose, materials used, and working. **(1X4=4)**

Q5. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in 120 words (1x7=7)

A. In today's rapidly changing job market, students need more than academic knowledge — they need skills that prepare them for real-world challenges. Vocational education helps bridge this gap, yet, it is often undervalued in comparison to mainstream academic courses.
As Ankit Mehra, 78-B, Lajpat Apartments, Lucknow, write a letter to the Editor of a national daily discussing the importance of vocational education for the youth, the barriers to its widespread adoption, and suggest measures to make it more accessible and respected in society.
Use your own ideas along with those from **MCB Unit 2: Education**, to write this letter.

OR

B. India is known for its vast cultural, linguistic, and regional diversity. However, this diversity also faces challenges in today's changing social environment. Educational institutions can play a major role in promoting mutual respect, inclusivity, and national harmony among young citizens.
As Meera K, 47-D, Rajendra Nagar, Kanpur, write a formal letter to the Secretary, Ministry of Education, Government of India, expressing your concern about the challenges faced in India's "Unity in Diversity" and mentioning ways to promote national integration through education. Suggest practical measures that can help students appreciate and uphold national unity.
Use your own ideas along with those from **MCB Unit 6: National Integration**, to write this letter**.**

Q6. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in 150 words (1X8=8)

A. The growth of eco-tourism offers a way to travel that respects environment and local culture, but even eco-tourism itself has risks of being commercialised or damaging nature.

As Rahul / Ritika of 88-B, Nehru Nagar, Agra, write an article for your school magazine expressing your views on Eco-Tourism in India and how it can be a seen as a blend of opportunities and challenges. In your article, discuss the concept and objective of eco-tourism, mention major threats (mass tourism, lack of local involvement, expenses etc.), and propose a few steps or initiatives for the community to ensure tourism is sustainable.

You may use your own ideas along with the given cues and your reading of the **MCB Unit 5: Travel and Tourism**

Potential Benefits, Threats & Concerns like over-commercialisation, habitat damage, high costs, lack of local involvement, Key Considerations: Balance tourism growth with sustainability; ensure community participation and strict eco-guidelines, responsibility of tourist.

OR

B. You are Ananya Mehta, Class X. Write an article on the topic 'Renewable Energy: Powering a Sustainable Future' highlighting the potential benefits and challenges of adopting renewable energy sources.
Discuss whether renewable energy can truly replace conventional fossil fuels, considering its cost, accessibility, and technological limitations. Conclude with your opinion on whether

investing in clean energy is the most practical path toward environmental sustainability or an ideal still out of reach.

You may use your own ideas along with the given cues and your reading of the **MCB Unit 3: Science.**

Concept of Renewable and Conventional Energy Sources, Benefits and Opportunities, Challenges Government and Global Initiatives: Policies promoting clean energy, international cooperation (like Paris Agreement), and funding for research. Role of Individuals and Community, Future Vision

SECTION C

Q7. Fill in the blanks (i) – (iii) with the appropriate option from those in the brackets. (3X1=3)

Riya woke up early on Sunday morning. She wanted to bake a cake for her friend's birthday, but she realised there wasn't **(i)** _____ (little/some/any) sugar left in the jar. She thought she **(ii)** _____ (may/can/should) go to the nearby store before it got crowded. By the time she returned from the store, her mother **(iii)** _____**(**has/have/had) already prepared the decorations for the party.

Q8. In the following paragraph, one word has been omitted in each line. In your answer sheets, write the missing word along with the word that comes before and after it, as shown below. The first one has been done as an example. (4X1=4)

S. No.	Text	Word Before	Omission	Word After
	The mobile phone is one of greatest gifts of modern science.	of	the	greatest
i.	It is a great medium communication.			
ii.	In earlier times mobile phones used only for communication			
iii.	but now we can use it for watching videos and listening music.			
iv.	Excessive use of mobile phones can affect our physical mental health.			

Q9. Do as directed.

i) **Rearrange the following jumbled words/phrases in the given dialogue to create a meaningful sentence. (1X1=1)**

TEACHER: What's your opinion on digital learning, Ananya?
ANANYA: (i) modern education / an essential / has become / of / part / digital learning / especially / post-pandemic / in the / era

ii) **Report the conversation given below by filling in the blanks to complete the following paragraph**. **(2X1=2)**

Niharika: Riya, have you completed your project on climate change?
Riya: Not yet. I'm still collecting data from the internet.
Niharika: You should hurry up; the submission is due tomorrow!

Niharika asked Riya (i) _____ her project on climate change. Riya replied in negative saying that she was still collecting data from the internet. Niharika then advised her to hurry up as (ii) _____.

SECTION D

Q10. Read the given extract and answer the questions briefly. (Any two out of three) (2X4=8)

A. 'The post office, one of the most uninteresting buildings in the world, became his place of pilgrimage. He always occupied a particular seat in a particular corner of the building, and when the people got to know his habit they laughed at him. The postmen began to make a game of him. Even though there was no letter for him they would call out his name for the fun of seeing him jump up and come to the door. Still with boundless faith and infinite patience, he came everyday, and went away empty-handed**.'**

i. Why has the post office been called his '*place of pilgrimage*?'
ii. Which emotion does the author make the reader feel about the man?
iii. What does "boundless" suggest about the man's faith?
iv. Explain what is meant by 'make a game of him'.

B. And immediately I regretted it.
I thought how paltry, how vulgar, what a mean act!
I despised myself and the voices of my accursed human education.
And I thought of the Albatross
And I wished he would come back, my snake.
For he seemed to me again like a king,
Like a king in exile, uncrowned in the underworld,
Now due to be crowned again.
And so, I missed my chance with one of the lords
Of life.
And I have something to expiate
A pettiness.

i. Why does the poet call education "accursed"?
ii. Which conflicts have been depicted through these lines?
iii. Which two emotions are contrasted in the poem?
iv. Which literary device has been used in 'And I thought of the Albatross'?

C. Over thy wounds now do I prophesy,-
Which, like dumb mouths, do ope their ruby lips,
To beg the voice and utterance of my tongue-
A curse shall light upon the limbs of men;
Domestic fury and fierce civil strife
Shall cumber all the parts of Italy;
Blood and destruction shall be so in use
And dreadful objects so familiar
That mothers shall but smile when they behold
Their infants quarter'd with the hands of war;
All pity choked with custom of fell deeds :
And Caesar's spirit, ranging for revenge,
With Ate by his side come hot from hell,

Shall in these confines with a monarch's voice
Cry 'Havoc,' and let slip the dogs of war;

i. Who is the speaker of these lines?
ii. Explain the image "wounds…like dumb mouths."
iii. Who is Ate in the above lines?
iv. What does "mothers shall but smile" imply?

Q11. Answer ANY FIVE of the following questions in about 30-40 words each. (5X2=10)

i. How does the story 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' depict the theme of post-war suffering in the story?
ii. In the poem 'Frog and the Nightingale', nightingale's tragedy lies not only in the frog's cruelty but in her own weakness. Discuss how
iii. The story shows how virtual reality can both isolate and connect people. Do you think technology brings humans closer or pushes them apart? Discuss with reference to 'Virtually True'.
iv. Why did Helen visit John Hallock? Why do the ghosts want people to stop using Ouija boards?
v. What irony do you find in the words inscribed on the pedestal — *"Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!"*?
vi. What is the major difference between the speech given by Brutus and the speech given by Antony?

Q12. Answer any one of the following two questions in about 150 words. (1X8=8)

A. Both Mrs. Packletide and Amelia are concerned about appearances. How do their actions reflect a concern for social image rather than genuine emotion or principle? How is the theme of *appearance vs. reality* shown through the characters of Mrs. Packletide and the sisters in The Dear Departed?

OR

B. In *Rime of the Ancient Mariner* and *The Dear Departed*, both Coleridge and Houghton use irony to uncover the moral decay within human nature— one through a sailor who disrespects nature, the other through a family that disrespects human bonds. How do the two works expose selfishness and moral blindness, and how their stories ultimately bring the characters to realize their wrongdoing and receive proper punishment?