KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN
REGIONAL OFFICE LUCKNOW
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE - Code No. 184
PRE-BOARD
CLASS-X- (2025-26)

Time allowed: 3 Hours **Maximum Marks: 80**

General Instructions:

1. This question paper comprises 11 questions. All questions are compulsory.

2. The question paper contains THREE sections:
   - Section A: Reading Skills (20 marks)
   - Section B: Writing Skills with Grammar (20 marks)
   - Section C: Language through Literature (40 marks)
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION A – READING SKILLS (20 Marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully. (10 marks)

The Impact of Social Media on Youth

In the modern era, social media has become an inseparable part of young people's lives. Platforms such as Instagram, YouTube, and X (formerly twitter) connect individuals globally, allowing them to share experiences, opinions, and creativity in real time. While social media offers several benefits, it has also sparked debate about its influence on the behaviour, relationships, and mental health of today's youth.

On one hand, social media serves as a powerful tool for communication and self-expression. It enables young users to stay informed about world events, showcase their talents, and even build careers through online platforms. Many students use social media for educational purposes—joining study groups, watching tutorials, and engaging with global learning communities. Campaigns promoting social causes, such as environmental protection or gender equality, often gain momentum through youth participation on these platforms. Clearly, when used wisely, social media can empower young people to make a positive difference.

However, the negative effects of excessive use cannot be ignored. Constant exposure to idealized images and lifestyles can create feelings of inadequacy and low self-esteem. Many young people fall into the trap of comparing themselves with others, which often leads to anxiety, depression, and a sense of isolation. Moreover, the addictive nature of social media can distract students from studies, reduce productivity, and disturb sleep patterns. Cyber bullying and online harassment have also become major concerns, sometimes leading to severe psychological consequences.

Another growing issue is the spread of misinformation. Fake news, manipulated images, and misleading posts can easily influence young minds. Without proper media literacy, users may believe and share unverified

content, contributing to confusion and panic. Thus, it is crucial to teach digital responsibility and critical thinking skills from an early age.

Parents and educators play a significant role in guiding teenagers toward a balanced use of social media. Setting time limits, promoting offline hobbies, and encouraging open communication can help maintain emotional well-being. Governments and tech companies must also ensure stricter privacy controls and measures to curb online abuse.

In conclusion, social media is neither entirely good nor entirely bad—it is a tool whose impact depends on how it is used. When approached with awareness and discipline, it can be a source of learning, connection, and empowerment. But without restraint, it can easily turn into a source of stress and distraction. The key lies in achieving balance and using social media to enhance, rather than harm, one's life.

Answer the following questions:

I. How does misinformation spread on social media? (1)

II. What is one negative emotional impact of excessive social media use? (1)

III. Complete the sentence: (1)

Without proper ____, users may believe and share unverified content on social media.

IV. Choose the correct option: (1)

The author's view of social media can best be described as—

A. Completely critical

B. Balanced and thoughtful

C. Overly positive

D. Ignorant

V. Explain how social media can be both beneficial and harmful for students. (2)

VI. Mention one way parents can help children use social media responsibly. (1)

VII. Find a word from the passage that means "impetus" or "driving force." (1)

VIII. What measures can society take to ensure safe and healthy use of social media among youth? (2)

2. Read the following passage carefully. (10 marks)

Teen Sleep and Screen Time

A 2024 report by the National Health Survey of India explored the impact of screen exposure on teenagers' sleep, health, and focus. The survey covered 3,000 students aged 13–18 years from 10 major Indian cities. Results revealed a sharp rise in daily screen time — from 3.1 hours in 2019 to 6.3 hours in 2024, with smartphones being the most used devices.

The study found that students using screens for more than six hours daily slept only 5.8 hours per night, while those with less than three hours of screen use enjoyed 7.4 hours of sleep. Nearly 65% of participants experienced daytime fatigue, 58% suffered from eye strain, and 48% reported difficulty concentrating during studies. Doctors warn that late-night screen exposure suppresses melatonin, the hormone responsible for regulating sleep cycles.

Experts suggest following the 20-20-20 rule—after every 20 minutes of screen use, look 20 feet away for 20 seconds—reducing eye strain. They also advise switching off devices an hour before bedtime and engaging in physical activities. Several schools have introduced "Digital Detox Days" to help students build healthier technology habits.

The report concludes that managing screen time is essential to ensure better sleep, stronger concentration, and improved wellbeing among youth.

Chart: Teen Screen Time and Health Effects (2024 Survey)

Screen Time (per day)	Avg. Sleep (hours)	% with Eye Strain	% with Daytime Fatigue	% with Focus Issues
Less than 3 hours	7.4	15%	25%	18%
3–5 hours	6.6	32%	42%	35%
More than 6 hours	5.8	58%	65%	48%

Answer the following questions:

I. How many students participated in the National Health Survey of India? (1)

II. What hormone is affected by late-night screen exposure? (1)

III. Complete the sentence:

Students using screens for over six hours sleep for an average of ____ hours per night. (1)

IV. Choose the correct statement based on the above passage: (1)

What initiative have schools started to reduce screen time?

A. Extra computer classes B. Digital Detox Days

C. Longer study hours D. Social media campaigns

V. Imagine your school plans to reduce students' screen use. Suggest one practical measure the school could adopt based on the findings of the passage. (1)

VI. Explain how high screen time affects teenagers' health and learning ability. (2)

VII. Find a word from the passage that means "tiredness or exhaustion." (1)

VIII.Based on the chart, what trend can be observed between screen time and sleep duration? Explain briefly. (2)

SECTION B – WRITING SKILLS WITH GRAMMAR (20 Marks)

GRAMMAR (10 Marks)

3.Complete any ten of twelve of the following tasks, as directed.

I. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket for the given portion (1)
The paintings at the exhibition were beautifully __ (design).

II. Identify the error and correct it: (1)
She did not knew how to operate the new printer.

III. Fill in the blank with the correct form of verb given in the brackets. (1)
I wish I ___ (be) able to join you on the trip next week.

IV. He said to me, "Please post this letter for me." (1)
Report it correctly by completing the following.

He requested me ___.

V. Choose the correct option: (1)
The teacher reminded the students to be careful ___ the lab equipment.

A. for B. with C. at D. on

VI. Report the following by completing the sentence correctly. (1)
"Don't forget to call me when you arrive, "she said.

She told him ___.

VII. Either of the two students ___ responsible for the delay. (is/are) (1)

VIII. Which of the following sentences is correct? (1)
A. The news are good. B. The news is good.
C. The news were good. D. The news be good.

IX. "How long have you lived here?" he asked. (1)
Reported speech: He asked me ___.

X. I looked everywhere but there wasn't ____ water left in the jug. (many /any/little/few) (1)

XI. Fill in the blank to complete the sentence in a teacher's diary by choosing the correct option. (1)
_____ student in the group completed the survey form. (Each/All/Both/Some)

XII. Complete with the correct answer: (1)
By the time we reached the station, the train ___ (leave).

WRITING (10 Marks)

4A. You are Maya / Rohan, the Head of the Environment Club of your school. Your club plans to organize a "Plastic-Free Week" campaign in the neighbourhood. Write a letter to the Municipal Commissioner (in about 120 words) requesting cooperation, permissions, and awareness drives to make the campaign successful.

OR

4B. You are Aditi / Anish, a concerned citizen. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily (in about 120 words) expressing your views on the increasing problem of noise pollution in cities. Suggest practical steps citizens and authorities can take to control it. **(5 marks)**

5A. Two students, Kavya and Ritvik, have applied for the position of School Captain. Read their profiles and write a paragraph in about 120 words, analyzing who is the better choice.

Kavya: Excellent leadership skills, punctual, high academic achiever, but slightly introverted.

Ritvik: Friendly and confident, active in sports and cultural activities, sometimes careless about deadlines.

Justify your choice with reasons.

OR

5B. Rhea, a creative student, must choose a partner for an inter-school Science Model Competition from among the following:

Arjun: Systematic, disciplined, great with technical tools.

Sara: Imaginative and expressive but easily distracted.

Dev: Highly confident speaker, prefers solo work.

Based on the given information, analyze who would be the best partner for Rhea and why. **(5 marks)**

SECTION C – LANGUAGE THROUGH LITERATURE (40 Marks)

6. Read the extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE. (5 marks)

A. "The house—the only one in the entire valley—sat on the crest of a low hill. From this height one could see the river and the field of ripe corn dotted with flowers."(A Letter to God)

I. What is the setting described in this extract? (1)
II. How does the description reflect Lencho's way of life? (2)
III. Choose the correct option:
The phrase "dotted with flowers" suggests –
A. abundance B. scarcity C. beauty D. destruction (1)
IV. What feeling does the opening image create for the reader? (1)

OR

B. “But he’s such a nice man, isn’t he?” she said to her husband, when the clergyman had gone. “And how his eyes do shine!”(The Invisible Man – Footprints Without Feet)

I. What had surprised the clergyman and his wife about the stranger? (2)
II. What does Mrs. Hall’s remark reveal about her character? (1)
III. Which word from the extract means ‘religious person’? (1)
IV. What kind of mood is created by this short dialogue? (1)

7. Read the extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE. (5 marks)

A. “But if it had to perish twice, I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction ice is also great
And would suffice.”
(Fire and Ice)

I. What do ‘fire’ and ‘ice’ symbolise in the poem? (2)
II. Which human emotions are compared with natural elements? (1)
III. What is the tone of the poet in these lines? (1)
IV. Name the poetic device used in “ice is also great and would suffice.” (1)

OR

B. “He stalks in his vivid stripes
The few steps of his cage,
On pads of velvet quiet,
In his quiet rage.”

(A Tiger in the Zoo)

I. What does the tiger’s behaviour reveal about his condition? (2)
II. How does the poet use sound and silence effectively? (2)
III. Identify the rhyme scheme of the stanza. (1)

8. Answer ANY FOUR in about 40–50 words each. (4×3=12)

I. Why did the postmaster and his employees decide to help Lencho? (A Letter to God)
II. How does Mandela describe his twin obligations? (Nelson Mandela – Long Walk to Freedom)
III. What do the poet’s repeated commands to Amanda reveal about the speaker’s mindset? (Amanda!)
IV. How does Chubukov’s reaction to Lomov’s marriage proposal reflect his priorities and values? (The Proposal)
V. How does the fog behave like a living creature in Carl Sandburg’s poem? (Fog)

9. Answer ANY TWO in about 40–50 words each. (2×3=6)

I. How did the thief’s attitude towards Anil change by the end of the story? (The Thief’s Story)
II. What lesson does Matilda learn after losing the necklace? (The Necklace)
III. What do you infer about Griffin’s character from his scientific success and moral failure? (Footprints Without Feet)

10. Answer ANY ONE in about 100–120 words. (6 marks)

A. "Tourism thrives on culture and diversity." Explain how stories like Coorg, Tea from Assam, in Glimpses of India promote awareness about India's regional traditions.

OR

B. Compare the theme of freedom as depicted in the poems The Trees and A Tiger in the Zoo.

11. Answer ANY ONE in about 100–120 words. (6 marks)

A. In The Midnight Visitor, how does the author use Ausable's calm intelligence to create suspense and humour?

OR

B. Describe the role of Dr. Herriot in saving Tricki and explain what it reveals about his character. (The Triumph of Surgery)