KVS (DR)/PB II/2025/DK

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PRE-BOARD – II EXAMINATION 2025-26

Class – X | Subject – English (Communicative)

M.M. 80 | Time allowed - 3 hours

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

(i) The question paper is divided into four sections- A, B, C and D.

Section A-	Reading Skills	**22 marks**
Section B-	Writing Skills	**22 marks**
Section C-	Grammar	**10 marks**
Section D-	Literature Text book	**26 marks**

(ii) There are 10 questions in the question paper. All questions are compulsory.

(iii) Answers should be brief and to the point.

(iv) You may attempt any section at a time.

(v) All questions of that particular section must be attempted in the correct order.

SECTION A- (Reading Skills) ***(22 Marks)***

1. Read the following passage carefully: **(12 marks)**

(1) Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is now high on the international agenda and ESD is seen as a way to encourage greater sustainable consumption and production, to counter the effects of climate change, address threats to biodiversity and provide more effective disaster risk reduction. Education for Sustainable Development is seen by UN as a lifelong process from early childhood to higher and adult education and goes beyond formal education. As values, lifestyles and attitudes are established from an early age, the role of education is of particular importance for children! ESD has often been associated with curriculum projects linked with recycling; energy and water conservation; pollution reduction and sustainable consumption – all developed to contribute towards achieving a more sustainable future.

(2) Research from developmental psychology, longitudinal studies, social-cultural analysis, and neuroscience have all shown that it is in the early years that children have the greatest capacity to learn, and it is in these years that many of our fundamental attitudes and values are first put into place. Children are already investigating issues related to recycling, energy conservation, waste disposal and changes in their local environment. ESD in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) is of great significance. The development of ESD and ECCE requires more than just curriculum development. It provides the possibility of a transformational reconstruction.

(3) UNICEF reports show that children under the age of eight represent the highest percentage of affected population in today's global emergencies. A UNESCO survey has shown that the ministries of education, environment and sustainable development in 97 UN member states identify poverty as the highest priority area to be addressed in achieving sustainable development. In fact, reductions in poverty and inequality are widely recognised as the priority in efforts to create a more sustainable world. At a global level, millions of children start school carrying the handicap that comes with the experience of malnutrition, ill-health and poverty. Yet, equitable access to high-quality pre-school programmes remains a problem in both rich and poor countries.

Sustainable development projects that enable rapid progress in maternal health, child nutrition and survival already exist, even in some of the world's poorest countries. Linking health and education agenda has been recognised as extremely important.

Answer the following questions based on the above passage:

(i) Complete the following with a suitable explanation with reference to paragraph 1.

ESD is now high on the international agenda because _____. (1)

(ii) Based on the given passage, how does UN view ESD as a lifelong process? What are the critical areas of emphasis? (Paragraph 1) (2)

(iii) List two curriculum projects that ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) has been linked with. (Paragraph 1). (2)

(iv) Complete the following sentence suitably: (Paragraph 2) (2)

Many of our fundamental attitudes and values are put into plan in the early years as_____.

(v) Substitute the underlined word with the correct word from paragraph 2: (1)

ESD in Early Childhood Care and Education provides the possibility of <u>transformational</u> reconstruction.

(A) positive change **(B)** power to reform **(C)** negative impact **(D)** creative

(vi) What do UNICEF reports reveal about the vulnerability of children under the age of eight during global emergencies? (Paragraph 3) (1)

(A) UNICEF reports highlight the resilience of children under the age of eight during global emergencies.

(B) UNICEF reports indicate that children under the age of eight are rarely affected by global emergencies.

(C) UNICEF reports show that children under the age of eight represent the highest percentage of affected population in global emergencies.

(D) UNICEF reports suggest that children under the age of eight are primarily responsible for responding to global emergencies.

(vii) What remains a problem in both rich and poor countries? What has been recognised as crucial? (Paragraph 3) (1)

(viii) What is the writer's tone in the passage? Justify your claim. (2)

(10 marks)

2. Read the following passage carefully:

(1) Creativity is our most precious resource and the most inexhaustible one. As anyone who has ever spent any time with children knows, every single human being is born creative; every human being is innately endowed with the ability to combine data and perceptions, materials and ideas and devise new ways of thinking and doing. What fosters creativity? More than anything else: the presence of other creative people, contrary to that creativity is the province of great individual geniuses. In fact creativity is a social process. Our biggest creative breakthrough comes when

people learn from, compete with, and collaborate with other people.

(2) Cities are centre of creativity. With their diverse populations, dense social networks and public spaces, people can meet spontaneously and spark or catalyse new ideas. With their infrastructure for finance, organisation and trade, they allow the idea to swiftly reach its destination.

(3) A study tracking the decline of unconventional thinking ability as children age, states that while 98 percent of 3 to 5 years old exhibited creative thinking, this dwindled to 10 percent among 13 to 15 years old and a mere 2 percent among 25 years old. Thus, adulthood witnesses the erosion of innate creativity. There is a variance in creative vitality across cities. Although all cities harbour creative individuals by default, some are saturated with leaders, institutions, and people that inhibit creativity.

(4) Creativity (or the lack of it) follows the same general contours of the great socio-economic divide – our rising inequality – that plagues us. According to estimates, roughly one-third people are able to do work which engages our creative faculties to some extent, whether as artists, musicians, writers, techies, innovators, entrepreneurs, doctors, lawyers, journalists or educators. That leaves a group termed "the other 66 percent", in which their creativity is subjugated, ignored or wasted.

(5) Creativity itself is not in danger. It is flourishing all around us – in science and technology, arts and culture, in our rapidly revitalising cities. But we still have a long way to go if we want to build a truly creative society that supports and rewards creativity of each one of us.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:

(i) The central idea of this passage is that: (1)

(A) social interaction is necessary to nurture creativity.

(B) creativity and ideas are gradually declining in all societies.

(C) the creativity divide is widening in societies in line with socio-economic trends.

(D) more people should work in jobs that engage their creative faculties.

(ii) Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below: (1)

Assertion: Creativity is the province of great individual genius is not true.
Reason: Creativity is a social process.

(A) Both the Assertion and Reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.

(B) Both the Assertion and Reason are true but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.

(C) The Assertion is true, but the Reason is false.

(D) The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.

(iii) Identify the word in paragraph 1 which means something that cannot be used-up or depleted. (1)

(iv) What important trends does a study tracking the decline in creative thinking ability in children reveal? Answer in about **40** words. (2)

(v) Read the given prompt and select the correct option in the brackets to fill in the blank. (1)

Our biggest creative breakthrough comes when people learn from, compete with, and collaborate with other people. Creativity is thus a _____(economic, industrial, social) process.

(vi) According to the passage, where does creativity thrive apart from arts and culture? (1)

(vii) Complete the following with a suitable reason: (1)

About thirty-three percent citizens engage their creative faculties in tasks that use _____.

(viii) In the context of the last paragraph, explain how the passage views the future of creativity in society. (2)

SECTION A- (Writing Skills) *(22 marks)*

3. Write an application, in not more than 50 words, to the Principal, requesting approval to start a 'Young Innovators Club' in school to promote creativity and scientific approach among students. You are Ananya/Amaya, Class X – A, Vice President, Science Club, Blossoms Public School, Ghaziabad. (3)

4. Write a factual description, in not more than 100 words, of a potted plant that you and your sibling recently chose, to gift your mother under the programme 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'.

(4)

5. (A) The Government of India has consistently worked to ensure an alleviation in the status of the girl child. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, expressing your appreciation towards the government initiatives and provisions made for girl child education and the importance of the same. Use ideas from the MCB unit on **'Education'** and your own ideas. You are Ashok/ Ameeta of A-237, New Shastri Park, Lucknow.

OR

5. (B) Books and newspapers play a vital role in shaping the minds of young people. Write a letter in about 120 words, to the editor of any daily news, emphasizing the need for effective contribution of books and newspapers in keeping together the unity of our diverse culture. Do focus on creating mutual respect for all religions, castes, languages and culture. You can take ideas from the unit **'National Integration'**. You are Sahil Jain/Deepika Rai of S-42, Rohini, Delhi. (7)

6. (A) Solar Energy has now become a necessity. Keeping in mind how the rise in economic activity and mushrooming population has led to a tremendous demand of electricity in all sectors. Write an article in about 150 words on the topic 'Solar Energy- An apt solution to the Energy Crisis'. Merge your ideas with the content from the Unit Science. (8)

- Solar energy - clean & green
- Environment friendly, renewable source of energy
- Reduces electricity Bill
- No Carbon emission
- Low maintenance cost

OR

6. (B) Imagine you are Dia Kapoor of class X. Write an article for your school magazine on the topic 'Tackling plastic Pollution - A Shared Responsibility', highlighting the harmful impact of plastic waste on the environment and health. Explain why plastic is difficult to manage and suggest practical steps to reduce its use and promote alternatives. You may use your own ideas along with the provided cues and your reading of MCB Unit: **Environment** to write the article and not more than 150 words.

Plastic waste- impact on wild life and human health – problems in disposal and recycling – need for co-friendly alternatives – encouraging responsible habits in daily life

SECTION C (Grammar) **(10 marks)**

7. Complete the tasks (A) - (C), as directed.

A. Fill in the blanks (i) – (iii) with the appropriate options from those given in the brackets. **(1x3)**

As soon as I saw the elephant, I knew certainly that I ought not (i) ____ (shoots/ shoot/ shot) him. But at the moment I (ii) _____ (glances / glanced / is glancing) round at the crowd that had followed me and (iii) _____(were/was/been) eager to follow fun and meat.

B. In the following paragraph, one word has been omitted in each line. In your answer sheets, remember to write the missing word along with the word that comes before and after it, as shown below.

(1x4)

	Word before	omission	word after
Headache be due to several reasons	(a) ----------	----------	----------
vary from physical and emotional to	(b) ----------	----------	----------
mental reasons. Medicines natural	(c) ----------	----------	----------
treatments provide instant relief.	(d) ----------	----------	----------

(3)

(C) Do as dire

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

Mrs. Livingstone: You must put the money in a bank. You may need it one day.
Miss Robinson: No, I won't do that.
Mrs. Livingstone: Why?
Miss Robinson: LIFE/ I'VE NEVER/ ALL/ HAD/ A HOLIDAY/ MY/ I'M/ GOING/ NOW/ FRANCE/OF/ THE SOUTH/ TO

(ii) Report the dialogues to complete the paragraph that follows. **(1+1)**

M. Hamel: Have you done your homework today, Frantz?
Frantz: No sir, I had to go out with my parents.
M. Hamel: I cannot forgive you. You have to call your parents tomorrow.
Mr. M. Hamel asked Frantz (a)..... Frantz replied negatively saying that he had to go out with his parents. Then Mr. M. Hamel angrily said that he couldn't forgive him and asked him (b)

.....

SECTION D: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (26 marks)

SECTIOND- (Literature - Textbook) **(26 marks)**

8. Read the following excerpts and answer the questions briefly, for any two excerpts, of the given three (a), (b) and (c). **(4+4=8)**

(a) *When wasteful war shall statues overturn, And broils root the work of masonry,*
Nor Mars his sword nor war's quick fire shall burn
The living record of your memory.

(NOT MARBLE, NOR THE GILDED MONUMENTS)

(i) What attributes of war are referred to here?

(ii) What will be the living record of the poet's friend?

(iii) Identify any one literary device used in the above stanza?

(iv) How will the living record of the poet's friend and his memory be more powerful than wasteful wars?

(B) '....that now, forgetting his sport, he would become lost in the admiration of the green cornfield. He reflected deeply, and came to the conclusion that the whole universe was built up through love and that the grief of separation was inescapable.' (The Letter)

(i) Why has Ali forgotten his sport?

(ii) What do the above lines tell you about Ali's attitude towards nature?

(iii) What does his deep reflection of life make him realise?

(iv) What does the writer mean by 'grief of separation'?

(C) MRS. SLATER : You want a whole poem. That'll cost you a good lot.

MRS. JORDAN : Well, we'll think about it after tea, and then we'll look through his bits of things and make a list of them. There's all the furniture in his room.

HENRY : There's no jewellery or valuables of that sort.

MRS. JORDAN : Except his gold watch. He promised that to our Jimmy.

MRS. SLATER : Promised to your Jimmy! I never heard of that.

MRS. JORDAN : Oh, but he did, Amelia, when he was living with us. He was very fond of Jimmy.

(THE DEAR DEPARTED)

(i) What does the dialogue between Mrs. Slater and Mrs. Jordan reveal about their relationship and priorities?

(ii) What does Mrs. Jordan imply about the promise made regarding the gold watch?

(iii) How does the discussion about dividing belongings impact the atmosphere of the scene?

(iv) What does Mrs. Slater's reaction to the mention of Jimmy suggest about her character?

9. Answer any <u>five</u> of the following questions in 30 – 40 words each: (5×2=10 marks)

(i) How do Nicola and Jacopo's physical attributes stand in contrast with their inner mettle? (TWO GENTLEMAN OF VERONA)

(ii) Humour plays a major role in the chapter, 'MRS PACKLETIDE'S TIGER' .Prove this statement with the instances of humour. (MRS PACKLETIDE'S TIGER)

(iii) The crowd in Julius Caesar does not understand the speech of Brutus. Comment. (JULIUS CAESAR)

(iv) What does the partially destroyed statue of Ozymandias symbolize? (OZYMANDIAS)

(v) Bring out the irony in the statement: I did not specialize in ghost stories, but more or less, they seemed to specialize in me.' (A SHADY PLOT)

(vi)Mr. Pakrashi was the force behind Patol Babu's brilliant performance as an absent-minded pededtrian. Substantiate with reference to Patol Babu, Film Star. (PATOL BABU, FILM STAR)

10. Answer any one of the following two questions in about 150 words: (8 marks)

(A) Discuss how the siblings in 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' and Ali in 'The Letter' demonstrate patience and endurance in the face of adversity. Examine how these portrayals serve to highlight the power of silent determination and love in different circumstances. Support your answer with relevant evidences from the texts.

OR

(B) Even though both, the frog from Vikram Seth's poem, The Frog and the Nightingale and Abel's children from the play, The Dear Departed, display greed, there are differences. Elaborate, in about 150 words, how the greed of the frog and that of Abel's children differ in motivation, actions, relationship, and consequences.