PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION, (2025 - 2026)

CLASS-X

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (Code 184)

Max. Time-3Hours **MAX. Marks 80.**

General Instructions:

Read the instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

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

2. The question paper contains THREE sections

   Section – A: Reading Skills

   Section – B: Grammar and Creative Writing Skills

   Section – C: Literature Textbook

3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each Part.

SECTION- A

READING SKILLS (20 Marks)

1- Read the following passage and then answer the following questions. (10)

(1) Listening is the ability to accurately receive and interpret messages in the communication process. One of the greatest gifts any of us can ever receive is the gift of listening. It is also one of the greatest gifts we can ever give.

Unfortunately, it appears to be a lost art. We live in a world where everyone is talking but few are listening. What often passes for listening is simply one person pausing to collect their thoughts for their next soliloquy.

(2) Hearing refers to the sounds that you hear, whereas listening requires more than that: it requires focus. Listening means paying attention not only to the story, but how it is told, the use of language and voice, and how the other person uses his or her body. In other words, it means being aware of both verbal and non-verbal messages. Your ability to listen effectively depends on the degree to which you perceive and understand these messages.

(3) Listening is a difficult task. Like every skill, the more you do it, the better you get. Listening can be developed through practice, or lost if not used regularly. Good listeners focus on what they are hearing. They pause to think about what they've heard before responding. They ask questions because they want to know the answers, not just to keep the conversation going.

(4) So often, we are distracted with other things. We try to listen while continuing to work on the computer or watch television. To be fully present means we eliminate these distractions and focus exclusively on the other person. It takes great effort to be fully present in the moment, leaning forward, with your ears and heart open. Words are only part of the communication. Sometimes we need to experience the other person's feelings to really understand. We need to listen with our heart as well as our mind. We must repeat back what the other person has said. When we do this-and do it accurately-we communicate what we understand. It also gives us an opportunity to recalibrate our understanding if we have misunderstood something. Plenty of people are good talkers. Few are good listeners. If you develop the latter skill, you will find yourself invited into amazing conversations that wouldn’t otherwise happen.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage.

i. Based on your understanding of the passage, why has the author described listening as "lost art"? Answer in about 40 words. (2)

ii. Complete the sentence appropriately.

The author is disappointed that pausing to collect their thoughts is often considered as …… (1)

iii. What does the author imply by saying we should listen with both "heart and mind"? (2)

iv. "Listening is not just hearing words. Good listeners focus on what they are hearing and try to perceive the feelings behind the words. They do not overlook the emotions of the speaker. True listening helps us understand others and is one of the greatest gifts we can give."

From the words used in the passage, identify the pair that are opposite in meaning:

1. Perceive – Overlook
2. Focus – Ignore
3. Understand – Misinterpret
4. Listening – Speaking

A. 1 and 2, B. 3 and 4, C. 2 and 4, D. 1 and 4

v. Complete the sentence appropriately.

Our ability to listen effectively depends on the ……. (1)

vi. "To be fully present" in a conversation means. (1)

A. Sitting silently

B. Avoiding distractions and focusing

C. Taking notes constantly

D. Agreeing with the speaker

vii. To repeat back what the other person has said gives us (1)

A. an opportunity to argue against the speaker's point
B. a method to dominate the conversation
C. a way to shift attention from the discussion
D. an opportunity to correct our understanding if we got it wrong

viii. In the statement *"Good listeners focus on what they are hearing"*, the language is primarily: (1)

A. Figurative
B. Direct and literal
C. Persuasive
D. Poetic

2 Read the following report: (10)

10 ABC School Launches Innovative AI Club to Foster Interest in Artificial Intelligence (by Samira Rao, Secretary, AI Club Ahmedabad)

Nov. 20 – ABC School proudly announces the establishment of its first AI Club, designed to spark interest and engagement in the field of artificial intelligence among students. The club was officially

launched during the school's technology fair on October 18, attracting a diverse group of students eager to learn about AI and its applications.

The event was inaugurated by Ms. Anita Sharma, the school's head of the computer science department, and Raj Mehta, the club's president, who shared their excitement about the potential of AI in shaping the future. They emphasised the importance of understanding AI technologies and their ethical implications in today's rapidly evolving digital landscape. The club aims to provide students with practical experiences through workshops, projects, and discussions with industry professionals. During the fair, club members showcased a series of interactive demonstrations, including AI-powered catboats and simple machine learning models. Attendees were encouraged to participate in coding challenges and explore various AI applications, such as image recognition and natural language processing. The enthusiasm and creativity displayed by the students highlighted their eagerness to dive deeper into this fascinating field. The AI Club has planned a variety of upcoming activities, including coding workshops, guest lectures from AI experts, and collaborative projects with local tech companies. They are also organising a hackathon, where students will have the opportunity to develop their own AI-driven solutions to real-world problems. The AI Club aims to equip students with essential skills and knowledge while fostering a collaborative and innovative learning environment. Created for academic usage /249

Answer the following questions, based on the report above:

I. Complete with a suitable reason:

The AI Club was motivated to plan various upcoming activities because _____. (1)

II. The AI Club intends to deepen students' understanding of artificial intelligence by offering _____, real-world projects, and collaborative sessions with experts in the field. (1)

III. What was the primary goal of the AI Club when it was launched? (1)

A) To organize coding competitions for students

B) To teach students about AI and its ethical use

C) To focus on robotics and hardware development

D) To prepare students for annual technology fairs

IV. Who did the AI Club collaborate with to provide students hands-on experiences and expert guidance? (1)

1. Faculty members
2. Local business leaders
3. Industry professionals
4. Computer science department head
5. AI researchers

Select the correct option:

A. Only 2

B. Only 5

C. 3 and 4

D. 1 and 5

V. What was the most likely purpose of the interactive demonstrations showcased during the technology fair? (1)

VI. What does the passage suggest about the students' interest in artificial intelligence? (1)

VII. What specific skills are the students expected to develop through their participation in the AI Club? (2)

VIII. Explain how the AI club at ABC School aligns with the school's goals of promoting holistic education. (2)

SECTION – B

GRAMMAR AND CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (20 MARKS)

GRAMMAR (10M)

3. Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed. (1×10)

i. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the given sentence. (1)

The Indian Constitution guarantees the Right to Equality, which means that …… (each/any/few/many) citizen is equal before the law and cannot be discriminated against on grounds of religion, race, caste, gender, or place of birth.

ii. Choose the correct option to complete the dialogue. (1)

Ravi: Hi Meera, have you finished your homework?

Meera: Yes, " ……

Ravi: Wonderful! Then let's revise together.

A. I haven't started yet

B. I have already completed it

C. I don't want to do it

D. I will do it later

iii. Complete the following sentence. (1)

He has practiced speaking English every day, and now he ……. to participate in the school debate competition.

A. had decide

B. decides

C. is preparing

D. was decided

iv. Change the given dialogue into indirect speech. (1)

Priya: Will you join the football team this year?

Arun: Yes, I will.

Priya asked Arun if ……. the football team that year.

v. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option. (1)

If you want to stay healthy, you ……. eat a balanced diet.

A. may B. should C. could D. would

vi. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the closing line, from a formal report. (1)

Therefore, the survey indicate that most students prefer group study over self-study.

Option

A. no error
B. correction

a. indicate indicates

b. most mostly

c. over for

d. therefore However

vii. Rahul: "Where are you going tomorrow, Neha?" (1)

Neha: "I am leaving for Delhi to attend my cousin's wedding."

Question:

Rahul asked Neha _____.

A. where was she going the next day?

B. where she was going the next day.

C. where she is going the following day.

D. where had she gone the next day.

viii. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the sentence to update the result of the regional science fair: (1)
We have exciting news to share! Our school _____ the first place in the regional science fair.

(A) awarded (B) was awarded (C) had awarded (D) will be awarded

ix. Complete the line from a song by filling in the blank with the correct option: (1)
The morning dew captures your essence,
The flowers and grass _____ your colour,
The Sunrise embraces your arrival,
As the dawn welcomes a new day.

(A) reflect (B) reflects (C) reflected (D) shall reflect

x. Identify the error and supply correction for the given sentence: (1)

The public health campaign aimed in increase awareness of the risks associated with underage drinking.

xi. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the update on the school's chess team.

(1)

It's a victorious day!

Our school's chess team _____ the interschool chess championship.

(A) has been won (B) will winning (C) was winning (D) has won

xii. Complete the line from a song by filling in the blank with the correct option. (1)

The whispering leaves tell your tale,

The silent stones _____ your journey,

The sun casts light on your path,

Leading you towards tomorrow's glory.

(A) have echoed (B) echo (C) echoes (D) shall echo

CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (10M)

4 (A) As Nalini Sharda of 409, Surya Apartments, Gopalpur, you believe that pedestrian safety is very important. Footpaths on both sides of the main roads of your city need major repairs and on some stretches they need to be constructed.

Write a letter to the MLA of your city area, in about 120 words, stressing the need for footpaths for pedestrian safety. Share your concern for maintenance of existing footpaths and the need to construct new ones where they are required. (1 × 5 = 5)

OR

4(B) As Sohail Khan, the sports captain of Pinnacle Public School, you believe that fitness as a lifestyle should be promoted. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily, in about 120 words, suggesting the introduction of "Cycle to School" campaign for school going students. The programme aims to develop the habit of exercising through cycling to maintain fitness and keeping children active. Share the importance and credibility of such a programme and suggest a feasible way to execute it along with possible activities.(1×5=5)

5 (A) An area is believed to be water stressed when annual water supplies drop below 1700 cubic metres per person per year. As per an analysis, we are already surviving with around 1700-1800 cubic metres per person per year. As our demand for water has increased drastically over the years, per capita water availability has taken a beating. Based on the given table, write an analytical paragraph, in about 120 words, analysing the possible causes of water scarcity in the future. (5M)

TABLE ON WATER AVAILABILITY

Year	Population (Million)	Per capita water (Availability M3/year)
1951	361	5177
1955	395	4732
1991	846	2209
2001	1027	1820
2025	1394	1341
2050	1640	1140

OR

5(B) Read the given details of a playground intended for your resident area. (5M)

- A central climbing structure inspired by traditional Indian architecture, such as a miniature fort, with multiple levels and slides.
- Swings adorned with colorful Indian patterns, along with monkey bars and a zip line.
- A water play feature inspired by Indian fountains or rivers
- Shaded seating areas with benches and swings, resembling traditional chaupals or gazebos.
- Trees, shrubs, and flower beds • Ample open space

Analyse the details and write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words about the suitability of this playground. Focus on factors such as safety, inclusivity, fun features, suitability for different age groups, and overall experience.

SECTION-C

LITERATURE TEXT BOOKS (40 Marks)

6. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the given two. 5

(A) On the day of the inauguration, I was overwhelmed with a sense of history. In the first decade of the 20th century a few years after the bitter Anglo-Boer war and before my own birth, the white skinned people of South Africa patched up their differences and created a system of racial domination against the dark-skinned people of their own land. The structure they created formed the basis of one of the harshest, most inhumane societies the world has ever known. Now, in the last decade of the twentieth century, and my own eighth decade as a man, that system has been overturned forever and replaced by one that recognised the rights and freedoms of all peoples, regardless of the colour of their skin.

(i) What did the narrator feel when he said, *"I was overwhelmed with a sense of history"*? Explain in your own words. (1)

(ii) The system of racial domination created by white-skinned people in South Africa has now been replaced by a system that: (1)

A) Recognises the rights and freedoms of all people.

B) Focuses mainly on the education of the Black population.

C) Reminds people of past bitter experiences.

D) Prioritises the personal growth of individuals.

(iii) Comment on the kind of society apartheid had created? (2)

(iv) In the extract, the phrase *"patched up their differences"* can be best replaced by: (1)

A) Resolved their disagreements B) Ignored their differences
C) Complicated their conflicts D) Postponed their issues

OR

6(B) I started right away at the Montessori Nursery School. I stayed there until I was six, at which time I started in the first form. In the sixth form, my teacher was Mrs. Kuperus, the headmistress. At the end of the year we were both in tears as we said a heart-breaking farewell. In the summer of 1941, Grandma fell ill and had to have an operation, so my birthday passed with little celebration.

(i) "In the summer of 1941, Grandma fell ill and had to have an operation, so my birthday passed with little celebration." What can you infer about Anne from this sentence? Write any one point. (1)

(ii) In the passage, Anne and Mrs. Kuperus were "both in tears." This shows that their relationship was: **(1)**

A) Formal and distant B) Friendly but not close
C) Warm and affectionate D) Strict and disciplinary

(iii) Why was Anne so emotional when saying goodbye to Mrs. Kuperus at the end of the year? Explain in 2–3 sentences? (2)

iv) Substitute the word 'heart-breaking' with a word similar in meaning in the following sentence. (1)

"At the end of the year we were both in tears as we said a heart-breaking farewell."

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the given two: 5

(a) In a world of possessions. People will take

Balls, balls will be lost always, little boy.

And no one buys a ball back. Money is external.

He is learning, well behind his desperate eyes,

The epistemology of loss, how to stand up

Knowing what every man must one day know

And most know many days, how to stand up.

(The Ball Poem)

(i) Fill in the blank with one word.

When the speaker says "People will take balls, Balls will be lost always, little boy", his tone is.....(1)

(ii) The poet says that money is external. What inference can be drawn from this statement? Answer in about 40 words. (2)

(iii) Which of the following best describes the speaker's attitude towards material possessions? (1)

(A) Indifferent (B) emotional (C) Casual (D) respectful

(iv) Identify the poetic device used in "And no one buys a ball back". (1)

OR

(b) Don't eat that chocolate, Amanda!

Remember your acne, Amanda!

Will you please look at me when I'm speaking to you, Amanda!

(I am Rapunzel, I have not a care;

life in a tower is tranquil and rare;

I'll certainly never let down my bright hair!)

(i) What is the central idea of the poem as reflected in the lines above? Answer in about 40 words.(2)

(ii) Complete the sentence with the appropriate option. (1)

"Will you please look at me when I'm speaking to you, Amanda!" tells us that the mother's attitude is

(A) Loving (B) relaxed (C) Authoritative (D) thoughtful

(iii) Identify any one poetic device used in the above extract. (1)

(iv) For what reason does Amanda imagine herself to be Rapunzel? (1)

8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions in 40-50 words each: (4×3=12)

A). What conditions made crossing the storm clouds difficult? "The Black Aeroplane**"**.

b). How did the Buddha respond to Kisa Gotami's request? What can be inferred about his method of teaching from the same? "The Sermon at Benares"

c). "The Lomovs and the Chubukovs have always had the most friendly, and I might almost say the most affectionate, regard for each other." How would you evaluate Lomov and Chubukov's relationship as neighbours? "The Proposal"

d). 'The field was white, as if covered with salt.' This is how the field is described after the hailstorm. The pelting hailstones could have been easily seen as sugar cubes. Do you think comparing it with sugar would have been more appropriate? Why/Why not? *"A Letter to God"*.

e).When would the baker come every day? Why did the children run to meet him? "Glimpses of India"

9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions in 40 50 words each: (2×3=6)

a). According to a popular quote - "Where there is no struggle, there is no strength". In what way is this quote relevant to the events of the story "A Triumph of Surgery?"

b). How does education play a transformative role in Bholi's life?.

c). "Stereotypes are often misleading". Elaborate on the given quote in the context of "The Midnight Visitor".

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 100-120 words. (6)

(a) Grief or sadness is an emotion natural to all types of loss or significant change. You have been asked to present an analysis of the approaches of Lencho and Kisa Gotami in dealing with their respective losses. Write this presentation draft including your insights, and comparing the approaches of both.

You may begin like this One acknowledges that Lencho had unwavering faith in God whereas Kisa Gotami in her grief, believed that her son .....however.....

(Reference - A Letter to God and The Sermon at Benares)

OR

(b) You have been chosen to address the school assembly on the occasion of Women's Day. You choose to speak on the resilience and indomitable spirit of the young girls: Anne Frank and Valli. Prepare the speech draft, with reference to the commonality and contrast in the situations and circumstances of both the girls.

(Madam Rides the Bus and From the Diary of Anne Frank)

You may begin like this: Good morning everyone. Today, I'd like to express my insights on the resilience of two young girls. You may end this way: To conclude I'd like to say that.....

Thank you.

11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 100-120 words: (6)

(i) How did the lady in red manage to outsmart and out manoeuvre the other thief, Horace Danby, by robbing the safe without leaving a single fingerprint? (A Question of Trust)

OR

(ii) Hari Singh says "He knew it but neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything."

Anil successfully addressed the situation by not addressing it at all. Elaborate based on your reading of The Thief's Story.