KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN, GURUGRAM REGION

PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION 2025-26(SET-3)

CLASS: X **MAX MARKS: 80**

SUBJECT: ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (184) **TIME: 3 HRS.**

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Read the instructions carefully and follow them:

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: Grammar and Creative Writing Skills	:	20 MARKS
Section – C: Literature	:	40 MARKS

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

–

SECTION A: READING SKILLS

Q1. Read the following passage and the questions given below: (10)

In the last few decades, the world has witnessed a remarkable shift in the way people connect, communicate, and collaborate, largely due to the rapid growth of the internet and social media platforms. What once required days, or even weeks, to convey through letters can now be shared within seconds through instant messaging or video calls. Social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter have revolutionised the idea of human interaction, allowing individuals to not only keep in touch with friends and family but also to voice opinions, share experiences, and even influence public opinion on a global scale.

For students and young learners, the benefits of the digital age are enormous. Online platforms provide access to vast resources for research, e-learning, and skill development. Educational videos, online lectures, and digital libraries have broken the barriers of geography, enabling students in remote areas to access quality knowledge that was once beyond their reach. Moreover, during the COVID-19 pandemic, when schools and colleges were shut down, online learning emerged as a lifeline, ensuring continuity of education.

However, the rise of digital communication has its drawbacks. Excessive screen time often leads to reduced physical activity, eye strain, and even disturbed sleep cycles among teenagers. The

addiction to social media can also affect mental health, causing anxiety, loneliness, or the constant fear of missing out (FOMO). Furthermore, while social media promotes freedom of expression, it also spreads misinformation, cyberbullying, and unhealthy comparisons. Many young people measure their worth through "likes" and "followers," which can damage their self-esteem.

Another pressing concern is digital inequality. Not every student has access to high-speed internet or personal devices. This creates a "digital divide," where students from underprivileged backgrounds are left behind despite their potential. Addressing this divide requires governments and communities to ensure affordable technology and training so that the benefits of digital learning reach everyone equally.

Despite these challenges, the digital world has become an inseparable part of our lives. It has opened up new opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship, and innovation. Small businesses can now reach global customers, and individuals can showcase their talents to the world through simple online platforms. The key lies in striking a balance: using technology wisely while maintaining real-world human connections, physical activity, and emotional well-being. Just like any powerful tool, technology can either empower or enslave us, depending on how we choose to use it.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions:

(i) What is one drawback of excessive screen time mentioned in the passage? 1

a) Better sleep cycles

b) Increased physical activity

c) Eye strain and disturbed sleep

d) Improved mental health

(ii) Fill in the blank: 1

During the COVID-19 pandemic, _____ became a lifeline to ensure continuity of education.

(iii) From paragraph 2, name one benefit of online platforms for students. 1

(iv) Why is the "digital divide" a matter of concern? Suggest one way to reduce it. 2

(v)True/False: All students have equal access to technology and high-speed internet. 1

(vi) According to the passage, how can individuals strike a balance while using technology? 2

(vii)Fill in the blank: 1

Developing countries suffer more from the digital divide _____.

(viii) The word *"inseparable"* (last paragraph) means: 1

a) Impossible to break apart

b) Difficult to see

c) Rare and unique

d) Easy to replace

Q2. Read the following passage and the questions given below: (10)

1.It is common knowledge that school children are under great pressure to perform well in all fields, study ten subjects, play games and develop an impressive image. How do they manage? The skills, techniques and principles which they pick up while still young help them cope.

2.Two of twentieth century's finest minds have lamented that schools are not teaching the basics of personal excellence or the science of success. "Almost all of what a child learns at school after the age often is totally irrelevant to his need in later life. Most schools do not teach thinking at all." We need to understand that management must be taught as a school subject. The weightiest argument is that children are managers.

3.Many of children are called upon to play directly three of the interpersonal roles: Figurehead', 'Leader' and 'Liaison Officer. They do this while assisting teachers as monitors or group leaders, while captaining teams on playgrounds and while leading teams in competitions. Many more play these roles as surrogates.

4.The decision role of 'Entrepreneur' and 'Resource Allocator may only occasionally be assigned to children. However, it is worth noting that, according to a recent survey in Delhi, a monthly allocation of up to 1000 is available as pocket money to school children. Therefore, they too need to have control over money and to develop a sense of budget. If we add to these financial resources to the resources of time, information and intellect available to children, we find that the decision making roles are not irrelevant to them. Children play the other two decision roles: Disturbance Handler and Negotiator more often.

5. Children are managers in the making: Many of the management habits (e.g.. using a to-do list), management skills (eg. Sensitive listening), management attitudes and values are formed early in life. Personality theorists believe that it is extremely difficult to change personality traits, styles of thinking and habits of behavior once they are formed.

6. As in language learning, where basic and abstract aspects of language like pronunciation and rhythm are extremely resistant to learning after puberty, good management habits, attitudes and

values are difficult to acquire in adulthood. Computer skills, lateral thinking and swimming, often felt to be forbidden by adults are easily learnt by children. In fact, both research evidence and specialists strongly support the view that children's ability to learn skills like swimming and creative thinking is much more developed than adults. Equally important, complex organisms (a) learn what is necessary or pleasurable and (b) adapt themselves in ways that will serve their needs and interests with amazing enthusiasm, ease and effectiveness.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions:

(i) How are the interpersonal roles performed by students?(1)

a)By assisting teachers as monitors

b) By captaining teams on playgrounds.

c) By leading teams in competition

(d) All of these

(ii). Children are managers in the making. Justify in about 40 words.(2)

(iii). Complete the following appropriately on the basis of Paragraph 2.(1)

There is a general lament regarding teaching that takes place in schools because… .. … . . …

(iv). The passage includes some words that are opposites of each other From the sets (a)- (e)given below, identify a set of synonyms(1)

a) Common and finest

b) Lateral and creative

c)Worth and weightiest

d)Great and impressive

e) Ease and abstract

(v) Complete the sentence appropriately. According to the writer decision. This so because… . (1)

(vi) According to the passage, why can children easily learn good management habits, attitudes and values? (2)

(vii) Which of the following will be the most appropriate title for the passage? (1)

a)Skills for Life(b) Going Beyond Books

(c) Management Education (d) Learning Differences

(viii) Supply the purpose of the author behind the passage. (1)

SECTION-B:GRAMMAR AND CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS(20 Marks)

(GRAMMAR) (1x10=10)

Q.3. Attempt any ten questions out of twelve of the following questions.

(i) Identify and correct the error in the given line taken from an online news report:

Nearly most shops was closed for the public holiday.

error	**correction**

(ii) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the dialogue:

Kinshuk: Doctor, I am not feeling well, ……. you please issue me a medical certificate?

a) may b) could c) should d) might

(iii) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter:

We hope that you continue to work with the same zeal and keep _____ (surprise) us with such remarkable performances. We thank you and wish you good luck for your upcoming projects.

(iv)Report the dialogue between Ankit and Atul, by completing the sentence:

Ankit: Where are you going?

Atul: To the airport.

Ankit: May I drop you in my car?

Ankit asked Atul where he was going. Atul replied to the airport. Ankit further asked him _____ car.

A might I drop you in my car?

B if he might drop him in his car.

C if I might I drop you in my car?

D might he drop him in his car?

(v)Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction.

I graduated at the university a month ago.

Error	Correction

(vi). Savya asked Neha reason for being absent from office. Report Neha's reply.

"I've been ill for a couple of weeks."

(vii)Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line:

Dolphins and killer whale have learned elaborate routine to entertain aquarium audiences.

Option no	error	correction
A	have	has
B	elaborate	elaborately
C	whale	whales
D	audiences	audience

(viii). Read the conversation between two freinds. Complete the sentence byreporting the patient's reply correctly.

Reema : What do you want to do?

Shalu: I want to have some rest.

Reema asked Shalu what she wanted to do. To which Shalu replied ----------

(ix). Select the correct option to fill in the blanks for the given lines.

When Vera was young, she _____ type quickly. She took a typing class and now she _____ type very quickly!

A.could not / can B.should not / can

C.can / could D.can/ can not

(x). Complete the given narrative, by filling in the blank with the correct option:

By the time you sleep I _____ my work.

A.will be finishing B.will have finished

C.was finishing D.will finish

(xi). Read the dialogue between Karan and his friend, Parvaiz regarding Karan's vacation plans:

Karan: How is your winter vacation shaping up?

Parvaiz: Alas! There are no plans. We have extra classes during our winter vacations.

Select the correct option to complete reporting of the above dialogue.

Karan asked Parvaiz how his winter vacation plan was shaping up. Parvaiz sighed and said there were no plans. He further added that _____.

(A) they had extra classes during our winter vacations.

(B) he has extra classes during their winter vacations.

(C) they had extra classes during their vacation.

(D) they have extra classes during their vacation.

(xii).Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter:

Sub: Compliant about damaged goods

Dear Sir

I regret to point out that I …….(receive) from you five parcels of printed books for which I signed as ‘received damaged’.

(CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS) (10)

Attempt any ONE of the following in about 100–120 words:(5 marks)

Q 4. A. You are **Aditya / Aditi**, a resident of **1357, Tilak Nagar, Gurugram**, and a student of **Class 10**. After completing your board examinations, you wish to pursue a **music course** to develop your singing and instrumental skills. Write a letter of inquiry to the **Manager of Harmony Music Academy, New Delhi**, seeking detailed information about the types of courses offered, their duration and timings, fees, eligibility criteria, available facilities such as accommodation or practice rooms, and whether any trial classes or workshops are provided.

OR

Q 4. B. You are **Arun/Aruna**, a resident of **245, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi**. You have observed that despite several government initiatives to promote **tree plantation and environmental conservation**, the number of trees being planted and maintained in your area is far below the desired level. Write a letter to the **Editor of a national daily**, expressing your concern about this issue and the urgent need for collective action to improve green cover. Take ideas from the notes given below. (100–150 words)

- Low green cover in cities
- Importance of trees for environment and health
- Effects of deforestation and pollution
- Government campaigns and initiatives
- Community participation and awareness drives
- Role of schools and citizens in conservation

Attempt any ONE of the following in about 100–120 words:(5 marks)

Q.5. A. Rohan, Class X, is a bright student with strong analytical skills and a logical approach to problem-solving. He enjoys research, can explain concepts clearly, and often brings innovative solutions to discussions. However, he sometimes lacks patience when tasks move slowly and finds it difficult to maintain neatness in his work. He has been assigned a science-model making project and must choose a partner from Neha, Farhan, and Kavya.

Profiles of candidates:

Neha: Neha is highly meticulous and ensures that her work is neat and visually appealing. She is dependable with finishing tasks but is a bit shy in expressing her ideas in group discussions.
Farhan: Farhan is energetic, quick to take initiatives, and highly enthusiastic about science experiments. However, he often rushes through work and ignores details, leading to errors.
Kavya: Kavya is patient, calm, and very cooperative in group work. She helps maintain harmony in the team but sometimes struggles with creativity and innovative inputs.

Task: Based on the features of each candidate, analyse and decide who would be the best partner for Rohan. Consider aspects such as complementary strengths, teamwork, and the project's requirements.

OR

Q.5. B. You are the **President of the Science Club** in your school. Two guest speakers, **Dr. Ananya Mehra** and **Mr. Vivek Iyer**, have written to express their interest in participating in your upcoming **Science Exhibition and Workshop**. Based on the excerpts from their letters given below, analyse the information and write a paragraph justifying which guest speaker would be a better choice for your event. While framing your answer, consider factors such as professional experience, relevance to the theme, ability to engage the audience, and the potential benefits to the students.

Excerpt 1 – Dr. Ananya Mehra: I am delighted to express my interest in participating as a guest speaker at your school's Science Exhibition and Workshop. With over 12 years of experience as a research scientist and science educator, I have conducted numerous workshops for students across schools and colleges. My sessions focus on developing analytical thinking, fostering curiosity, and applying scientific concepts to real-life problems. I have received positive feedback for my interactive demonstrations and practical experiments that make science engaging and accessible to students of all levels.

Best regards

Excerpt 2 – Mr. Vivek Iyer:

It would be a privilege to participate as a guest speaker at your school's upcoming Science Exhibition. I have led multiple community science outreach programs and presented projects on sustainable technology and environmental innovations. My approach focuses on connecting scientific concepts with everyday life and inspiring students to develop creative solutions. I also emphasise teamwork, problem-solving skills, and hands-on experimentation. I look forward to sharing my experiences with your students to encourage them to explore science beyond textbooks.

Best regards

SECTION-C: LITERATURE(40 Marks)

Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given below:

Q.6. A."Oh, sir, but this is a very grown-up madam. Do you think a mere girl could pay her own fare and travel to the city all alone?"5M

(i). This statement shows that the conductor was in a ….. 1M

(a) Jolly mood (b) bad mood

(c) Repulsive mood (d) critising valli

(ii). Why did Valli shot an angry glance at the conductor? 1M

(a) He was criticizing her (b) making ridiculous remarks on her

(c) Praising her (d) none of the above

(iii). "And you've not yet given me my ticket."

This statement shows that Valli is a an awakened girl . (True or False) 1M

(iv). What characteristic of Valii do you form from the extract ? 2M

OR

Q.6. B. "**I was his only companion until he started school," his mother said. "After that I would bring home friends for him. But at night we just did things together. Richie was my whole life after his father died when Richie was in third grade."**

(i) Why was Richie so important to his mother after his father died? Answer in about 40 words.**-2**

(ii). Which of the terms (a)(d) can be applied to the statement — "Richie was my whole life after his father died when Richie was in third grade." -1M

(a) A declaration – a formal or explicit statement

(b) A reflection – a thought or consideration

(c) An explanation – a reason or justification

(d) A complaint – an expression of dissatisfaction

(iii). After his father's death, Richie's mother focused entirely on him, showing her profound sense of _____ -1M

a). devotion/ dedication b) commitment c) support/ care

d) All of the above

(iv). What did Richard's mother mean by "Richie was my whole life"? -1M

Read the given extracts and answer the questions of ANY ONE of the two given below: (5)

Q.7. A.

Don't eat that chocolate Amanda !

Remember your acne , Amanda !

Will you please look at me

when I am speaking to you Amanda !

(I am a Repunzel, I have not a care,

Life in tower I tranquil and rare,

I'll certainly never let down my bright hair

(i). Complete the analogy

Rare: Uncommon : : peace _____ 1M

(ii). Comment on the poet's use of language in these lines in about 40 words. 2M

(iii). Which theme best suits this extract? 1M

Select the correct answer

a) Control and Freedom

b) Truth and Lies

c) Fear and Violence

d) Love and Hate

(iv). Which literary device is used in the line 'I am a Repunzel, I have not a care'? 1M

Select the correct answer

a) Repetition b) Alliteration

c) AllusionD. Paradox

OR

Q.7. B.

But Custard cried for a nice safe cage.

His real strength was the rage.

Belinda giggled till she shook the house,

And Blink said, 'Weakling!' and she giggled like a mouse

(i) Complete the analogy(1M)

Safe : Secure : : Rage : _____

(ii) Comment on the poet's use of language in these lines in about 40 words.(2M)

(iii) Which theme best suits this extract?(1M)

Select the correct answer

a) Appearance vs Reality

b) Love and Hatred

c) Greed and Selfishness

d) Truth and Lies

(iv) Which literary device is used in the line 'But Custard cried for a nice safe cage'? (1M)

Select the correct answer

a) Alliteration

b) Personification

c) Simile

d) Hyperbole

Q.8. Answer any four of the following questions in 40-50 words each. (4×3=12)

(i). How does the poet contrast the tiger in the cage with a tiger in the forest?

(ii).Why does the poet use such poetically uncommon bird and tree? What does it reflect?(Dust of Snow)

(iii). Justify the opinion that the traditional baker and his bread play a significant role in the cultural and social fabric of Goan society.

(iv). Who does Lencho think has taken the rest of the money? What is the irony in the situation?

(v). How can you say that the makers of the famous Goan loaves are still there?

Q.9. Answer any two of the following questions in 40-50 words each. (2×3=(6)

(i). Why books referred to as a man's best companion? Which book saved the Earth from Martian invasion?

(ii).. How was Tricki treated at the surgery?

(iii). How can you show that Ausable showed great presence of mind in situation of danger and surprise?

Answer any one of the following question in 100-120 words. (6)

Q.10. A. Hesitations and fears play necessary parts in human life but we get success in any enterprise only when we overcome our doubts, hesitations and fears. Justify this statement in light of the young seagull's efforts to muster the courage to fly in the air.

OR

Q.10. B. Appearances are deceptive' is an apt summation of the poem, 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon.' Elucidate.

Answer any one of the following question in 100-120 words. (6)

Q.11. **A**It was a twist of fate that future was made better.' Prove the above statement with reference to how Bholi was sent to school and educated.

OR

Q.11. **B.** Love, human sympathy and education can transform even a thief. How could Anil bring such a change in Hari Singh?