KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN, GURUGRAM REGION

PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION 2025-26

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)

1. As a high school student, studying poetry can be a rollercoaster ride. This journey is punctuated by moments of profound appreciation for simpler pieces and intermittent frustration with more complex works. Let's be real here - some poems are just plain confusing and no amount of re-reading seems to help decipher the intended meaning. The puzzlement that results from such instances can be both vexing and demotivating. If solving a riddle is what was intended, then playing Sudoku is a better option. One is led to ponder if obscurity was the goal.

2. Conversely, some pieces resonate with the reader's soul. stirring feelings of warmth, happiness and connection to the world. Often, these compositions centre on themes that are universally understood, such as love, nature or faith. Being able to actually understand what the poet is trying to say can feel like a little victory and is a welcome relief after grappling with more perplexing poetry.

3. Then there are poems that are emotionally charged; the ones that make the reader curl up in a ball and cry or jump up and down with joy. One is left in awe of the poet's ability to convey emotion through words. Let's not forget the downright weird poems. These are the ones that defy categorisation and leave the reader to their own devices in attempting to interpret meaning. The author's use of figurative language and unconventional imagery can create a sense of bewilderment that is either intriguing or off-putting. Regardless, the reader can appreciate the uniqueness of the work.

4. Despite the wide range of emotions and reactions that come with studying poetry, it can be a rewarding pursuit. Not only does reading poetry allow one to appreciate the artistic beauty of the written word but also enables one to develop crucial critical thinking and analytical skills. The process of unlocking a poem's meaning can feel like cracking a code or solving a puzzle but the sense of accomplishment derived from

mastering a challenging piece can be deeply gratifying. Finally, impressing an English teacher with a well-analysed poem can be a source of pride and validation.

5. Overall, studying poetry is like a box of mixed chocolates, you never know what you're going to get. But whether it's complex, emotional, simple or just downright weird, there's always something to be gained from the experience. So, let's applaud all the poets out there, for making us laugh, cry, scratch our heads and occasionally feel like a genius.

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

(i) Which of the following statements best describes the author's attitude towards studyingpoetry ? (1)

(a) Finds poetry to be a frustrating and meaningless endeavor.

(b) Believes that the emotional rollercoaster of studying poetry is not worth the effort.

(c) Recognises the challenges of studying poetry but also acknowledges the rewards it offers.

(d) Feels that poetry is too obscure and abstract for the average person to appreciate.

(ii) What is the tone of the writer in the given lines from Paragraph ? (2)

"If solving a riddle is what was intended, then playing Sudoku is a better option.

One is led toponder if obscurity was the goal."

(iii) Complete the sentence appropriately. (1)

The author's use of vivid imagery in the paragraph (3), such as "curl up in a ball and cry" and "jump up and down with joy", greatly affects the reader because _____.

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

(a) intriguing and off-putting (b) deciphering and interpreting

(c) appreciate and applaud (d) simple and challenging

(e) emotions and feelings

(v) Complete the sentence appropriately. (1)

We can say that the author's tone becomes more neutral and objective when discussing weird poems, compared to other types of poetry because _____.

(vi) Based on the reading of the passage, examine, in about 40 words, how studying poetry can be like exploring a new city. (2)

(vii) What is the message conveyed by Hina's experience, in the following case? (1)

Hina spends hours trying to analyse a poem for her assignment and finally feels a sense of accomplishment and pride, once she understands

(a) only those with natural talent for poetry should engage with it.

(b) persistence makes studying poetry a rewarding pursuit.

(c) study of poetry is guaranteed to impress others.

(d) the efforts of studying poetry is inversely proportional to the rewards gained.

(viii) State whether the following lines display an example of a simple/complex/emotionally charged/downright weird, poem. (1)

on salons The Sun rises in the East,

A new day begins, a fresh start. Birds chirp, nature wakes up,

A peaceful feeling in my heart.

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

1. India is home to an estimated 10% of the global Snow Leopard population spread across five Himalayan states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh which is only 5% of the available global habitat for the animal.

2. Project Snow Leopard was introduced in India by the Project Snow Leopard Committee instituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, in the year 2009 to safeguard and conserve India's unique natural heritage of high-altitude wildlife populations and their habitats by promoting conservation through participatory policies and actions.

3. Project Tiger and Project Elephant are prevalent in India with the former introduced in 1973 garnering worldwide attention.

4. The Snow Leopard usually occurs at an altitude of >2700m above sea level and is the apex predator in the Himalayan Region along with the Tibetan Wolf. The project is not only to protect the Snow Leopard but as with Project Tiger, it is considered an umbrella species and with its protection, comes the protection of other species and the habitat of which they are all a part.

5. Top 3 National Parks in India where the Snow Leopard can likely be seen

(i) Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary - Himachal Pradesh

(ii) Ulley Valley - Ladakh

(iii) Hemis National Park - Himachal Pradesh

6. The reasons for the introduction of Project Snow Leopard are as follows.

(i) High altitudes of India > 3000m including the Himalayan and Trans-Himalayan biogeographic zones support a unique wildlife assemblage of global conservation.

(ii) There has been relatively less attention on the region from the viewpoint of wildlife conservation.

(iii) The region represents a vast rangeland system supporting important traditional pastoral economies and lifestyles.

(iv) The region provides essential ecosystem services and harbours river systems vital for the nation's food security.

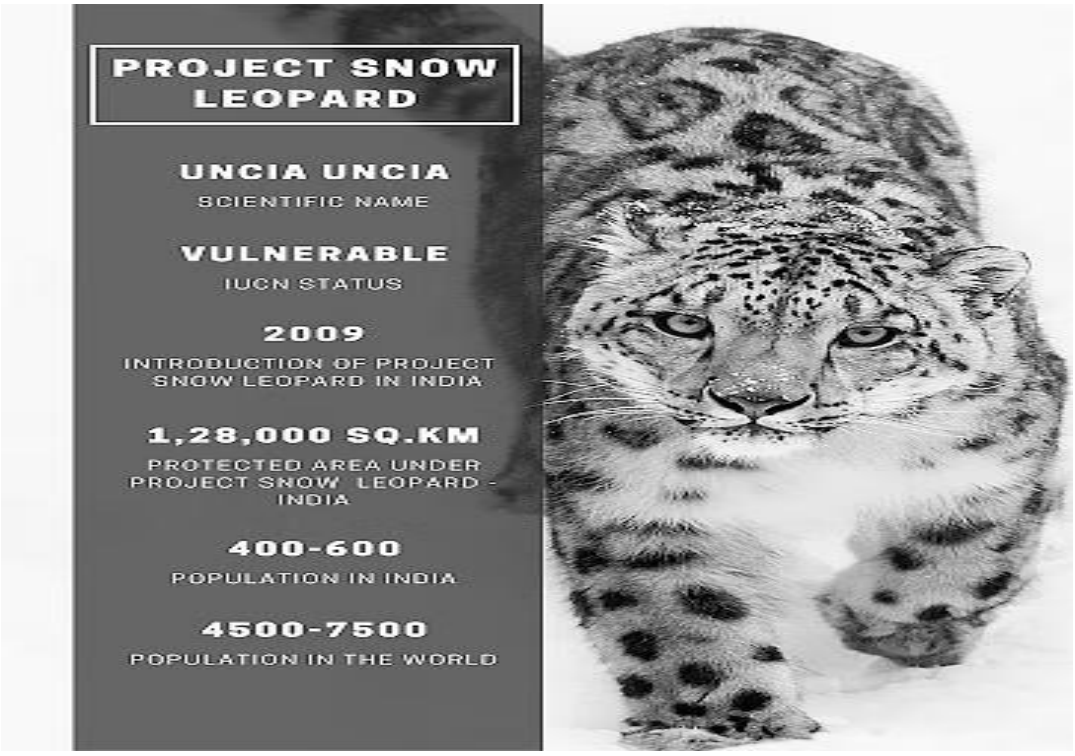
(v) India has ratified international agreements promoting the conservation of high-altitude wildlife species such as the snow leopard.

(vi) The region is important for the country's national security as well as international relations.

(vii) The high-altitude wildlife in India today faces a variety of threats.

(viii) The existing high-altitude protected areas in India require considerable strengthening.

(ix) Wildlife Management in the region needs to be made participatory.



Basedon your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions.

(i). Complete the following sentence. (1)

The reason for the introduction of Project Snow Leopard in high altitudes is that _____.

(ii). Fill in the blanks from Paragraph 4. (1)

The '_____' Snow Leopards/Arctic Fox which usually occur at an altitude of >2700m, are the apex predators in the Himalayan Region.

(iii). List any two reasons for the introduction of Project Snow Leopard in high altitudes. (2)

1._____ 2. _____

(iv). Project Tiger and Project Elephant are prevalent in India with the former introduced in 1973. What has the former gathered? (1)

(v). Infer the meaning of the phrase 'snow leopard is considered an umbrella species' from the passage. (1)

(vi). Which of the following is true about the passage? (1)

(a) Wildlife Management in the region need not be made participatory.

(b) High altitudes of India > 3000m including the Himalayan and Trans-Himalayan biogeographic zones support a unique wildlife assemblage of global conservation.

(c) Project Tiger and Project Elephant are prevalent in India with the latter introduced in 1973 garnering worldwide attention.

(d) Project Snow Leopard was introduced in India by the Project Snow Leopard Committee instituted by the Ministry of Science and Technology.

(vii). List any one reason why Project Snow Leopard was introduced in India. (2)

(viii). Select the option that titles Paragraphs 1-3 appropriately, with reference to information in the text. (1)

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
Project Snow Leopard	Project Elephant	Project Tiger	Tibetan Wolf
Preserving India's Wild	Project Tiger	Man in the Wild	Project Tiger
Protecting India's High-altitude Ecosystem	High-altitude Wildlife	Wildlife in India	Project Snow Leopard

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) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the sentence. When we hear what is happening at a particular moment. (1)

commentary on the radio we easily _____ what is happening at a particular moment.

(a) visualise (b) visualised

(c) visualising (d) will visualise

(ii)Read the conversation between the teacher and the student. Complete the sentence by reporting the student's reply correctly. (1)

Teacher: For how many hours do you study at home, Rakesh?

Rakesh: I cannot study for more than half an hour.

The teacher, asked Rakesh about the number of hours he studied, to which, Rakesh Informed _____.

(iii)Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given line,from a health article. (1)

Americans _____ get the new Omicron-specific COVID-19 vaccine before Halloween to boost their immunity levels ahead of a potential infection surge this winter.

(a) should (b) must

(c) ought to (d) will

(iv) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line. (1)

He had no accuse for attacking that old man.

Option No.	Error	Correction
(a)	had	has
(b)	accuse	Excuse
(c)	For	To
(d)	attacking	attack

(v) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of the letter. (1)

Respected Sir/Ma'am

I am Drishya, a member of NGO Prada. I _____ (write) to you to bring to your notice increasing effect of air pollution in our neighbourhood and in the surrounding area.

(vi) Complete the given sentence by filling in the blank with the correct option. (1)

He's been working all day long. He _____ be very tired.

(a) should (b) would

(c) could (d) might

(vii) Identify the error in the following sentence. (1)

India and Antarctica are once part of the same landmass.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

(viii) Select the correct option to complete the narration of the dialogue between Ajay and his classmate Mohan. (1)

Ajay Do you want to play with us?

Mohan Yes, but I have been too late.

Ajay asked Mohan if he wanted to play with them. Mohan replied to him positively and told him that he _____.

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

_____ of the mango trees in their garden bear fruit twice a year.

(a) A little (b) Much

(c) More (d) Some

(x) Report the following sentence. (1)

My mother often says to me, "Honesty is the best policy."

(xi) Select the correct option to complete the narration of the dialogue between Marie and Tony. (1)

Marie: Did you see my new umbrella? Isn't it fine?

Tony: Yes, it is! Did you buy it from the mall?

Marie: No, your father has brought it for me.

Marie asked her son Tony _____ and she wanted to know whether it was a fine one. Tony agreed and asked his mother if she had brought it from the mall. His mother replied in the negative and added that his father had brought it for her.

(a) if he had seen her new umbrella (b) if he had been seeing the umbrella

(c) if he could see the umbrella (d) if he can see the umbrella

(xii) Identify the error in the following (1)

Advertisement of a school.

MM School

New Delhi, Delhi

We go beyond our textbooks because knowledge know no bounds.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

(CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS) (10)

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

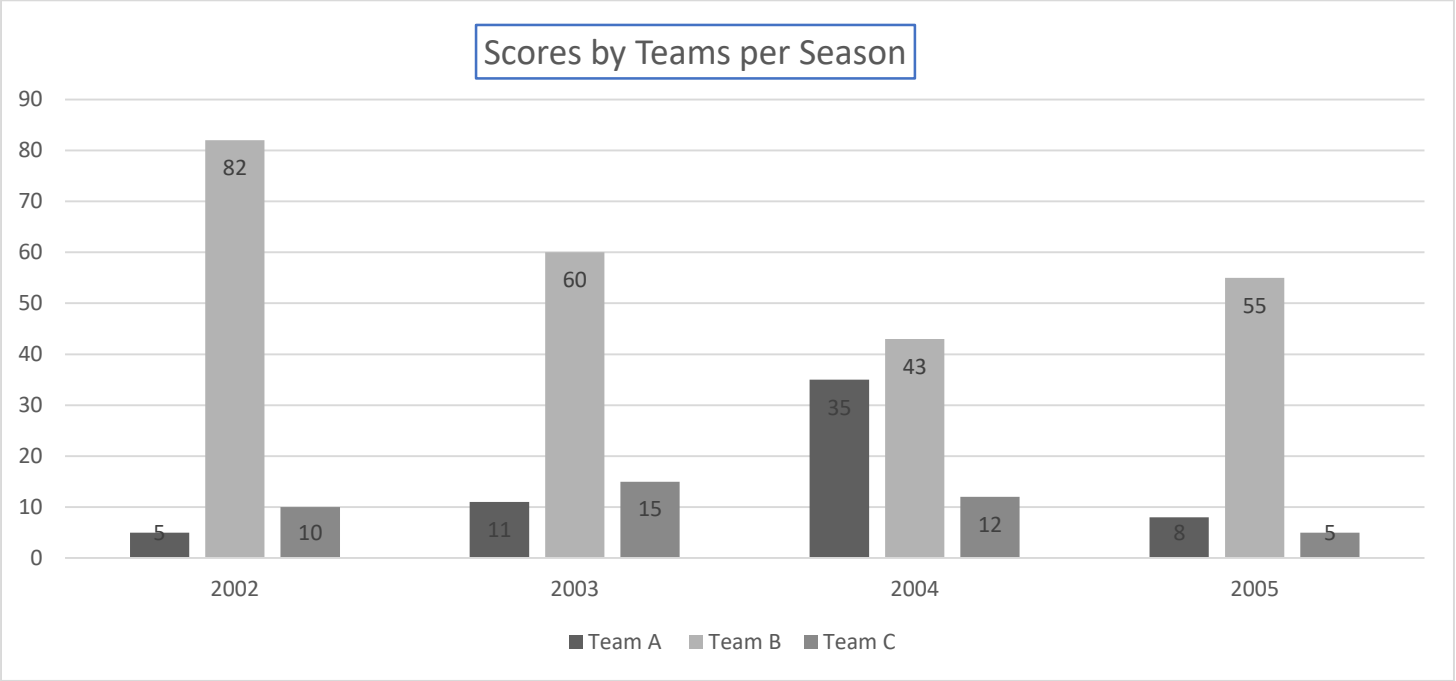
Q 4. A. There has been a spate of chain and mobile snatching incidents in your locality. Masked youths come on motorbikes, commit the crime and run away without being caught or traced causing a lot of insecurity and fear among the residents. Write a letter in 100-120 words to the editor of a local newspaper drawing attention of the concerned authorities to the problem. You are Shweta Kapoor, Secretary, RWA AnandNiketan, Agra.

OR

Q.4. B. You live in a room in college which you can share with another student. However, there are many problems with this arrangement and you find it very difficult to work. Write a letter to the accommodation officer at the college explaining the situation and requesting an earliest redressal. (100-120 words)

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

Q.5. A. The bar chart shows the scores of teams A, B and C over four different seasons. Write an analytical paragraph on the given data in about 100-120 words.(5)



OR

Q.5. B. The table illustrates the proportion of monthly household income five European countries spend on food and drink, housing, clothing and entertainment. Using the given data, write an analytical paragraph in 100-120 words.

Proportion of household income of five European Countries Spend on food and drink, Housing, Clothing and Entertainment

Country	Food and drink	Housing	Clothing	Entertainment
France	25%	31%	7%	13%
Germany	22%	33%	15%	19%
UK	27%	37%	11%	11%
Turkey	37%	20%	12%	10%
Spain	31%	18%	8%	15%

SECTION-C: LITERATURE (40 Marks)

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

Q.6. A. That day had come about through the unimaginable sacrifices of thousands of my people, people whose suffering and courage can never be counted or repaid. I felt that day, as I have on so many other days, that I was simply the sum of all those African patriots who had gone before me. That long and noble line ended and now began again with me. I was pained that I was not able to thank them and that they were not able to see what their sacrifices had wrought.(Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom)(5)

(i) State any one social evil that the people of South Africa had suffered through. (1)

(ii) State TRUE or FALSE. (1)

None of the terms (a) - (d) can be applied to the statement - That long and noble line ended and now began again with me.

(a) A hypothesis - a proposed explanation for a phenomenon

(b) An assumption - something that is taken for granted or assumed to be true

(c) A hyperbole - exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally

(d) A premise - a proposition that forms the basis of an argument

(iii) A few of the speaker's qualities are being through his words in the above lines. Elaborate in about 40 words with reference to the extract. (2)

(iv) Which phrase would correctly substitute 'the unimaginable' in the given sentence from the extract?

That day had come about through the unimaginable sacrifices of thousands of my people, people whose suffering and courage can never be counted or repaid, (1)

OR

Q.6.B."Natalya Stephenova is an excellent housekeeper, not bad looking, well-educated. What more do 1 want? But I'm getting noise in my ears from excitement. (Drinks) And it's impossible for me not to marry. In the first place, I'm already 35-a critical age so to speak. In the second place, I ought to lead a quiet and regular life." (The Proposal) (5)

(i) Which of the following statements is true about the speaker?(1)

(a) He is an old man (b) He suffers from attacks of excitements

(c) He wants to make Natalya his business partner (d) He wants to travel the world

(ii) What does the speaker mean when he says 'What more do I want'? (1)

(iii) Read the following descriptions (a)-(c) and identify which one correctly corresponds to the extract. (1)

(a) A debate is a formal discussion on a particular topic, usually with two or more people presenting different viewpoints and arguments.

(b) A soliloquy is a speech given by a character alone on stage, which reveals their innermost thoughts and feelings to the audience.

(c) An aside is a brief comment or remark made by a character directly to the audience, which is not intended to be heard by other characters on stage.

(iv) Why does the speaker think he should get married? Answer in about 40 words. (2)

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

Q.7. **A**.

Has given my heart

A change of mood

And saved some part

Of a day I had rued

(i) Fill in the blank.(1)

The extract mentions that the poet's mood change completely and _____ was saved.

(ii) How has mood of the poet changed? (1)

(iii) What change made the poet feels that the day was rued? (1)

(a) Fight with roommate (b) A professional rejection

(c) His illness (d) Can't say

(iv) Comment on why the poet says that he had 'saved some part of a day I had rued'. (2)

OR

Q.7. **B.**

He hears the last voice at night

The patrolling cars

And stares with his brilliant eyes

At the brilliant stars

(i) Which is the purpose of patrolling cars that the animal sees? (1)

(ii) Who is 'he' in the given lines? Why is he staring at the stars? Answer in about 40 words. (2)

(iii) The tiger's eyes shine like stars because he is _____. (1)

(a) hopeful (b) enigmatic

(c) sad (d) Both (a) and (c)

(iv) Identify poetic device the used in the given lines.(1)

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

(i) According to the poet, what do 'Fire and Ice' represent? Do you agree with him?(3)

(ii) What tells you that Anne loved her grandmother? (From the Diary of Anne Frank)(3)

(iii) Describe the magnificent views of the tea estate with reference to the lesson, 'Tea from Assam'. (Glimpses of India) (3)

(iv) What happened when Maxwell decided to transport Mijbil to England by air? (3)

(v) What did the baker do first once he reached a house? (A Baker from Goa)(3)

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

(i) How did Matilda come to know about the reality of the diamond necklace? (The Necklace) (3)

(ii) What other interests, besides science, did Richard Ebright pursue? What opinion did Mr. Weiherer, his social studies teacher, have about Ebright? (The Making of a Scientist) (3)

(iii) Why did Bholi not want to go to school? (Bholi) (3)

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

Q.10. A. What message does Anne convey through her diary?

OR

Q.10.B. Valli posed herself to be very confident when the conductor offered her help to ride the bus. Later on she felt shy when all laughed at her.

What does this tell you about Valli's character? What do we learn from her character?

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

Q.11. **A**. Do you think that over-pampering by Mrs Pumphrey was the main reason for Tricki's ailment? Explain.

OR

Q.11.B. Our sins never go unpunished. Horace Danby ultimately had to go to prison. This shows that in spite of planning a crime intelligently and carefully a criminal can't escape the law- Explain.