

Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Chandigarh Region

Pre-Board-II Examination (2025-26)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (184)

CLASS: X

MAX. MARKS: 80

TIME ALLOWED: 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
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:

10

(1) Honey, a golden liquid produced by bees, is one of nature's most remarkable gifts. For centuries, it has been cherished not just as a natural sweetener but also for its medicinal properties. Ancient civilizations, from the Egyptians to the Greeks, used honey to treat wounds and ailments, a practice supported by modern science which recognizes its antibacterial and anti-inflammatory qualities.

(2) The process of making honey begins when bees collect nectar from flowers. This nectar is stored in their special "honey stomachs" and mixed with enzymes. Back at the hive, bees pass the nectar to house bees who further process it by chewing and depositing it into honeycomb cells. Water is evaporated by the bees fanning their wings, transforming the thin nectar into thick, sticky honey.

(3) The flavour, aroma, and colour of honey depend on the types of flowers from which the nectar is gathered. For instance, honey from clover flowers is light and mild, while honey from buckwheat is dark and robust. This variety makes honey a versatile ingredient in cuisines worldwide, used in teas, desserts, marinades, and dressings.

(4) Beyond the kitchen, honey is a key component in cosmetics and traditional medicines. It is used in face masks for its moisturizing properties and in cough syrups for its soothing effect. However, its production is threatened by factors like pesticide use, habitat loss, and climate change, which endanger bee populations globally.

(5) As a labour-intensive product made by thousands of bees visiting millions of flowers, pure honey can be expensive. This high value, unfortunately, leads to adulteration, where it is mixed with sugar syrups or corn syrup to increase volume, deceiving consumers and diluting its health benefits.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

i. Based on your understanding of the passage, which of these is a valid reason for honey being highly valued? (1)

- (a) It is the only sweetener available.
- (b) It is produced in large factories.
- (c) It has historical, medicinal, and culinary uses.
- (d) It is used only for treating wounds.

ii. According to paragraph 3, the characteristic of honey that is NOT influenced by the flower source is its: (1)

- (a) colour (b) nutritional value (c) viscosity (d) flavour

iii. Complete the following by selecting the correct option (Paragraph 2): (1)

Bees transform nectar into honey by evaporating water through _____.

(filtering/storing/fanning their wings)

iv. Select the option that is TRUE for the phrase "labour-intensive product" (Paragraph 5): (1)

- (a) It requires minimal effort to produce.
(b) Its production involves significant manual effort from bees.
(c) It is made entirely by machines.
(d) It is easy to harvest.

v. Complete the analogy by selecting the correct option: (1)

Flower: Nectar:: Bee: _____

- (a) Honeycomb (b) Enzyme (c) Hive (d) Pollen

vi. Why is pure honey expensive? (Paragraph 5) (2)

vii. What are the main ideas of paragraph 1 and paragraph 4? (2)

- (i) Honey's historical and medicinal uses. (ii) Threats to honey production.
(iii) Honey is used in cosmetics and medicine. (iv) The process of honey adulteration.

Select the correct option:

Options	Main idea of paragraph 1	Main idea of paragraph 4
(a)	i	ii
(b)	i	iii
(c)	ii	iv
(d)	iii	i

viii. What are the ways in which honey is adulterated? (1)

2. Read the following passage:

(1) The Sundarbans, a vast mangrove forest in the delta of the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna rivers, is a unique ecosystem shared between India and Bangladesh. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its rich biodiversity, including the majestic Royal Bengal Tiger.

(2) The landscape is dominated by mangrove trees, specially adapted to thrive in saline coastal waters. Their complex root systems stand above the water, creating a critical habitat for a multitude of species and acting as a natural barrier against cyclones and coastal erosion. This "green wall" has saved countless lives during severe storms.

(3) The region experiences a tropical monsoon climate with three distinct seasons: summer (March-May), monsoon (June-September), and winter (October-February). The average annual rainfall is high, around

1,800-2,200 mm, with most precipitation occurring during the monsoon. This heavy rainfall, combined with tidal influences, leads to frequent waterlogging.

(4) The lives of the local people are intricately linked to this environment. Many depend on fishing and collecting honey from the forests. However, these activities are perilous due to the presence of tigers and crocodiles. Climate change poses a new threat, with rising sea levels leading to increased soil and water salinity, which affects both agriculture and the delicate mangrove ecosystem. Conservation efforts are focused on protecting the tiger population and promoting sustainable livelihood options for the communities to reduce their dependence on the forest.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:

i. Why is the Sundarbans considered a unique ecosystem, according to paragraph 1? (1)

- (a) It is the world's largest desert.
- (b) It is a vast mangrove forest in a river delta.
- (c) It has a polar climate.
- (d) It is located only in India.

ii. Identify the phrase in paragraph 2 that refers to the mangrove forest's role in protecting the coast from storms. (1)

iii. Complete the sentence using the correct option (Paragraph 3): (1)

The majority of the Sundarbans' annual rainfall occurs during the _____.
(winter / monsoon / summer)

iv. What does the writer mean by 'waterlogging' in paragraph 3? (1)

v. What does the phrase 'intricately linked' in paragraph 4 imply? (1)

- (a) The people have no connection to the environment.
- (b) The people's lives are deeply connected to and dependent on the environment.
- (c) The people want to leave the environment.
- (d) The environment is being destroyed by the people.

vi. Complete the following sentence: (1)

One major threat to the Sundarbans mentioned in the passage is _____.

vii. Explain how the mangrove trees are vital for both the environment and the local population. (Paragraph 2 & 4) (2)

viii. Fill in the blank with ONE suitable word (Paragraph 4): (1)

Rising sea levels are increasing _____, which harms agriculture and the mangroves.

ix. How can you say that the lives of the local people are intricately linked to environment? (1)

SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20 Marks)

GRAMMAR (10 Marks)

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

i. Fill in the blank choosing the most appropriate option. (1)

The Principal awarded a certificate to _____ participant.

- (a) many
- (b) each
- (c) few
- (d) all

ii. Complete the line from a 'Keep Your City Clean' song, by filling the blank with the correct option. (1)
Litter, litter, it's a shameful sight, let's keep our city clean and bright. Pick up trash, make it disappear, for the future we hold _____.

- (a) dear (b) sheer (c) tear (d) clear

iii. Reena and Siya had a conversation about their weekend plans. Report Siya's question. (1)
"Are you going to the library tomorrow?"

iv. Read the dialogue between Rohan and his mother about his summer holidays:

Rohan: What are our plans for the summer holidays?

Mother: We are visiting your grandparents in Kerala.

Select the correct option to complete the reporting of the above dialogue. (1)

Rohan asked his mother what their plans for the summer holidays were. His mother replied that _____.

- (a) they are visiting your grandparents in Kerala.
(b) they were visiting their grandparents in Kerala.
(c) we were visiting our grandparents in Kerala.
(d) they were visiting your grandparents in Kerala.

v. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the line from a company's user manual: (1)
For optimal performance, the device should _____ (always / never / rarely) be kept in a cool, dry place.

vi. Identify the error and supply a correction for the given part of a public notice. (1)
Passengers are request to keep their belongings safe during the journey.

Use the given format for your response:

Error	Correction

vii. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a notice: (1)

This is to inform all students that the annual function _____ (hold) in the school auditorium next month.

viii. Read the given sentence. Identify the error and supply the correction. (1)
They doesn't like to wake up early.

Use the given format for your response:

Error	Correction

ix. Read the conversation between a teacher and a student. Complete the sentence by filling in the blank. (1)

Teacher: Why were you absent yesterday?

Student: I'm sorry, Ma'am, I had a high fever.

The student apologized and said _____.

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

If you practice regularly, you _____ improve your skills.

(will / may / could)

xi. Read Ankit's statement to his friend. (1)

"I can't meet you today, but I will definitely meet you tomorrow."

Report Ankit's response.

xii. Select the correct option to fill in the blank. (1)

The singer and composer _____ arrived at the venue.

(a) have (b) has (c) are (d) is

CREATIVE WRITING (10 Marks)

NOTE: All details presented in the questions in writing section are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.

4. (A) You are Anuj/Anjali, residing at 45-B, Green Park, New Delhi. The park in your locality is in a state of neglect. It has become a dumping ground for garbage and is overrun with weeds, making it unusable for children and senior citizens. Write a letter in about 120 words to the Editor of a local newspaper, highlighting the issue and suggesting measures for its restoration. (5)

OR

(B) You are Rashmi / Roshan, a concerned citizen, residing at G-16, Himmat Path, Nayanagar. Compose a letter in about 120 words to the Director, Municipal Corporation, drawing his attention to the open drains in your colony. The drains are not only the breeding ground for disease-causing organisms but are also polluting the surrounding areas, especially the water bodies, which could lead to water-borne diseases. Suggest measures for addressing the issue.

5. (A) You are writing an article for your school magazine on the topic 'The Impact of Social Media on Teenagers'. Two school counsellors – Mr. Joshi and Ms. Khan – have shared their views. Read the excerpts and analyse the viewpoints. (5)

Excerpt 1 - Mr. Joshi (Counsellor)

...While social media helps teens stay connected, its overuse is alarming. It leads to anxiety, poor sleep, and a constant need for validation through 'likes'. The curated perfection online creates unrealistic expectations, damaging self-esteem. Schools must promote digital literacy and 'screen-free' times to encourage real-world interactions...

Excerpt 2 - Ms. Khan (Counsellor)

...Social media is a powerful tool for learning and self-expression if used wisely. It allows students to explore interests, access educational content, and find supportive communities. The problem isn't the platform, but the lack of guidance. Parents and teachers should mentor teens on responsible usage rather than imposing strict bans...

Analyse the information in a paragraph (100–120 words), justifying which viewpoint presents a more balanced and effective approach to handling social media's impact. Consider the cause analysis and proposed solutions.

OR

(B) A school Principal is reviewing applications for a 'Student Helper' scholarship designed to support students facing significant challenges. Three profiles have been shortlisted. Below are the details:

- **Amita:** Amita is a bright student but her family runs a small shop that was recently damaged in a fire. She is struggling to pay for new books and stationery.
- **Karan:** Karan is a dedicated sportsman with average grades. He has been selected for a state-level competition but cannot afford the training kit and travel expenses.
- **Riya:** Riya is a compassionate student who helps in household chores after school as her mother is unwell. This leaves her with very little time for studies, and her grades are slipping.
- Based on the given information, write an analytical paragraph (100–120 words) deciding which student should be prioritised for the scholarship. Consider financial need, academic/sports potential, and personal circumstances in your analysis.

SECTION C: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (40 Marks)

6. Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two. (5 Marks)

(A) Not a leaf remained on the trees. His corn was totally destroyed. The flowers were gone from the plants. Lencho's soul was filled with sadness. When the storm had passed, he stood in the middle of the field and said to his sons, "A plague of locusts would have left more than this. The hail has left nothing. This year we will have no corn."
(A Letter to God)

1. Why were there no leaves left on the trees? (1)
 - a. The locusts ate them up
 - b. An earthquake had occurred
 - c. There was a hailstorm
 - d. The animals grazed on them
2. Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets. (1)
Lencho felt.....(jubilant/devastated) when he saw his destroyed corn fields.
3. When Lencho says, "All our work, for nothing." What does he refer to? Explain in about 40 words. (2)
4. Why would Lencho have preferred a plague of locusts to a hailstorm? (1)

OR

(B) Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: (5 Marks)

Later, he patted me on the head and said never mind, he'd teach me to cook. He also taught me to write my name and said he would soon teach me to write whole sentences and to add numbers. I was grateful. I knew that once I could write like an educated man, there would be no limit to what I could achieve. It was quite pleasant working for Anil. I made the tea in the morning and then would take my time buying the day's supplies, usually making a profit of about a rupee a day. I think he knew I made a little money this way, but he did not seem to mind.
(The Thief's Story)

1. What does the following line tell us about the character of Anil? (1)
"I think he knew I made a little money this way, but he did not seem to mind"
2. Which of the following best describes the realisation Hari Singh had while working for Anil? (1)
 - a) That he would become a rich person one day.
 - b) That Anil was very intelligent master but a miser.
 - c) That he would be able to accomplish a lot if he gets educated.
 - d) That Anil made a lot of money from his job.
3. What did Anil promise to teach Hari Singh, and how did Hari Singh feel about the opportunity to learn? (2)
4. Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets. (1)

The narrator earned extra money by making a/an (profit/ investment) of about a rupee a day.

7. Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two.

(5 Marks)

(A)

The fog comes
on little cat feet.
It sits looking
over harbour and city
on silent haunches
and then moves on.

(Fog)

- i. The poet compares the fog to a cat. Which characteristic of the fog is highlighted by this comparison? (1)
- (a) Its colour (b) Its silent and slow movement
(c) Its coldness (d) Its ability to meow
- ii. What does the phrase "on silent haunches" suggest about the nature of the fog? (2)
- iii. Which poetic device is used in, 'The fog comes on little cat feet'. (1)
- a. Oxymoron
b. Assonance
c. Simile
d. Personification
- iv. The overall mood created by the poet is one of _____. (1)
- (calm and silence / fear and anxiety)

OR

(B)

"I am an orphan, roaming the street.
I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet.
The silence is golden, the freedom is sweet."

(Amanda)

- i. What is the central theme of these lines? (1)
- ii. Why is the freedom called 'sweet'? (2)
- iii. The rhyme scheme of the given lines is: (1)
- (a) aabb (b) abab (c) aaa (d) abc
- iv. The speaker in the poem is _____. (1)
- (a) a happy child (b) a sad child
(c) a teacher (d) a parent

8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 50 words each. (4x3=12 Marks)

- i. Why did the postmaster decide to help Lencho? What does this tell us about him? (*A Letter to God*)
- ii. How does the tiger in the zoo express his anger and helplessness? (*A Tiger in the Zoo*)
- iii. How was Mij to be transported to England? (*Mijbil the Otter*)

iv. What did the Buddha ask Kisa Gotami to do and why? (*The Sermon at Benaras*)

v. What according to Rajvir was the Indian legend about the origin of tea? (*Glimpses of India*)

9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. (2x3=6 Marks)

i. "Griffin was rather a lawless person." Comment. (*Footprints without Feet*)

ii. Trust and compassion can transform a person. Justify this statement with reference to the story. (*The Thief's Story*)

iii. How is Ausable different from the general perception of a secret agent? (*The Midnight Visitor*)

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. (1x6=6 Marks)

I. "Custard the dragon, though perceived as a coward, proved to be the real hero when the situation demanded." You have been asked to present a speech in the school assembly on the theme 'True Courage Lies Within'. Using ideas from the poem *The Tale of Custard the Dragon* and the lesson *His First Flight*, draft your speech in about 120 words.

OR

II. "The world's perspective has changed for Mandela." What does Mandela mean when he says this? What experiences led him to this understanding, and how did it shape his life? (*Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*)

11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. (1x6=6 Marks)

I. Discuss how Bholi evolves through the story. What are the qualities that contribute to her transformation from a timid girl to a confident young woman? (*Bholi*)

OR

II. How does Think-Tank's arrogant and dismissive attitude towards Earth and its literature ultimately lead to the failure of the Martian invasion? (*The Book That Saved the Earth*)