

FIRST TERM EXAMINATION
English Language & Literature (184)

Class X (2024 -25)

Time Allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

The question paper comprises **three** sections — A, B and C.

Section A — Reading (20 Marks)

Section B — Writing and Grammar (20 Marks)

Section C — Literature (40 Marks)

- (ii) There are **11 questions** in the question paper. All questions are compulsory.
- (iii) Answers should be brief and to the point. Also, the word limit be adhered to as far as possible.
- (iv) There is no overall choice in the question paper. However, an internal choice has been provided in some of the questions.
- (v) In addition to this, separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary.
- (vi) **PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE ATTEMPTING ANY QUESTION.**

SECTION A : READING SKILLS (20 marks)

Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages

1. Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions.

- I. The town of Mandawa in Rajasthan has come a long way since its days as a trading outpost on an ancient caravan route for goods from the Middle East and China, but it still remains one of the little-known attractions on the tourism map of the state. But did you know that about 170 km by road from state capital Jaipur,

Mandawa can be your springboard into the splendors of Shekhawati, a region known for its splendid painted mansions?

II. It was their business acumen that found the men from Shekhawati entering trade with the British and settling down in Calcutta (now Kolkata) and Bombay (now Mumbai). Most of them would remit the money home which was used both for luxurious living and social welfare. On one hand, people had their homesteads painted with murals, as well as with intricate marble work and woodwork. On the other, they built dharamsalas and baolis for public use.

III. Mandawa, like other towns in the Shekhawati region, is dotted with painted havelis. It is amazing to note that not an inch of the mansion was missed by the artists. From the front porch to the bedrooms, all walls, ceilings, door jambs, windowsills, were painted upon. Temples, cenotaphs, even local dharamsalas and baolis were not excluded. With the mansions being lived in by successive generations, the paintings were a study in evolution, from the use of colours to subjects.

IV. The murals were based on diverse themes – social and folk tales, stories from the epics, contemporary lifestyles, Raagmala paintings, people from various walks of life, portraits of the merchants' families, etc. In the later paintings, the European influence, especially in the lifestyle images, became prominent. So, do not be surprised if you find motor cars, aeroplanes or gramophones finding a place in the murals.

V. Occupying the heart of the town is the Mandawa Castle (now a luxury hotel). Said to have been built by Thakur Nawal Singh to protect the trade post, it later became the focus around which the town grew up. It has some amazing murals. However, according to residents, owners of these havelis began to move away starting at the turn of the 20th century. Some left for good while others left them with the caretakers. There was no maintenance, and the paintings began to fade away. Even today as you go around the town, you will find many dilapidated buildings with the famous murals peeling off or faded away, the woodwork rotting off.

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

- 1) According to the passage, one of the reasons for dilapidated paintings that began to fade away in the havelis is the (1)
 - a) Shekhawati entering trade with the British
 - b) Lack of maintenance and care
 - c) Shekhawati moving to Kolkata and Mumbai
 - d) Lack of good artists and artisans

- 2) Select the option that states the meaning of the statement- “Mandawa, like other towns in the Shekhawati region, is dotted with painted havelis.” (1)
 - a) Mandawa town has havelis painted full of dots.
 - b) Mandawa town is full of many havelis that’s scattered all over the place.
 - c) Mandawa region has many havelis that is covered with a row of dots for decoration
 - d) Mandawa has dotted havelis.

- 3) Which of the following options is not true in the context of the passage? (1)
 - a) Mandawa Castle is said to have been built by Thakur Nawal Singh to protect the trade post.
 - b) The havelis in Mandawa are painted with temples, cenotaphs, even local dharamsalas and baolis.
 - c) Shekhawati is a region known for its splendid painted mansions.
 - d) The town of Mandawa in Rajasthan is just 170km away from Jaipur by road.

- 4) How was the money spent which was directed back home by the Shekhawati men? (2)

5) Select the option that clearly indicates the difference in the town of Mandawa before and after entering into trade with the British. (1)

	Before	After
a	Had many portraits of merchants.	Became a centre of British settlers.

b	Before	After
	It adorned many buildings with murals.	It became a trade post.

c	Before	After
	A place with people from various classes having sharp sense of business.	Luxurious lifestyle and social welfare.

d	Before	After
	Became bigger attraction than Jaipur.	Became very rich town.

6) Pick the words that correctly list the feelings of the writer with reference to the description of the town, Mandawa in the passage. (1)

- a) Crazy and anxious
- b) Impassive and hesitant
- c) Curious and spiritless
- d) Captivated and attracted

7) What is the relationship between (1) and (2)

- (1) people had their homesteads painted with murals.
- (2) even local dharamshalas and baolis were not excluded. (1)

- a) (2) is the reason for (1).
- b) (2) repeats the situation described in (1).
- c) (2) elaborates the problem described in (1).
- d) (1) sets the stage for (2).

8) How do the murals evolve over time? (2)

2. Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions.

1. In addition to using libraries and visiting art museums, historic site visitation is another common form of public engagement with the humanities. According to the National Endowment for the Arts' Survey of Public Participation in the Arts (SPPA), the percentage of people making at least one such visit fell steadily from 1982 to 2012, before rising somewhat in 2017. Visits to historic sites managed by the National Park Service (NPS) were substantially higher in 2018 than 1980, despite a decline in recent years.

- In 2017, 28% of American adults reported visiting a historic site in the previous year. This represented an increase of 4.4 percentage points from 2012 but a decrease of 8.9 percentage points from 1982. The bulk of the decline in visitation occurred from 2002 to 2008.
- The recent increases in visitation rates were statistically significant for the 35-44- and 45-54-year-old age groups. The larger change was found among 35-to-44-year-olds, whose visitation rate increased 8.7 percentage points. Despite the increase from 2012 to 2017 for these groups, there was a net decline in historic site visitation since 1982 for Americans of virtually all ages. Only among the oldest Americans (age 75 or older) was the rate of visitation higher in 2017 than 35 years earlier.
- From 1982 to 2017, the differences among age groups with respect to rates of historic site visitation decreased. For example, in 1982, the rate of visitation among 25-to-34-year-olds (the group most likely to visit a historic site in that survey) was approximately 11 percentage points higher than that of the youngest age group (18-to-24-year-olds), and more than 17 points higher than that of people ages 65-74. By 2017, however, the visitation rate of 25-to-34-year-olds had dropped to within five percentage points of the younger cohort and was virtually identical of that for the older group.

2. While visitation rates are converging among the age cohorts, the differences by level of educational attainment are still pronounced. In 2017, as in earlier years, the visitation rate among college graduates was more than twice as high as

the rate among those who finished their studies with a high school diploma (43% as compared to 17%). Among those who did not finish high school, visitation rates were below 10% throughout the 2008-2017 time period. Conversely, among Americans with a graduate or professional degree, visitation rates were in the vicinity of 50% during these years. Data from the National Park Service (NPS) indicate the types of historical sites visited most and also the demands made of these sites' physical infrastructure and staff. Visits to NPS historic sites rose from approximately 59.5 million in 1980 to almost 112 million in 2018. Throughout this time period, visits to historic sites constituted approximately a third of total NPS recreational visitation.

3. Since hitting a recent low in visits in 1995, total visits to historic sites of all types increased 58% to a high of 120.3 million in 2016, before falling 7%, to 111.9 million visits in 2018.

4. Much of the recent growth in visits to historic sites occurred among parks classified as national memorials and was driven by a particularly high level of visitation at sites that did not exist in 1995, such as the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial (3.3 million visitors in 2018), the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial (3.6 million visitors), and the World War II Memorial (4.7 million visitors). As a result, visits to National Memorials increased more than 300% from 1995 to 2016, even as the number of sites increased just 26% (from 23 to 29). In comparison, visits to national monuments increased only 3%, even as the number of sites in the category increased by 9% (from 64 to 70). From 2016 to 2018, the number of visits fell in every category, with the largest decline occurring at the memorial sites (down 10%), and the smallest drop at national monuments (3%).

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

- 1) Which of the following is not a common form of public engagement with the humanities? (1)
- a) visiting public memorials
 - b) visiting art museums
 - c) using libraries
 - d) historic site visitation

2) The rate of visitation among 25-34 year olds was approximately _____ points higher than that of the youngest age group i.e. 18-24 year olds. (1)

- a) 11 percentage
- b) 13 percentage
- c) 15 percentage
- d) 17 percentage

3) Choose an option that is clearly NOT similar in meaning to the word 'attainment'. (1)

- a) achievement
- b) realization
- c) tranquilizing
- d) obtaining

4) In earlier years the visitation rate among college graduates was more than twice as high as the rate among those : (1)

- a) who were employed individuals.
- b) who had a graduate or professional degree.
- c) who finished their studies with a high school diploma.
- d) who did not finish high school.

5) Though the visitation rates are converging among the age groups, the differences by the level of are still pronounced. (1)

- a) employment attainment
- b) gender category
- c) international visitation
- d) educational attainment

- 6) After the year 1995, total visits to historic sites of all types increased 58% in the year _____. (1)
- a) 2014
 - b) 2015
 - c) 2016
 - d) 2017
- 7) How does education and age play a role in the visitation of the sites? (2)
- 8) Which sites have seen a drastic increase in visitation and why? (2)

SECTION B : WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20 marks)

Grammar

3. Attempt ANY TEN of the following questions. (1*10=10M)

- 1) **Report the dialogue between a grandson and his grandfather by completing the sentence :**

Grandson : Grandpa, can you tell me what inspired you to set up a school in the village ?

Grandfather : Seeing the lack of adequate facilities and the children's eagerness to learn.

In response to the question about his reason for setting up of a village school, grandfather said that _____.

- 2) **Select the correct option to fill in the blanks for the given line :**

Don't you have _____ friends in the school?

- a) much
- b) few
- c) little
- d) any

- 3) **Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line from a sports journal :**

The captain of the team was accused with not encouraging the team members.

Option No.	Error	Correction
a.	the	a
b.	with	of
c.	encouraging	encouragement
d.	members	member

- 4) **Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the sentence.**

The German force lost no time in retreat lest they _____ be cut off and surrounded.

- a) would
 - b) should
 - c) might
 - d) could
- 5) **Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction.**

The stage performance put up by the students were spectacular.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

- 6) **Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter.**

Subject : Insanitary conditions in the colony

Sir/Madam

I _____ (be) a resident of Ankur Enclave, for the past eleven years. I would like to bring to your notice the insanitary conditions in our colony.

- 7) **Report the dialogue between Anil and Sanjeev, by completing the sentence:**

Anil : Where are you going?

Sanjeev : I am going to the airport.

Anil : May I drop you there as I'm going in that direction?

Anil asked Sanjeev where he was going and offered to drop him when Sanjeev replied that _____.

- 8) **Identify the error in the given heading of a newspaper and supply the correction.**

Attractive packages for different Tourist destination – Mizoram, Kashmir, Kerala, Goa.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

- 9) **Rohina shared some information with Ruchi regarding her summer internship at the bank. Report Ruchi's question.**

What was the duration of your internship?

- 10) **Place the correct form of the word in the blank:**

While we are loath to place restrictions on language use, oxymoron usually refers to a set of _____ (contradict) words rather than to a contradictory person.

- 11) Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given line, from an article by Penguin G.G. J who is considered to be one of the pioneers of the Gujarati short stories.

His writing _____ by a dramatic style, romanticism and powerful depiction of human emotions.

- a) is characterised
- b) has been characterised
- c) is characterising
- d) characterises

- 12) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the sentence-

The attendant _____ several guests at the same time to ensure prompt service.

- a) waited on
- b) waited in
- c) waited up
- d) waited

WRITING (10 M)

4. A. You are Ankita/Ankit, Computer In-charge of Maharani Public School, Bangalore. Blackboards are to be replaced by smart boards. You wish to place an order for fifteen smart boards and computer accessories. Draft a letter of order to Ensonic Computech, M.G Road, Bangalore in not more than 100-120 words. (1*5=5 M)

OR

- B. As the head of the music department, write a letter in 100-120 words, to Delhi Music House placing an order for some musical instruments like Tabla, Harmonium, Guitar, and Flute. You are Ankita/ Ajay of HPS School, Greater Kailash, New Delhi. Format the order with the name of the instrument, the number of items required, and the preferred brand in a table form.

5. A. When you think about your city, you feel proud of its historical monuments, places of cultural interest, shopping centres and beautiful parks. Write a letter in 100-120 words to the Editor of a National daily expressing your views on 'Your City'. Also suggest ways to increase footfall to these places like the government's recent initiative of free entry to all historical monuments on the occasion 77th Independence Day. You are Sangeeta / Sanjay, 45 Vijay Nagar, Delhi. (1*5=5 M)

OR

B. You are Radha Goswami, a member of NGO AWAAZ. Write a letter to the Editor of a National Daily in not more than 120 words for a public movement to clean the Yamuna river. You must introduce yourself, describe how residents are responsible for polluting the river and suggest the need for installing water treatment plant for cleaning the water.

SECTION C : LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY
READING TEXT (40 marks)

6. Read the extract given below and answer any one of the extracts.

(5Marks)

A. He hears the last voice at night
The patrolling cars,
And stares with his brilliant eyes
At the brilliant stars.

(i) What does the word 'brilliant' signify and why has it been repeated?

(2)

(ii) The main contrasting idea suggested by the extract is that of

(1)

- a) strength and weakness.
- b) nature and culture.
- c) beasts and mortals.
- d) confinement and freedom.

(iii) Choose the option listing the most likely reason for the tiger to ignore visitors, according to the extract. (1)

- a) He is scared of their constant stares.
- b) The visitors don't provide him with any food.
- c) He knows that none would help him out of captivity.
- d) The visitors don't speak to him kindly.

4) Assertion-The tiger looks at the stars in the sky.
Reason-He is helpless. (1)

- a) Both A and R are correct and R is the correct explanation for A.
- b) Both A and R are correct but R is not the correct explanation for A.
- c) A is true but R is false
- d) A is false but R is true

OR

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

(i) What image does a cat sitting on its haunches present? (1)

- a) A cat sitting on its haunches is resting.
- b) It is observing its prey.
- c) It is about to pounce on its prey.
- d) A cat all set to move suddenly.

(ii) The poet compares the fog to a cat because _____ (1)

- a) a cat moves stealthily just like the fog which appears suddenly, hangs on for some time and then vanishes.
- b) a cat moves without making a sound.
- c) a cat humps and vanishes
- d) a cat is forever on the move.

(iii) Which sentence collates with 'It sits looking over harbour and city'?

- a. She looked over her shoulder and smiled at John.
- b. Jessi laughed, looking over the tiny blonde woman.
- c. The dog jumped over the fence.
- d. It stands at the northern foot on the main mass of Mt Taurus, looking over a wide and fertile plain.

(iv) Would you describe the role of the fog as active or passive? Support your answer with reference to the poem "Fog".
(2M)

7. Read the extract given below and answer any one of the extracts. (5)

A. Our elders are often heard reminiscing nostalgically about those good old Portuguese days, the Portuguese, and their famous loaves of bread. Those eaters might have vanished, but the makers are still here. We still have amongst us the mixers, the moulders and those who bake the loaves. Those age-old, time-tested furnaces still exist. The fire in these furnaces has not yet been extinguished. The thud and jingle of traditional baker's bamboo, heralding his arrival in the morning, can still be heard in some places.

(i) How did the baker become synonymous with celebrations and occasions in Goa? (2)

(ii) The narrator says that the furnaces were 'time-tested' because (1)

- a) They had been thoroughly tested each time, before being used.
- b) They had proved the test of time and were working well.
- c) They had been tested by modern day experts.
- d) They had the power to withstand inexperienced usage.

(iii) Why do you think the baker came in with 'a thud and a jingle'? (1)

- a) He wanted to make everyone alert and active with his presence.
- b) He wanted to wake up everyone from their slumber and ask them to visit the bakery.
- c) He was used to making a loud noise as most people responded to just that.
- d) He wanted to make people aware that he had come around to sell his goodies.

(iv) The 'fire in the furnaces has not yet been extinguished' implies that (1)

- a) The furnaces are still being used to bake the loaves of bread.
- b) The fire is in the process of being reviewed as a replaceable method for heating furnaces.
- c) The furnaces are very strong and cannot be shifted for use in other areas.
- d) The fire in the furnaces takes a long time to cease burning, once lighted.

OR

B. On the morning of the third day, however, he thought of the books he wanted, and he knew he would have to look for another safe. But he never got the chance to begin his plan. By noon a policeman had arrested him for the jewel robbery at Shotover Grange.

(i) Assertion: The policeman had arrested Horace.

Reason: Horace had thought of the books he wanted. (1)

- a) Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct reason of A.
- b) Both A and R are correct, and R is not the correct reason of A.
- c) A is correct but R is incorrect.
- d) A is incorrect but R is correct.

(ii) The plan devised by Horace was to _____ (1)

- a) Speak to the owner and inform about the safe.
- b) Blackmail the wife of the owner.
- c) Confess to the police before the lady could deceive him.
- d) Look for another safe to rob for his desire for books.

(iii) Choose the best option that Horace might have thought about the young lady when she tricked him. (1)

- a) Admiration and respect
- b) ✓ Anger and vengeance
- c) Respect and gratitude
- d) Anger and blame

(iv) What were the preparations carried out by Horace for his success at the robbery? (2)

8. Answer any FOUR from the following questions in 40-50 words (4*3=12)

- 1) Describe the young seagull's emotions when he flew over the sea.
- 2) Writing a diary is a way to vent anxiety. Briefly explain the given sentence taking reference from Anne's habit.
- 3) 'Amanda is alone but not lonely in the world she envisions'. Give instances from the poem to justify.
- 4) What do you think prompted the narrator to act like "an obedient child"? (The Black Aeroplane)
- 5) Mandela feels that courage is triumph over fear. How would you define courage in this context?

9. Answer any TWO from the following questions in 40-50 words.

(2*3=6)

1) Max was unprepared for his mission. Discuss with reference to the chapter "The Midnight Visitor". —

2) How did Hari salvage his own conscience about stealing money from Anil?

3) What was Mr. Herriot's strict advice? Did Mrs. Pumphrey agree to his advice?

10. Answer one of the following questions in 100-120 words

(1*6=6)

A. When we think of losses, we generally think of people or possessions. Time can be considered a very precious commodity too. Elucidate the loss of time in context of poem, 'The Ball Poem'.

OR

B. In the chapter, 'A Baker from Goa' the narrator talks about his childhood in Goa and his fond memories. Compare the childhood of Nelson Mandela with that of the narrator.

11. Answer one of the following questions in 100-120 words

(1*6=6)

A. Fiction writers prefer creating grey characters rather than black and white. Analyse this in detail, with reference to both the characters of The Thief's Story.

OR

B. As Fowler, write your experience of meeting Ausable, the secret agent who was anything but an archetypal detective. Write about experience in a form of Diary Entry.