



APEEJAY SCHOOL PANCHSHEEL PARK

Class - X

Subject - ENGLISH

MIDTERM EXAMINATION (2024-25)

Name of the student:

Date:

Time Allowed: 3 hrs

M.M.:80

General Instructions:

1. The Question Paper contains **THREE** sections-READING, GRAMMAR & WRITING and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION A : READING SKILLS (20 marks)

Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages

1. Read the following text.

(10)

1. Summer vacation offers families dilemmas and opportunities. For too many kids it becomes a period of intellectual passivity and stalled personal growth. For others - and their parents it's a time of overload and frantic scheduling.

2. "Summer is a great time for parents to build a relationship with their children," says a renowned child psychologist. And it's an opportunity both for the kids to learn and for the family to grow together. To make this a reality, educators and psychologists point to several simple strategies that parents can start planning before summer gets under way.

3. "Summer's a perfect time for kids to take skills they've learned in a classroom and use them in new ways," notes a well-known educator. Comparing prices in a grocery shop can sharpen children's mental maths skills. Taking measurements to build a new tree house or design a simple plaything teaches geometry. Car trips provide opportunities to study maps and learn geography.

4. Sometimes kids will need a small push in the right direction. Victoria encouraged her seven-year-old son, Philip, to take part in their local library's summer reading club. For every book report a child wrote, he received a raffle ticket. At the end of the summer sports prizes were raffled off. Philip, who'd painstakingly produced seven book reports won an autographed picture of a hockey star and had his name in one of his reports printed in the local newspaper. (If that's not possible, encourage children to write letters to editors on current affairs, or about school-related issues.) "Philip moaned and groaned about writing the reports, but in the end, he was happy he put the effort in," notes his mother. "And his ability to express himself really improved."

5. It's the daily practice of stimulation intellectual, creative, esteem-building-that parents can give their children that have the greatest impact," says an eminent researcher. In an informal study conducted in 1998 other researchers surveyed successful college students about how they spent their free time from ages five to 12, then compared their activities with those of

troubled youngsters. They found that the successful ones were more likely to play spontaneous games, more involved in household chores and more likely to engage in playful activities with their parents.

6. Truly successful kids, say educators, are those who've learnt to budget time to help others whether it's helping an invalid neighbour or preparing their own family's meals a couple of nights a week. Where parents fail, say, experts, is in the way such responsibilities are presented.

7. For most parents of school-age kids, the largest block of time they'll have with their children is in the summer. With a little advance preparation, parents can use the summer to help develop their youngsters into smarter, more creative, more caring human beings.

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

- a. Why does the writer say that "Summer vacation offers families dilemmas and opportunities"? (1)
- b. Pick out the odd option that should not be in the list.
 - i. A few parents build meaningful relationships with their children.
 - ii. Many parents chalk out backbreaking schedules for their kids.
 - iii. For many children summer vacation is a long break from intellectual activities
 - iv. The personal growth of many children comes to a standstill.
- b. What is the objective of the writer when he says that "the kids need a small push in the right direction"? Rationalise your response in about 30-40 words. (2)
- c. Complete the sentence appropriately. (1)
Experts are of the firm opinion that when it comes to budgeting time, it is in a positive manner and not the kids.
- d. The passage includes some words that are near synonyms of each other. Identify one such set of synonyms from the options given below. (1)
 - i. moaned and groaned
 - ii. educators and psychologists
 - iii. overload and frantic scheduling
 - iv. dilemmas and opportunities
- e. Complete the sentence appropriately. (1)
The author uses many examples to prove that summer is a perfect time for kids to take skills they have learnt in a classroom and use them in new ways by
- f. What is the essence of the expert opinion regarding advanced planning of the summer vacation? (1)
 - i. Activities to be done in vacations can be correctly discussed.
 - ii. Vacations can be planned.
 - iii. It is the largest block of time available to children.
 - iv. The kids can become better and smarter if vacation is utilised well.
- g. State which of the following is NOT true for troubled youngsters according to experts. (1)
 - i. They don't play spontaneous games.
 - ii. They spent their free time from age five to 12 constructively.
 - iii. They show apathy to household chores.

iv. They don't get involved in playful activities with their parents.

h. How can parents make the greatest impact on the lives of their kids? Answer the question in about 30-40 words. (2)

2. Read the following text.

(10)

1. Times view: Private coaching is a multi-million-rupee industry in India. But it is the symptom of a problem, not the problem itself. Coaching centres merely fill the gap caused by lack of quality teaching especially in government school, more so in small towns and villages. Only education in such schools will alter the picture and prevent this huge drain on the resources of the families desperately seeking to give their children decent education.

2. Secondary level students topped the number of students taking private coaching with 31% males and 29% female students taking recourse to the method, a recent NSSO survey has shown. The report also showed that nearly 20% students attending pre-primary and above level (21% of males and 19% of females) were taking private coaching.

STUDENTS AT SECONDARY LEVEL TAKE PRIVATE COACHING THE MOST

Rural + Urban (%)	Level	Male	Female	All India
	Pre-primary	12.4	10.6	11.6
	Primary	16.5	16.2	16.4
	Upper primary/Middle level	29	20.6	21.9
	Secondary	31.1		30.2
	Higher Secondary	29.6		27.5
	Diploma certificate	7.2	7.7	7.3
	Graduate & above level	13.8	13	13.5
	All (pre-primary and above level)	20.5	19	19.8

Source: MQSPI

3. Private coaching is a thriving business across the country and according to a 2016 NSSO report more than 7.1 crore students were taking private coaching or tuition classes in addition to their basic education.

4. Experts attributed the trend of a larger share of students at the secondary level taking recourse to private coaching to the entrance exams for professional courses such as engineering and medicines.

5. Anil Swarup, former Secretary school education in the ministry of human resource development, explained the increase of students taking private coaching to the different competitive examinations and said this was a result of the dichotomy between learning and understanding. (Courtesy: The Times of India)

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

a. Complete the following analogy appropriately, based on your understanding of paragraphs 1 and 2. (1)

We can say that the dichotomy between learning and understanding widely considered to be the main reason for the increase in the number of students taking private coaching is comparable with two banks of a river because

- b. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of paragraph 2. (2)
 According to the author, private coaching is the symptom of a problem, not the problem itself is (a/an) (fact/opinion) because it is (a/an) (subjective/objective) detail.
- c. 'Private coaching is a thriving business across the country' according to a NSSO report issued in 2016. Justify the reasons for this trend in about 30-40 words. (1)
- d. Based on the survey results, which two concerns clearly demonstrates the larger problem associated with the fact that private coaching has become a multi-million-rupee industry in India? (2)
 i. ii.
- e. In the given table, state any one inference that can be drawn from the fact that 11.6% of pre-primary and 16.4% of primary students need private coaching too. (1)
- f. Infer one benefit and one drawback of mushrooming of private coaching centres in India (Answer in about 30-40 words.) (2)
- g. Below are given the main takeaways from the NSSO report mentioned in the passage about the effect of private coaching on professional courses on secondary-level students. (1)
 Which of these is NOT mentioned explicitly in the report?
 i. They need coaching to qualify for engineering and medical entrance exams.
 ii. There is a paucity of teachers at the secondary level.
 iii. There is a dichotomy between learning and understanding.
 iv. 27.5% of the students depends on private coaching at this level.

SECTION B : WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20 marks)

GRAMMAR

3. Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following questions, as directed. (1x10)

- a. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the magazine article.
 The thief and the eye-witness _____.
 i. has escaped ii. has been escaping
 iii. was escaping iv. have escaped
- b. Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given line to complete an online update.
 During the college days, I _____ beat them all in the race!
 i. could ii. should iii. can iv. might

c. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line, from self-help book:

Goals provides direction to our behaviour and guide our actions and thoughts

Option no.	Error	Correction
i	provides	provide
ii	behaviour	behaviours

iii	to	For
iv	guide	Guides

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

Subject: Request for Approval

Dear Sir

This is to respectfully submit that I _____ (seek) approval for organising a tree plantation drive to be undertaken by the club.

e. Complete the notice by filling in the blank with the correct option:

The swimming pool _____ at 6:00 a.m. daily.

- i. open ii. is opening iii. opened iv. opens

f. Complete the given narrative, by filling in the blank with the correct option:

..... argument could move man from their final decision.

- i. No, either ii. Each, both iii. No, neither iv. Neither, each

g. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete an article from a magazine on school education.

The regulations related to the examination schedule as drafted by the administration from the curriculum.

- i. are stemmed ii. get stemmed iii. stem iv. stems

h. Identify the error in the given sentence from an article and supply the correction.

Over the recent years, many skilled craftsmen and women have lost their jobs inside the pottery trade in the UK, but gradually English porcelain is regaining its reputation.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

i. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket.

The forecast _____ (mention) a quiet start to the day with a spell of rain to come later on in the afternoon

j. Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given narrative.

If you are nervous, _____ I speak to her?

- i. shall ii. would iii. can iv. could

k. Complete the given sentence, by filling in the blank with the correct option :

Two years have passed since he _____ here.

- i. came ii. come iii. has come iv. had come

l. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the sentence.

The father divided his property among his three sons lest they _____ quarrel afterwards.

- i. shall ii. should iii. will iv. could

WRITING

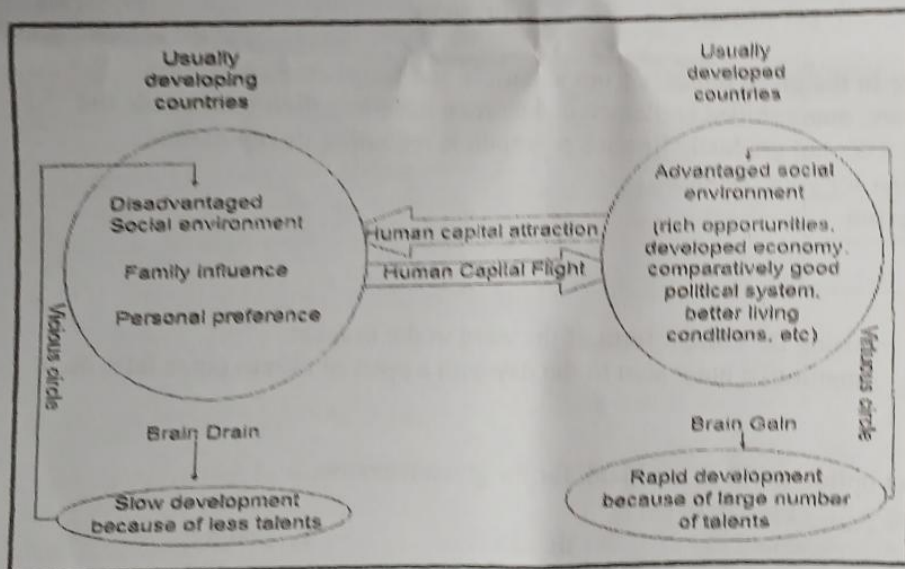
4. A. You are Yuvraj/ Yukti of 43/9, Greendale Enclave, Delhi. You are concerned about the lack of awareness around animal rights. Write a letter to the editor about the need to raise awareness about animal rights in schools and colleges in India. (5)

Hints- need to raise awareness - values of respect and compassion towards all living beings- rights of animals alarmingly neglected- empathy and ethical considerations- humane behaviour- include animal rights topics in existing subjects- welfare activities- volunteering at shelters or participating in awareness campaigns

OR

4. B. You are Ankit / Ankita resident of 111, Jai Hind Colony, New Delhi - 110089, a student of class 11 and want to take up a course in Computer graphic design. Write a letter of inquiry to the Director of NIIT Computech seeking details on the course content, eligibility, fees, timings and future scope of the course. (5)

5.A. Harshit, of class X, is a member of the school editorial board. He has been asked to write an article on the topic 'Rethinking Brain Drain in the Era of Globalization' for the next edition of the school magazine. Given below is a pictorial representation of his research work that he has done on the topic.



As Harshit write an analytical paragraph, in about 120 words, elaborating and analysing the reasons and results for this persistent problem. (5)

OR

5.B. On the basis of your own strengths, weaknesses and opportunities, threats in front of you, write a paragraph in 100-120 words about why public speaking should not be avoided if one has to gain self-confidence. Use your own example of overcoming fears to face an audience to emphasize your thoughts. (5)

SECTION C : LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING
TEXT

(40 marks)

6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. (5)

A. "It's not my balcony," Ausable said with extreme irritation. "It belongs to the next apartment." He glanced explanatorily at Fowler. "You see," he said, "this room used to be part of a large unit, and the next room — through that door there — used to be the living room. It had the balcony, which extends under my window now. You can get onto it from the empty room two doors down — and somebody did, last month. The management promised to block it off. But they haven't." Max glanced at Fowler, who was standing stiffly not far from Ausable, and waved the gun with a commanding gesture. "Please sit down," he said. "We have a wait of half an hour, I think." (The Midnight Visitor)

a. State any one inference about the balcony spoken at length by Ausable from the given context.

The management promised to block it off. But they haven't. 1

b. State which of the options from (i) to (iv) can be applied to the given question or context? "It's not my balcony," Ausable said with extreme irritation. "It belongs to the next apartment." 1

When Ausable said this, what was he relying on?

- i. A hypothesis: Max had no idea about the balcony.
- ii. An assumption: Fowler had no idea about the balcony.
- iii. A premise: Only he knew that there was no balcony.
- iv. A theory: The waiter had no idea about the balcony.

c. 'It had the balcony, which extends under my window now. You can get onto it from the empty room two doors down and somebody did, last month. The management promised to block it off. But they haven't.' 2

Why does Ausable explain the existence of a balcony at such great length to Fowler? Elaborate in about 30-40 words, with reference to the extract.

d. Max told Fowler that they had to wait for a good thirty minutes for a paper to arrive. The paper here refers to 1

OR

B. "It was only when I began to learn that my boyhood freedom was an illusion, when I discovered as a young man that my freedom had already been taken from me, that I began to hunger for it. At first, as a student, I wanted freedom only for myself, the transitory freedoms of being able to stay out at night, read what I pleased and go where I chose. Later, as a young man in Johannesburg, I yearned for the basic and honourable freedoms of achieving my potential, of earning my keep, of marrying and having a family — the freedom not to be obstructed in a lawful life." (Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom)

a. The speaker's attitude towards his freedom when he was in his boyhood can be summed up as 1

- i. being self-centered
- ii. being naïve
- iii. being foolish
- iv. being indifferent to others

b. How does Nelson Mandela understand the concept of "transitory freedoms"? Answer in

about 30-40 words.

- c. In the statement, 'I discovered as a young man that my freedom had already been taken from me, that I began to hunger for it,' what was Mandela hungering after? 1
- i. The desire to lead a normal respectful life as a citizen.
 - ii. The desire to fulfil all his professional dreams.
 - iii. The breaking of the chains that bound his fellow citizens.
 - iv. The wish to join the African National Congress.

d. If Point of View is the narration of a story that can be told from a first, second, third person's point of view, the given extract is told in 1

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. (1x5 = 5)

A. I saw it go
 Merrily bouncing, down the street, and then
 Merrily over — there it is in the water!
 No use to say 'O there are other balls':
 An ultimate shaking grief fixes the boy
 As he stands rigid, trembling, staring down
 All his young days into the harbour where
 His ball went.

- a. The poet uses the ball as a symbol of the boy's 1
- i. sense of adventure
 - ii. carefree childhood days
 - iii. ability to bounce back
 - iv. extended family

- b. The poet feels that there is no point in consoling the boy as 1
- i. it would give him false hope
 - ii. he might demand for a new ball
 - iii. it might distress him further
 - iv. whatever he has lost is irretrievable

- c. The word 'rigid' DOES NOT have a meaning similar to 1
- i. strict
 - ii. stringent
 - iii. pliable
 - iv. unrelenting

d. What has the poet tried to denote by the phrase 'young days'? 1

- e. The word that DOES NOT indicate a physical manifestation of sorrow in the boy is 1
- i. worthless
 - ii. shaking
 - iii. trembling
 - iv. rigid

OR

B. He stalks in his vivid stripes
 The few steps of his cage,
 On pads of velvet quiet,
 In his quiet rage.

He should be lurking in shadow,
 Sliding through long grass
 Near the water hole
 Where plump deer pass.

- a. What does the imagery of "vivid stripes" and "pads of velvet quiet" suggest about the tiger's condition in captivity compared to its natural state? 1
- The tiger is well-adapted to its environment and comfortable.
 - The tiger's appearance and behaviour are harmonious with its surroundings.
 - The tiger's natural attributes are being stifled by the constraints of captivity.
 - The tiger finds solace and tranquility in its confined space.
- b. The phrase "plump deer pass" implies that the tiger's natural environment is characterized by

c. Select the option that describes the tiger in the following lines. 1

'On pads of velvet quiet, In his quiet rage.'

- nervous
- scared
- distraught
- light-footed
- majestic
- indignant

- i. 1 and 2 ii. 2, 3 and 4 iii. 3, 4 and 6 iv. 1, 5 and 6

d. Which literary device is used in the phrase "pads of velvet quiet"? 1

- i. Metaphor ii. Simile iii. Personification iv. Alliteration

e. The word 'vivid' DOES NOT have a meaning similar to 1

- i. striking ii. blurry iii. rich iv. lucid

8. Answer **ANY FOUR** of the following questions in about 40-50 words each. (3x4 = 12)

- Validate the following statement "Fortune favours the brave" with reference to the story 'The Black Aeroplane'.
- What is the poet's purpose in introducing a poisonous tree like the hemlock and an inauspicious bird-the crow, both of which are considered ill-omens?
- The poet has used some special qualities to describe the animals and create humour in the poem. Do you agree with this statement? Comment with reference to the poem 'How to Tell Wild Animals'.
- What was the effect of the hailstorm on Lencho's crop?
- How has Robert Frost used symbolism in the poem 'Fire and Ice'?

9. Answer **ANY TWO** of the following in about 40-50 words each. (3x2 = 6)

- Which instance in the lesson 'The Thief's Story' suggests that Hari Singh worked with various employers in the past?
- Was it necessary to send Tricki to the surgery? Why couldn't Tricki be treated at home?
- Why was Fowler keen to meet Ausable? What were the repercussions of this much-awaited meeting?

10. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. (6x1 = 6)

- A. "I was very happy to go behind the strange aeroplane like an obedient child."

Analysing the message of new-found hope in the given quote by the pilot (The Black Aeroplane), how can we say the feeling was mutual regarding the poet's upliftment of the mood (Dust of Snow)? Also, evaluate how both the situations were similar or different.

OR

B. 'True liberty is freedom from fear, deprivation, and all forms of discrimination.' If you had to use the message of the given quote from the lesson- 'Nelson Mandela - Long Walk to Freedom', what would you include in your advice? How did the young seagull in the story 'His First Flight' break the chains of fear and self-doubt?

11. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. (6x1 = 6)

A. "He had never been known to refuse food; he would tackle a meal at any hour of the day or night." Mr Herriot believed that Tricki's problem was his greed. Did he lack tolerance? What values would you like Tricki to imbibe? Elucidate.

OR

B. "Never judge a book by its cover". Analyze this statement with reference to the character of Ausable from 'The Midnight Visitor'.