

FIRST TERM EXAMINATION—2024-25
CLASS-X
SUBJECT-ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (184)

Time : 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

1. Read the following passage carefully. (20)

1) It was a bleak, rainy day, and I had no desire to drive up the winding mountain road to my daughter Carolyn's House. But she had insisted that I come and see something at the top of the mountain. (10)

2) So, here I was reluctantly making the two-hour journey through fog that hung like veils. By the time I saw how thick it was near the summit, I'd gone too far to turn back. Nothing could be worth this I thought, as I inched along the perilous highway.

3) I'll stay for lunch, but I'm heading back down as soon as the fog lifts," I announced when I arrived. "But I need you to drive me to the garage to pick up my car," Carolyn said.

4) "How far is it?" I asked. "About three minutes," she said. "I'll drive- I'm used to it."

5) After 10 minutes on the mountain road, I looked at her anxiously. "I thought you said three minutes." She grinned. "This is a detour."

6) Turning down a narrow track, we parked the car and got out. We walked along a path that was thick with old pine needles. Huge black-green evergreens towered over us. Gradually, the peace and silence of the place began to fill my mind.

7) Then we turned a corner and stopped and I gasped in amazement. From the top of the mountain, sloping for several acres across folds and valleys, were rivers of daffodils in radiant bloom. A profusion of colour from the palest ivory to the deepest lemon to the most vivid salmon blazed like a carpet before us. It looked as though the sun had tipped over and spilled gold down the mountainside. ③

- 8) At the centre, cascaded a waterfall of purple hyacinths and coral-coloured tulips. And as if this bonanza were not enough, western bluebirds frolicked over the heads of the daffodils, their tawny breasts and sapphire wings like a flutter of jewels.
- 9) A riot of questions filled my mind. Who created such beauty ? Why ? How ? As we approached the home that stood in the centre of the property we saw, a sign that read : " Answer to the Questions I Know You Are Asking "
- 10) The first answer was " One Woman- Two Hands, Two Feet " The second was : " One at a Time " The third: " Started in 1958. "
- 11) As we drove home, I was so moved by what we had seen, I could scarcely speak. "She changed the world," I finally said, "One bulb at a time." She started almost 40 years ago, probably just the beginning of an idea, but she kept at it."
- 12) The wonder of it would not let me go. "Imagine," I said, "If I'd had a vision and worked at it, just a little bit every day, what might I have accomplished?" Carolyn looked at me sideways, smiling, "Start tomorrow." said she. "Better yet, start today."

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

- i. State why the author was disinclined to make a two-hour journey. (1)
- ii. The author started liking the place because : (1)
- a. of its forest and sandy sea beach.
- b. of its serenity and silence.
- ~~c. of the bleak and rainy day.~~
- d. of reaching the place in just three minutes.
- iii. The place, where the author went with her daughter, had a beautiful panoramic view. Justify this statement with reference to the passage, in about 40 words. (2)
- iv. 'A riot of questions filled my mind.' In this line the word riot means : (1)
- a. Troublesome
- b. Multitude
- c. Simple
- ~~d. Complex~~

v. The author says, "The wonder of it would not let me go." (1)

From this sentence, we can infer that the author was deeply _____.

(Complete the sentence with one word)

vi. State whether the given assertion is **True** or **False**, according to the passage. (1)

True
vii. A drive in the mountains opens the eyes of a woman to the world of possibilities.

viii. Elaborate what the author means in para (10), in about 40 words. (2)

ix. What is the lesson the author learns from her experience? (1)

~~a.~~ To travel around to gain more knowledge.

b. To be in the lap of nature.

c. To change the world with a new vision.

d. The numerous prospects that one has in life.

2. Read the passage carefully. (10)

1. Festivals are synonymous with celebration, ceremony and joy. Festivals bring to fore the flip side of celebrations – pollution – air, water, soil and noise.

2. This led to the need of assessing the awareness level among people about ecological pollution during festivals. So, a study was conducted by scholars of an esteemed university in India. This study was titled 'Awareness Towards Impact of Festivals on Ecology'.

3. There were two main objectives of the study. The first one was to assess the awareness level among people about ecological protection during festivities. Exploring solutions to bring awareness about celebrating festivals without harming ecology was the second objective.

4. The research began by understanding the socio-economic conditions of the respondents before sharing the questionnaire.

Table-1: Awareness level among respondents

QUESTIONS	YES %	NO %	CAN'T SAY%
1. Do you feel that bursting crackers is a must during festivities?	46	54	0
2. Do you think most people abuse environmental resources during celebration of festivals?	72	28	0
3. Do you think that celebrations & festivities result in uniting people?	64	32	4
4. Do you enjoy bursting crackers for amusement?	68	32	0
5. Do you feel pressured to burst crackers during festivals as an expectation of your social status?	82	12	6
6. Are you aware of waste segregation & disposal guidelines for better ecology?	56	40	4

5. The study recommended the imposition of strict rules and regulations as opposed to a total ban on all festive activities which have a drastic impact on our environment. The researchers believed that such measures would help in harnessing some ill-effects that add to the growing pollution and suggested further studies be taken up across the country to assess awareness about ecological degradation.
6. The observations made in the study pointed to the environmental groups and eco-clubs fighting a losing battle due to city traffic issues, disposal of plastics, garbage dumping and all sorts of ecological degradation. The researchers stressed that the need of the hour is increasing awareness among people to reduce ecological pollution which can be facilitated by celebrating all festivals in an eco-friendly manner.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions.

- i. What was the significance of doing a study on ecological pollution? (2)
- ii. Choose the option that uses the phrase 'flip-side' incorrectly? (1)
- The song was on the flip side of their first single.
 - Loss of privacy is the flip side of fame.
 - She showed me a flip side during her gymnastic routine.
 - There can be a flip side to years of experience.

iii. Justify the researchers' recommendation. (1)

'The study recommended the imposition of strict rules and regulations as opposed to a total ban on all festive activities which have a drastic impact on our environment.'

iv. Why do the researchers feel that environmental groups and eco-clubs will not achieve much in the given scenario? (1)

v. Even though a larger number of people say 'no' to bursting crackers than those who say 'yes' (First row of the table), festival pollution persists. How does evidence from the table support this statement? (Any two evidences) (2)

vi. What purpose does the 'Can't Say' column serve in the questionnaire? (1)

a. Gives the option to people of not expressing their thought.

~~b.~~ Gives a better idea to the researcher.

~~c.~~ Makes the data inaccurate.

d. Makes the data more readable and comprehensive.

vii. What is the tone of the passage? (1)

~~a.~~ Informative

~~b.~~ Sadistic

c. Reflective

~~d.~~ Optimistic

viii. "The research began by understanding the socio-economic conditions of the respondents before sharing the questionnaire." Why do you think this has an impact on the results of the research? (1)

SECTION B : WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20)

Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed. (1×10=10)

i. Fill in the blank with the correct form of the verb for this note about Verghese Kurien.

Verghese Kurien has been called the father of the White Revolution. He is recognised (recognise) as the man behind the success of the Amul brand by all, for years to come.

ii. Read the given sentence from an article on weather forecast. Identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence.

The weatherman has predicted that it should rain today as there is a huge build up of clouds in the sky.

ERROR	CORRECTION
Has	Have

iii. The Biology teacher had instructed Sameer to draw the diagram of the bacteria. Report Sameer's reply.

'Sir I had drawn the diagram but you can't see it because it is not visible to the naked eye.'

iv. Read the dialogue between Kumar and Kamal.

Kumar : We missed you yesterday at the match.

Kamal : I was not feeling well.

Select the correct option to report what Kumar said to Kamal.

Kumar said to Kamal that _____ at the match.

Kamal replied that he had not been feeling well.

- a. they missed him the day before b. they had missed him yesterday.
 c. we missed him the day before. d. they had missed him the day before.

v. Fill in the blank with a suitable determiner.

There are few chairs in this room, not everyone can sit.

vi. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the given line.

The inspector had not taken any decision until he had studied the case thoroughly.

ERROR	CORRECTION
a. the inspector	an inspector
b. had not taken	did not take
c. any	some
d. had studied	studied

vii. Fill the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the newspaper report on the new government.

The Prime Minister along with his team _____ (promise / promises) to pave way for a miraculous transition that India has never seen before.

vii. Report the following dialogue between Shruti and Rohit:

Rohit : I am surprised to see you here in Delhi. When did you come?

Shruti : I came here yesterday.

Rohit told Shruti that he was surprised to see her there in Delhi and asked her

~~the following question~~. Shruti replied that she had come there the day before.

~~He asked her~~ that when did she come?

ix. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction.

We _____ the match when the earthquake happened.

a. watched

b. are watching

c. will watch

d. were watching

x. Complete the line from the song 'We are the World', by filling the blank with the correct option.

'Oh, send them your heart

So they know that someone cares

And their lives will be stronger and free

As God has shown us by turning stones to bread

And so we all _____ lend a helping hand.'

a. would

b. might

c. must

d. could

xi. Report the dialogue between the two friends.

Sam : Hi! It's been a long time.

Rishi : Yes, indeed! I have been away from the city for quite some time this month.

Sam greeted Rishi and mentioned that he was pleased to see him. Rishi answered in the affirmative and explained that _____.

xii. Choose the correct option to ensure that the subject agrees with the verb.

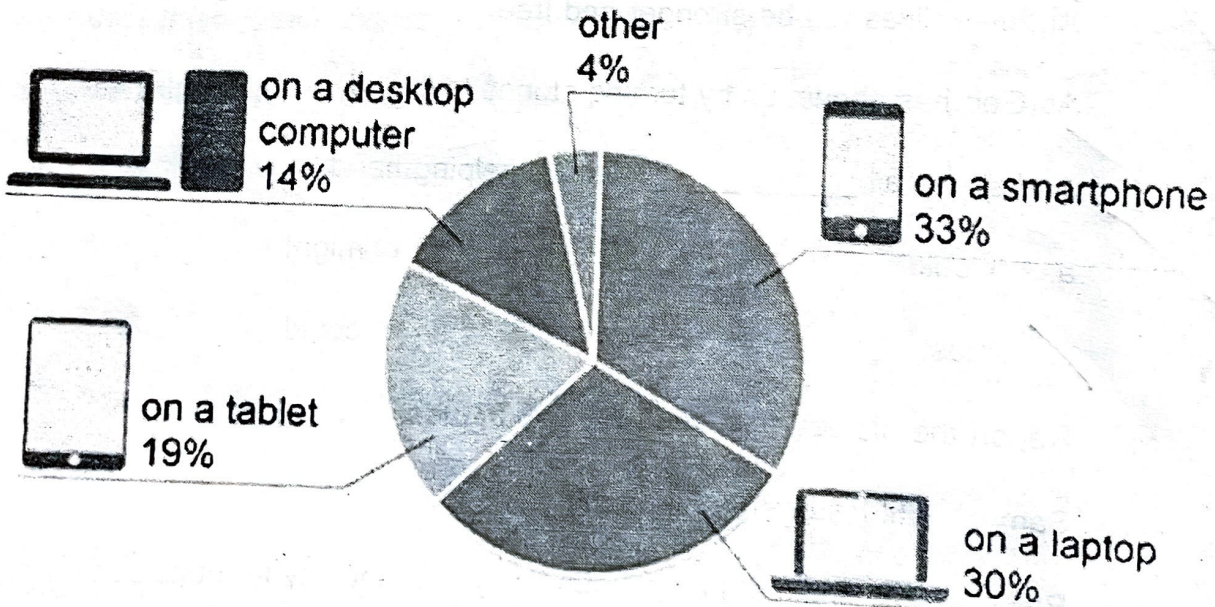
The group of dancers, performing tonight, (is/are) here.

4. A. You are Mehak / Manan. You see your friends around you, who are leading a life which is very harmful for their health as they use social media all the time and waste a lot of their valuable time. They prefer staying alone in their rooms and do not communicate with the members of the family or relatives. Write a letter to the Editor highlighting the ill-effects of the kind of lifestyle the students have today, urging students to use their time more judiciously. (100-120 words) (5)

OR

B. You are Sneha / Sohail a student of class X and a resident of 36 Vishwa Sadan, Meerut. You are keen on theatre and acting. Write to the National Institute of Drama, Delhi, seeking information about their course, eligibility criteria and other necessary details. (100-120 words)

A. The pie chart below illustrates how internet users aged 16+ prefer to access the internet at home and other places. Summarize the information in the pie chart by selecting and reporting the main features. (100-120 words) (5)



OR

B. The table gives information on the types and frequencies of health issues at Westech Electronics in 2010. Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, making comparisons wherever relevant. (100-120 words)

Health Issue	Male Employees		Female Employees	
	Minor	Required Hospitalization	Minor	Required Hospitalization
Foot Injuries	23	2	2	0
Arm/Hand Injuries	0	1	0	0
Ingested Chemicals	42	1	24	2
Hearing Problems	31	0	13	0
Foreign Body in Eye	54	10	24	3

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

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

A) '... The wife herself, a gray-haired, sharp-tongued woman of sixty, said that the story was nonsense. Horace is now the assistant librarian in the prison. He often thinks of the charming, clever young lady who was in the same profession as he was, and who tricked him. He gets very angry when anyone talks about 'honour among thieves'.

- i)* Which story is being called 'nonsense' here? ~~Horace's~~ Horace's story about ^{the lady that} (2)
- ii)* What evidence did the police use against Horace to arrest him? ^{his finger prints on the} (1)
- iii)* What lesson do you think Horace learned from this episode? ^{never trust anyone} (1)
- iv)* Given below are four situations in Mr Khanna's home. Choose a situation which shows that he is being 'sharp tongued' with his family: (1)

- a. Mr Khanna's son cleans the house to perfection but is instantly criticized with pungent remarks.
- b.* Mr Khanna's sister has brought a gift for him but he gives an honest opinion of not liking it.
- c. Mr Khanna's daughter has not fared well in her exam and he does not speak to her.
- d. Mr Khanna's wife shares her routine with him and he says he does not have time.

OR

iii. Pick the option that lists the correct Synonyms [S] and Antonyms [A] of the word 'discern'. (1)

1. Spot

2. Notice

3. Ignore

4. Identify

5. Miss

6. Overlook

a) [S] – 1, 4, 6; [A] – 2, 3, 5

b) [S] – 2, 4, 6; [A] – 1, 3, 5

c) [S] – 1, 2, 4; [A] – 3, 5, 6

d) [S] – 1, 2, 6; [A] – 3, 4, 5

iv. If you were to create a safety guide based on the poem, what key advice would you include? (Any two) (2)

OR

B) 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': ③

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

i. What is the ball that the boy has lost in the harbour symbolic of? *the carefree childhood* (1)

ii. The word that **DOES NOT** indicate a physical manifestation of sorrow in the boy, is: (1)

a. worthless.

b. shaking.

c. trembling.

d. rigid.

iii. To what end has the poet used '___' in the second line of the poem? (1)

iv. What does the poet consider worthless? Why? *Ball to be worthless by the memories* (2)

Answer **ANY FOUR** of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words. (4×3=12)

i. 'It was nothing less than a letter to God.' What does this line tell you about Lencho?

ii. The poem 'A Tiger in the Zoo' ends with the repeated use of 'brilliant' in the last two lines- brilliant eyes and brilliant stars. To what advantage has the poet used this technique of repetition?

iii. Fear is an emotion which cripples you completely. Describe in short, the young seagull's fear of flying.

iv. How did the final essay - 'Quack, Quack, Quack, Said Mistress Chatterbox' get Anne off the hook from Mr Keesing?

v. The poet Robert Frost presents a thought-provoking perspective on how the world might end in his poem 'Fire and Ice'. Elaborate.

9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. (2×3=6)

i. Both Tricky and Mrs Pumphrey were far from perfect as a dog and its owner. What were their shortcomings? (A Triumph of Surgery)

ii. Give two instances from the story which show that Anil had complete faith and trust in Hari Singh. (The Thief's Story)

iii. Fowler was not good at judging people. Do you agree? Why/why not? (The Midnight Visitor)

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

A) Nature can have a positive as well as a negative effect. Elaborate with reference to the poem 'Dust of Snow' and 'A Letter to God'.

B) If Amanda could speak to the tiger from the 'A Tiger in the Zoo', what do you think she would say to the tiger, considering she was yearning for the same kind of freedom and how would she pacify him? Write in **one paragraph**.

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

A) Imagine the lady in red from 'A Question of Trust' meets Hari Singh from 'The Thief's Story' in the *maidan*, where Hari Singh is contemplating on what to do. Create a dialogue between Hari Singh and the lady, that gives a different turn to the story.

B) 'The mind is a store house of power'. How does this quote apply to Ausable in the story 'The Midnight Visitor'?

11
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