

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

Max. Marks: 80

Time: 3 Hrs

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections- READING, GRAMMAR & WRITING, and LITERATURE
2. All questions are compulsory.
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.
4. Adhere to the word limit.

SECTION A: READING SKILLS

20 Marks

Q1 Read the passage given below.

(10 Marks)

1 Mistakes, as we call them, are learning experiences which teach a lesson to the person who makes them. Whenever someone attempts to venture out, there's a possibility that some mistake will be made in the process. Why should one feel disappointed if a wrong decision is taken? That single mistake will teach us many wise lessons for the future.

2 Life is a learning experience. There's no such stage in human life where one can just sit and relax thinking that the learning part is over. Let's take an example of children who try something new everyday for themselves. They make many mistakes while learning to achieve something new - be it riding a bike or to read and write, solving mathematical problems for the first time. Elders don't object at that time and don't scare them by saying "I will make you skip watching your favourite cartoon if you make a mistake." Why do elders react positively to their children's mistakes? Because they know that mistakes would be made but they will result in teaching some lesson benefitting the child for the rest of his/her life. So why do adults become miser on trying something new? We must think "To err is human....." We all make mistakes, and if we don't make any then we are stagnant and we are not moving ahead in life. Playing safe should not be the aim of life. We, as adults, have the freedom to make our own choices, and the freedom to make mistakes too. Mistakes trouble us, they give us pain, they make us feel worthless. But they can be our best teachers if we decide to learn from them. The pain borne by us would be meaningless if at the end no learning takes place. So the motto should be "to stand, act and commit mistakes; own them, embrace them and learn where you went wrong". Ensure that the same mistake doesn't hurt you repeatedly. That will be the real learning when one doesn't repeat the same mistake time and again.

3 Humans are gifted with brains, brains that help them think, act and analyse. The power to analyse is our prized possession. It must be used prudently. We must have a sense of gratitude and gratification that we have the capability to 'err and edit'. The next step after editing an error is very significant in the journey of learning, retaining and applying. Rectify your mistakes and turn them into assets as they are the guiding pillars of life.

4 Remember "every cloud has a silver lining", so never get disappointed by your mistakes. Rather show up and challenge the world as you would never resist to act because mistakes are the blessings that keep you going!

On the basis of your reading of the above passage answer the following questions :

(i) Based on the reading and understanding of the above passage, list 2 points to (1) reason out why mistakes are made.

- (a) _____
(b) _____

(ii) Which of the following proverb is most relevant for 'not being reluctant to make mistakes to achieve something productive'?

- (a) When you fall, leap to your feet and try again.
- (b) Always be prepared for a rainy day.
- (c) A bad workman always blames his tools.
- (d) As you sow, so shall you reap.

(iii) Based on your reading of the passage, examine in about 40 words how mistakes can be our assets? (2)

(iv) What is the tone of the writer in the given line from paragraph (2)? Rationalise your response in about 40 words: "Life is a learning experience". (2)

(v) Complete the following table with a suitable phrase from paragraph 3. (1)

PHRASE	MEANING
correctly	be corrigible and not repeat the same mistake

(vi) In sets (A) - (E) below, identify two sets of synonyms : (1)

- (A) attempt and quit
- (B) miser and wastrel
- (C) borne and sustained
- (D) rectify and marred
- (E) prudently and judiciously

- (a) A and C
- (b) B and E
- (c) C and E
- (d) B and D

(vii) Complete the sentence appropriately : 'Stagnation' is a state that leads to _____ . (1)

(viii) Complete the following sentence : Genuine learning happens when _____ . (1)

Q2 Read the passage given below: (10 Marks)

1. Reduction in green areas has caused various environmental problems. People squeezed between concrete structures are looking for various ways to meet their longing for green. One of the ways to do so is vertical gardens and green walls. Vertical gardening is a unique method of gardening where plants are grown in a vertical position or upward, rather than in the traditional method of planting them on the ground.
2. The purpose of vertical gardens and green walls, which arises from the studies of different disciplines (landscape architects, architects, engineers, etc.), is to close the cold image of concrete and increase the visual value. In these systems, nature and structures are integrated, and thus, urban areas and the desired environment have become intertwined.
3. Vertical garden case studies often show that, though functionality should be in the foreground, when vertical gardens are planned, they are generally made as aesthetic elements in the city's underpasses and city squares, and decorative elements in residences, without seeking functionality.
4. Experts support that the visual quality and evaluation of landscape architecture is determined based on the satisfaction of the users. Hence, a survey questionnaire was prepared for residents of varied age groups from a metropolitan city. The given Table 1, displays these responses:

Table 1 - Total number of participants : 400

No.	Survey statements	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Vertical gardens-						
1	improve quality of life of people in urban areas	191	138	43	9	19
2	reduce noise pollution	128	164	77	25	6
3	increase air quality -indoors and outdoors	172	147	51	28	2
4	reduce energy and water consumption	58	47	125	68	2
5	positively impact global warming	114	144	106	30	6
6	have a relaxing and calming effect	161	177	44	7	11
7	cost too much	86	107	152	42	13
8	make plants look beautiful	195	139	44	6	16
9	add naturalness to the environs	135	173	55	25	12
10	are among the determining factor to visiting a place	59	133	141	54	13
11	are inconvenient indoors	9	84	123	126	48
12	can be applied in every place	71	132	97	77	23
13	have a functional feature	81	207	100	10	2
14	distract drivers	34	101	106	131	28
15	funds are best used for social issues	57	72	100	130	41

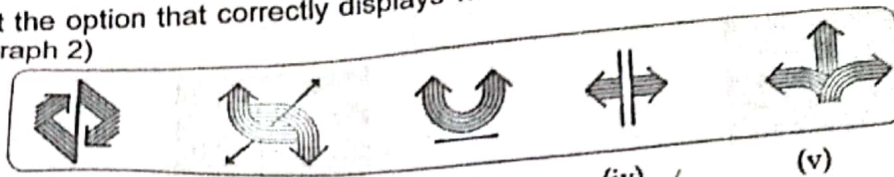
5. The study acknowledged that vertical gardening has the potential to transform urban spaces into green, sustainable areas, and further research should explore the impact of vertical gardening on the environment and human well-being.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above :

- (i) Complete the following analogy appropriately, based on your understanding of paragraphs 1 & 2. (1)
We can say that the situation of people living in concrete structures is comparable with a fish living in a fishbowl, and the need for vertical gardens to the need for decorations in the fishbowl because _____
- (ii) Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of paragraph 2. (1)
The statement that, urban spaces have become more closely connected with the desired natural surroundings through the incorporation of nature and structures in vertical gardens and green walls, is a/an _____ (fact/ opinion) because it is a/an _____ (subjective judgement/ objective detail).
- (iii) Justify the following, in about 40 words. While the survey results suggest that vertical gardens may be effective in improving the quality of life in urban areas, further research and evaluation may be necessary to fully understand their effectiveness and potential drawbacks. (2)
- (iv) Based on the survey results, which two concerns should a city government, looking to install vertical gardens, address? (1)

(v) In Table 1, the statement 3, "Vertical gardens increase air quality - indoors and outdoors," received the most neutral responses from participants, with 51 respondents indicating a neutral stance. State any one inference that can be drawn from this.

(vi) Select the option that correctly displays what 'intertwined' signifies. (Reference- Paragraph 2) (1)



- (i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (v)
 A. (i), (iv) and (v) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iii) D. (ii) and (v)

(vii) Infer one benefit and one drawback of vertical gardening, in comparison to other solutions, such as community gardens or parks. (Answer in about 40 words) (2)

(viii) Based on your understanding of the passage, what is the main takeaway from the study mentioned in the passage? (1)

SECTION B
GRAMMAR AND WRITING SKILLS (20 MARKS)

Q3 Complete the following tasks as directed: (10×1=10)

(i) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the email received by a start-up :
 Congratulations Innovators!
 Finally, the government _____ (decide) to fund the company as the idea that you have will surely sell.

(ii) Identify the error and supply the correction for the following sentence:
 A pleasure in being outdoors is fundamental for human happiness.
 Use the given format for your response.

ERROR	CORRECTION

(iii) Read the dialogue between Susan and the Interviewer :
 Interviewer: So, why do you want to be a receptionist?
 Susan: Well, I have always been interested in interacting with people.
 Based on the conversation above, report the dialogue by completing the sentence :
 The interviewer wanted to know why Susan wanted to be a receptionist. To this question she replied that she _____

(iv) Complete the line from a self-awareness song, by filling the blank with the correct form of the verb 'call':
 The river runs through your veins
 The trees and mountains _____ your name
 The moon and stars watch over
 You're guiding your way back home
 To dream the night away.

(v) Identify the error and supply correction for the following welcome note at a library entrance :

Welcome to the world of books! You will have been advised to keep silent for a better experience.

Use the given format for your response.

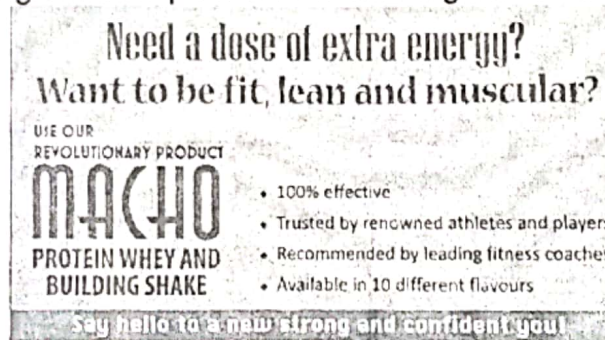
ERROR	CORRECTION

- (vi) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option in the bracket, to complete the sentence :
_____ (Little/ A little/ Enough) hope will suffice the patient's expectation to survive.
- (vii) Read the dialogue between a teacher and his student. Report the student's question.
Student: Sir, what is your idea of achieving success?
Teacher: Put in your best without spoiling others' path to success.
- (viii) Complete the given narrative, by filling the blank with the correct form of the verb given in the bracket :
Now that many employees have shown high productivity while _____ (work) from home, will their bosses hereafter expect them to take working vacations?
- (ix) Neha and Nilesh had a conversation about the completion of Nilesh's project. Report Neha's question.
Is your friend helping you in this project?
- (x) Report the following instruction by Ms. Zenia :
Ms. Zenia said to her students, "As part of your Schneider Electricity project, you must collect details about the daily consumption of electricity in our school".

WRITING SKILLS (10 MARKS)

Q4 Attempt ANY ONE from (A) and (B) given below : (5 Marks)

- (A) You are Sanskruti Chakrapani, a fitness expert. You have recently noticed several posters like the one below around a school in your neighbourhood. You feel that the message in such posters is misleading and hazardous.



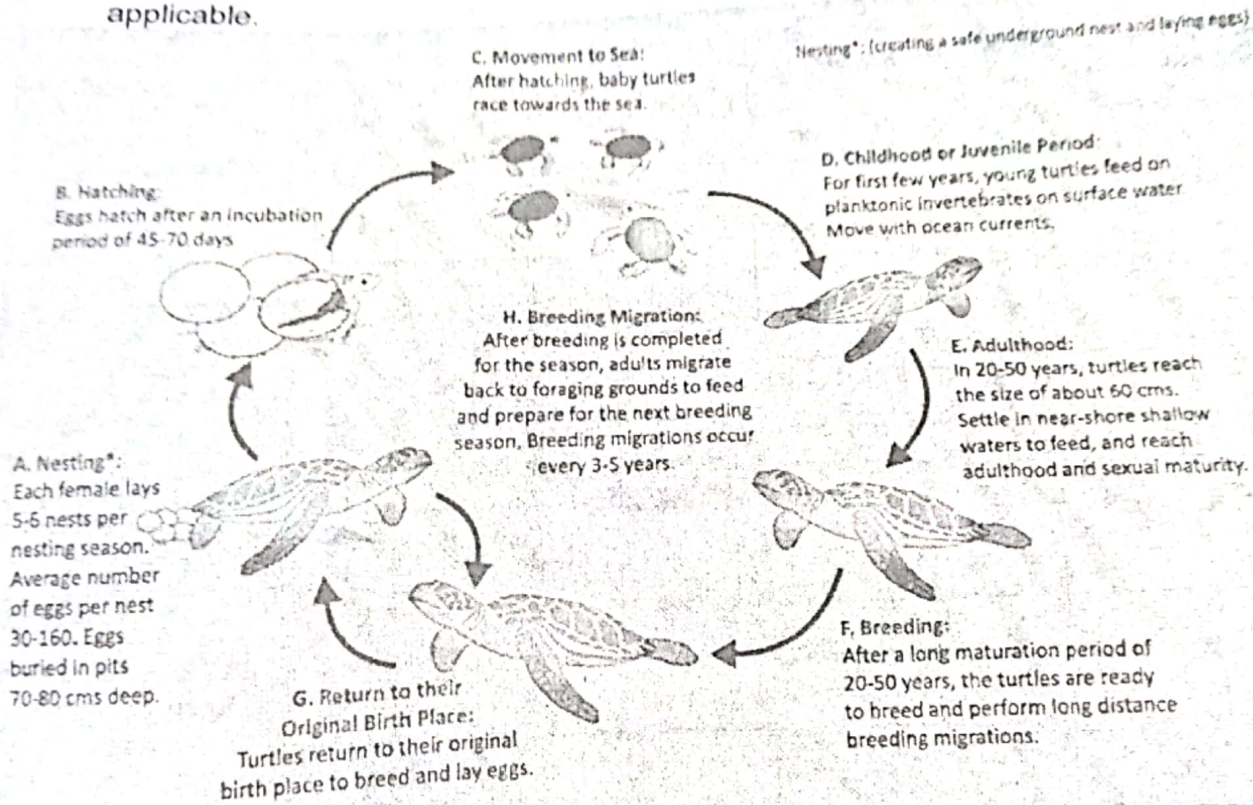
Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily in not more than 120 words drawing people's attention towards the harm that indiscriminate use of protein powder, muscle building substances and sports supplements can cause to teenagers' health. Propose a government investigation into the safety of such products and emphasise the need of parental monitoring of children's health and fitness activities.

OR

- (B) You are Shailesh/Sneha, resident of Madhuban Apartments, Ram Bagh, Kanpur. During one of your visits to a bank in your city, you noticed that the bank is not easily accessible to the people with disabilities. The absence of ramps makes it highly difficult for people in wheelchairs to avail the services of the bank. The sight of people barging into reserved queues for disabled and dependent people made you furious. But you decided not to react and create a

scene, instead it is better to bring awareness among people through the right channel. Write a letter in 100-120 words to your District Magistrate highlighting the issue and requesting him/her to take necessary actions.

- Q5 Attempt ANY ONE from (A) and (B) given below : (5 Marks)
- (A) The visual given below shows the life-cycle of a turtle. Study the information carefully and then summarise it in the form of an analytical paragraph in not more than 120 words. Make comparisons and draw conclusions wherever applicable.



OR

- (B) The table below lists the various timings for drinking coffee soon after it is made for a customer along with a recommendation for an ideal time when the coffee should be consumed. Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words analyzing when Mr. James can get the best out of his cup of coffee.

QUANTITATIVE DATA		QUALITATIVE DATA
Time (Minutes)	Temperature (Celsius)	Drinkability
0	80	scalding
1	75	painful tongue burn
1.5	70	mild tongue burn
5,5	65	blow on it and take a small sip
8	60	perfect to sip
13	55	perfect to gulp
20	50	good, not great
26	45	pretty warm and passable
33	40	warm and slightly unpleasant
41	35	cool and uninviting

SECTION C LITERATURE (40 MARKS)

Q6 Read the following extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the given two : (5 Marks)

(A) But the decades of oppression and brutality had another unintended effect, and that was that it produced the Oliver Tambos, the Walter Sisulus, the Chief Luthulis, the Yusuf Dadoos, the Bram Fischers, the Robert Sobukwes of our times- men of such extraordinary courage, wisdom and generosity that their like may never be known again. Perhaps it requires such depths of oppression to create such heights of character. My country is rich in the minerals and gems that lie beneath its soil, but I have always known that its greatest wealth is its people, finer and truer than the purest diamonds.
It is from these comrades in the struggle that I learned the meaning of courage. Time and again, I have seen men and women risk and give their lives for an idea.

(i) Based on the extract, elucidate in about 40 words what Nelson Mandela means when he said "Perhaps it requires such depths of oppression to create such heights of character". (2)

(ii) *Men of such extraordinary courage* refers to the people who _____. (1)
 (a) liberated South Africa by abolishing the Apartheid
 (b) used their resources to spread awareness
 (c) fought for their country's freedom
 (d) demonstrated utmost strength to oppose the system

(iii) Fill in the blank with ONE word only. (1)
 When Nelson Mandela says, "I have seen men and women risk and give their lives for an idea", he means that they are _____.

(iv) Which word would correctly substitute 'brutality' in the given sentence from the extract? (1)
 "But the decades of oppression and brutality had another unintended effect."

OR

(B) Writing in a diary is a really strange experience for someone like me. Not only because I've never written anything before, but also because it seems to me that later on neither I nor anyone else will be interested in the musings of a thirteen-year-old schoolgirl. Oh well, it doesn't matter. I feel like writing, and I have an even greater need to get all kinds of things off my chest.
 Paper has more patience than people.' I thought of this saying on one of those days when I was feeling a little depressed and was sitting at home with my chin in my hands, bored and listless, wondering whether to stay in or go out. I finally stayed where I was, brooding: Yes, paper does have more patience, and since I'm not planning to let anyone else read this stiff-backed notebook grandly referred to as a 'diary", unless I should ever find a real friend, it probably won't make a bit of difference.

(i) How is it true that Anne preferred her diary over her relatives and friends? (1)

(ii) Based on the extract, describe why writing is an effective way to express emotions. (2)

(iii) 'Paper has more patience than people'. What does this imply about Anne? (1)
 This implies that Anne _____.
 Complete the given sentence in reference to the adage mentioned above.

- (iv) Mention one word that can correctly replace 'musings' in the below sentence from the extract :
...neither I nor anyone else will be interested in the musings of a thirteen year old schoolgirl.

Q7 Read the following extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the given two : (5 Marks)

A
Some say the world will end in fire
Some say in ice.
From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favour fire.

But if it had to perish twice,
I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction ice
Is also great
And would suffice.

1. Conciseness of expression and clarity of thought is the chief appeal of this poem. Elaborate in about 40 words. (2)
2. What does the speaker's alignment with those who favour ice suggest? (1)
3. Fill in the blank with one word :
When the speaker says that ice could also bring about the end of the world, he refers to _____ as the means for destruction. (1)
4. State one point to justify this statement :
Although there is a contrast between 'fire' and 'ice', the poet reveals some similarity between them. (1)

OR

B.
Don't eat that chocolate, Amanda!
Remember your acne, Amanda!
Will you please look at me when I'm speaking to you,
Amanda!

1. Briefly state in about 40 words the kind of parenting Amanda has got and how has it affected her? (2)
2. Comment on the speaker's tone in the given lines. (1)
3. Why do you think Amanda's mother is against her fondness for chocolates? (1)
4. Which of the following DOES NOT COMPLETE the following statement in an appropriate way? (1)
The speaker does not like the way Amanda _____.
a. looks at her while being spoken to
b. avoids looking into her eyes while being spoken to
c. seems to ignore her while speaking to her
d. adopts a careless, casual attitude to what she has to say

Q8 Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions in 40-50 words each: (4×3=12)

- (i) Compare and contrast the behaviour of the tiger towards the visitors in 'How to Tell Wild Animals' and the one in 'A Tiger in the Zoo'.
- (ii) Bring out the irony in the comment of the pilot of Dakota DS 088, 'It was an easy flight'.

- ..) How did the 'new silver coins' bring disaster to Lencho's corn field? Why was Lencho's soul filled with sadness?
- (iv) One of the natural responses to a dangerous or stressful event is 'fight' or 'flight' i.e. face a situation or run away from it. What kind of response did the young seagull create to his desperation in hunger?
- (v) How does Robert Frost in 'Dust of Snow' break the stereotypical, mythical thoughts about a crow and a hemlock tree?

Q9 Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions in 40-50 words each: (2×3=6)

- (i) What does Mr. Herriot mean by "happy period" for himself and his partners? Explain.
- (ii) 'Sitting drenched under the clock tower, stark reality stared Hari in the face'. What was this realisation?
- (iii) One should never judge a book by its cover. Explain with reference to Ausable and how he outwits Max with his presence of mind.

Q10 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 100-120 words :

(6 Marks)

- A. 'Prejudice based on race and colour or any other reason causes profound hurt'. Do you agree that the South African population and Nelson Mandela were a prey to this prejudiced perception. Validate your response with suitable examples from the chapter "Nelson Mandela - Long Walk to Freedom".
- B. You have been chosen to address the school assembly, to speak on the epistemology of loss and the resilience of the human spirit during times of crisis. Prepare the speech draft, with reference to the commonality of themes in "The Ball Poem" by John Berryman and "From the Diary of Anne Frank".

You may begin this way :

Good morning everyone.

Today, I'd like to discuss two pieces of literature that offer a powerful insight into how to deal with loss and the resilience of the human spirit required during times of crisis.

You may end this way :

To conclude, I'd like to say that _____. Thank you

Q11 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 100-120 words :

(6 Marks)

- A. Imagine that Griffin's conscience pricks him and he decides to write a diary entry about misusing science and endangering society, in the context of his own experience. Write this diary entry as Griffin.
- B. Hari Singh, Horace Danby and the 'lady in red' are similar in many ways. Still Hari Singh is a victim of circumstances in his life, while the other two are seasoned criminals. Give reasons based on your reading of "The Thief's Story" and "A Question of Trust".