

HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION-2024-25**CLASS-X****SUBJECT-ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (184)****Time : 3 Hours****M.Marks : 80****General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains Three Sections-Reading, Grammar & Writing and Literature.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions given for each part
3. There are a total of 11 questions.

SECTION-A: READING SKILLS (20 Marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully. (10 Marks)

As the curtain falls on another year, it is time to pause and reflect. Does your life have a purpose? Are you merely drifting with the tide, or are you steering the ship? You are not a mere passenger in the journey of life. You are the driver of your own destiny. The law is - 'As you think, so you become'. A happy mind creates a happy world, an ill-tempered mind projects an angry world. A small mind is focused on petty, insignificant things. A mature mind sees beauty and grandeur in the same world.

Look at life with joy and enthusiasm, and sadness vanishes. You do not realize the power of your own thoughts because they are scattered, distracted and inconsistent. When your thoughts get a direction, they become focused, and you gain power. Light rays focused in one direction can burn a piece of paper. Redirect your scattered thoughts, make them purposeful, and tap into the power that lies within you. Success and happiness aren't elusive enigmas. They are direct outcomes of your thoughts and actions.

Much like planting a mango seed to yield mangoes, sowing the seeds of happiness guarantees a bountiful harvest. The Law of Karma says that for

every cause, there is an effect, and every effect has an underlying cause.
You are free to choose every thought and action. Once executed, you are
its victim. If you think your life is predestined, you feel weak and powerless.
When you realise that your future lies in your hands, you regain your
zest and enthusiasm. Life is misleading. That which gives instant pleasure
often leads to lasting misery, and true happiness appears in the garb of
sorrow.

This does not mean you have to lead a boring life. Revel in the offerings
of the world. Travel to exotic locations. Shop in the finest malls. Eat exotic
food. But do not forget to invest in building your inner reserves. Develop
sincerity of action, purity of heart and clarity of thought. You will be
assured of a life of prosperity, happiness and growth. Mediocre people only
want profit and pleasure for themselves. They achieve limited ends and
remain stunted all their lives. Great leaders have a goal beyond their
selfish, self-centered interests.

They embrace a higher cause. They are the ones who achieve success, are
happy and grow into towering personalities. The Bhagwad Gita helps cultivate
oneness, cooperation and harmony. The adrenaline that comes with
competition is replaced by the quiet strength of love. You move from a
deeply entrenched feeling of antagonism to that of understanding and
respect. You shift from isolation to communication. And, finally, you commune
with the Divine! Love translates into great teams and amazing success.

Your happiness multiplies and you become an outstanding leader. The
Bhagwad Gita gives knowledge. It speaks of the impermanence of the
world. The world is a mix of pairs of opposites, it is constantly changing.
The wise seek the permanent. Knowledge lends clarity with which you
become a sharp, creative thinker. You achieve success. You are happy as
you are not dependent on the world any more. And you transform, from
an ordinary mortal to the extra-ordinary immortal.

Answer the questions based on the above passage :

- (i) What is the primary message of the passage? (1)
- (A) The importance of external factors in achieving success.
(B) The power of thoughts and actions in shaping one's life
(C) The need to prioritize self-interest
(D) The impact of the Law of Karma on destiny
- (ii) State the analogy used to describe the impact of focused thoughts. (1)
- (iii) What does the Law of Karma state? Answer in about 40 words. (2)
- (iv) The Bhagwad Gita teaches cooperation and harmony. (1)
- (v) State True and False : (1)
Mediocre individuals prioritize a higher cause. *False*
- (vi) Analyze the perspective on material pleasures and inner growth presented in the passage. Answer in about 40 words. (2)
- (vii) What does the Bhagwad Gita remind us of? (1)
- (viii) Infer the meaning of the metaphor used in the passage: "A happy mind creates a happy world." (1)

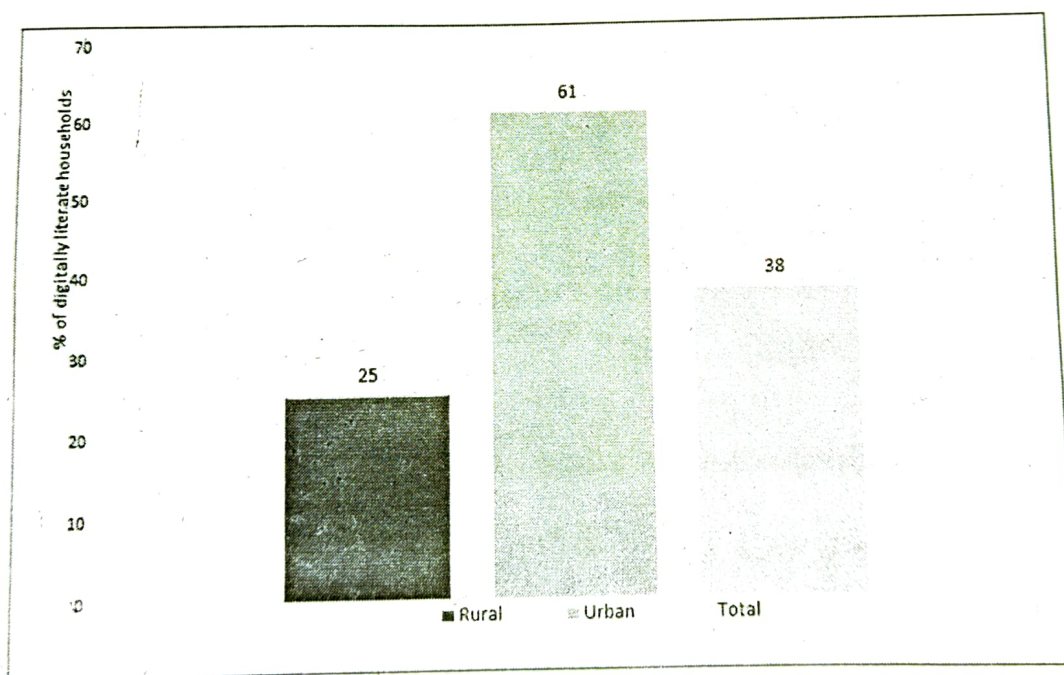
2. Read the following passage carefully. (10 Marks)

The role of technology in education has become increasingly significant, with proponents highlighting its potential to revolutionize learning by providing unprecedented access to information and resources. Technology enables personalized learning experiences, allowing students to learn at their own pace, which can be particularly beneficial for those who struggle in traditional classrooms. Additionally, it offers access to a wealth of resources, such as digital libraries and online courses, enriching students' understanding of various subjects.

However, the integration of technology in education presents challenges. The digital divide is a major concern, as students from low-income families or rural areas may lack access to the necessary devices and high-speed internet, exacerbating educational inequalities. Furthermore, the reliance on digital tools may impact students' critical thinking and social skills, as they could become passive learners and experience reduced face-to-face interactions.

To mitigate these downsides, schools and policymakers can work to bridge the digital divide by providing resources and support to underprivileged students. Educators can also balance traditional teaching methods with technological tools to ensure students develop a comprehensive skill set. Despite the challenges, with careful implementation, technology can enhance the educational experience without compromising essential skills.

Figure 1. Digital literacy in India at the household level



Source: NSS data; authors' calculations.

Answer the questions that follow based on your reading of the passage

- (i) The passage suggests that technology in education is _____ (1)
- (A) A panacea for all educational challenges
- (B) A tool with both potential benefits and drawbacks

- (C) A harmful influence on students learning
- (D) Completely ineffective in modern education

(ii) According to the passage, what is the most determining factor in the effectiveness of technology in education? (1)

(iii) What is the digital divide? (1)

(iv) List measures that can be taken to ensure that the integration of technology in education is beneficial for all? Answer in about 40 words (2)

(v) Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in the brackets. based on your understanding of the passage. (1)

The reliance on digital tools may impact students critical thinking and social skills, as they could become passive learners and experience reduced face to face interactions. This is a/an _____ (fact/opinion) and it is an/a _____ (subjective/ objective) detail.

(vi) Select the sentence that **does not** use the word mitigate correctly.

(A) He covered his nose to mitigate the effect of the foul smell.

(B) The company implemented new policies to mitigate the impact of the economic downturn.

(C) ✓ The administration removed airlifters to mitigate the effects of air pollution.

(D) Wearing sunscreen can help mitigate the risk of sunburn.

(vii) Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of integrating technology into education. Answer in about 40 words. (2)

(viii) Based on the graph which household has the highest digital literacy rate in India? (1)

SECTION-B: WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20 Marks)

GRAMMAR (10 Marks)

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

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

Neither the cat nor the dog _____ friendly towards strangers.

(A) is (B) are (C) was (D) were

(ii) Read the given sentence, identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence.

Two children died after a massive fire breaks out in a newly constructed hospital building in Andhra Pradesh.

ERROR	CORRECTION

(iii) Fill in the blanks with the correct option.

I _____ appreciate your presence there.

(A) can (B) should (C) will have (D) would

(iv) Identify the error and supply the correction, for the following :

HI LIFE EXHIBITION
You're last chance to make a fashion statement.
LAST DAY TODAY

ERROR	CORRECTION

(v) Anil was caught flouting the traffic rules. The policeman stationed at the crossing asked him the following question. Report the question.

“Don't you know the traffic rules?”

(vi) He said to his friends, "please wait for me." Report the dialogue. He _____ him.

(vii) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option.

According to the studies dolphins, whales and _____ (any/ many/ much) other creatures use highly sophisticated navigation systems.

(viii) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line:

The pleasure at being outdoors is fundamental to human happiness

Option No.	Error	Correction
A	being	be
B	The	A
C	is	are
D	at	of

(ix) Select the correct option to fill in the blanks in the sentence below
We have got your application in our database. You _____ apply again.

- (A) need not (B) cannot
(C) must not (D) will not

(x) Read the conversation and report it.

Dolly: Have you seen Rita?

Neeta: No, I haven't seen her since yesterday.

In response to the question about where Rita was, Neeta said _____.

(xi) Complete the following slogan by filling in the blank with a correct option.

Kill pollution, or it _____ kill you.

- (A) may (B) will (C) can (D) should

(xii) Given below is an extract from a letter. Fill in the blanks by using the correct form of the word in the bracket

Sir

Thank you for your interest in working for Jet Airways. India's topmost airline.

You are (request) to inform us of your availability for an interview on any working day in the coming week.

CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (10 Marks)

4. Attempt **ANY ONE** from (A) and (B) given below. (5)

✓ A. You are Riya / Reena of Vasant Public School, New Delhi. During the winter vacation, your school is planning an educational tour, covering visits to a thermal power plant and a few factories. Write a letter to the National Travel Agency, at Connaught Place, New Delhi enquiring about places, the charges, facilities and other relevant details.

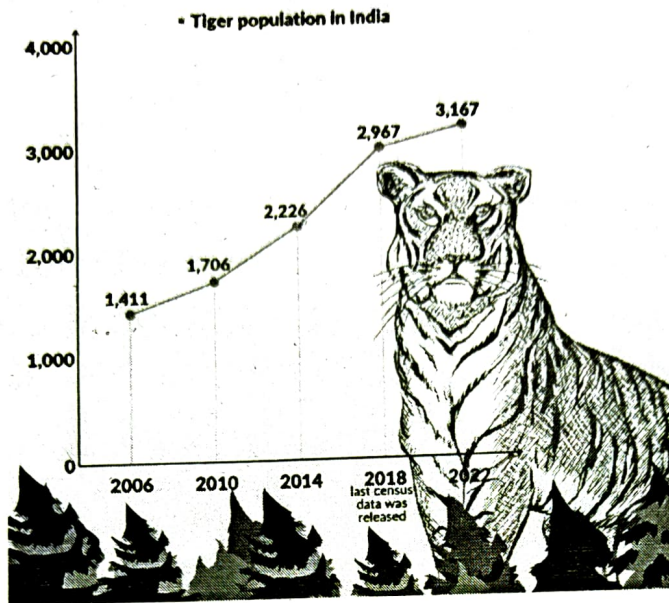
OR

B. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily expressing deep concern over the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters like floods and cloudbursts, coupled with soaring temperatures. All these are direct consequences of human induced environmental degradation and urge immediate action to address the climate crisis.

✓ Attempt **ANY ONE** from (A) and (B) given below.

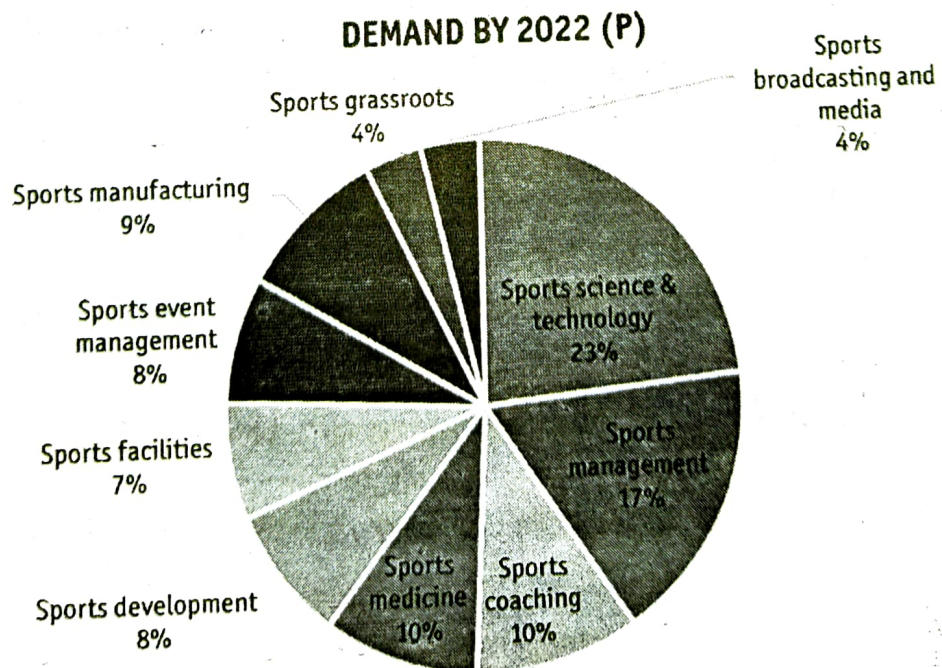
A. In order to ensure the survival and maintenance of the tiger population in their natural habitats, Project Tiger was started in 1973. The graph below depicts the outcome of this project. Write an analytical paragraph in not more than 120 words on the census data of tigers in India.

PM Narendra Modi releases latest tiger census figures to mark 50 years of completion of Project Tiger



OR

B. Contemplating a career in sports in India is often treated with pessimism. However the demand for various careers in the sports industry that are suitable for non athletes is on rise. Write an analytical paragraph in not more than 120 words on the demand for various careers as shown in the pie chart.



SECTION-C LITERATURE (40 Marks)

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

A. Our elders are often heard reminiscing nostalgia about those good old Portuguese days, the Portuguese and their famous loaves of bread. Those eaters might have vanished, but the makers are still there. 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. (Glimpses of India)

- (i) The furnaces are time tested because _____ . (1)
- (A) they were thoroughly tested each time before being used.
(B) they had been checked by present day experts.
(C) the furnaces had the power to withstand different tests of usage
(D) they had proved the test of time and were working well
- (ii) Pick the option that expresses the tone of the above extract. (1)
(1) happy (2) hopeful (3) nostalgic (4) Sarcastic (5) critical (6) morose
(A) 2 and 3 (B) 1 and 4 (C) 5 and 6 (D) 3 and 4
- (iii) Analyze the role of traditional bakers in maintaining the culinary traditions of a community. How does the extract reflect the resilience and continuity of these traditions? (2)
- (iv) Why did the baker come in with "a thud and the jingle"? (1)

OR

B. "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 am 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 a difference".

[From the diary of Anne Frank]

- (i) 'Paper has more patience than people.' What does this imply?(2)
- (ii) Find the option that is **not similar** to the meaning of patience. (1)
- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| (A) grit | (B) Perseverance |
| (C) tolerance. | (D) indolence |
- (iii) Pick out the sentence that brings out the meaning of brooding as used in the extract (1)
- (A) He was brooding over the matter and took a long time to decide.
- (B) He's stared with brooding eyes.
- (C) Is it because of their design, or the brooding, sinister atmosphere?
- (D) The same heavy brooding silence descended on them.
- (iv) If Anne had a 'real friend', what qualities would she expect her friend to have? (1)

7. Read the extracts given and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the given two (A) or (B) (5)

A. But he's locked In a concrete cell,
His strength behind bars,
Stalking the length of his cage.
Ignoring visitors.

[Tiger in the zoo]

- (i) Why does the tiger stalk the length of his cage? (1)
- (ii) The tiger's behaviour towards visitors indicates his: (1)
- (A) eagerness to interact
 - (B) apathy and indifference
 - (C) fear of humans
 - (D) desire for peace
- (iii) What does the poet suggest about the relationship between humans and animals through this extract? (2)
- (iv) Which of the following identifies the poetic device used in the second line of the given extract. (1)
- (A) A bunch of blue bears played baseball
 - (B) They fought like cats and dogs.
 - (C) Eyes are the windows to the soul.
 - (D) The sun peeked happily from behind a cloud.

OR

B. I would not intrude on him;
A dime, another ball, is worthless. Now
He senses first responsibility
In a world of possessions. People will take
Balls, balls will be lost always, little boy.

[The Ball Poem].

(i) Why does the speaker say "A dime, another ball, is worthless now" (1)

(A) The speaker is poor and cannot afford to buy a new ball.

(B) He believes material possessions cannot replace emotional loss.

(C) The speaker wants to test the boy's resilience.

(D) He thinks the boy is being materialistic.

(ii) Analyze the significance of the ball in the extract. How does it symbolize a theme or idea? (2)

(iii) What does the poet wish to convey through the expression. People will take balls. Balls will be lost always? (1)

(iv) Find the word which does not convey the meaning of the word intrude in the given context. (1)

(A) encroach

(B) obtrude

(C) meddle

(D) facilitate

8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words.

What does the author intend to say by describing the vastness & beauty of Assam's tea garden? (4×3=12)

(i) ~~According to Buddha how does weeping and grieving affect an individual and why don't the wise grieve? (The Sermon at Benaras)~~

(ii) "Man's goodness is a flame that can be hidden but never extinguished"? Why does Mandela say so? (Nelson Mandela Long walk to Freedom)

(iii) ~~What does Valli's bus ride reveal about her character, and her perspective of life? (Madam Rides the Bus)~~

Importance of freedom & discipline for children based on the poem Amanda!

(iv) How does Robert Frost employ the concept of “significant little things” in ‘Dust of snow’ explore the relationship between human emotions and the natural world? (*Dust of Snow*)

(v) The story ‘His First Flight’ explores the thought that “to escape fear, you have to go through it and not around it”. Evaluate critically (Two Stories About Flying)

9. Answer **ANY TWO** of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.

(2×3=6)

(i) Matilda’s husband is an epitome of love, patience and sacrifice A husband every woman aspires for. Explain with evidence from the text.

(*The Necklace*)

(ii) How does Ausable’s physical appearance contradict his profession and personality? (*The Midnight Visitor*)

(iii) In what ways did Ebright's varied interests and skills contribute to his scientific achievements? (*The Making of A Scientist*)

10. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.

(1×6=6)

Lencho’s complete dependence on rain for a good harvest and nature turning hostile has become a nightmarish experience for farmers in India too. What do you think are other viable options for farmers to mitigate the impact of such calamities on livelihoods and economies? (*A letter to God*)

OR

How does the conflict in Gaza and the war between Russia and Ukraine illustrate a shift from peace towards conflict and strife, in the present times? Discuss this in context of the themes presented in the poem, **Fire and Ice** by Robert Frost.

11. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.

(1×6=6)

A. No one is a born thief. It's circumstances, compulsion or temptation that overpowers one's logic at times. Regret is a catharsis that must be acknowledged. Explain this with reference to the lesson 'The Thief's Story'.

OR

B. How does the theme of science and its consequences manifest in the story 'Footprints Without Feet'?

□□□