

CLASS X : SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER - 1

SUBJECT: ENGLISH – LANGUAGE & LITERATURE (184)

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General instructions:

Read the instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. *This question paper comprises 11 questions. All questions are compulsory.*
2. *The question paper contains THREE sections –*
Section – A: Reading Skills
Section – B: Grammar and Creative Writing Skills
Section – C: Literature Textbook
3. *Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each Part*

SECTION – A

READING SKILLS (20 MARKS)

1. **Read the following text.** **(10)**
 - (1) Nature is our mother, our first teacher. The greatest lesson that she teaches us is to maintain an equilibrium in life. We learn to maintain composure through our joys, sorrows and fears. In fact, there are a thousand lessons that nature can teach us, provided we look for them.
 - (2) With time, a sapling grows into a full-grown tree; something so tiny and delicate develops into a strong tree capable of supporting others. No matter how tall it grows, how much it may flourish, or how many animals and birds it may support, its roots are firmly buried from where it once rose. That's a lesson -to keep ourselves grounded, respect and embrace our roots, and give something back to those humble beginnings that nurtured us into who we are.
 - (3) Then there is the message of peaceful coexistence. 'I am because we are Nature provides every creature a chance to exist. However, the existence of one creature or being depends on the existence of the other. The tiger eats the antelope; without the antelope, the tiger wouldn't survive. Likewise, without tigers, the over-abundance of antelopes would cause them to starve to death.
 - (4) I wonder if you have noticed that when birds or squirrels see a predator, they give out an alarm call to their fellow creatures, of the lurking danger. They put themselves in danger to save the lives of others. Many animals, like the salmon, usually die after they spawn, but this doesn't stop them. One life extinguished for the betterment of others is a small price to pay.
 - (5) The snow melts in the warmth of spring to give birth to fresh green leaves. In autumn, these leaves change into shades of gold only to be buried in the cold grave of winter. Change is inevitable; the sooner we embrace this, the better it is for us. We must also understand that even in pain there is growth. If you cut a hole in the tree, it will grow around it. No matter what may come in its way, a river will continue to flow. Similarly, no matter what grief may break your heart, nature teaches us that life goes on.
 - (6) Keep in mind, life isn't about making lists and trying to be one step ahead of others. Life is to live. Take a break-stop being a workaholic, and smell the roses, do whatever makes you feel happy and most of all spend some time with nature to pick up invaluable lessons.

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage.

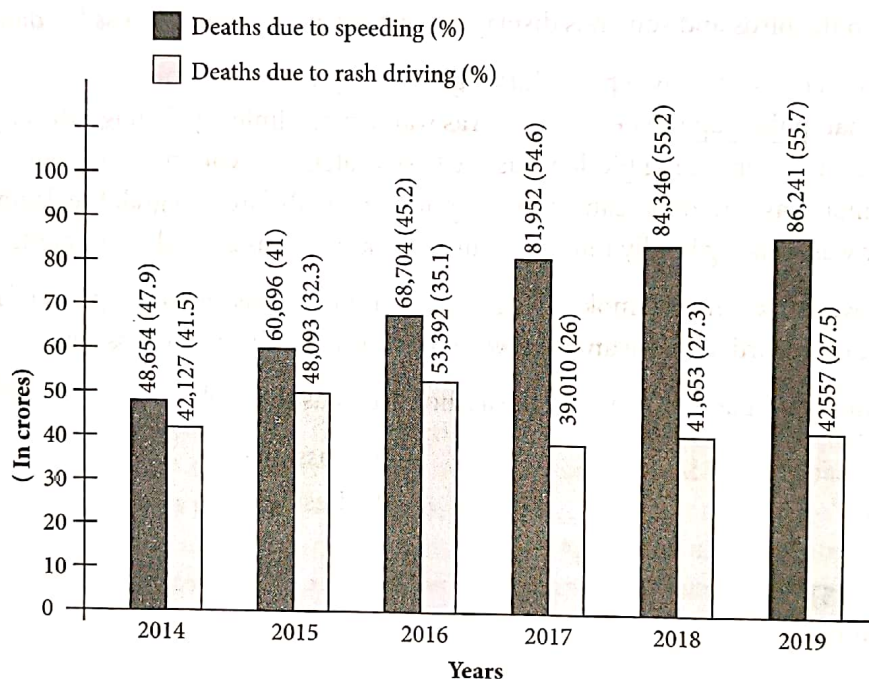
- i. According to the author, what, from the following, are the lessons being taught by nature? Explain in about 40 words. (2)
- ii. Select the option that suitably completes the dialogue with reference to paragraph II.
Jai: I've done well for myself in this school. I'm the best they have. I can get admission anywhere. This is my moment! (1)
Sid: Congratulations! Just remember, we should _____ .
A. become strong despite our weakness
B. be kind and supportive towards everyone
C. respect the origins from where we have grown
D. nurture ourselves well from the beginning
- iii. Explain the phrase —'I am because we are.' Answer in about 40 words. (2)
- iv. What qualities do the birds and squirrels display when they warn others of possible danger? (1)
- v. Select the option that can suitably replace 'lurking' in (paragraph 4). (1)
A. The policeman pulled up the person who was wandering aimlessly through the city.
B. The kid knew that remaining hidden was the best strategy to avoid being caught.
C. The policeman was caught on camera while pouncing with force, to grab the fleeing culprit.
D. The robber was walking boldly into the house, thinking it was devoid of residents.
- vi. A portmanteau word like smog (smoke + fog), is a blend of words in which parts of multiple words are combined into a new word. Choose another word like this from the given passage. (1)
- vii. Select the qualities from paragraph 3, that the author wants us to imbibe. (1)
(1) Acceptive (2) Passionate
(3) Emotional (4) Resilient
(5) Perceptive
A. (2), (4) and (5)
B. (1), (3) and (4)
C. (1), (4) and (5)
D. (3), (4) and (5)
- viii. Choose the option that lists the quote best expressing the central idea of the passage. (1)
A. Nature: She pardons no mistakes. Her yea is yea, and her nay, nay. — *Ralph Waldo Emerson*
B. Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better. — *A. Einstein*
C. Nature never deceives us; it is we who deceive ourselves. — *Jean Jacques Rousseau*
D. All the ugliness of the world can best be forgotten in the beauty of nature! — *Mehmet Murat*

2. Read the following text. (10)

- (1) Over 80% of fatalities in road accidents in India happened due to speeding and dangerous driving, a comparative analysis of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data since 2014 shows. While this carelessness corroborates the popular perception of how people drive on the road in a country where getting a driving licence is often said to be too easy. Experts said most of the fatal accidents are recorded by police under speeding and dangerous driving categories in the FIR as there are no other provisions in the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for such offences.
- (2) According to the latest NCRB report on accidental deaths, 83.2% of road fatalities were on account of these two types of violations and the rest 16.8% of fatalities were due to reasons including drunk driving, bad

weather conditions and mechanical defect. In 2014, when such causes of fatal crashes were first compiled, 89.4% of the deaths were due to speeding and dangerous or careless driving as per the police records and this was the highest ever.

- (3) “We face a host of challenges ranging from poor system of issuing driving licences to almost zero scientific investigation of fatal crashes, which are provided in the law. Most of our national highways and state highways, which pass through villages, have no pedestrian crossings. On the top of this, in all fatal cases, police automatically register them under section 279 (negligent driving resulting death) of the IPC,” said road safety expert Rohit Baluja, who has been a regular guest faculty at Indian Police Academy, Hyderabad.
- (4) Confirming this, traffic adviser in Punjab, government, Navdeep Asija said in case of all fatal accidents, the provisions of IPC are slapped. “In IPC, any crime or offence has to be lodged against a human being and hence there cannot be any charge against a road, vehicle or any other object. That’s why police data may not indicate the exact reason of crashes. But it is also a fact that violation of traffic rules is rampant on roads and only electronic surveillance can put a check on them,” he added.



- (5) Baluja said there is a need to define what is dangerous driving and the norms for fixing speed limits. “In Delhi, the speed limit is same across major roads, residential areas and markets during day time and at night as well. No authorities are held responsible for deficiencies on their part,” he pointed out. Though the amended Motor Vehicle Act has included a provision to hold road owning agencies, contractors and consultants in case of fatal accidents due to faulty road construction or design, the government is yet to notify the process for this.

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage.

- i. Based on your understanding of the passage, choose the option that lists accurate speed limit rules authorised in Delhi. (1)
- (a) Different speed limits for major roads and residential areas.
- (b) Same speed limit for major roads and residential areas.
- (c) Same speed limit during day time and at night as well.
- A. Only (a) B. Both (a) and (b) C. Both (b) and (c) D. Only (b)

OR

4. B. You are Tarun/ Tanvi, a resident of Samarth Nagar Colony, Karnal, Haryana. You have noticed that some residents are repeatedly flouting quarantine rules laid out during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Write a letter in about 100-120 words to the SHO of the local police station, drawing attention towards the same. Explain such acts impact the health of the community and request immediate intervention and strict action. (5)
5. A. Read the given details of a survey that was conducted in the National Capital in over twenty schools about the different activities that interest the children in the age group of 15-17 years. (5)

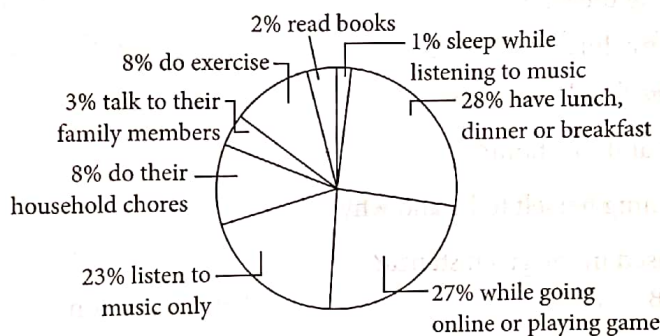
ACTIVITIES

- Out of 60 children, 25 children were interested in dance and are both.
- 40 children were interested in playing cricket.
- Everyone was interested in listening music.
- Around 40 children were interested in theatre related activities.
- Music is the activity that interests children the most.

Write a paragraph in not more than 120 that words, analysing the following information.

OR

5. B. The given pie chart shows data of a survey done on 100 students in a school in which they were asked what do they do while listening to music? Write an analytical paragraph based on the information given in the chart in about 120 words. (5)



SECTION-C

LITERATURE TEXTBOOKS (40 MARKS)

6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. (5)
- A. TENTH May dawned bright and clear. For the past few days, I had been pleasantly besieged by dignitaries and world leaders who were coming to pay their respects before the inauguration. The inauguration would be the largest gathering ever of international leaders on South African soil. The ceremonies took place in the lovely sandstone amphitheatre formed by the Union Buildings in Pretoria. For decades this had been the seat of white supremacy, and now it was the site of a rainbow gathering of different colours and nations for the installation of South Africa's first democratic, non-racial government.
- Who were coming for the inauguration? (1)
 - Choose the synonym of the word 'commencement' from the passage given. (1)
A. Besieged
B. Bathering
C. Installation
D. Inauguration
 - What happened before the inauguration? (2)
 - Why was it called South Africa's first non-racial government? (1)

OR

B. At the age of twenty-two, a former 'scout of the year' excited the scientific world with a new theory on how cells work. Richard H. Ebright and his college room-mate explained the theory in an article in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.

It was the first time this important scientific journal had ever published the work of college students. In sports, that would be like making the big leagues at the age of fifteen and hitting a home run.... your first time at bat. For Richard Ebright, it was the first in a long string of achievements in science and other fields. And it all started with butterflies.

- i. Who is the author of this extract? (1)
(A) Robert Arthur
(B) Robert W. Peterson
(C) Sinchair Lewis
(D) K.A. Abbas
- ii. What did Ebright do that excited the scientific world? (2)
- iii. What is the meaning of the idiom 'hitting a home run'? (1)
- iv. He was _____ years old when his article was published in a journal of the National Academy of Science. (1)

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

A. (I am an orphan, roaming the street
I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet.
The silence is golden, the freedom is sweet.)

- i. Who speaks these lines and to whom? (1)
- ii. What is Amanda imagining herself to be and why? (2)
- iii. What poetic device is used in the given stanza? (1)
A. Metaphor B. Simile C. Personification D. Alliteration
- iv. The meaning of the line "pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet" is _____. (1)

OR

B. If strolling forth, a beast you view, (5)
Whose hide with spots is peppered,
As soon as he has lept on you,
You'll know it is the leopard.
'Twill do no good to roar with pain,
He'll Only lep and lep again.

- i. The animal described in the passage _____ on its prey at once. (1)
- ii. What is the meaning of the word 'strolling'? (1)
A. Take a walk
B. Have an angry look
C. Sitting in a position of attack
D. Hiding in the grass
- iii. A leopard's grip is very strong and it keeps _____ and leaping on its prey. (1)
- iv. Describe the animal mentioned in the extract. (2)

8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words. (4 × 3 = 12)
- i. What are the memories that the elders in Goa still love to revisit? (3)
 - ii. What was the reaction of Natalya on knowing that Lomov had come with a proposal for her? (3)
 - iii. How did Mijbil behave when Maxwell took him to the bathroom? What does it show about Mijbil's nature? (3)
 - iv. Explain the first flight of the young seagull in a few words? (3)
 - v. Why did Valli stop herself from going to the stall to have a drink? What does this instance show about Valli? (3)
9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. (2 × 3 = 6)
- i. Whose footprints were seen by two boys? What did they do after seeing them? (3)
 - ii. What was the role of Ebright's mother in his success? (3)
 - iii. What was the reason for Matilda's ruin? (3)
10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. (1 × 6 = 6)
- A. Trust and compassion can reform a person. Justify this statement stating the instances from the lesson 'The Thief's Story'.

OR

- B. What were the details given by Ausable about the imaginary balcony? Why did he do so? (3)
11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. (1 × 6 = 6)
- A. Was Anne a witty girl? Give reasons for your answers in detail. (From the Dairy of Anne Frank)

OR

- B. Explain in detail about one of the main characters in the story 'A Letter to God', the postmaster.