

**First Term Examination - 2024**

**Class : IX**

**Paper : English Language and Literature**

Time : 3 hrs.

M.M. : 80

General Instructions:-

1. The question paper contains THREE sections-Reading, Grammar & Writing Skills and Literature.
2. Attempt questions as per instructions for each part.

**SECTION- A (READING SKILLS)**

1. Read the following passage carefully. (10)
  - (1) They were once everywhere. Chirping and flapping their wings at the window sills, on top of cupboards, and on the branches of trees ? Where have all the little sparrows gone? This is most frequently asked question about sparrows these days.
  - (2) The association between humans and house sparrows dates back to several centuries and no other bird has been associated with humans on a daily basis like the house sparrow. It is a bird that evokes fond memories of childhood. The nests of sparrows dotted almost every where in the neighbourhood as well as public places like in the neighbourhood as well as public places like bus stands and railway stations, where they lived in colonies and survived food grains and tiny worms.
  - 3) A study conducted by the Andhra University, Vishakhapatnam, highlighted the fact that the population of sparrows had fallen by over 60% even in the rural areas of coastal Andhra Pradesh. A survey conducted by the British Trust for Ornithology showed that the house sparrow's population in Britain has declined by about 58% since 1970.
  - 4) Certainly, there is no single reason for the decline of the house sparrows. Mobile tower radiation and excessive use of chemical fertilisers are aggravating the problem and have been identified as potent sparrow killers.
  - 5) It is said that sparrow chicks, which require insect food for their survival in their <sup>early</sup> ~~earth~~ days, have not been getting adequate supply from their parents. This has triggered large scale death of chicks, leading to a gradual decline in their population.
  - 6) Urban landscape too, has been dramatically altered over the years. No longer are sparrows able to find the tiny nooks, crannies and holes where they used to build their nests.



- 7) Typically, sparrows were never an issue of concern for us with their diminutive presence in our household. Perhaps, it is this diminutive presence because of which even their gradual disappearance has gone unnoticed. Mohammed Dilawar is rightly called the sparrow man of India as he has been successful in drawing the attention of the world towards the declining number of house sparrows.
- 8) House sparrows are an important bio indicator and their decline is a grim reminder of the degradation of the urban environment and the danger from it to the humans in the long run.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below :

- a) Explain the association between humans and house sparrows. (2)
- b) Chennai University highlighted the fact that the population of sparrows had fallen. (True/False) (1)
- c) Fill in the blanks : (1)  
Sparrows survived on \_\_\_\_\_
- d) A survey conducted by the British Trust for Ornithology showed that : (1)  
i) house sparrows evoke fond memories of childhood.  
ii) there is no single reason for the decline of the house sparrows  
iii) chemical fertilizers are aggravating the problem and have been identified as potent sparrow killers.  
iv) house sparrows' population in Britain has declined by about 56% since 1970
- e) What has triggered the gradual decline in the sparrow population ? (2)
- f) Which of the following definitions explains the term bioindicator ? (1)  
i) The species which have beaks and wings, and are sensitive to pollution  
ii) The species which reveals the health of the natural ecosystem  
iii) The species which reveals the presence of toxic pollutants in the environment.  
iv) The species which are on the verge of extinction.
- g) Based on your reading of the passage, choose the incorrect statement <sup>from</sup> for the following (1)  
i) There is no single reason for the decline of the house sparrows.  
ii) The nests of sparrows dotted almost every house in the neighbourhood.  
iii) Every bird has been associated with humans on a daily basis.  
iv) Urban landscape has been dramatically altered over the years.



h) Their degeneration is a grim reminder of the degradation of the urban environment- substitute the underlined word with the most appropriate option from the following :

- i) Gloomy            ii) Mild            iii) Fruitful            iv) Ultimate

2. Read the following text.

1. Everyday we are confronted with a barrage of choice. We make choice about the clothes we wear, the food we eat, the appointments we schedule, the people we meet, the time we turn up to work, which bus we catch, where we sit on the bus, what we do after work, and so on. Living a rich and satisfying life means making good choices on an ongoing basis.
2. What is a good choice? Good choices are decisions that good keep you heading in the direction in which you want to go. Bad choices, on the other hand, end up being counterproductive and can quickly begin spiralling into stress, confusion and despair.
3. Some of the trickiness of choice-making arises with options that may be jealous in the short term but incrementally steer us off course over the longer term. Just taking that one, extra serving of dessert or staying in bed for only half an hour more can be choices like this. Conversely, some decisions can be a bit dreary or difficult at the time but lead to better directions down the track. Staying home and studying or completing another *gruelling session* at the gym are examples of short-term discomfort for longer term benefits.
4. Perhaps the most fundamental consideration with choice-making is to ensure the choices you make are congruent with important goals you have. If you have a quiet, distant goal of being financially independent one day and building a successful career, then making decision to party excessively with late nights will likely led to later discontent and misery regardless to how good it all feels now : Perhaps the partying is related to an important goal of being accepted and liked by others but is at odds with career and financial goals.
5. Understanding the dynamics of choices can help improve the decisions that you make. Essentially, any choice involves at least two options, both of which have pros and cons associated with them. Taking a moment to reflect on your inclinations and wishes that made you hesitate or go ahead with the choice can help you understand the situation more clearly. From this perspective, you'll be able to make a more informed decision.
6. Whenever you find yourself pausing over a choice you're about to make, consider both options in some detail and find the important aspects of them. Pay attention to more highly valued goals that you might become aware of as you're considering your options. If



you can find the higher level goals that are in the background of your deliberations, the path to take will be evident.

- Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

i) Which of the following statements best sums the central idea of the first paragraph ? (1)

1) "The hardest decisions in life are not between good and bad or right and wrong, but between two goods or two rights." - Joe Andrew

2) <sup>ment</sup> "My your choices reflect your hopes not your fears." - Nelson Mandela.

3) " If you don't have the information you need to make wise choices, find some one who does." - Lori Hil.

4) "You always have two choices with your life and experience : you can either learn from it or you can place blame. The choice is always yours."- Kevin Horsley.

a) Option 1                      b) Option 2                      c) Option 3                      d) Option 4

ii) Which of the following can be easily concluded from the second paragraph ? (1)

a) Bad choices are a result of stress, confusion and disappoint. <sup>ment</sup>

b) Bad choices hinder the attainment of desired goals.

c) Bad choices are always more than good choices.

d) Bad choices are decisions we take in a hurry

iii) Complete the following sentences appropriately : (1)

In paragraph 3, the author gives the example of an 'extra serving of dessert' and 'staying in bed for only half an hour more' in order to bring home the point that \_\_\_\_\_

iv) Give one reason why the author is against partying hard and one reason why he approves of partying as a social norm. (2)

v) The passage includes some words that are opposites of each other. From the sets (a) -

(e) below, identify two sets of antonyms. (1) above

a) counterproductive - successful

b) inclinations - deliberations

c) despair - misery

d) dreary - joyous

e) incrementally- excessively

vi) What is the author's advice/message to readers on 'more highly valued goals in life' ? (1)

vii) State whether the author's tone in the passage is provocative / sarcastic / matter of fact/ condemnatory . Rationalize your answer response in about 40 words. (2)

viii) State whether the following lines are in agreement with the author's views on tricky choices.



I shall be telling this with a sigh  
 Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
 Two roads diverged in a wood, and I  
 I took the one less travelled by,  
 And that has made all the difference.

**Section-B (Writing Skills and Grammar)**

Grammar (10)

3. Complete any ten of the twelve of the following tasks, as directed. 1 x 10 = 10

i) Given below in an extract from a letter. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in one bracket.

Subject : Your application for the post of Associate Technician

Dear Sir

Thank you for your interest in working for Indigo, India's top most airline. You \_\_\_\_\_  
 (request) to give us your availability for a phone interview on any working day in the coming week.

ii) Identify the error in the given sentence from a video script and supply the correction.  
 This is the story of Jadav Peyang, which is popularly known as the forest man of India.  
 (Use the given format for your response)

Error	Correction

ii) Mamta was discussing with Rajan, her experience of a recent vacation.  
 Report Rajan's question to Mamta.

"How much did the vacation cost you ?"

iv) Read the dialogue between MuchKund and his mother.

Muchkund : Who is your favourite child- I or my sister ?

Mother : You both are my favourites. I love you as much as I love your sister.

Selected the correct option to complete the reporting of the above dialogue.

One day Muchkund asked his mother who between him and his sister was her favourite child, to which his mother replied \_\_\_\_\_ and that she loved him as much as she loved his sister.

a) that you both are my favourite

b) that you both were her favourites

c) that they both were her favourites

d) that they both were my favourites



v) Complete the given narrative, by filling in the blanks with the correct option.

The woman had grey hair which \_\_\_\_\_ neatly tied into a bun.

- a) is                      b) was                      c) are                      d) were

vi) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following sentence from a news bulletin.

A passenger plane hit a fire truck on the runway and then had caught fire during take off from Lima's international airport in Peru on Friday.

Option No.	Error	Correction
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a)	hit	<del>his</del> <i>hits</i>
----	-----	----------------------------

b)	and	but
----	-----	-----

c)	had caught	caught
----	------------	--------

d)	From	in
----	------	----

vii) Complete the given slogan by filling in the blank with the correct option :

You \_\_\_\_\_ surely choke, if you take pollution as a joke !

- a) may                      b) will                      c) should                      d) must

viii) Report the dialogue between a girl and her father, by completing the sentence.

Daughter : Dad, who is your favourite sports person ?

Dad : I like Lionel Messi the most because he is a great player and a noble human being.

In response to his daughter's question about his favourite sportsperson, Dad replied \_\_\_\_\_ and a noble human being.

ix) Select the correct option to fill in the blank in the sentence below :

We have already got your application in our database.

You \_\_\_\_\_ apply again. It's not necessary.

- a) need not                      b) will not                      c) must not                      d) dare not

x) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the following sentence from a circular issued by a company to its managers.

It has been noticed that \_\_\_\_\_ (little / some / any) employees do not comply with the safety guidelines mandatory for any on site work.

xi) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the given narrative.

I had a feeling that I had overcome all my grief but I \_\_\_\_\_ .



a) am mistaken                      c) was mistaken      c) had mistaken

d) will be mistaken

xii) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line, from a newspaper.

Virat Kohli has bounce back to good form.

Option No.	Error	Correction
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a)	has	had
----	-----	-----

b)	bounce	bounced
----	--------	---------

c)	to	from
----	----	------

d)	good	better
----	------	--------

**(Writing) 10 marks**

4. a) Write a descriptive paragraph in about 100-120 words to describe a unique tree protection drive carried out by women and children in your area.

In your description, you should say (5)

\* When and where the drive took place

\* Who carried it out and why

\* What its outcome was

**OR**

b) Write a descriptive paragraph in about 100-120 words to describe a beggar who frequently roams about in your area asking for alms. You may include the following points in your description.

\* Physical appearance      \* Gait and gestures      \* any song/prayer he / she uses for begging  
\* how people treat her / him      \* How the neighbourhood dogs, police and children treat him / her

5. a) Why is there so much strife, unrest and violence in the world? Write a diary entry in about 100-120 words expressing your views. Also say how peace can prevail in the world. (5)

**OR**

b) Here is a brief but incomplete outline of a story. Making use of the given hints, write the complete story in about 120 words. Make your story interesting by adding a setting, more characters, dialogues and a dramatic ending.

Ashima's brother Parikshit got a new mobile phone \_\_\_\_\_ she didn't get any \_\_\_\_\_ her



parents allowed Parikshit to go out to meet and party with his friends but Ashima didn't have that privilege \_\_\_\_\_ what happens next ?

### Section - C (Literature)

6. a) Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow : (5)

When the humid shadows hover

Over all the starry spheres

And the melancholy darkness

Gently weeps in rainy tears

i) The expression 'humid shadows' has been used to refer to

a) humid heat of summers

b) the water-laden clouds

c) wet, shadowy forests

d) shadows of people in rainy season

ii) How is darkness 'melancholy' ?

iii) Fill in the blank with one word only :

In this stanza, the poet compares 'rain drops' to \_\_\_\_\_ .

iv) Why does the poet call melancholy darkness 'weeping' ?

a) The dew drops appear slowly and silently like tears.

b) The evening is filled with darkness that falls suddenly

c) the rain produces a sad and wailing sound

d) the poet <sup>lies</sup> cries silently in the dark as he remembers his mother.

v) State whether the following statement is true or false.

The extracts describes a night overcast with clouds.

OR

Do this, and the wind will be friend with us.

The wind blows out weak fires.

He makes strong fires roar and flourish

His friendship is good

We praise him everyday.

i) What does the poet ask the readers to do so that the 'wind becomes their friend' ?

a) love and respect the wind

b) resist the god of wind

c) make buildings and personalities strong

d) use hinges of steel

ii) Which of the following poetic devices have been used in these lines ?

a) personification and simple

b) symbolism and simile

Simile

personification



c) alliteration and simile

d) personification and symbolism

iii) In what way do you think 'his friendship' is good ?

iv) 'Weak fires' are \_\_\_\_\_ by the wind and 'strong fires' are \_\_\_\_\_ by the wind.

a) started; put out

b) fed; blown out

c) extinguished; strengthened

d) weakened; controlled

v) "Strong fires roar and flourish" is a metaphorical way of saying that strong people come out \_\_\_\_\_ in adverse circumstances.

b) Evelyn confesses that she is something of a workaholic. "I've just got to work \_\_\_\_\_ often harder than classical musicians. But the rewards are enormous." Apart from the regular concerts, Evelyn also gives free concerts in prisons and hospitals. She also gives high priority to classes for young musicians. Ann Richlin of the Beethoven fund for Deaf children says, "She is a shining inspiration for deaf children. They see there is nowhere that they cannot go." (5)

i) Evelyn's confession that she is a workaholic implies that

a) Evelyn used to shirk work

b) Evelyn would soon get tired at work

c) Evelyn could not do without work

d) Evelyn hated having to work very hard

ii) What 'rewards' is Evelyn talking about here ?

iii) Which of the following phrases is not an example of the kind of expression the phrase

'shining inspiration' is ?

a) beaming smile

b) happy years

c) intelligent scholar

d) sad nights

iv) Evelyn is an excellent role model for deaf children because \_\_\_\_\_

v) Complete the analogy by selecting the suitable word from the text.

enormous : negligible :: \_\_\_\_\_ : denies

OR

Einstein was deeply shaken by the extent of the destruction. This time he wrote a public missive to the United Nations. In it he proposed the formation of a world government. Unlike the letter to Roosevelt, this one made no impact. But over the next decade, Einstein got ever more involved in politics- agitating for an end to arms buildup and using his popularity to campaign for peace and democracy.

i) The destruction that shook Einstein was caused by

a) the Worldwar II

b) an eclipse

c) an earthquake

d) atom bombs



ii) List any two qualities of Einstein's personality as evident from this extract.

iii) What is a 'missive' ?

a) a scientific paper      b) a newspaper report      c) an official letter

d) a description essay *descriptive*

iv) Einstein got more and more involved in politics because \_\_\_\_\_

v) State whether the following statement is true or false

Einstein did not want that the world should be divided into political divisions.

7. Answer any 6 of the following questions in about 40 to 60 words :       $6 \times 3 = 18$

1) The doctor's encounter with the snake is horrifying but not without humour. Elaborate.

2) How does Kezia discover the good side of her father's character ?

3) The poet strongly desires to escape from the dull, boring and artificial life of a city. Comment with reference to the poem "The Lake Isle of Innisfree."

4) The title of the story is "The fun they had." Who were 'they' ? What fun did they have ?

5) Pets are adorable but can be a nuisance at times. Elucidate the statement in the context of *Toto, the monkey.*

6) Describe Ishwaran's encounter with the mad elephant.

7) The disciple's decision to stay on in the kingdom of fool nearly cost him his life. How ?

8) We often take blessings for granted. Discuss this thought with reference to the child's attitude towards his parents before he got separated from them.

8. Answer any one of the following questions in about 100-120 words : (Moments) (6)

1) Justice should be based on truth and reason, not on whims and foolishness. Discuss with reference to the story "In the kingdom of fools."

OR

"The eyes see what the mind believes." Discuss this idiom in light of the ghost horror experienced by Mahendra.

9. Answer any one of the following questions in about 100-120 words. (Beehive) (6)

"Children need love and compassion, not rebuke." Discuss in the light of the story "The Little Girl."

OR

Your father is a successful businessman and wants you to join him in the business but you have a dream of your own. Write a diary entry describing your dilemma whether to join your father's business or to pursue your own dream.