

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN JAMMU REGION

PRE-BOARD 1 [2025-26]

SET 2

Class: X

Max.Marks:80

Subject: English Language and Literature **Time Allowed: 3 Hrs.**

[Code No. 184]

General Instructions:

Read the instructions carefully and 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]

Q1. Read the passage given below: [10 marks]

1. One of the greatest challenges in today's world is managing our attention. In an age of constant notifications, endless entertainment, and instant communication, the ability to concentrate has become rarer than ever. Yet, concentration is the key that unlocks true learning, meaningful work, and creative success. The difference between individuals who excel and those who struggle often lies not in intelligence or resources but in their ability to focus their minds deeply on one task without distraction.

2. Our mind, by nature, is restless. It jumps from one thought to another, drawn by curiosity or temptation. However, when it finds something meaningful or loved, it becomes absorbed. Consider a reader lost in a novel—hours may pass unnoticed. Similarly, an artist may forget hunger or fatigue while painting. Such examples remind us that concentration flourishes when love and interest fuel it.

3. Interestingly, the things we love differ from person to person. A child may delight in games but feel weary of textbooks, while a scientist may spend sleepless nights in a laboratory, immersed in experiments. Music illustrates this well: one person may be moved by the complexity of classical ragas, while another finds joy in the simplicity of folk tunes. The object of concentration may change, but the principle remains: love gives power to focus.

4. Yet, there is a hidden danger. Sometimes concentration is not chosen but forced upon us. A catchy advertisement jingle may play endlessly in our heads. A troubling thought may hold the mind captive, no matter how much we try to push it away. In such cases, the mind controls us rather than the other way round. True mastery lies in directing our attention, not surrendering it.

5. If we learn to train our minds, concentration becomes our greatest strength. Students who focus on studies grasp concepts quickly. Professionals who give their full attention to tasks achieve excellence. On the other hand, scattered attention leads to wasted energy and mediocrity. The art of living well, therefore, lies in choosing what deserves our focus and then holding it steadily, instead of allowing every distraction to steal it away.

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

I. What does the phrase “the difference between individuals who excel and those who struggle” emphasise? (paragraph 1) [1]

II. Complete the following with the correct option from those given. [1]

Concentration is essential in achieving success in any area of life because—

Options: (Paragraph 1)

- (A) it makes individuals highly intelligent.
- (B) it allows individuals to focus their minds entirely on a task, leading to growth and achievement.
- (C) it ensures that everyone enjoys music and art.
- (D) it prevents distractions from occurring altogether.

III. Fill in the blank with the correct option from those given. (Paragraph 2) [1]

In the phrase “when it finds something meaningful or loved, it becomes absorbed,” the word ‘absorbed’ refers to—

Options:

- (A) a deep involvement and focus that blocks distractions.
- (B) a temporary liking without dedication.
- (C) a social approval gained from others.
- (D) an outward attraction influenced by appearance.

IV. Support the writer’s idea that a person’s ability to concentrate shapes their achievements. [2]

V. Select the option that best reflects the concept of concentration’s impact on music preferences. (Paragraph 3) [1]

Options:

- (A) A child enjoys lively songs because they stop the mind from wandering.

- (B) A lover of classical music may struggle with folk songs as the simplicity challenges deep focus.
- (C) A person enjoys only one type of music because concentration destroys interest.
- (D) Music prevents people from working because it distracts them.

VI. State whether the following statement is True or False. [1]

The writer suggests that the mind often controls us, rather than us controlling it. (Paragraph 4)

VII. The writer mentions “absorbed in something loved” in paragraph 2. Which of the following is an example of this? [1]

Options:

- (A) A reader forgets time while finishing a novel.
- (B) A painter dislikes an art exhibition because it is crowded.
- (C) A student dislikes mathematics due to its complexity.
- (D) A worker feels restless in a noisy environment.

VIII. List any two ways uncontrolled concentration affects individuals.

(Paragraph 4) [2]

Q2. Read the passage given below: [10 marks]

1. A recent study conducted in a metropolitan city revealed that students who use digital devices for more than six hours a day show signs of reduced attention span and sleep disturbances. The study observed that excessive screen time is directly linked to reduced academic performance and increased stress. Interestingly, students who limited screen exposure and engaged in outdoor activities reported better concentration and emotional well-being.

2. The researchers further found that the type of screen usage matters. Students using devices for educational purposes—such as online classes, research, and skill-building—performed better than those who spent long hours on social media and gaming. It highlighted that the quality of screen time is as important as the quantity.

3. The report concluded that balanced use of technology can enhance learning, but over-dependence on it reduces productivity. It recommended that schools and parents encourage digital discipline, promote hobbies, and ensure students spend adequate time in physical activities to maintain both health and focus.

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

below: [10 Marks]

I. Complete the given sentence. (Paragraph 1) [1]

In the phrase “students who limited screen exposure and engaged in outdoor activities reported better concentration,” the word ‘concentration’ refers to

_____.

II. In paragraph 1, what does the phrase “reduced attention span” emphasise? [1]

III. Complete the following with the correct option from those given. [1]

Excessive screen time affects students negatively because—

Options:

- (A) it improves creativity and reduces distractions.
- (B) it leads to stress, poor sleep, and weaker academic performance.
- (C) it helps them perform better in gaming.
- (D) it prevents them from doing outdoor activities altogether.

(Paragraph 1)

IV. Support the writer's idea that the quality of screen usage is as important as the quantity. [2]

IV. Select the option that best reflects the impact of purposeful screen use.

[1]

Options:

- (A) Students relying on social media develop better focus.
- (B) Using devices for online learning helps improve academic results.
- (C) Gaming improves physical fitness.
- (D) Screen time always decreases productivity.

(Paragraph 2)

VI. State whether the following statement is True or False. [1]

The report concluded that over-dependence on technology enhances productivity. (Paragraph 3)

VII. The writer mentions “digital discipline” in paragraph 3. Which of the following is an example of this? [1]

- (A) Spending late nights on video games daily.
- (B) Following a fixed schedule for online learning and recreation.
- (C) Avoiding studies in favour of social media.
- (D) Ignoring outdoor activities completely.

VIII. Enlist recommendations made by the study to maintain students' focus and health. (Paragraph 3) [1]

IX. Fill in the blank with ONE WORD only: [1]

Balanced use of technology can enhance learning, but over-dependence on it reduces _____.

SECTION - B
GRAMMAR & CREATIVE WRITING [20 Marks]

Grammar [10 marks]

Q3. Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed:

I. Fill in the blank with the correct option to complete the opening line of a formal email: [1]

Dear Mr. Singh,

We regret to inform you that your request for a transfer _____ approved.

- (A) is
- (B) has not been
- (C) were
- (D) have been

II. Read the given sentence from an official memo. Identify the error and supply the correction in the given format. [1]

The committee have finalised the agenda for the annual conference.

Error	Correction

III. Riya asked her friend Meena the following question: [1]

“Have you completed the assignment for tomorrow?”

Report Riya’s question correctly.

Riya asked Meena _____

IV. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete a formal notice. [1]

Attention all students,

The library _____ remain closed on Friday due to maintenance work.

- (A) shall
- (B) has
- (C) have
- (D) is

V. Read Arjun's reply to his teacher regarding homework: [1]

"I am sorry, sir. I forgot to bring my notebook today."

Report Arjun's reply by completing the following sentence correctly:

Arjun apologised and said that _____

VI. Identify and correct the error in the given sentence taken from a public notice: [1]

All passengers must shows their identity cards at the entrance.

Option No.	Error	Correction
(A)	must	Must
(B)	shows	Show
(C)	cards	Card
(D)	at	In

VII. Complete the given announcement by selecting the correct option to fill in the blank. [1]

Great news!

Our school's quiz team has successfully _____ the first prize in the inter-school competition.

- (A) wins
- (B) winning
- (C) won
- (D) will win

VIII. Detect the error and supply the correction for the given sentence:

This is the book that I was searching since morning. [1]

Error	Correction

IX. Report the dialogue between a teacher and a student, by completing the sentence. [1]

Teacher: Did you complete the science project on time?

Student: Yes, I submitted it yesterday.

The teacher asked the student if he had completed the science project on time, to which the student _____.

X. Select the correct option to complete the given line from a school circular:

Students _____ carry their ID cards every day to enter the school premises.

- (A) might
- (B) must
- (C) should
- (D) may

[1]

XI. Complete the given sentence about a team's performance by selecting the correct option:

The players _____ proud of their effort during the finals.

- (A) is
- (B) are
- (C) was
- (D) has

[1]

XII. Read the conversation between two friends about preparing for exams:

Rohan: How do you stay calm before exams?

Amit: I usually revise in short breaks and avoid stress.

Report Amit's response by completing the following: [1]

Amit explained that he usually _____ in short breaks and avoided stress.

Writing [10 marks]

NOTE: All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.

4. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below: [5 marks]

4A. You are Ritika, School Captain of Bright Horizon Public School, Janakpuri, New Delhi. Write a letter to the Municipal Commissioner in about 100 - 120 words, requesting improvement of street lighting and repair of broken roads near your school to ensure safety of students.

OR

4B. You are Karan, residing at 67/98 Malakganj, Sonipat, a student aware of the increasing use of AI-based apps by teenagers. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily in about 100 - 120 words, expressing concern over misuse of AI, suggesting ways to promote responsible usage.

Q5. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below: [5 marks]

5A. Read the product details on a label for a desk lamp:

MULTI-FUNCTIONAL DESK LAMP

1. Energy-efficient LED lighting with adjustable brightness levels
2. Flexible neck for directing light where needed
3. Built-in USB charging port for devices
4. Timer function for auto shut-off to save energy
5. Sleek and compact design suitable for small spaces
6. Available in modern, minimalist colours

Now, analyse why this desk lamp would be a practical purchase. Write an analytical paragraph in about 100–120 words interpreting the data, considering factors such as energy efficiency, usability, functionality, space-saving design, and additional features.

OR

5B. Read the given details of a community wellness centre designed for a residential society:

- A yoga and meditation hall with natural lighting and calming interiors.
- A fitness gym equipped with modern machines, trainers, and personalized health plans.
- An indoor swimming pool with temperature control and a separate kids' pool.
- A health café serving organic food, smoothies, and herbal drinks.
- Digital health kiosks for tracking fitness levels and offering diet plans.
- Open-air spaces for Zumba, aerobics, and community wellness activities.

Analyse the details and write an analytical paragraph in about 100-120 words about the suitability of this wellness center. Focus on factors such as accessibility, design, facilities, engagement, and overall environment.

SECTION – C
LITERATURE TEXT BOOK [40 Marks]

Q6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given: [5 marks]

A. *"It's really getting bad now," exclaimed the man. "I hope it passes quickly." It did not pass quickly. For an hour the hail rained on the house, the garden, the hillside, the cornfield, on the whole valley. The field was white, as if covered with salt. Not a leaf remained on the trees. The corn was totally destroyed. The flowers were gone from the plants. Lencho's soul was filled with sadness. When the storm had passed, he stood in the middle of the field and said to his sons, "A plague of locusts would have left more than this." [A Letter to God]*

I. What effect does the experience, as described in the lines below, have on Lencho?

"For an hour the hail rained on the house, the garden, the hillside... Not a leaf remained on the trees."

Choose the most suitable option: [1]

- (A) Devastates
- (B) Inspires
- (C) Amazes
- (D) Strengthens

II. How does the author's use of descriptive language enhance the narrative technique in the paragraph? [2]

III. Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket:

The use of the word 'rained' adds to a sense of _____ (relentlessness/calm) in the extract. [1]

IV. How do Lencho's feelings towards the end of the extract contrast with his initial feelings during the storm? [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'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."

[From The Diary of Anne Frank]

I. What can we infer about the speaker's emotional state? [1]

II. The narrator enhances the narrative technique of the extract by using: [1]

Options:

- (A) Descriptive language
- (B) literary allusions
- (C) humour
- (D) reflective

III. Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket:

The narrator doesn't plan to let anyone read her diary as she doesn't have any real _____ (friend/incidents) [1]

IV. Why does the narrator say that 'paper has more patience than people'? [2]

Q7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the two given: [5 marks]

A. *has given my heart
a change of mood
and saved some part
of a day I had rued. [Dust of Snow]*

I. What effect does the phrase “**change of mood**” have on the overall tone of the poem? [2]

II. Fill in the blanks with one word:

The word ‘**saved**’ in the line “**And saved some part**” suggests that the speaker feels a sense of [1]

III. Identify one poetic device used in the extract. [1]

IV. What is the poet’s mood now? [1]

- (a) appreciative of nature
- (b) thoughtful
- (c) cool
- (d) happy

OR

B. *he should be snarling around houses
at the jungle’s edge,
baring his white fangs, his claws,
terrorising the village! [A Tiger in the Zoo]*

I. Examine the portrayal of the tiger in the given lines. [2]

II. The word ‘**terrorising**’ implies [1]

Options:

- A. entertaining the villagers
- B. spreading fear and panic
- C. protecting the jungle
- D. hiding from humans

III. What kind of picture is painted through the line, 'Baring his white fangs, his claws'? [1]

IV. Identify one literary device used in the extract. [1]

Q8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following questions in about 50 words each.

[4×3=12]

I. How does the poem *Amanda!* highlight the difference between parental expectations and a child's desire for freedom? [3]

II. Mention two ways in which Coorg reflects the culture and lifestyle of the Kodavas. *[Glimpses of India]* [3]

III. How does *Nelson* Mandela describe the twin responsibilities every person carries? [3]

IV. What message does the poem 'The Ball Poem' give about handling loss? [3]

V. How does 'The Proposal' use humour to criticise materialistic views of marriage? [3]

Q9. Answer ANY TWO of the following questions in about 40–50 words each.

[2×3=6]

I. What lesson does The Necklace teach about pride and contentment? [3]

II. How does Hari Singh's honesty finally transform his relationship with Anil in 'The Thief's Story'? [3]

III. What does Griffin's misuse of invisibility in 'Footprints Without Feet' reveal about human nature? [3]

Q10. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 100–120 words.

[6 marks]

A. How do chapters like "Glimpses of India" (Baker from Goa, Coorg, Tea from Assam) help preserve cultural diversity and promote unity?

OR

B. Both "A Tiger in the Zoo" and "The Trees" highlight the theme of confinement versus freedom. Discuss.

Q11. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 100–120 words.

[6 marks]

A. In 'The Midnight Visitor', how does the author use Ausable's calmness to create suspense and irony in the ending?

OR

B. In 'The Triumph of Surgery', what role does Dr. Herriot play in balancing compassion with professional judgement?
