

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN, MUMBAI REGION

PRE-BOARD I EXAMINATION (2025-26)

ENGLISH – LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (CODE-184)

CLASS-X

Time allowed: 3 Hrs.

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

Read the instructions very carefully and follow them strictly:

(i) This question paper comprises 11 questions. All questions are compulsory.

(ii) The question paper contains THREE sections

Section-A: Reading Skills

Section-B: Grammar and Creative Writing Skills

Section-C: Literature Text Book

(iii) Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

Section: A READING (20 Marks)

Q.1) Read the following passage.

(10 Marks)

1. In recent years, India has asserted itself as a formidable force in the world of chess. A particularly notable milestone occurred in 2024 when 17-year-old Gukesh D clinched victory at The Candidates Chess Tournament in Toronto, making him the youngest challenger for the world title. His success not only broke records but also underscored India's growing influence in chess. Unlike a decade ago, when Viswanathan Anand was the sole Indian presence at the global level, the 2024 tournament featured five Indian players, including two women.

2. Gukesh's triumph and the emergence of other young talents are far from coincidental. A multitude of factors have contributed to India's ascendance in the chess arena. Key among these is the commitment of veteran Grandmasters to nurturing the next generation. They have established academies and training programs to hone emerging talent. For instance, Charvi Anilkumar, a promising 10-year-old chess player from Bengaluru, has been receiving guidance from Grandmaster RB Ramesh. Recognizing her aptitude early on, her parents have invested in her training, leading her to secure titles such as the Under-8 Girls World Championship in 2022.

3. The chess landscape in India has also benefited from increased governmental and private sector support. Many institutions provide a structured environment where young players can refine their skills under the guidance of accomplished coaches.

4. The surge of chess talent in India can be attributed to various interrelated factors. Advances in technology have provided young players with unprecedented access to online platforms, sophisticated training software, and a wealth of chess literature, enabling them to study strategies

employed by legends worldwide. The COVID-19 pandemic, despite its challenges, offered many of these youngsters the opportunity to sharpen their skills without the usual pressures of travel and competition.

5. Moreover, the consistent success of Indian players on the international stage has conferred a psychological advantage. As Grandmaster RB Ramesh notes, "Many are fearing playing against Indians," indicating that Indian players often start with a mental edge. Additionally, both governmental backing and private investments have enhanced the infrastructure supporting young chess aspirants.

6. The journey to attaining the prestigious title of Grandmaster demands unwavering commitment, sacrifice, and a robust support network. Charvi Anilkumar, for instance, has foregone watching television for five years to maintain her focus on chess. Gukesh D's coach, Grandmaster Vishnu Prasanna, has emphasised the extent of Gukesh's sacrifices, noting that he has largely set aside the experiences of a typical childhood to reach the apex of his sport. These anecdotes illustrate the level of dedication required to excel in the competitive world of chess.

7. Yet, experts like Viswanathan Anand and Grandmaster Ramesh maintain that the title of Grandmaster is attainable for anyone willing to put in the effort. "It's not about innate talent," says Anand. "Our cultural emphasis on learning and the competitive environment in India push young players to constantly improve." Grandmaster Ramesh concurs, noting, "Most of the children are inherently talented. The human mind is the foundational requirement to become a Grandmaster."

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

i) Infer why Grandmaster RB Ramesh says, "Many are fearing playing against Indians."
(1 Mark)

ii) Decode the passage to identify one personal sacrifice made by Gukesh D or Charvi Anilkumar to excel in chess. (Paragraph-6)
(1 Mark)

iii) Identify the sentence in which the word "**ascendance**" is used in the same sense as in the passage. (Paragraph-2)
(1 Mark)

Sentences:

- a) The king's ascendance to the throne was celebrated by the entire kingdom.
- b) The old tree stood in quiet ascendance, untouched by the storm.
- c) The ascendance of technology has changed the way we communicate.
- d) She felt a sense of ascendance while listening to music in the park.

iv) Complete the analogy by selecting one of the correct options
(1 Mark)

Gukesh D : Youngest Challenger :: Viswanathan Anand :

- a) Coach
- b) Pioneer
- c) Opponent
- d) Spectator

v) According to Viswanathan Anand, success in chess depends mainly on: (1 Mark)

- a) Innate talent alone
- b) Cultural emphasis on learning and competition
- c) Luck and timing
- d) Avoiding sacrifices in childhood

vi) Which factor is highlighted as NOT contributing to India's chess success? (1 Mark)

- a) Guidance from veteran Grandmasters
- b) Increased access to technology
- c) Government and private support
- d) Reducing international competitions

vii) Explain how India's chess scenario has evolved from the era of Viswanathan Anand to the time of Gukesh D. (Paragraph-1) (2 Marks)

viii) Analyze the role of coaching, technology, and structured training programs in shaping the success of young Indian chess players. (Paragraph-4) (2 Marks)

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

1. Sleep plays a crucial role in maintaining overall health and well-being. Adequate and quality sleep is essential for various physiological and cognitive functions. Research has shown that insufficient sleep can have detrimental effects on both physical and mental health.

2. One of the key impacts of sleep deprivation is its effect on the immune system. Studies have found that lack of sleep can weaken the immune response, making individuals more susceptible to infections and diseases. Moreover, chronic sleep deprivation has been linked to an increased risk of developing chronic conditions such as obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.

3. In addition to physical health, sleep also plays a vital role in cognitive function and mental well-being. Sufficient sleep is necessary for optimal brain function, including memory consolidation, learning, and problem-solving skills. Lack of sleep can impair cognitive performance, attention, and decision making, abilities. It has also been associated with an increased risk of mental health disorders such as depression and anxiety.

4. In conclusion, sleep is a fundamental pillar of good health. It is essential for maintaining a strong immune system, supporting cognitive function, and promoting mental well-being. Adequate sleep should be prioritized as part of a healthy lifestyle to prevent the development of chronic diseases and promote overall well-being.

Here is a table summarizing the recommended sleep duration for different age groups (data only for reference):

| Age Group | Recommended Sleep Duration |
|------------|----------------------------|
| Infants | 14-17 hours |
| Toddlers | 11-14 hours |
| Preschool | 10-13 hours |
| School-age | 9-11 hours |
| Teenagers | 8-10 hours |
| Adults | 7-9 hours |

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

i) Select the option that is true for a **Statement (S) and a **Reason (R)** given below. (1 Mark)**

Statement (S): Lack of sleep can lead to obesity and diabetes.

Reason (R): Sleep deprivation affects the balance of hormones that control hunger and blood sugar levels.

- a) Both S and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of S.
- b) Both S and R are true, but R is *not* the correct explanation of S.
- c) S is true, but R is false.
- d) S is false, but R is true.

(ii) What is the overall tone of the passage?

(1 Mark)

- a) Humorous
- b) Informative and persuasive
- c) Angry and critical
- d) Sad and emotional

iii) Identify whether the statements are FACT or OPINION:

(1/2x2=1 Mark)

(a) Lack of sleep weakens the immune system and increases the risk of infections.

(fact/opinion)

(b) Teenagers can easily manage with only four to five hours of sleep. (fact/opinion)

(iv) In the context of the passage, the word “*consolidation*” most nearly means:

(Paragraph-3)

(1 Mark)

- a) Separation
- b) Strengthening
- c) Forgetting
- d) Relaxing

(v) According to the passage, what is one major effect of sleep deprivation on physical health? (Paragraph-2)

(1 Mark)

- a) It increases body temperature
- b) It weakens the immune system
- c) It enhances digestion
- d) It improves blood circulation

(vi) Calculate the difference in maximum recommended sleep hours between infants and teenagers. (1 Mark)

(vii) How does sleep contribute to better cognitive function and academic performance in students? (Paragraph-3) (Answer in 30–40 words) (2 Marks)

(viii) Based on the passage, infer why prioritizing sleep is as important as maintaining a healthy diet or exercising regularly. (Paragraph-4) (Answer in 30–40 words) (2 Marks)

SECTION B : WRITING SKILL AND GRAMMAR (20 MARKS)

GRAMMAR (10 Marks)

Q.3) Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed. (1x10=10 Marks)

i. Select the correct option to complete the reporting of the dialogue given below:

Mother: Why aren't you playing with your friends?

Riyan: I am not feeling well today.

Mother asked Riyan..... Riyan replied that he was not feeling well that day.

a) whether he was not playing with his friends

b) that he was not playing with his friends

c) why he wasn't playing with his friends

c) why wasn't he playing with his friends

ii. Complete the given school announcement by selecting the correct option to fill in the blank
Good news, everyone!

Our school's cricket team has successfully..... a place in the finals.

(a) securing

(b) secured

(c) will secure

(d) had secured

iii. _____ left an envelope for Ravi on his desk.

(a) Somebody

(b) None

(c) Everybody

(d) Anybody

iv. Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given line.

.....I suggest a suitable change in your plan?

(a) May

(b) Would

(c) Must

(d) Will

v. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line
Simon usually ate breakfast before he goes to school.

| Option No. | Error | Correction |
|------------|---------|------------|
| (a) | before | after |
| (b) | usually | always |
| (c) | goes | went |
| (d) | ate | eat |

vi. Identify the error and supply the correction for the given sentence from an advertisement.
The board invite online applications from eligible candidates for the post of a junior clerk.

| Error | Correction |
|-------|------------|
| | |

vii. Ronit and Remo are discussing their plans for the weekend. Complete the dialogue below by choosing the correct option.

Ronit : How do you like the idea of going to the movie?

Remo : That sounds good, But I my parent's permission.

- (a) needs to seek (b) need not to seek
(c) needs not to seek (d) need to seek

viii. Complete the given sentence, by filling in the blank with the correct option :

Had the security not reached there in time, the intruder him.

- (a) did have harm (b) will have harmed
(c) would harm (d) would have harmed

ix. Transform the following direct speech into indirect speech :

I said, “Revati, can I get your sample question set now ?”

x. Report the dialogue between Ishan and John, by completing the narration :

Ishan: Where are you going?

John: I am going for the shopping. Do you want anything?

Ishan asked John..... . John replied that he was going for the shopping and he further asked if he wanted anything.

xi Select the correct option to complete the given sentence from a handbook for managers.

The manager.....consider the proposal before making a decision.

- (a) will (b) should
(c) might (d) can

xii. Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction.

Has she got some evidence that he caused the trouble?

Use the given format for your response.

| Error | Correction |
|-------|------------|
| | |

WRITING SKILL (10 Marks)

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

Q.4- (A) You are Rohini/Rohan, a Class X student from Glorious International School, Andheri. Last month, you participated in a cleanliness drive organised by your school in collaboration with the local municipal authorities. The drive was aimed at raising awareness about hygiene and civic responsibility among residents of nearby slum areas. The experience taught you the value of teamwork, empathy, and proactive citizenship. Write a letter (about 120 words) to the editor of a

leading newspaper, sharing your experience and encouraging other students to take part in such social initiatives to bring about positive change. (5 Marks)

OR

(B) As Kavita/Kavish Rana of Royal Apartments, M.G. Nagar, Pune you feel that the increasing noise levels from construction activities, traffic and loud gatherings are disrupting the peace and tranquillity of your neighbourhood. This is particularly problematic during late hours and is impacting the sleep and well-being of residents. Write a letter to the DM of your city area, in about 120 words, stating the problem and requesting him to take necessary action for controlling the problem of noise. Give suitable suggestions. (5 Marks)

Q.5-A) You are the Cultural Secretary of your school. Two professional artists—Mr. Arvind Rao and Ms. Kavita Mehta—have written to express their interest in conducting a workshop on Creative Arts for your school’s annual cultural fest. Read the excerpts from their letters carefully and answer the question that follows.

Excerpt

1:

...I am delighted to offer a workshop on creative arts at your school. With 15 years of experience as a painter and art educator, I have conducted over 100 workshops across the country. My sessions focus on blending traditional and modern art forms, allowing students to explore their imagination freely. Many of my students have showcased their work in state-level exhibitions. I believe my expertise will help your students develop both skill and confidence in art.

Best regards,
Mr. Arvind Rao

Excerpt

2:

...I would be honoured to conduct a creative arts workshop during your school’s cultural fest. As a digital artist and graphic designer, I specialise in teaching students how to use technology to express their creativity. I have led sessions at various schools and design institutes, focusing on digital illustration, animation, and poster creation. My workshops encourage innovation and help students connect art with real-world applications.

Yours sincerely,
Ms. Kavita Mehta

Question:

Analyse the information in a paragraph, justifying which artist would be a better choice to conduct the workshop. Consider factors such as experience, relevance to the theme, and student engagement. (5 Marks)

OR

Q.5-B) Rohan, a class X student, is preparing for an **inter-school science exhibition**. He is innovative, curious, and has strong research skills. However, he sometimes struggles to organise his findings and complete projects within the given timeline. He needs to choose a partner from **Neha, Arjun, and Simran**. Read their profiles carefully and then analyse who would be the best partner for Rohan.

Neha:

Neha is systematic and methodical in her work. She is known for her excellent record-keeping and attention to detail. She ensures that every task is completed on time and according to plan. However, she sometimes hesitates to experiment with new ideas or take creative risks.

Arjun:

Arjun is energetic and full of innovative ideas. He loves exploring new possibilities and is quick to adapt to changes. However, he tends to get distracted easily and often leaves tasks unfinished.

Simran:

Simran is confident and persuasive. She has great presentation skills and communicates complex ideas effectively. However, she relies on others for research and planning, as her strengths lie more in communication than in execution.

Question:

Based on the qualities of each candidate, analyse and decide who would be the most suitable partner for Rohan. Consider aspects such as complementary strengths, teamwork, and the nature of the project. (5 Marks)

SECTION C: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (40 marks)

Q.6) Read the given extracts and answer **ANY ONE** of the two questions given below (5 Marks)

Q.6-A) **CHUBUKOV:** *You may take it that I know whether I have the right or not. Because, young man, I'm not used to being spoken to in that tone of voice, and so on. I, young man, am twice your age, and ask you to speak to me without agitating yourself, and all that.*

LOMOV: *No, you just think I'm a fool and want to have me on! You call my land yours, and then you want me to talk to you calmly and politely! Good neighbours don't behave like that, Stepan Stepanovitch! You're not a neighbour, you're a grabber! (The Proposal)*

I. Contradict the view that the argument between Chubukov and Lomov is polite and calm. (2 Marks)

II. Which statement best describes the relationship between Chubukov and Lomov in this extract? (1 Mark)

- a) Cordial neighbours
- b) Friendly acquaintances
- c) Tense and argumentative neighbours

III. What can be inferred about Lomov's feelings toward Chubukov's behaviour? (1 Mark)

IV. Classify the following words into **words expressing emotion** and **words expressing action**:

- i) agitating ii) call iii) angry iv) spoken v) talk (1 Mark)

| No. | Emotion | Action |
|-----|-----------|------------|
| a | i, iii | ii, iv, v |
| b | iii, v | i, ii, iv |
| c | i, ii | iii, iv, v |
| d | i, iii, v | ii, iv |

OR

Q.6- B) At the end of ten years, they had restored all. Mme Loisel seemed old now. She had become a strong, hard woman, the crude woman of the poor household. Her hair badly dressed, her skirts awry, her hands red, she spoke in a loud tone, and washed the floors with large pails of water. But sometimes, when her husband was at the office, she would seat herself before the window and think of that evening party of former times, of that ball where she was so beautiful and so flattered.

How would it have been if she had not lost the necklace? Who knows? How singular is life and how full of changes! How small a thing will ruin or save one! (The Necklace)

I. What does the description “*the crude woman of the poor household*” reveal about Mme Loisel’s transformation over the years? (2 Marks)

II. Which of the following best captures Mme Loisel’s feelings as she remembers the ball? (1Mark)

- a) Bitterness over her lost youth and beauty
- b) Gratitude for having experienced luxury once
- c) Pride in her sacrifice and hard work
- d) Satisfaction with her present life

III. The contrasting imagery of “*beautiful and admired*” versus “*red hands*” and “*badly dressed hair*” primarily highlights — (1 Mark)

- a) The effects of wealth and fame
- b) The difference between illusion and reality
- c) The rewards of honesty and humility
- d) The importance of outer appearance

IV. Read the following expressions from the extract: (1 Mark)

- i) restored everything
- ii) spoke in a loud tone
- iii) think of that evening
- iv) great swishes of water

Select the option that correctly categorises (i)–(iv) as **actions** or **reflections**.

| No. | Actions | Reflections |
|-----|-----------|-------------|
| a | i, ii, iv | iii |
| b | ii, iii | i, iv |
| c | iii, iv | i, ii |
| d | i, iii | ii, iv |

Q.7) Read the given extracts and answer **ANY ONE** of the two questions given below
(5 Marks)

Q.7-A) Don't bite your nails, Amanda!

Don't hunch your shoulders, Amanda!

Stop that slouching and sit up straight, Amanda!

(There is a languid, emerald sea,
where the sole inhabitant is me—

a mermaid, drifting blissfully.) (Amanda! – Robin Klein)

I. Which emotions are most appropriately conveyed through Amanda's imagined world under the sea?
(1 Mark)

- i) freedom ii) joy iii) rebellion iv) peace v) irritation

Select the correct option.

- A. i, ii, iv
B. iii, iv, v
C. i, iii, v
D. ii, iv, v

II. What does the contrast between the mother's commands and Amanda's imagination reveal about her character?
(2 Marks)

III. Which line from the extract best captures Amanda's desire for escape from her daily restrictions?
(1 Mark)

IV. Fill in the blank to suitably complete the sentence:
(1 Mark)

Amanda imagines herself as a mermaid because she wants to experience _____.

Q.7-B) All night the roots work

to disengage themselves from the cracks
in the veranda floor.

The leaves strain toward the glass

small twigs stiff with exertion

long-cramped boughs shuffling under the roof

like newly discharged patients

half-dazed, moving

to the clinic doors. (The Trees – Adrienne Rich)

I. What emotions are most appropriately conveyed by the phrases "*strain toward the glass*" and "*long-cramped boughs shuffling under the roof*"?
(1 Mark)

- i) struggle ii) excitement iii) freedom iv) exhaustion v) hope

Select the correct option.

- A. i, iii, v
B. ii, iii, iv

- C. i, ii, v
D. i, iv, v

II. Explain how the poet uses the image of “*newly discharged patients*” to convey the theme of the poem. (2 Marks)

III. Which line from the extract best suggests the idea of nature’s desire to break free from human confinement? (1 Mark)

IV. Fill in the blank with a suitable phrase to complete the sentence: (1 Mark)
The poet presents the trees as a symbol of _____ against restriction.

Q.8) Answer **ANY FOUR** of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words (4x3=12 Marks)

i) How did the postmaster and his employees respond to Lencho’s letter, and what does it reveal about human compassion? (A Letter to God)

ii) What ideals motivated Nelson Mandela in his struggle against apartheid? (Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom)

iii) Write the appropriate response comprising of at least two reasons to present a counter to the following:

“Zoo should be banned. It’s not right to keep animals this way”. (A Tiger In The Zoo)

iv) The young seagull “failed to muster up courage to take that plunge”.
How can the term “plunge” in the context of the young seagull’s hesitation be interpreted both literally and metaphorically? Explain. (His First Flight)

v) What does Mijbil's behaviour suggest about the otter's adaptability to urban surroundings? (Mijbil the Otter)

Q.9) Answer **ANY TWO** of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words (2x3=6 Marks)

i) Validate the importance of small, fun learning tasks towards successful careers, in the context of Richard Ebright in ‘The Making of a Scientist.’

ii) What transformation does Tricki undergo during his stay at Dr. Herriot’s clinic? (A Triumph of Surgery)

iii) How does Bholi’s character evolve by the end of the story? (Bholi)

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

(1x6=6 Marks)

i) Compare how **Valli** in ‘*Madam Rides the Bus*’ and **Anne Frank** in ‘From the Diary of Anne Frank’ demonstrate courage and a desire for independence. How do their actions reflect their yearning for freedom and self-expression despite restrictions in their lives?

ii) Compare how the **boy** in '*The Ball Poem*' and the **Buddha** in '*Sermon at Benares*' deal with loss and the impermanence of life. How do their experiences and teachings help in understanding the value of detachment and acceptance?

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

(1x6=6 Marks)

i) Describe the twist in the plot in 'The Midnight Visitor'. Analyse how Fowler's opinion of Ausable must have undergone a change after the plot twist.

ii) Trace the character arc of Think Tank focusing on his shift from arrogance to humility when he feels that he has underestimated earthlings. (The Book That Saved The Earth)
