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SILCHAR REGION
PRE BOARD EXAMINATION – I
LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (Code No. 184)

CLASS-X- (2025-26)

Time allowed: 3 Hrs.

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 SECTION)

(20 Marks)

Q1. Read the passage given below.

(10)

I. 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.

II. 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.

III. 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.

IV. 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.

V. The snow melts in the warmth of spring to give birth to fresh green leaves. In autumn these leaves age 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.

VI. 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.

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

1. According to the author, what, from the following, is the greatest lesson being taught by nature? (1)

- A. balanced in our emotions
- B. partial to joys in life.
- C. afraid of unhappiness.
- D. indifferent to fears.

2. Select the option that suitably completes the dialogue with reference to paragraph II. (1)

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!

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.

3. What is the message being conveyed in - 'I am because we are' in paragraph 3? (2)

4. What qualities do the birds and squirrels display when they warn others of possible danger? (2)

5. Select the option with the underlined words that can suitably replace lurking. (paragraph IV) (1)

- A. The policeman pulled up the person who was wandering aimlessly through the city.
- B. The thief 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 thief was walking boldly into the house thinking it was devoid of residents.

6. What are the qualities that the author wants us to imbibe? (1)

7. What does the writer advise, in paragraph VI? (1)

8. Write the central idea of the passage. (1)

Q2. Read the following passage carefully: (10)

I. There was a time when human interference was minimum, the number of wild animals was quite high and there was no problem of their protection or conservation.

II. Due to the irrational use of natural and biotic resources of the Earth in the past, most of the wildlife has been destroyed beyond retrieval. According to an estimate, in India about 200 species of wild animals and birds have become extinct and another 2500 are on the verge of extinction. Some of them are black buck, chinkara, wolf, swamp deer, nilgai, Indian gazelle, antelope, tiger, rhinoceros, gir lion, crocodile, flamingo, pelican, bustard, white crane, grey heron, mountain quail, etc.

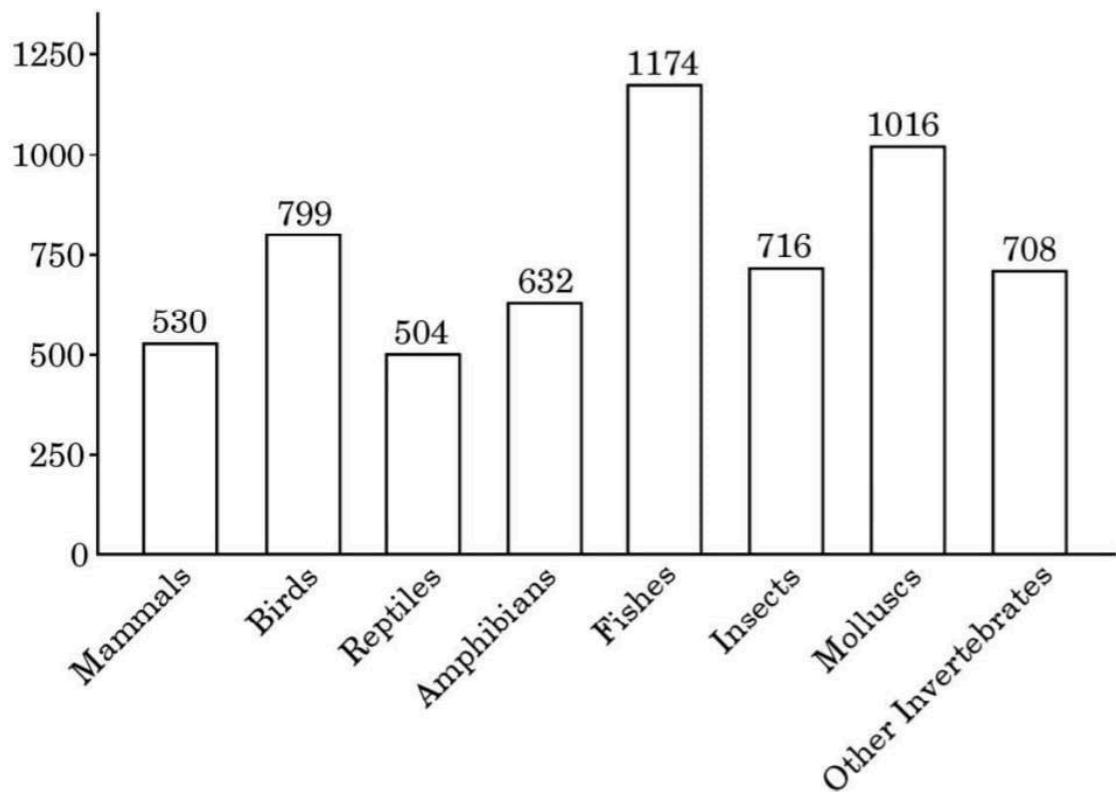
III. In India, the Government and NGOs are taking keen interest in protection of wildlife. The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, has several provisions for the conservation of wildlife. As many as 165 game sanctuaries and 21 national parks have been deployed to protect the natural habitat and wild animals. Apart from this,

Wildlife Conservation Week is also celebrated from 1st to 7th October every year. But still there is a long way to go in this direction.

IV. Preservation of wildlife does not mean a blanket protection to all faunal and floral species; rather it implies a proper, judicious control over the multiplication of plants and animals which interact together to provide a proper environment to man whose very existence is in peril today.

V. It is our urgent duty to protect the natural splendor of ecosystems and to evolve a system of coexistence with every living creature upon the Earth.

*based on IUCN Red List data



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

(i) Infer one reason for the following, based on the information in the passage. (1)
The number of wild animals was quite high and there was no problem of their protection or conservation.

(ii) Select the appropriate options to fill in the blanks. (1)

Most of the wildlife has been _____ beyond _____ due to the irrational use of natural resources on the Earth.

I. destroyed	II. retrieval	III. desertion	IV. build	V. revived
a) I and II	b) II and III	c) III and IV	d) IV and V	

(iii) Complete the following analogy correctly with a word/phrase from the passage. (1)

(Clue: Just like flowers are in a garden, similarly _____ are in the sanctuaries.)

(iv) Select the correct option to complete the sentence. Judicious control over the multiplication of plants and animals which provide (1)

- a) natural splendour of ecosystem
- b) proper environment to man
- c) blanket protection
- d) happy and comfortable living.

(v) Fill in the blanks by selecting the correct option. (1)

The Wildlife Protection Policy has several provisions for the protection and conservation of wildlife.

a) Conservation b) safety c) habitation d) well being

(vi) Substitute the word extinction with one word similar in meaning from the passage. (1)

Many species are at the verge of *extinction* because of carelessness of human race.

(vii) List any two examples of Government and NGOs efforts to protect the wildlife. (2)

(viii) List one reason why the Government makes certain recommendations for protection of wild animal. (2)

SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20 MARKS)

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

$$(1 \times 10 = 10)$$

a) Fill in the blank by using the correct word from the options available to you, for the given portion of a letter:

Subject: Inquiry regarding the online courses in choreography.

Refer to your advertisement regarding the online courses in choreography offered by your institute, I want _____ that I am currently in X class and preparing for my final exams.

i. estimable, to say ii. reputed, to suggest iii. esteem, to tell iv. reputable, to state

b) Identify the error in the given sentence from a newspaper article and supply the correction.

Mobile phones are being extensively used both in urban and rural areas but the importance of mobile phones between students has been increasing day by day.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

(c) Sanjay told Shailesh that he was surprised to see him there in Delhi. Report the question asked by Sanjay.

(d) Read the conversation between a master and a servant. Complete the sentence by reporting the conversation.

Master: Why do you need such a long leave?

Servant: My brother is having a destination wedding in Goa.

The master asked his servant _____ such a long leave, to which he replied that _____ a destination wedding in Goa.

- i. did he really need, his brother was having
- ii. why he needed, his brother was having
- iii. that why he need, his brother was having
- iv. why he needed, his brother will be having

e) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete an article from a magazine on school education.

The regulations related to the examination schedule as drafted by the administration _____ from the curriculum.

- (i) are stemmed
- (ii) get stemmed
- (iii) stem
- (iv) stems

f) Identify the error in the given sentence, from a travel magazine and supply the correction.

When you finally arrive in Sydney Harbour, you had been sailing non-stop for a week on the high seas.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

g) Identify the error and supply the correction for the following line, from a news report:

Over recent years, many skilled craftsmen and women have lost their jobs inside the pottery trade in the UK, but gradually English porcelain is regaining its reputation.

Error	Correction

h) Complete the given narrative by filling in the blank with the correct option.

_____ argument could move _____ man from their final decision.

i) Complete the dialogue between two primary class students Mohit and Rohit.

Mohit: Have you seen real langurs in a zoo?

Rohit: My mummy tells me to look into the mirror when I ask her to take me there.

Mohit asked Rohit if he had seen real langurs in a zoo, to which Rohit replied that his mother _____ to take him to the zoo.

j) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the commentary on a history channel.

In the 1619, the first African slaves _____ in Virginia, USA, and by 1700, their numbers _____ nearly 700,000.

- (a) arrived, had reached
- (b) have arrived, were reaching
- (c) were going to arrive, reach
- (d) were arriving, have been reaching.

(k) Complete the line from a known poem by Tagore, by filling the blank with the correct option.

On the day when the lotus bloomed, alas, my mind _____ and I knew it not. My basket was empty and the flower remained unheeded.

i. were straying ii. was straying iii. had been straying iv. is straying

(i) Identify the error in the given instruction and supply the correction for the following line:

Note: Servers can wash their hands before carrying the dishes.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

Q4 Attempt any one from (A) and (B) given below: (5)

A. The recent monsoon has left behind a trail of woes from potholes to blocked sewage and outbreak of malaria and dengue. This has not happened for the first time and residents have repeatedly complained about the issue. The bad roads and traffic jams are additional problems. Write a letter in about 100- 120 words to the Commissioner, Public Works Department, drawing attention to the problems which seem to have become an annual affair with no hope of any relief. You are Reema/Rashid.

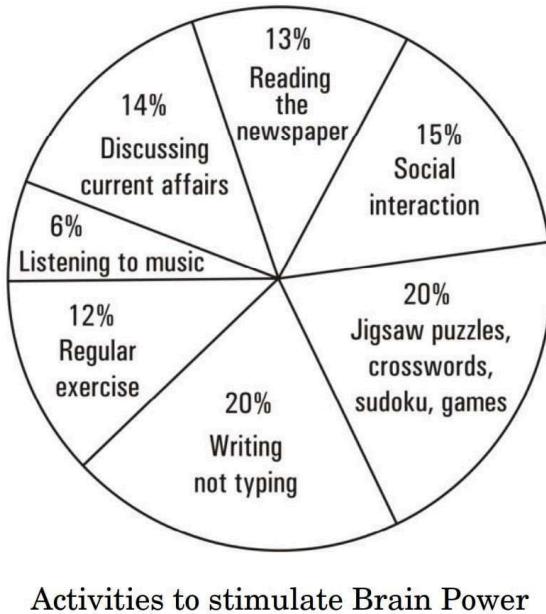
OR

B. You are Sudipta/Rajan of 549, Sector 4, Rohini, New Delhi. You are a student of Class X of Arya Public School, New Delhi. Metro Rail has become very popular, comfortable and a convenient mode of transport in your city. Unfortunately, the premises in front of your school have become an unauthorized transport stand for feeder buses of the metro station. Write a letter to the editor of the 'Neighbourhood Call' suggesting the removal of the transport in front of the school premises.

Q5. Attempt any one from (A) and (B) given below: -

(5)

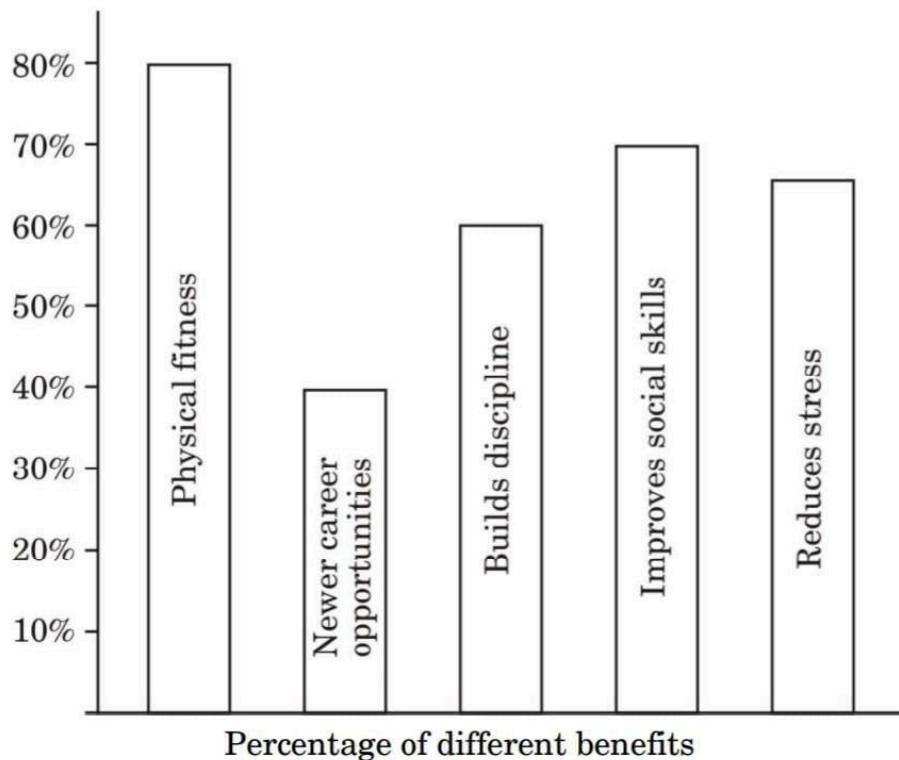
A. Internet provides every information one seeks at the click of a button. As a result, children today are living in a comfort zone. According to research, this will result in long-term consequences which will affect their brain. Based on the following chart, write an analytical paragraph in not more than 120 words on activities to improve brain power.



OR

B. School authorities and parents have realized the benefits of encouraging their children to play and participate in sports. The age-old myth that academics is the only foundation for a successful career has been replaced. Write a paragraph in not more than 120 words analyzing the given information.

Benefits of playing sports



SECTION C (LITERATURE)

40 Marks

Q6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

(A) *I was still a thief when I met Anil. And though only 15, I was an experienced and fairly successful hand. Anil was watching a wrestling match when I approached him. He was about 25 – a tall, lean fellow – and he looked easy-going, kind and simple enough for my purpose. I hadn't had much luck of late and thought I might be able to get into the young man's confidence.*

"You look a bit of a wrestler yourself," I said. A little flattery helps in making friends.

"So do you," he replied, which put me off for a moment because at that time I was rather thin.

(a) State any one inference about Hari from the given context. (1)

"I was an experienced and fairly successful hand."

(b) Which of the terms (i) to (iv) given below, can be applied to the following lines? (1)

"You look a bit of a wrestler yourself," I said. A little flattery helps in making friends. "So do you," he replied, which put me off for a moment because at that time I was rather thin."

- (i) Anil didn't have any malicious intent.
- (ii) Anil was just being funny and easy.
- (iii) Both were trying to make pleasant conversation.
- (iv) Both needed each other.

(c) Hari found Anil 'simple enough for my purpose'. What does he mean by this? Elaborate with reference to the extract. (2)

(d) Which of the given statements best completes the following line? (1)

The narrator had already been involved in theft before meeting Anil.

- (i) Because he admits he was a thief and had experience despite being only 15.
- (ii) Because Anil taught him how to steal and become successful.

OR

(B) *"Marriage gifts are meaningless without the sweet bread known as the 'bol'. Just as a party or a feast loses its charm without bread. Not enough can be said to show how important a baker can be for a village. The lady of the house must prepare sandwiches on the occasion of her daughter's engagement. Cakes and 'bol' are a must for Christmas as well as other festivals. Thus, the presence of the baker in the villages of Goa is absolutely essential."*

(a) Which of the given statements best completes the following line? (1)

The 'bol' holds a special cultural importance in marriage celebrations because _____.

- (i) the 'bol' is the only gift exchanged during marriage ceremonies.
- (ii) the line compares the absence of 'bol' to a feast without bread, showing it is essential to the occasion.

(b) What makes the marriage gifts meaningless? (1)

(c) The word 'sandwich' is named after Earl of Sandwich who loved eating sandwiches. Read the following descriptions (i)–(iv) and identify which one does not correspond to the name of a person in its origin. (1)

- (i) It's Murphy's Law.
- (ii) Maintain the temperature at 200° Fahrenheit.
- (iii) We are leaving for the Indira Gandhi International Airport.
- (iv) Stop acting like Scrooge!

(d) What is the traditional name of bakers in Goa and what made them different from other people in appearance? (2)

Q7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

(A) *"My head is full of whispers
which tomorrow will be silent.
Listen. The glass is breaking.
The trees are stumbling forward
into the night. Winds rush to meet them.
The moon is broken like a mirror,
its pieces flash now in the crown
of the tallest oak."*

(a) Complete the following statement suitably with the correct option:..

(1)

The line 'the glass is breaking' symbolises _____.

- i. The shattering of trust, hope, or peace.
- ii. The beginning of a new dawn
- iii. The beauty of nature at night
- iv. The reflection of moonlight on glass

(b) What is the significance of the use of the words 'whispers' and 'glass' in the poem and how does this word choice contribute to the overall mood and tone of the poem? (1)

(c) Which of the following is the correct match between the poetic devices and their examples? (1)

1.The moon is broken like a mirror	(a) Personification
2.The glass is breaking	(b) Enjambment
3.The moon is broken like a mirror, its pieces flash now in the crown of the tallest oak.	(c) Imagery
4.The trees are stumbling forward	(d) Simile

- (i) 1-(d), 2-(c), 3-(b), 4-(a)
- (ii) 1-(b), 2-(c), 3-(d), 4-(a)
- (iii) 1-(d), 2-(b), 3-(c), 4-(a)
- (iv) 1-(a), 2-(b), 3-(c), 4-(d)

(d) Comment on the poet's use of trees as metaphors in these lines. (2)

OR

*(B) "Ink trickled down to the bottom of the household
And little mouse Blink strategically mouseholed.
But up jumped Custard, snorting like an engine,
Clashed his tail like irons in a dungeon,
With a clatter and a clank and a jangling squirm,
He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm."*

(a) Fill in the blank with suitable words on the basis of your understanding of the given lines with the help of the following options:- (1)

Belinda paled and cried for help because she was _____ with _____ in his hand.

- (i) frightened to see a pirate entering the house with a pistol in his hand
- (ii) startled to see a stranger standing with a sword in his hand
- (iii) amazed to see Custard roaring with fire in his hand
- (iv) confused to see Ink and Blink hiding with fear in their eyes

(b) What is the significance of the use of the words: *fled, trickled down and mouseholed* to describe the reactions of Belinda's pets and how does this word choice contribute to the overall situation in the poem? (1)

(c) The words, 'But up jumped Custard, snorting like an engine' show that (1)

- (i) Custard was angry and ready to fight Ink and Blink.
- (ii) Custard was ready to move energetically.
- (iii) Custard was ready to attack the pirate.
- (iv) Custard was clearing his throat.

(d) Comment on the poet's use of language in these lines. (2)

Q8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words. (4 × 3 = 12)

(a) How is the Coorgi tradition of courage and bravery recognized in modern India?

(b) How does the boy sense his first loss and first responsibility?

(c) How can we say that Natalya and Lomov were not a compatible couple yet they decide to spend their life with each other?

(d) How did Kisa Gautami realize that life and death is a normal process?

(e) The 'yellow hair' is a symbol in the poem. Briefly support the statement with reference to the poem 'For Anne Gregory'.

Q9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. (2 × 3 = 6)

(a) How did Griffin find himself invisible but naked in the chilled January air for the second time?

(b) How did Ebright's mother help him in becoming a scientist?

(c) Was Tricki suffering from any ailment in reality? If not, then what made him inactive and lethargic?

Q10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. (1 × 6 = 6)

(A) In the lesson A Letter to God, Lencho called the post-office employees 'a bunch of crooks' and 'Amanda!' Amanda was tired of the nagging behaviour of her parents. Assume they both meet each other in the post office and have a conversation with each other complaining about others' misbehaviour.

You may begin like this:

Amanda: What happened? Why is that man calling you people 'a bunch of crooks'?

Post office employee: Nothing Ma'am. He himself is trapped, though he is a simple, naïve, and hard-working farmer

OR

(B)" Custard cried for a nice, safe cage. The dragon was called a 'cowardly dragon'.

"The whole class was quaking in its boots, 'From the Diary of Anne Frank'.

Based on the commonality of feelings in the above-given lines, what would you conclude about Custard, the dragon, and Anne and her classmates? What advice would you offer them?

Q11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. (1 × 6 = 6)

(A) How does Think-Tank compare the Martians with the people on Earth? What guesses are made by him about the books found on Earth? (The Book that Saved the Earth)

OR

(B) Ostentation and vanity often land people in trouble. Matilda is an apt example of this. Justify. (The Necklace)