



ANGEL'S PUBLIC SCHOOL

HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION

(SAMPLE PAPER)

SESSION 2026 – 27

SUBJECT : ENGLISH

GRADE – X

TIME : 03 HRS

M.M:80

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions very carefully and follow them:

- (a) This question paper has 11 questions. All questions are compulsory.
- (b) This question paper contains three sections:
- (c) Section – A Reading Skills
- (d) Section – B Grammar and Creative Writing Skills
- (e) Section – C Literature.
- (f) Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
- (g) Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
- (h) Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION – A READING SKILLS

[20]

1. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

(10)

Last week, the Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIMK) announced that its 29th PGP batch (for the academic year 2025-27) has admitted more than 50% female students - of the 489 students, 268 are women.

"This batch has 55% women, against a national CAT 2024 applicant pool of only 36% women," Prof. Debashis Chatterjee, Director of IIM Kozhikode, told the press. This marks the fourth time that IIMK has admitted more women than men - it earlier did so in 2013-15, 2020-22, and 2024-26.

But this new gender balance happened neither by accident nor by design. Prof. Chatterjee said the institute has worked for years to make its MBA attractive to women.

In its inaugural PG batch (1997-99), IIMK had only one female student among 42. It maintained a single-digit female percentage through the early 2000s. In 2013-15, the institute, for the first time, admitted more women than men - 196 women as compared to 169 men, in a class of 365. The percentage dropped in the following years, but starting from 2020-22, IIMK has been attracting more than 40% female students consistently - it touched a high of 58.6% in the 2024-26 batch.

Since 2012-13, IIMK started taking steps to solve the gender skew. It hosted "Women in Leadership Programmes" and inspired initiatives. From about 10% female student participation across IIMs a decade ago, today more than 30% of students graduating from the IIM system

are women. "We didn't do magic, just organised a few programmes and lectures, inspiring women."

The School Leaders Programme of IIMK is also popular in the region. It trains school principals for leadership roles and indirectly supports women in management.

"Diversity is not a statistic for us - it is a strategic imperative. We are shaping future leaders who will thrive in a complex, pluralistic world," Prof. Chatterjee said

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

(a) Why is the 29th PGP batch of 2025-27 most likely highlighted in the passage?(Paragraph 1) (1)

This is so because this batch...

- (i) had the highest number of applicants in IIM Kozhikode's history
- (ii) received special incentives to admit more women
- (iii) achieved a significant milestone in gender representation
- (iv) was the first to implement new admission criteria

(b) Identify the phrase in paragraph 3 that rules out a formal quota or special policy in achieving gender balance. (1)

(c) Complete the following by selecting the correct option from those given in the brackets.

(Paragraph 6) (1)

Riya is preparing for her MBA interviews and notices that IIM Kozhikode consistently organised "Women in Leadership Programmes" and similar initiatives over several years to address the gender imbalance. This shows that the institute focused on sustained (implementation / awareness) rather than short term measures.

(d) What does the writer mean by 'skew' while talking about gender in the context of IIM Kozhikode's MBA programme? (Paragraph 6) (1)

(e) Complete the following with the correct option. (1)

When the writer says, "It maintained a single digit female percentage through the early 2000s" in paragraph 4, she / he means that...

- (i) women consistently formed a very small share of the batch during that period
- (ii) women formed exactly ten percent of the batch in most years of that period
- (iii) women outnumbered men in several batches during that period
- (iv) women formed the majority of the batch for most of that period

(f) Complete the following appropriately. (Paragraphs 4-5) (1)

The one likely reason why the percentage of female students dropped after the 2013-15 batch, despite earlier success in increasing it, is....

(g) How are 'diversity' and 'strategic imperative' connected? (Paragraph 8) (1)

(h) Elaborate how programmes like "Women in Leadership Programmes" and the "School Leaders Programme" could contribute to long term gender balance in management education.

(Paragraphs 6-7) (2)

(i) Fill in the blank with ONE suitable word. (Paragraph 4) (1)

By reviewing changes in gender representation across different batches, IIM Kozhikode is able to plan initiatives that respond to students'...

2. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. (10)

A recent report by real estate consultancy JLL India analysed land acquisition trends by Indian realty firms between 2022 and 2024, highlighting the scale of investment and the changing focus across different cities.

Between 2022 and 2024, real estate developers in India acquired a total of 5,885 acres of land, investing a substantial 90,000 crore to fuel the growing demand for both housing and commercial properties. The data reveals a steady increase in land acquisitions over the three years. In 2022, developers acquired 1,603 acres for 18,112 crores. In 2023, this rose to 1,941 acres for 32,203 crores. By 2024, acquisitions peaked at 2,335 acres, costing 39,742 crores. Importantly, these figures only reflect outright purchases, excluding Joint Development Agreements (JDAs). JLL India described 2024 as a "watershed year" with 2,335 acres acquired through 134 transactions across 23 cities. Of the land acquired in 2024, 81% is set aside for residential projects, unlocking an estimated 194 million sq. ft of potential development.

The dominance of Tier I cities - Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Pune - continued, accounting for 72% of acquisitions. However, emerging Tier II and Tier III cities like Indore, Ludhiana, and Varanasi gained attention, representing 28% of land bought.

This shift, according to JLL, reflects growing recognition of untapped markets.

A. Answer the following questions, based on the passage above. (10 Marks)

- (a) Why does the passage most likely begin by referring to a report by JLL India? (Paragraph 1) (1)

This is so because the report...

- (i) explains why joint development agreements were excluded from the study
- (ii) provides verified data to support the analysis of land acquisition trends
- (iii) focuses mainly on residential real estate activity in Tier I cities
- (iv) predicts future changes in land prices across Indian cities

- (b) Identify the phrase in paragraph 1 that indicates a shift in regional emphasis in land purchases. (1)

- (c) Complete the following by selecting the correct option from those given in the brackets. (1)

(Paragraph 2)

Arjun, who is studying urban development, examines the year-wise change in both land area acquired and investment value from 2022 to 2024. Based on the overall trend, he concludes that the demand for real estate was (rising / declining).

- (d) What does the writer mean by "outright purchases" in paragraph 3? (1)

- (e) Complete the following with the correct option. (1)

When JLL India describes 2024 as a "watershed year" in paragraph 3, it means that

- (i) land purchases declined after reaching a saturation point
- (ii) joint development agreements replaced most outright land purchases
- (iii) land was acquired across many cities through a high number of transactions
- (iv) developers reduced their focus on residential real estate projects

- (f) Complete the following appropriately. (1)

One likely reason why 81% of land acquired in 2024 was set aside for residential projects is..

- (g) How are 'untapped markets' and 'land acquisition in Tier II and III cities' connected? (1)

(Paragraph 4)

- (h) Elaborate how increased land acquisition in Tier II and Tier III cities could benefit the real estate sector in the long run. (Paragraph 4) (2)
- (i) Fill in the blank with ONE suitable word. (Paragraph 4) (1)
- The fact that Tier I cities accounted for 72% of total land acquisitions shows their continued in the real estate sector.

SECTION – B GRAMMAR AND CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS [20]

3. Complete any TEN of the following twelve tasks, as directed. (10 Marks)

- (a) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option.** (1)

The jury ____ (has/have) reached a unanimous decision regarding the case.

- (b) Fill in the blanks with suitable words.** (1)

You ____ follow the traffic rules if you want to avoid a heavy fine.

- (c) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket.** (1)

I wish that we ____ (meet) before.

- (d) Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction.** (1)

"I has been waiting for the bus since two hours."

Use the given format for your response

Error	Correction

- (e) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket.** (1)

By the time the doctor arrived, the patient ____ (pass) away.

- (f) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option** (1)

Neither of the two brothers ____ (is/are) eligible for the scholarship.

- (g) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option** (1)

The sky is very dark; it ____ rain tonight.

(i) should (ii) shall (iii) must (iv) can

- (h) Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction.** (1)

She walk to school every day to stay fit.

- (i) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket.** (1)

When we reached the stadium, the match ____ already ____ (start).

- (j) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option.** (1)

"What am I ____ with?" Asked the culprit.

(i) to charge (ii) being charged (iii) charged (iv) charge

- (k) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket.** (1)

One of my teachers ____ to my town. (belong)

- (l) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word** (1)

Hurry up, lest we ____ get late.

CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS [10]

4. Attempt ANY ONE of the following in 100-120 words. (5)

You are Sunidhi/Sunil, living at 124, Green Park, New Delhi. You recently purchased a high-end laptop from 'Tech-World Solutions'. Within a week, the screen started flickering and the battery backup is less than an hour. Write a *Letter of Complaint* to the Manager, Tech-World Solutions, requesting an immediate replacement or repair.

OR

You are the School Captain of 'Global Excellence School'. You wish to inquire about a 'Youth Leadership Workshop' being organized by the Himalayan Institute of Excellence. Write a *Letter of Inquiry* to the Director of the institute, asking about the duration, cost, eligibility criteria, and accommodation facilities.

5. Attempt ANY ONE of the following in 100-120 words. (5)

"The Midnight Visitor" shows that wit and presence of mind are more powerful than weapons. Write an Analytical Paragraph comparing the characters of Ausable and Max to illustrate this statement.

OR

The graph given shows estimated sales of gold in Dubai in 2002. Write an analytical paragraph describing the line graph.



6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given:

- A.** We have, at last, achieved our political emancipation. We pledge ourselves to liberate all our people from the continuing bondage of poverty, deprivation, suffering, gender and other discrimination. Never, never, and never again shall it be that this beautiful land will again experience the oppression of one by another. The sun shall never set on so glorious a human achievement.

(Nelson Mandela - Long Walk to Freedom)

- (a) What is the tone Nelson Mandela is UNLIKELY to have used in his speech? (1)
 (i) inspirational (ii) assertive (iii) conflicted (iv) direct
- (b) According to Mandela, emancipation is not merely political. Elaborate. (2)
- (c) **Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket:** (1)
 Mandela's speech swings between references to the past and a _____ (bleak/promising) future.
- (d) With reference to the extract explain the sentence, "The sun shall never set on so glorious a human achievement." (1)

OR

- B.** All through the night, Lencho thought only of his one hope: the help of God, whose eyes, as he had been instructed, see everything, even what is deep in one's conscience. Lencho was an ox of a man, working like an animal in the fields, but still he knew how to write. (A Letter to God)

- (a) Mention the only hope that Lencho had. (1)
- (b) 'He knew how to write' What is the significance of this line? (2)
- (c) Which word from the extract is the synonym of 'moral sense'? (1)
- (d) **State True or False.** (1)

Lencho was a diligent farmer and a deeply religious man.

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

- A.** But if I had to perish twice, I think I know enough of hate

To say that for destruction ice is also great And would suffice. (Fire and Ice)

- (a) What does the poet preach in the extract through symbols 'fire and ice'? (1)
- (b) What is the poet's tone in the extract? (1)
 (i) Appreciative (ii) Celebratory (iii) Sarcastic (iv) Gloomy
- (c) Comment on the poet's use of imagery in these lines. (2)
- (d) Which word in the stanza means the same as 'demise'? (1)

OR

- B.** "He should be lurking in shadow,
 Sliding through long grass
 Near the water hole
 Where plump deer pass."

- (a) Where should the tiger be lurking? (1)
- (b) What does 'sliding through' imply about the tiger's movement? (1)

(c) Who wrote this poem? (1)

(d) Contrast the tiger in the poem with the tiger in a cage. (2)

8. Answer Any Four of the following questions in 40-50 words each. (4x3=12)

(a) Mention any two things that the narrator experienced when he was surrounded by clouds in the lesson, 'The Black Aeroplane'.

(b) Why did Anne need to keep a diary?

(c) What was the "trick" played by Ausable?

(d) Why was Mrs. Pumphrey worried about Tricki?

(e) Write down the two different views about the end of the world with reference to the poem 'Fire and Ice'.

9. Answer Any Two of the following questions in 40-50 words each. (2x3=6)

(a) How did Nelson Mandela define the meaning of courage?

(b) What conditions did Anil put forward before appointing Hari Singh as a servant?

(c) "The Midnight Visitor" highlights the importance of presence of mind. Elaborate.

10. Answer any one of the following questions in 100-120 words each. (1x6=6)

Discuss how extreme behaviour can hasten the end of the world with respect to 'Fire and Ice'.

OR

"Diary of A Young Girl" in some parts throws light on teacher-student relationship, class atmosphere and discipline. Discuss with reference to the story From the Dairy of Anne Frank'.

11. Answer any one of the following questions in 100-120 words each. (1x6=6)

"Everyone must be given a chance to reform." How did Anil work upon these values and succeed. (Thief's Story)

OR

Compare and contrast the characters of Hari Singh (A Thief's Story) and Horace Danby (A Question of Trust) in terms of their motives and moral transformation.

