

केन्द्रीय विद्यालय संगठन, कोलकाता संभाग
KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN, KOLKATA REGION
द्वितीय प्री-बोर्ड परीक्षा / 2ND PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION, 2025-26

कक्षा / CLASS – X

अधिकतम अंक/MAX. MARKS –80

विषय/SUB. – ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE (184)

समय/TIME – 03 घंटे/Hours

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)

1. Read the following passage:

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1. ChatGPT can search. It cannot research. The platform has attracted the world's attention because of the speed with which it assembles and produces information in a logical sequence, powered by artificial intelligence, as if a human being were prompting it to write.
2. Curious about understanding what ChatGPT can do, I opened an account and asked if it would replace research in the future. Promptly, it replied: "As an AI language model, I don't hold personal beliefs, but I can present arguments on both sides of the topic."
3. The answer amused me. The speed with which it typed the information across the screen was mind-boggling. I could not read the answer as fast as it typed out the sentence. But, when it had finished, I read through the document. It was impressive. It was truly informative.
4. Five different points had been explained briefly in seconds. I would have thought of those five points in an hour or more, depending on the complexity of the topic. "AI : Catalyst, not Conqueror : ChatGPT and the future of research" was the title that it threw up to my question. It matched my opinion about the future of research after ChatGPT. The write-up had an introduction and a conclusion, just as our English teachers have taught us.
5. The document came from countless databases, as that is what it's designed to do. By contrast, when I research a subject for an 800 word article, I visit five or six authoritative sources; I don't go to a million as most are copies.
6. The difference between the write-up of ChatGPT and my research article is the former is a mere summary. When I write, I search new ideas and knit them in a way that reflects my thoughts and perspective. I choose only what is original, unique and fresh and process them in my mind to create a fresh angle.
7. Research has no value if it only summarises known information. Even a literature survey in your subject requires you to say what you will do with it further, and how.
8. Research is not a joke. Years ago, I had asked my professor, later on my supervisor, "How can I publish an article in research journals?"
9. He answered, "When you have read everything on the subject, and have something original to add to the existing body of research." My head swam.
10. Excellent research is a daunting task and calls for hard intellectual work. When you research, you don't go wide; you go deep. You thoroughly investigate a minor concept, researching it extensively,

substantiating each claim with reliable sources, experiments, models and beyond. It took years to discover the atom and the theory of gravitation. ChatGPT can summarise these discoveries, but it cannot add to them. It does not have the mental wherewithal for that.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:

- I. Which of the following statements best summarises the author's views about ChatGPT? 1
(A) It can summarise discoveries.
(B) It assembles and produces information.
(C) Its information is based on numerous databases.
(D) It can only search but not research.
- II. What did the professor suggest to the author's question of how he could publish his research journal? (Answer in 40 words only.) 2
- III. Complete the given analogy : 1
Dependable : reliable : rational : _____.
- IV. Mention one basic difference between the write-up of ChatGPT and author's research article. 2
- V. Complete the sentence appropriately. (1 Mark)
The author noticed that the write-up produced by ChatGPT had an introduction and a conclusion, just as he learnt in his English class but it still lacked _____.
- VI. The author was moved by the _____ with which the ChatGPT was producing the article. 1
(A) originality
(B) information
(C) rationality
(D) speed
- VII. State whether the given statement is True/False : 1
Research is not beneficial if it only summarises the known information.
- VIII. Quote the answer of ChatGPT, from the above given passage, when it was asked whether it would replace research in the future. 1

2. Read the following passage:

10

1. The climate and landscape in Uttarakhand vary greatly with altitude (186– 7619 m), from the largest glaciers in the higher elevation to the subtropical forests in the lowest elevation.
2. The lowlands along the border of U.P. are covered by the drier Terai-Savanna grasslands, the moist deciduous forest of the Upper Gangetic Plains form the Bhabhar belt. Due to the extensive agricultural practices, most of these lowland forests have been cleared. Snow and bare ice occupy the highest altitudes.
3. This state occupies 53,483 sq. km., (1.63% of India's total land area). Out of 13 districts, Uttarkashi occupies the maximum area of 8039 sq. km., while Champawat covers the minimum area of. Uttarakhand experiences four types of seasons, namely, Monsoon (June to September), Post-monsoon (October to November), Cold weather (December to February) and Pre-monsoon (March to May). The normal annual precipitation in the state is 1446 mm . Rain usually starts at the end of April and lasts until September. The monsoon rainfall is 78% of the annual rainfall. This makes the state prone to flood during monsoon. Bageshwar receives the maximum normal annual rainfall (1872 mm). 81% falls of this rainfall occurs in the monsoon season. Haridwar receives the minimum normal annual rainfall (1107 mm).
4. Due to the differences in topographical features, temperatures vary widely. During March and April, temperatures rise until they peak in May and June, when the mean maximum temperature in the southern and valley regions is between 34' and 38' C, and the mean minimum temperature is between 20' and 24' C. Temperatures can reach 24' C in the valleys and southern half of the state and 30' C in two-kilometre-high elevations on some days. Day and night temperatures begin to dip around the end of September and reach

the lowest in January and early February. January is the coldest month, with an average maximum temperature of 20° C and an average lowest temperature of 6° C. The mean maximum and mean minimum temperatures range from 10 to 12°C at altitudes of 2 km.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:

I. Fill in the blank suitably: 1

The variance in climate and landscape of Uttarakhand as per paragraph 1 is marked by _____.

II. Based on your understanding of the paragraph 2, fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets. 1

Most of the lowland forests are _____ (maintained/cleared) due to the _____ (large-scale/small-scale) agricultural practices.

III. Based on the passage, which of the districts has the lowest rainfall in Uttarakhand? 1

IV. 'This makes the state of Uttarakhand prone to flood during monsoon.' Justify the statement with reference to the passage given above in 30-40 words. 2

V. Which two districts have maximum and minimum rainfall in the state? 1

- (A) Bageshwar and Chamoli
- (B) Nainital and Rudraprayag
- (C) Haridwar and Garhwal
- (D) Bageshwar and Haridwar

VI. Complete the given table: 2

Assertion	Reasoning
The temperatures vary widely in the state of Uttarakhand.	

VII. How is Bhabhar belt formed? 1

VIII. State which of the given statements is not true: 1

(A) January is the coldest month, with an average maximum temperature of 20°C and an average lowest temperature of 6° C.

(B) The mean maximum and mean minimum temperatures range from 15 to 20° C at altitudes of 2 km.

SECTION B: GRAMMAR AND CREATIVE WRITING SKILL

(20 marks)

GRAMMAR

(10)

3. Answer 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 letter:

Dear Mr. Patel,

We are pleased to inform you that your proposal for the upcoming project by the board of directors_____.

1

- A. had endorsed
- B. will have been endorsed
- C. has been endorsed
- D. have endorsed

II.

Read the given sentence from a marketing report. Identify the error and supply the correction in the given format. 1	
The company continues to strives tirelessly to meet customer demands.	
ERROR	CORRECTION

III. Rhea asked the following question to her colleague, Deepak.

Have you finalised the magazine content to be submitted tomorrow? Report Rhea's question correctly 1

IV. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete an official announcement. 1

Attention all prefects,

Please be informed that the deadline for submitting your registrations for participation in the Art Exhibition has been extended; (that/ these/ this) should be communicated to all students of classes IX-X.

V. Read Sana's reply to her team leader, regarding the preparation of an important presentation. 1

I'm sorry I forgot ma'am. I'll have the presentation ready for you very soon today.

Report Sana's reply by completing the following sentence correctly.

Sana apologised for having forgotten and said _____

VI. Identify and correct the error in the given line taken from an online news report: 1

Nearly most shop was closed for the public holiday.

Option No.	Error	Correction
A	most	every
B	shop	shops
C	was	were
D	the	that

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

The manager _____ consider the proposal before making a decision. 1

A. will B. should C. might D. can

VIII. Complete the given sentence about the reaction of some friends, by selecting the correct option: 1

The group of friends _____ excited at the prospect of their upcoming adventure.

A. are B. has C. is D. were

IX. Choose the correct option to fill the blank. 1

I looked inside the bucket and saw there was _____ water in it, so they had to add more to use.

A. little B. any C. few D. least

X. Fill in the blank with the correct option from those given in the brackets. 1

Everyone is saying that Farhana's chances are bright in the upcoming tournament and she _____ (must / may) become the youngest football player ever.

XI. Fill in the blank to complete the sentence in a teacher's diary by choosing the correct option. 1

_____ student in the class submitted their assignment on time.

A. All B. One C. Every D. A

XII. Complete the given opinion by filling the blank with correct option. 1

The experience of watching the movie left me _____ grateful for knowing the importance of being empathetic to others.

A. having felt B. feeling C. felt D. feels

CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (10)

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

4A. You are Rajan/Rohini, living at D-25, Anand Sector, Hyderabad. Write a letter to the editor of the Daily Times, Hyderabad, regarding the poor living conditions of child Labourers in tailoring units, jewellery making units and restaurants in your city. Give suggestions to improve their conditions and their right to education. You can use the following clues:

Poor living and unhealthy working conditions-long hours-not enough light-childhood become a curse- all work and no play-no basic and compulsory education.

OR

4B. You are Aruna/Arjun C.C.A. in-charge of St. Joseph's High School. You have read an advertisement in a newspaper regarding admission into a foreign languages institute. Write a letter in about 100-120 words to the Director of the institute *Lingua for All* making relevant inquires:

a. Eligibility b. Duration of Course c. Time Schedule d. Fee Structure e. Faculty f. Placement

5A. Co-curricular activities help to enhance holistic development and assist in inculcating critical skills and abilities to be successful and happy in the 21st century life and workplace. Based on the table given below,

write an analytical paragraph, in about 120 words, on how co-curricular activities supplement the theoretical curriculum.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS AND VALUES THAT CAN BE DEVELOPED THROUGH CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- logical and analytical thinking
- creative and critical thinking
- problem-solving skills
- leadership skills
- social, emotional and communication skills
- recreational value
- enhanced technology skills

OR

5B. Life expectancy is defined as the average number of additional years a person could expect to live if current mortality trends were to continue for the rest of that person's life. It is a standard indicator for the level of socio-economic development. Based on the data given below, write an analytical paragraph, in about 120 words, analyzing the projected life expectancy of men and women over a period of time and assessing the possible causes.

Projected Life Expectancy 2001-2025

Year	Age of Men	Age of Women
2001-2005	63.8	66.1
2006-2010	65.8	68.1
2011-2015	67.3	69.8
2016-2020	68.8	71.7
2021-2025	69.8	72.3

SECTION-C: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK

(40 Marks)

6. Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two.

(5)

A. Read the following extracts and answer the question/complete the sentences that follow:

“You are disappointed”, Ausable said wheezily over his shoulder. “You were told that I was a secret agent, a spy, dealing in espionage and danger. You wished to meet me because you are a writer, young and romantic. You envisioned mysterious figures in the night, the crack of pistols, drugs in the wine.”

(The Midnight Visitor)

I. What kind of life did Fowler imagine Ausable led? 1

II. Why did ‘he’ want to meet Ausable? 2

III. Complete the given sentence: 1

Fowler was disappointed to meet Ausable because _____.

IV. What is the meaning of the word *Espionage*? 1

- (a) Finding out secret information
- (b) Dealing with careless behaviour
- (c) Ignorant about certain things
- (d) Dealing indifferently

B. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

“We, who were outlaws, not so long ago, have today been given the rare privilege to be host to the nations of the world on our own soil. We thank all of our distinguished international guests for having come to take possession with the people of our country of what is, after all, a common victory for justice, for peace, for human dignity. 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. Let freedom reign. God bless Africa!

(Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom)

- I. The guests at the spectacular ceremony are being called distinguished because: 1
- They have been invited as guests to attend it.
 - They are eminent world leaders witnessing it.
 - They are visiting the country for this purpose.
 - They have resumed diplomatic relations with the country.
- II. Mention the words or phrase from the extract that encompasses the quality of equality, liberty, and self-respect. 1
- III. Why was this a 'rare privilege' according to the speaker? Elaborate in about 40 words with reference to the extract. 2
- IV. How do you think the speaker feels? Choose the option that best fits his state of mind. 1
- (i) emotional (ii) elated (iii) unmindful
 - (i) elated (ii) unmindful (iii) overwhelmed
 - (i) overwhelmed (ii) elated (iii) honoured
 - (i) elated (ii) honoured (iii) unmindful

7. Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two. (5)

A. Read the following text carefully and answer the questions that follow:

"But he's locked in a concrete cell,
His strength behind bars,
Stalking the length of his cage,
Ignoring visitors."

(A Tiger in the Zoo)

- Why is the tiger stalking the length of his cage? (1)
 - What is the significance of the use of the word *locked* to describe the concrete cell where the tiger is kept and how does it contrast with the tiger presence in its natural habitat? Answer in about 40 words. (2)
 - Complete the sentence with the appropriate option: (1)
The lines from the poem tell us that the tiger is _____.
- enjoying his time in the cell
 - being indifferent to visitors because it is a daily routine for him
 - not as strong as his counterpart in the jungle
 - wanting to be free from the cage
- IV. Identify the type of literary device used in the line: (1)

'But he's locked in a concrete cell'

B. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:

"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."

- Why would the whispers be silent tomorrow? (1)
- The forest undergoes tremendous transformation overnight. Discuss with reference to the poem "The Trees" (2)
- Which word in the stanza means the same as 'quiet'? (1)
- Which poetic device has been used in the last line 'its pieces flash now in the crown of the tallest oak.' (1)

- a. Simile
- b. Alliteration
- c. imagery
- d. Personification

8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words: (4X3=12 Marks)

- I. In every alternate stanza, Amanda drifts into fantasy and yearns for more freedom and silence. Justify and elaborate the reason. 3 (Amanda)
- II. How does Chubukov's reaction to Lomov's marriage proposal reflect his priorities and values? 3 (The Proposal)
- III. Family played a vital role in the first flight of the young seagull. Give examples to substantiate the above statement. 3 (Two Stories about Flying)
- IV. Even today any person with a jackfruit-like physical appearance is easily compared to a baker. Explain. 3 (Glimpses of India)
- V. Why did Custard cry for a nice safe cage? Why is the dragon called a cowardly dragon? 3 (A Tale of Custard the Dragon)

9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. (2X3=6 Marks)

- I. Do you think that Mrs. Pumphrey was really responsible for Tricki's illness? Justify with reference to the text. 3 (A Triumph of Surgery)
- II. How would you have reacted if you were one of the guests witnessing Bholi's wedding when she refused to marry Bishamber Nath? 3 (Bholi)
- III. What happened when Mr. and Mrs. Hall entered the stranger's room? 3 (Footprints without Feet)

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words: (1X6=6 Marks)

- A. Both the texts, 'For Anne Gregory' and 'The Sermon at Benares,' grapple with the idea that external attributes are fleeting and subject to decay. Examine the similarities. 6
- B. You have been chosen to address the school assembly on the occasion of Women's Day. You choose to speak on the resilience and indomitable spirit of the young girls: Anne Frank and Valli. Prepare the speech draft, with reference to the commonality and contrast in the situations and circumstances of both the girls. 6 (Madam Rides the Bus and From the Diary of Anne Frank)

You may begin like this:

Good morning everyone. Today, I'd like to express my insights on the resilience of two young girls

_____.

You may end this way:

To conclude I'd like to say that _____.

Thank you.

11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words: (1X6=6 Marks)

- A. Imagine you're one of the columnists in a magazine. People write to you about their issues, seeking your advice. Matilda writes to you about the guilt she feels for having lost a necklace and how it changed the course of her life and her husband's. What would be your advice to her? 6 (The Necklace)
- B. Trust and compassion can reform a person. Justify this statement in the light of the lesson The Thief's Story. 6
