ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE - Code No. 184
SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER
CLASS-X- (2026-27)

Time allowed: 3 Hrs. **Maximum Marks: 80**

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. **10**

(1) Have you ever really looked at a toy store shelf and wondered what you're actually looking at? Rows upon rows of plastic products—bright, shiny, and visually appealing. We barely question them anymore. But here's a question worth asking: does the type of toy we choose really matter? The answer might surprise you. It turns out that choosing between a conventional plastic toy and an eco-friendly alternative is about far more than just grabbing something off the shelf.

(2) Let's be honest—plastic toys are everywhere. They've been the default choice for generations, and there's a reason: they're affordable, they're designed to grab attention, and they work. However, what exactly are we getting when we buy a mass-produced plastic toy? Often, we're getting something made with chemicals like BPA* and lead, substances that make manufacturing cheaper. These aren't just abstract risks floating in the background. They're real concerns that affect real people, especially children who interact with these toys daily.

(3) This is precisely why eco-friendly toys matter so much. Crafted from organic cotton, sustainable wood, and recycled materials, they ask a fundamental question: what if toys could be safe, engaging, and environmentally responsible all at once? When we choose these alternatives, we're not just buying a toy—we're making a statement about what we value.

(4) Ever noticed how a wooden block can keep a child entertained for hours, while some plastic gadget loses its appeal in minutes? There's a reason for that. Eco-friendly toys often engage children's minds differently. Natural materials offer something special—rich textures, varied tactile experiences, and a kind of sensory richness that engages the brain in deeper ways. A wooden building set doesn't just entertain; it challenges children to think, problem-solve, and create. It demands imagination in a way that pre-programmed, plastic alternatives never can.

There is no change in the Question Paper Design and Assessment Pattern for Academic Session 2026-27

(5) Think about the typical lifespan of a plastic toy. It breaks, it ends up in landfills, and it's replaced. Eco-friendly toys, however, are designed to survive. They're built to last years, to be passed along, to become keepsakes rather than waste. This durability speaks volumes about the difference between toys made purely for profit and toys made with purpose.

(6) Ultimately, the choice between conventional and eco-friendly toys reflects something deeper: how we think about consumption itself. Do we want a world where toys are disposable trinkets, or do we want objects that matter—that are safe, engaging, and kind to the planet? It's not just about toys. It's about the choices we make every single day and what those choices say about who we are and what kind of future we're building.

*BPA: Bisphenol A, a chemical used primarily in the production of plastic items

Created for academic usage / 435 words

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

I In Paragraph 1, what does the phrase ‘rows upon rows of plastic products' emphasise? 1

II Complete the following with the correct option from the two given. 1

When the writer says, 'These aren’t just abstract risks floating in the background', he refers to _____. (paragraph 2)

(a) the potential health hazards present in mass-produced plastic toys that consumers often ignore or are unaware of.
(b) the general concerns about toy safety that exist in society but don't directly affect individual purchasing decisions.

III The writer mentions, ‘organic cotton, sustainable wood, and recycled materials’ in paragraph 3. 1
Which of the following is an example of ‘recycled material’?

A. Hand spun clothes certified by environmental organisations
B. Cotton grown without pesticides or synthetic fertilisers
C. Plastic bottles processed and converted into shoes
D. Wood treated with chemical preservatives to extend lifespan

IV In paragraphs 2 and 3, the writer contrasts the characteristics of plastic toys with eco-friendly toys. 2
What does this comparison reveal about the writer's perspective on consumer responsibility?

V Identify whether the following statement is True or False. (Paragraph 4) 1
The sensory richness of eco-friendly toys primarily enhances children's entertainment value rather than their cognitive development.

There is no change in the Question Paper Design and Assessment Pattern for Academic Session 2026-27

VI Complete the analogy by selecting one of the two correct options (a) or (b). 1

disposable trinkets: landfills:: _____ :_____

(a) eco-friendly toys: environmental responsibility
(b) meaningful keepsakes: future generations

VII Read the statements (i–v) given below and select the option that correctly classifies them as Facts (F) or Opinions (O). 1

(i) BPA and lead are used in the production of mass-produced plastic toys.
(ii) Plastic toys are affordable and attractive, which makes them popular.
(iii) Eco-friendly toys are designed to survive longer and are not discarded as waste.
(iv) Wooden toys engage children's minds in deeper and more meaningful ways than plastic toys.
(v) The choice between plastic and eco-friendly toys is about mindful consumption.

A. (i) O (ii) O (iii) F (iv) F (v) O
B. (i) F (ii) F (iii) O (iv) O (v) F
C. (i) O (ii) F (iii) F (iv) O (v) O
D. (i) F (ii) O (iii) F (iv) O (v) O

VIII What might be the author's purpose of asking rhetorical questions** throughout the passage? 2

** *a figure of speech in which questions are asked for a reason other than to get an answer*

2. Read the following passage. 10

(1) A 2023 report found that 'audio routines' have become a mainstay in people's daily lives. Unlike traditional content, audio-based experiences offer a hands-free and eyes-free experience, allowing individuals to stay entertained or absorb information outside the confines of a screen or paper book. The audiobooks market in India is also witnessing intense growth, fuelled by the rapid adoption of smartphones and a rising preference for convenient, on-the-go content consumption.

(2) A survey found that half of audiobook listeners spend between 1-4 hours per week listening to audiobooks and 33% spend 5-10 hours a week. When asked in which scenarios they're most likely to hit play on an audiobook, commute was the most popular choice. 63% said they listen to audiobooks while on the go, 54% while completing household chores and 44% while relaxing or falling asleep. 56% of the listeners generally prefer to listen to fiction over non-fiction books.

(3) 67% of audiobook listeners say they read more with audiobooks compared to books in traditional text format. When integrated into daily routines, audiobooks serve as a channel for more people to enjoy literature, accommodating those with the busiest of schedules.

(4) The audiobook format also offers a user-friendly format that enables a diverse population, including individuals with physical or neurological limitations to have access to literature. Additionally, it serves as a valuable resource for individuals with attention span difficulties, allowing them to engage with books despite the challenges of sitting down and maintaining a focus on reading.

Created for academic usage / 253 words

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

I Complete the sentence by selecting the correct option from those given in the bracket. 1
The word 'mainstay' as used in Paragraph 1 suggests that audiobooks have _____.
(overpowered people's lives/ become a support in people's lives)

II What does relationship between smartphone adoption and audiobook suggest about consumer preferences? (Paragraph 1) 1

III Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below. 1
Assertion: The most preferred scenario for listening to audiobooks is when travelling.
Reason: During travel, listeners struggle with short attention span problems.

A. Both assertion and reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation.
B. Both are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation.
C. The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
D. The assertion is false, but the reason is true.

IV Choose the correct option to complete the sentence. 1
All of the following are mentioned in paragraph 2 EXCEPT—

A. 50% of audiobook listeners spend between one and four hours weekly listening to audiobooks.
B. A little more than half of the audiobook listeners prefer fiction over non-fiction content.
C. Approximately 30% percent of listeners spend less than one hour weekly listening to audiobooks.
D. Audiobooks have made it possible for people to appreciate literature.

V Compare the preference for fiction (56%) versus non-fiction in audiobooks. What might this suggest about listener expectations? (Paragraph 2) 2

VI Complete the sentence suitably. (Paragraph 3) 1
Audiobook adoption has worked well for people with busy lifestyles because _____.

VII Identify the phrase from paragraph 4 that indicates that everyone would find audiobooks easy and comfortable. 1

VIII A student with reading difficulties wants to complete his reading assignments in school. Why would an audio book option be an advantage? (Paragraph 4) 1

IX Suggest one reason why the title, 'Rise of Audiobooks: Transforming Reading' is a suitable title for the passage. 1

There is no change in the Question Paper Design and Assessment Pattern for Academic Session 2026-27

SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR 20

GRAMMAR

3. Complete **any ten** of the twelve following tasks, as directed.

I Fill in the blank with the correct option to complete the opening line of a formal email: 1
Dear Ms. Sharma,
We are writing to confirm that your application for the scholarship programme _____ by our selection committee last week.

A. has been reviewed
B. was reviewed
C. has been reviewing
D. will be reviewed

II Report the doctor's statement. 1
Doctor: "You should reduce your sugar intake and exercise regularly."

III Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the official notice: 1
Notification to All Students,

Please note that _____ applicants who have submitted incomplete forms are required to resubmit their documents by Friday.

A. these B. those
C. this D. that

IV Read Isha's statement to her class teacher about missing school: 1

"I was absent yesterday because I had to visit the dentist for my regular check-up."

Report Isha's statement by completing the following sentence:
Isha explained that _____.

V Identify and correct the error in the given line from a technical report: 1
Neither the software developers nor the project manager were aware of the compatibility issues.

Error	Correction

VI Select the correct option to complete the given sentence from the school's safety policy: 1
All students _____ wear their identification badges at all times while on campus premises.

A. might B. could
C. must D. may

VII The given question has an error. Select the option that correctly identifies the error and the correction. 1

What among these books have you read before?

No.	Error	Correction
A.	What	Which
B.	among	between
C.	these	this
D.	have	has

VIII Juhi asked her friend the following question: 1

"Are you prepared for the mathematics test next week?"

Report it correctly to complete the following sentence.

Juhi asked her friend _____.

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

Saira was disappointed when she saw there was _____ food left to serve the guests.

A. few B. least

C. any D. little

X Identify the error and suggest the correction. 1

Each of the participants in the Science Fair have been given a set of guidelines to follow during the competition.

Error	Correction

XI Fill in the blank to complete the teacher's advice by choosing the correct options from those given in brackets. 1

If you practice regularly, you _____ win the quiz competition next month. (might / must)

XII Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb given in the brackets from a travel blog. 1

This hill station _____ (lose) its natural beauty since the last time I saw it.

WRITING

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

4 A. You are Maya Nair, a concerned resident of Green View Colony, Guwahati. You feel that your colony lacks adequate recreational and community spaces for residents of all age groups. The existing facilities are insufficient. Write a letter to the Secretary of your Resident Welfare Association (RWA) in 120 words, highlighting the need for establishing a community centre in the colony explaining how it will benefit the residents. **5**

OR

4 B. You are Nandan Banerjee, a concerned citizen. Write a letter to the Editor of a local daily raising concern over the open burning of hospital and domestic waste in your city. Draw attention to its serious health implications, the need for scientific waste disposal practices and public awareness. **5**

5 A. Read the product details mentioned on an e-commerce website for a student study desk organiser. **5**

⇒ Multi-compartment storage with dedicated slots for books, stationery, and digital devices
⇒ Eco-friendly bamboo wood construction with non-toxic finish
⇒ Adjustable shelves to accommodate different item sizes
⇒ Compact yet spacious design suitable for a small room space
⇒ Anti-slip base prevents sliding on smooth surfaces
⇒ Available in natural wood and light oak finishes
⇒ Backed by a 5-year durability guarantee

Now, analyse why this desk organiser would be a good purchase for students. Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words, considering factors such as its sustainability, organisational efficiency, optimal use of space, functionality, and student appeal.

OR

5 B. Vikram, a student of Grade X, has been offered the position of President of his school's Debate Club, which requires 5-7 hours weekly commitment. Study the SWOT notes and write an analytical paragraph in 100-120 to evaluate whether accepting this responsibility is advisable. **5**

Strengths	**W**eaknesses	**O**pportunities	**T**hreats
Develops public speaking and leadership skills	Significant time commitment away from studies	Recognition and awards when representing school in state or national level competitions	Risk of burnout balancing multiple responsibilities
Creates strong network of like-minded peers	Managing team conflicts and disagreements	Opportunity to collaborate with other school clubs for joint events	Conflicts with board examination preparation schedule & potential decline in academic performance
Access to debate mentors and senior members who can provide guidance and support	Limited time available for other activities	Useful for university admissions in future due to leadership experience	Criticism or negative feedback from members

SECTION C **40**

LITERATURE TEXTBOOK

6. Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two. 5

A Natalya: But what's this? Why, you're in evening dress! Well, I never! Are you going to a ball or what? Though I must say you look better…Tell me, why are you got up like that?
Lomov: [excited] You see, honoured Natalya Stepanova…the fact is, I've made up my mind to ask you to hear me out…Of course you'll be surprised and perhaps even angry, but a…[aside] It's awfully cold!
Natalya: What's the matter? [pause] Well?
Lomov: I shall try to be brief: You must know, honoured Natalya Stepanova, that I have long, since my childhood, in fact, had the privilege of knowing your family. My late aunt and her husband, from whom, as you know, I inherited my land, always had the greatest respect for your father and your late mother. (The Proposal)

I Which of the following statements best explains Natalya's attitude in the opening lines of the extract? 1
(a) She is genuinely surprised by his formal attire and expresses sincere admiration while seeking an explanation.
(b) She mocks his formal dress with sarcasm to conceal her anxiety about his unexpected and unusual appearance.

II What do the ellipses (…) in Lomov's speech highlight? 1

A. reveals his struggle to articulate his prepared thoughts
B. shows his overconfidence and casual attitude
C. demonstrates his anxiety and emotional turmoil
D. indicates a lack of intelligence and education

III Complete the following suitably. 1
Lomov is quite formal in his conversation with Natalya and prepares lengthy justifications because he _____.

IV How does the author's use of stage directions such as [excited] and [aside] enhance the dramatic tension in this extract? 2

OR

B Sweat broke out over her whole body. Would her stammering tongue again disgrace her? For the sake of this kind woman, however she decided to make an effort. She had such a soothing voice; she would not laugh at her.
"Bh-Bh-Bho-Bho," she began to stammer.
"Well done, well done," the teacher encouraged her. "Come on, now— the full name?

"Bh-Bh-Bho-Bholi." At last she was able to see it and felt relieved as if it was a great achievement.
"Well done." The teacher patted her affectionately and said, "Put the fear out of your heart and you will be able to speak like everyone else."
Bholi looked up as if to ask, "Really?" (Bholi)

I Complete the sentence suitably. 1

Bholi shows some physical symptoms like sweat breaking out over her body and stammering. This shows she is _____.

II Choose the correct option to complete the sentence. 1
"Would her stammering tongue again disgrace her?" The author has used this question as a narrative technique, with the aim of _____.

A. convincing readers to judge Bholi
B. showcasing Bholi's inabilities
C. giving readers a peek into Bholi's thoughts
D. showing sympathy for Bholi

III The teacher's statement, "Put the fear out of your heart and you will be able to speak like everyone else." suggests that Bholi's primary obstacle is psychological rather than physical. Elaborate. 2

IV Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket. 1
Bholi's gesture of looking up 'as if to ask, Really?' reveals a mix of _____.
(hope and hesitation/ disobedience and doubt)

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

A. Don't eat that chocolate, Amanda!
Remember your acne, Amanda!
Will you please look at me when I'm speaking to you,
Amanda! (Amanda)

I Complete the sentence suitably. 1
The speaker connects chocolate consumption to acne, which reveals her concerns regarding _____.

II How does the speaker's demand 'look at me when I'm speaking to you' suggest the dynamic between them? 1

A. The speaker asserts authority which has a great influence on Amanda.
B. Amanda is defiant and the speaker feels disrespected and ignored.
C. Amanda is interested in listening to the speaker but is distracted.
D. The speaker feels insecure and anxious about losing Amanda.

III Fill in the blank with ONE suitable word. 1

The speaker's use of 'Will you please' in the beginning of the third line suggests a _____ rather than a demand.

IV Analyse how the repetition of Amanda's name and the use of exclamation marks contribute to the tone and mood of the extract. 2

OR

B. 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. (The Trees)

I Complete the sentence suitably. 1

The word 'listen' at the opening of the extract creates a sense of _____, pulling the reader directly into the dramatic manner of nature's revolt.

II Choose the correct option to complete the sentence. 1

The phrase 'stumbling forward' suggests that the trees' movement is _____.

A. graceful and purposeful
B. deliberate and controlled
C. unsteady and uncertain
D. rapid and aggressive

III Fill in the blank with ONE suitable word. 1
The repeated imagery of 'breaking' in the extract suggests that it is not destruction but a/an _____part of any meaningful change or liberation.

IV How does the sequence of sensory experiences in the extract enhance meaning and impact readers? 2

8. Answer ***any four*** of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words**.** **4x 3=12**

I How does the poem use the 'cat metaphor' to characterise the fog's nature? 3
(Fog)

II The writer uses humour to simultaneously entertain readers and critique societal attitudes toward animals. Elaborate. (Mijbil the Otter) 3

III How does the hailstorm function as more than just a weather event in the story? 3
(A Letter to God)

IV Assess how the poem's message about not judging by appearances still relevant today. (The Tale of Custard the Dragon) 3

V Why has the writer included the legends about tea's origin-the Chinese emperor's story and Bodhidharma's tale in the narrative? 3

(Glimpses of India- Tea from Assam)

9. Answer ***any two*** of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words**.** **2 x 3 = 6**

I Compare Hari's initial approach to Anil with his honest smile at the story's end. What does this change reveal? (The Thief's Story) 3

II Analyse how the writer uses irony throughout the story to convey the message that vanity and materialism lead to one's downfall. (The Necklace) 3

III Why does Horace take off his gloves to give the young lady his lighter? What does this action tell us about his state of mind at that crucial moment? 3

(A Question of Trust)

10 Answer ***any one*** of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. **6**

A. Valli in 'Madam Rides the Bus' and the young seagull in 'His First Flight' are protagonists of the story who undergo personal transformation. Compare and contrast how the catalysts in these stories drive the change.

OR

B. The poems, 'The Ball Poem' and 'Dust of Snow' capture brief moments that teach lasting lessons. How do these poems propose that momentary events generate a lasting impact?

11. Answ**er *any one*** of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. **6**

A. In the story, 'The Midnight Visitor' the 'balcony' functions as the story's central plot device, yet it never physically exists. Discuss what the balcony symbolises in the story.

OR

B. In 'The Book that Saved the Earth', Think-Tank rules Mars with absolute authority and arrogance, yet he makes ridiculous mistakes throughout the play. Evaluate how this impacts his leadership.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE - Code No. 184
MARKING SCHEME
CLASS-X- (2026-27)

General Instructions: -

1. The Marking Scheme carries only suggested value points for the answers / sample answers. The value points are in the nature of Guidelines only and do not constitute the complete answer. The students can have their own expression and if the expression is correct, then due marks should be awarded accordingly.
2. If a student has attempted an extra question, answer of the question deserving more marks should be retained and the other answer scored out with a note "Extra Question".
3. If more than one option is mentioned in the answer of multiple choice questions, then no marks to be awarded.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

SECTION A: READING		
Discursive Passage		
1.	**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.**	**10**
I	It emphasises the overwhelming abundance and endless rows of plastic toys in stores, highlighting how pervasive plastic products have become in consumer culture.	1
II	(a) the potential health hazards present in mass-produced plastic toys that consumers often ignore or are unaware of.	1
III	C Plastic bottles processed and converted into shoes	1
IV	The writer's comparison reveals that consumer responsibility extends beyond mere convenience and affordability. By highlighting the presence of harmful chemicals (BPA and lead) in plastic toys alongside the safer, more sustainable materials used in eco-friendly toys, the writer suggests that consumers should prioritise children's health and environmental impact over cost. The writer emphasises that making informed choices is both a personal and collective responsibility.	2
V	False	1
VI	(b) is correct. [maintains the logical relationship of the original analogy. Just as 'disposable trinkets (throwaway items) end up in 'landfills' (waste and environmental destruction); 'meaningful keepsakes' end up being with 'future generations' (as a legacy).]	1
VII	D. (i) F (ii) O (iii) F (iv) O (v) O	1

VIII	The author uses rhetorical questions to engage readers directly and provoke thought. It is to make readers reflect on their choices. The questions encourage critical thinking and build a persuasive argument that guides readers toward accepting the need for eco-friendly alternatives.	2
	Case-Based Passage	
2.	**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.**	**10**
I	become a support in people's lives	1
II	It suggests that consumers increasingly prefer digital, on-the-go content fitting mobile lifestyles, rather than physical books or stationary screen-based media.	1
III	C. The assertion is true, but the reason is false.	1
IV	C. Approximately 30% of listeners spend less than one hour weekly listening to audiobooks.	1
V	The strong fiction preference (56%) indicates audiobooks are used for narrative-driven content. Storytelling formats likely work better in audio where the narrator's voice and the intricacies of the plot enhance engagement.	2
VI	audiobooks allow individuals to consume literature while engaging in other activities, eliminating the need to carve out dedicated time for conventional reading practices.	1
VII	user-friendly format	1
VIII	Any one • Audio format removes text processing barriers especially for students who struggle with reading such as decoding words & reading sentences. • Engagement occurs despite reading challenges when one is listening to audiobooks.	1
IX	Any one • This title comprehensively captures all major themes of the passage as it acknowledges the paradigm shift shown by the 67% of listeners who read more with audiobooks. • This title balances key ideas covered in all four paragraphs, growing popularity of audiobooks, while identifying key benefits.	1
	SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20 marks)	
	GRAMMAR (10 marks)	
3.	Complete **any ten** of twelve of the following tasks, as directed.	
I	B. was reviewed	1
II	The doctor advised/ recommended the patient to reduce his/ her/ their sugar intake and exercise regularly.	1
III	B. those	1

IV	she had been absent the previous day because she had had to visit the dentist for her regular check-up.	1
V	Error: were Correction: was	1
VI	C. must	1
VII	A. what - which	1
VIII	if she was prepared for the mathematics test the following week.	1
IX	D. little	1
X	Error: have Correction: has	1
XI	might	1
XII	has lost	1
	WRITING SKILLS (10 MARKS)	
4.	**Format-1 Content-2 Organisation of ideas-1 Accuracy-1**	**1 x 5 =5**
A.	(The response may be created from the following content points) ⇒ Issue and context • Insufficient recreational facilities in the colony • Lack of dedicated space for community activities and social gatherings • No indoor play areas for children and youth • Absence of venue for cultural programs and events ⇒ Need for Community Centre • Essential for promoting social bonding among residents-creates sense of belonging and colony pride • Provides safe, organised space for multiple age groups • Bridges gap between different families and communities ⇒ Benefits for Children and Youth • Indoor games, activities, and educational programs • Safe environment for recreation away from traffic • Develops skills and talents through workshops ⇒ Benefits for Adults and Elderly • Venue for community meetings and discussions • Space for cultural programs and celebrations • Fitness and yoga classes • Social events to reduce isolation among senior citizens ⇒ Appeal to RWA Secretary • Request for action and timely implementation • Call for cooperation from all residents and authorities • Urgency of meeting this fundamental community need	

	OR	
B.	The response may be created from the following value points: ⇒ Issue and context • Open burning of hospital/biomedical waste — used syringes, bandages and other disposed items— in public spaces • Domestic garbage burnt on roadsides, open plots, and near residential areas • Practice widespread, frequent, and largely unchecked in the city ⇒ Health Implications • Release of toxic gases in the air, soil and groundwater contamination from chemical residue and ash • Causes respiratory diseases — asthma, bronchitis, chronic lung damage • Spread of infectious diseases from unprocessed biomedical waste • Particularly harmful to children, elderly, and pregnant women ⇒ Scientific Waste Disposal Practices • Strict enforcement of biomedical waste disposal protocols in all hospitals and clinics • Colour-coded bin system for segregation — biomedical, recyclable, and organic waste • Regular and timely municipal collection of domestic waste to discourage open burning ⇒ Public Awareness • Awareness campaigns in hospitals, schools, and residential colonies about responsible waste disposal • Involvement of Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) in local monitoring • Media campaigns highlighting health and environmental dangers of open burning ⇒ Appeal to Editor and Authorities • Request the newspaper to amplify the issue and reach a wider audience • Urge civic authorities — Municipal Corporation and Pollution Control Board — to act swiftly • Appeal to citizens to act responsibly and report violations	
5.	**Content - 2 Organisation of ideas - 2 Accuracy - 1**	**1 x 5 =5**
Analytical paragraph writing should **NOT** be confused with writing a description of given elements or writing a summary. It requires examining the given elements closely and sharing inputs based on given stimulant. It carries no title or heading.		
A.	**Suggested Response:** The student study desk organiser is an excellent purchase for students who are academically focused and like to keep things organised. Firstly, its multi-compartment storage with dedicated slots for books, stationery, and devices keeps the study space organised and clutter-free, helping one focus better on studies. Secondly, the eco-friendly bamboo wood construction shows environmental responsibility, making it a sustainable choice. Moreover, adjustable shelves allow storage space customisation for different-sized items. The compact design is perfect for small rooms. Additionally, the anti-slip base	

	prevents the organiser from sliding on smooth surfaces, ensuring safety and stability. Furthermore, the natural wood and light oak finishes look attractive and suit any room décor. Finally, the five-year durability guarantee, guarantees quality and excellent value for money, making this organiser an excellent choice and a smart investment for students.	
	OR	
B.	**Suggested Response:** Accepting the Debate Club presidency offers Vikram significant opportunities to develop leadership and public speaking skills while building a strong network of peers. The recognition gained at competitions and mentorship from experienced debaters could strengthen his university applications in future. However, these benefits are offset by some challenges. The 5–7-hour weekly commitment directly conflicts with board examination preparation, risking academic decline and burnout. Additionally, managing team conflicts and handling criticism demands substantial emotional effort. While collaborating with other clubs presents growth opportunities, it results in limited time available for personal interests and recreational activities. Consequently, Vikram should accept this position only if he can establish robust time management strategies and prioritise academic commitments. With proper planning, the benefits of leadership development and personal growth likely outweigh the challenges.	
SECTION D: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (40 marks)		
6.	**Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two.**	**5**
A.	**Prose (The Proposal)**	
I	(a) is correct [Natalya's words demonstrate genuine surprise and curiosity, not mockery. Her sincere compliment "Though I must say you look better…" and straightforward questions show she is simply trying to understand why he's dressed formally.]	1
II	C. demonstrates his anxiety and emotional turmoil.	1
III	Any one • is nervous/ anxious about proposing to her and wants to establish his worthiness and family credentials to gain her approval • hopes to impress her by demonstrating his respect and his right intentions through formal address and family connections.	1
IV	The stage directions significantly enhance the dramatic tension in several ways: • [excited] reveals Lomov's emotional state despite his formal speech, showing the gap between his outward composure and inner agitation, creating dramatic irony. • [aside] allows readers/audience to understand Lomov's private thoughts, making his anxiety visible and relatable, while emphasising his nervousness through this interjection about it being cold.	2
	OR	
B.	**Prose (Bholi)**	

I	extremely scared and anxious/ nervous and apprehensive	1
II	C. giving readers a peek into Bholi's thoughts [The author uses the narrative technique of internal monologue. This technique allows readers to directly access Bholi's thoughts, emotions, and fears—providing a glimpse into her psychological state.]	1
III	Despite her stammer, Bholi is able to say her full name after receiving encouragement from the teacher. It shows that anxiety and the fear of being judged are the primary obstacles-which are psychological. By addressing Bholi's emotional state through compassion and reassurance, the teacher enables Bholi to overcome the problem of stammering.	2
IV	hope and hesitation	1
7.	**Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two.**	**5**
A.	**Poetry (Amanda)**	
I	Amanda's physical appearance and health OR immediate consequences of Amanda's choices	1
II	B. Amanda is defiant and the speaker feels disrespected and ignored.	1
III	request	1
IV	The repetition of 'Amanda' emphasises the speaker's frustration and creates an insistent, nagging quality. The exclamation marks convey urgency, exasperation, and emotional intensity. Together, they establish a tone of frustrated concern and create a mood of tension and conflict between the speaker and Amanda.	2
	OR	
B.	**Poetry (The Trees)**	
I	sense of immediacy/ urgency	1
II	C. unsteady and uncertain, breaking through all obstacles	1
III	fundamental or inevitable	1
IV	This sensory progression reflects the transformation process—chaos begins with sound of the glass breaking, intensifies through struggle shown by movement of trees stumbling forward, concludes in supreme beauty of flashing moonlight. Engaging multiple senses immerses readers emotionally in the experience rather than merely informing them.	2
8.	**Answer *any four* of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words.**	**4x 3=12**
Content – 2 Expression – 1 Accuracy – Deduct up to 1 mark from overall		
I	Fog arrives silently like a cat's quiet footfall, settles, observes, then departs without disruption. The comparison gives fog feline qualities — mysterious, aloof,	3

	and intensely observant — transforming an ordinary natural phenomenon into something unknowable. It also suggests a deeper connection between living and non-living elements of nature, leaving a lasting impression on the imagination.	
II	The comic descriptions serve dual purposes — Mijbil's tap-screwing frustration and playful mischief is humorous and entertains readers, while the absurd guesses of Londoners and the labourer's indignant reaction critique human arrogance. People's insistence on fitting Mijbil into predetermined categories like 'rat' critiques human arrogance and disconnection from the natural world.	3
III	The hailstorm is a turning point that tests Lencho's faith. It destroys his crops and creates his crisis, but it also becomes the catalyst for demonstrating both his unwavering belief and the postmaster's compassion. The natural disaster reveals character and creates opportunities for human connection and kindness.	3
IV	Today's culture often judges people by superficial traits—appearance, social media presence, or initial impressions. Custard's story remains relevant in showing that true character emerges through actions under pressure, not outward appearance or shallow traits. The poem challenges modern tendencies to form instant judgments about people's worth based on limited information.	3
V	These legends humanise tea's history beyond mere facts and dates. They add cultural richness and show how different civilizations—Chinese and Indian—value tea spiritually and medically. Including legends demonstrates that tea's significance isn't purely commercial; it holds deep cultural meaning. The legends also make the narrative more engaging and memorable for readers.	3
9.	**Answer *any two* of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.**	**2 x 3=6**
Content – 2 Expression – 1 Accuracy – Deduct up to 1 mark from overall		
I	Initially, Hari manipulates Anil through calculated charm and deception. His final smile is genuine and spontaneous, requiring no effort. This contrast demonstrates authentic change—Hari moves from viewing relationships as opportunities for exploitation to valuing genuine human connection. The effortless smile suggests his change has been internalised, and is not merely a behavioural compliance.	3
II	The story weaves multiple ironies—Matilda sacrifices everything to replace a worthless necklace; ten years of poverty transform her into the very 'common woman' she despised; her pride becomes her downfall. The ultimate irony reveals that her suffering was entirely needless. The writer uses irony to critique materialism and expose how vanity leads to self-inflicted tragedy.	3
III	Removing his gloves tells us that Horace has abandoned his careful criminal protocol due to emotional manipulation. He's so eager to please the lady and be released that he forgets basic safety procedures. This action reveals his desperation, vulnerability, and how the young lady exploited his fear of prison. His loss of caution suggests he's emotionally compromised—no longer thinking like a criminal but like a desperate man seeking escape.	3

10.	**Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.**	**6**
	Content – 3 Expression – 2 Accuracy – 1	
A.	• Both Valli in ‘Madam Rides the Bus’ and the young seagull in ‘His First Flight’ are protagonists who undergo significant personal transformation. • However, they undergo transformation through contrasting catalysts. The seagull's change is driven by acute biological necessity—prolonged hunger and family isolation force instinctive action, overriding fear. His catalyst is external and involuntary: starvation compels the desperate dive, revealing dormant flying ability. • Unlike the seagull's straightforward hunger, Valli's motivation includes curiosity and yearning for experience. She has observed the bus with fascination, longing for the independence and an opportunity to discover it represents. This internal yearning—for dignity, independence, and experience beyond prescribed domestic limits—acts as a catalyst in her transformation. • However, both catalysts function identically: forcing protagonists towards liberating suppressed potential, and demonstrating that transformation requires catalysts powerful enough to overcome fear and unwillingness, whether biological desperation or independence.	6
	OR	
B.	• Both poems show that important learning can happen instantly, not slowly over time. When the ball falls into the water, the boy understands loss's permanence quickly. When snow falls on the speaker, the mood shift happens immediately. In both poems, one powerful moment seems to teach everything at once. • Berryman suggests the boy will remember this moment's lesson forever. One lost ball teaches him about loss, and responsibility—lessons that shape the rest of his life. Frost's speaker also shows lasting change: the dust of snow doesn't just make them feel better for a few minutes; it transforms how they see their day. The moment is quick, but its effect lasts. • The boy in ‘The Ball Poem’ doesn't think through loss step-by-step; he feels it deeply in one moment. The speaker in ‘Dust of Snow’ doesn't reason about beauty; they experience it directly.	6
11.	**Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.**	**6**
	Content – 3 Expression – 2 Accuracy – 1	
A.	• The balcony symbolises the power of narrative to create reality. It exists only in language—in Ausable's detailed description and Max's belief—yet it becomes more ‘real’ than the room itself because characters act upon it. Ausable constructs the balcony's existence through plausible details: explaining the building's history, describing access routes, mentioning previous intrusions. • The non-existent balcony reveals the story's focus on truth versus perception. Max accepts the balcony's existence because Ausable's account aligns with what Max expects to find in a hotel in Paris. • Ultimately, the balcony represents the triumph of storytelling over material facts. Ausable understands that controlling the narrative gives absolute power: the fictional balcony becomes more consequential than any physical barrier.	6
	OR	

B.	• Think-Tank represents the danger of absolute power combined with absolute ignorance. Think-Tank's refusal to admit errors transforms his foolishness into catastrophe. Throughout the play, he mistakes books for sandwiches, then hats, then weapons—yet insists each misinterpretation proves his genius. When corrected, he claims he knew it and is never wrong. This pattern reveals that his intelligence becomes useless without humility. • His absolute authority amplifies this flaw dangerously. As no one challenges him, Think-Tank never receives honest feedback. His space crew's fearful obedience prevents reality-check. Consequently, his errors escalate: nursery rhymes become military threats, and paranoia replaces reasoning. • By the climax, these combined flaws—arrogance plus refusal to acknowledge mistakes—drive catastrophic decisions. Seeing Humpty Dumpty's image, he panics completely, ordering Mars's evacuation. Think-Tank's character demonstrates that unchecked power combined with arrogance and foolishness creates destructive leadership. His massive brain becomes a liability rather than an asset.	6

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE - Code No. 184
SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER
CLASS-X- (2025-26)

Time allowed: 3 Hrs. **Maximum Marks: 80**

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. **10**

1 The growing preference for indigenous craft items is a welcome trend in today's globalised world, where mass-produced goods often dominate markets. These handcrafted products, rooted in the cultural and artistic traditions of their regions, offer more than just aesthetic appeal. They symbolise sustainability, support local economies, and preserve the heritage of diverse communities.

2 One of the primary reasons for choosing indigenous crafts is their eco-friendliness. Unlike factory-made products, most traditional crafts are created using natural, locally sourced materials. Artisans often employ time-tested methods that minimise waste and avoid harmful industrial processes. For example, pottery made from local clay, handwoven textiles using organic dyes, and bamboo-based crafts all have a much lower environmental footprint compared to their machine-made counterparts. By opting for these items, consumers indirectly contribute to reducing pollution and promoting sustainable practices.

3 Supporting indigenous crafts also strengthens local economies. Many artisans depend solely on their craft for livelihood, often working in small communities where opportunities for other forms of employment are limited. When people purchase their products, it provides a direct income to these artisans, empowering them and encouraging their craftsmanship. Initiatives like fair trade further ensure that artisans receive fair wages, fostering economic stability within their communities.

4 Moreover, indigenous craft items help preserve cultural heritage. Every handcrafted product carries a story—a glimpse into the traditions, beliefs, and skills passed down through generations. In India, whether it's paintings, terracotta jewellery, sculptures, athangudi tiles, mud work frames or many others, each item reflects the unique identity of

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its region. By choosing these crafts, people not only appreciate the artistry but also help keep these traditions alive in an era where cultural homogenisation threatens diversity.

5 In addition to their economic and cultural value, indigenous crafts add a personal touch to homes and wardrobes. Unlike mass-produced items, which often lack individuality, handcrafted products are unique. Each piece bears the imprint of the artisan's effort, creativity, and dedication, making it special for the buyer.

6 However, the preference for indigenous crafts requires sustained efforts to thrive. Governments, organisations, and consumers all have roles to play. Policies that promote local craftsmanship, provide training to artisans, and create global platforms for showcasing their work can boost the visibility and demand for these products. Consumers, too, must actively seek out and invest in handmade crafts rather than opting for cheaper, factory-made alternatives. Choosing indigenous craft items is a meaningful step toward a more sustainable and culturally enriched world.

Created for academic usage / 403 words

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

I Why is the growing preference for indigenous craft items described as a 'welcome trend' in paragraph 1? 1

II According to paragraph 1, the indigenous craft items have all of the following qualities EXCEPT being: 1

A. handcrafted products
B. rooted in artistic traditions
C. aesthetic in appeal
D. easily accessible

III Complete the following by selecting the correct option from those given in the brackets. 1
The usage of locally sourced materials makes the indigenous crafts _____ (traditional / eco-friendly). (Paragraph 2)

IV Select the option that is True from (a)-(c) given for what the phrase, 'time-tested methods' suggests in paragraph 2. 1

A. Artisans use traditional techniques that have been refined and proven effective over generations
B. Artisans use outdated practices that are no longer relevant in today's commercial markets.
C. Artisans follow techniques that prioritise speed and mass production over craftsmanship.

V Complete the analogy by selecting one of the two correct options (a), (b) 1
fair trade: fair wages:: _____ : _____ (Paragraph 3)

(a) employment: job security (b) mass production : reduced prices

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VI Why is supporting indigenous crafts considered an effective way to improve the economic conditions of small communities? (Paragraph 3) 2

VII What are the main ideas of paragraph 4 and paragraph 5? 1

i) Choosing indigenous crafts helps preserve cultural heritage
ii) Handcrafted products lack individuality.
iii) Indigenous crafts reflect the artisan's creativity.
iv) Indigenous crafts promote uniformity by erasing regional differences in artistic traditions.
v) Cultural homogenisation encourages people to choose indigenous crafts over mass-produced goods.

Select the correct option.

Options	Main idea of paragraph 4	Main idea of paragraph 5
A.	ii	iv
B.	v	ii
C.	i	iii
D.	iv	ii

VIII Why is it important for consumers to take an active role alongside government and organisations in sustaining indigenous crafts? (Paragraph 6) 2

2. Read the following passage. **10**

1 A recent study conducted across two age groups—students aged 10–12 and 13–16—explored their preferences for ballpoint and micro-tip pens for various writing activities such as note-taking, examinations, and personal writing. The study aimed to understand trends in writing habits and the factors influencing pen selection among students.

2 The results revealed distinct patterns based on age groups and writing purposes. Among students aged 10–12, 65% preferred ballpoint pens for note-taking, citing ease of use and affordability as key factors. However, 35% opted for micro-tip pens, valuing their precision and smooth writing. For examinations, ballpoint pens were the overwhelming choice, with 78% favouring them for their speed and reliability, while 22% stuck with micro-tip pens, appreciating their fine control.

3 In the 13–16 age group, preferences shifted slightly. For note-taking, 60% favoured micro-tip pens, highlighting their ability to produce neat, legible notes, while 40% continued to use ballpoint pens. During examinations, however, 70% still relied on ballpoint pens, indicating their consistency under time constraints. When it came to personal writing, such as journalling or creative tasks, 58% in this group chose micro-tip pens, appreciating the aesthetic appeal of finer lines, while 42% stuck with ballpoint pens for their convenience.

4 These findings point to the importance of understanding age-specific preferences and task requirements, enabling manufacturers to innovate products. Manufacturers could further explore incorporating hybrid features, such as pens offering the speed of ballpoint pens with the precision of micro-tip pens, to cater to a wider range of student preferences.

Created for academic usage / 250 words

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Answer the following questions, based on the passage above

I Why did the study most likely focus on the two specific age groups of 10–12 and 13–16? (Paragraph 1) 1

This is so because these age groups ____.

A. represent the largest population of growing students.
B. are when students develop and refine their writing habits.
C. were the easiest to survey across various schools.
D. have a natural preference for ballpoint pens.

II Identify the phrase in paragraph 1 that conveys the writer's reference to the patterns or preferences observed in how students use pens for various writing tasks. 1

III Complete the following by selecting the correct option from those given in the brackets. (Paragraph 2) 1

Geetha, aged 11, wishes to complete her practical file neatly, ensuring her work is legible and appealing. She is most likely to choose a micro-tip pen for this task because the _____ (speed / precision) offered by this type of pen helps produce tidy work.

IV What does the writer mean by ‘affordability’ while citing the high percentage of ball point pen usage? (Paragraph 2) 1

V Complete the following with the correct option.

When the writer says ‘distinct patterns’ in the line ‘The results revealed distinct patterns based on age groups and writing purposes,’ of paragraph 3, s/he means that _____. 1

A. students in both age groups use pens in the same way for all the listed purposes.
B. the preferences for pens varied according to the students' age and the type of writing task.
C. only micro-tip pens were popular across all writing tasks in the 13-16 age group.
D. students of all age groups preferred ballpoint pens for completing creative writing tasks.

VI Complete the following appropriately.

The one likely reason why more than 40% of students still chose ballpoint pens for creative tasks, even though micro-tip pens are better suited for such activities is _____. (Paragraph 3) 1

VII How are ‘aesthetic appeal’ and ‘finer lines’ connected? (Paragraph 3) 1

VIII Elaborate how hybrid features in pens would lead to a commercially viable product. (Paragraph 4) 2

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

Understanding age-specific preferences helps manufacturers design products that cater to the unique needs of different age groups, ensuring their products are both _____ as well as appealing.

SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20 marks)

GRAMMAR 10

3. Complete **any ten** of twelve of the following tasks, as directed.

I Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket for the given portion of a market research: 1

The special subscriptions of newspapers are well _____(illustrate), to make reading interesting for school students.

II Identify the error and write the correction in the given sentence from a life skills' book. 1

The road to success is not the bed of roses.

Use the given format.

Error	Correction

III Fill in the blank with the correct form of verb given in the brackets. 1

I'm so happy to see my plants again! They _____ (grow) so much since I last saw them.

IV Read the given statement. 1

They said to the guide, "We'd love to come here again next year."

Report it correctly by completing the following.
They told the guide that _____.

V Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the conclusion of a letter of placing order. 1

There would be no compromise _____the quality of items supplied.

A. regards
B. regard
C. regardless
D. regarding

VI Report the following by completing the sentence correctly. 1

"Don't try mending the trousers yourself," she warned him.

She warned him _____.

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VII 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

VIII The given question has an error. Select the option that correctly identifies the error and the correction. 1

Which kind of person does something like that?

No.	Error	Correction
A.	Which	What
B.	kind	kinds
C.	something	somethings
D.	that	this

1

IX Report the following question.

She said to her sister, “Are you joining us for lunch today?”

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 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

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WRITING

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

4A As Vaibhav, the Club in-charge of your school's Ecology Club, you strongly believe in the importance of starting Eco-Clubs in schools in the rural areas surrounding your city to promote the preservation and conservation of nature. Write a letter to the Education Secretary of your city, in about 120 words, highlighting the significance of ecological awareness and suggesting the need to establish Eco-Clubs in these schools. **5**

OR

4B As Amitha, the Vice Head Girl of Vidya Mandir, you are aware of the increasing prevalence of cyber-attacks and unauthorised exploitation of systems, networks, and technologies affecting individuals across all demographics. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily in about 120 words, stressing the urgent need to promote digital security among all age groups. Highlight the challenges posed by cyber threats and propose practical solutions to address this growing issue**.** **5**

5A You are the President of the Debate Society in your school. Two guest speakers --Mr. Rajan Sharma and Ms. Meera Kapoor, have written to express their interest in participating in your upcoming debate competition. Below are excerpts from their letters. **5**

Excerpt 1

...I am thrilled to express my interest in participating as a guest speaker at your school's debate competition. With over 10 years of experience as a public speaker and debate coach, I have guided numerous students to success in national-level competitions. My approach focuses on encouraging critical thinking and fostering a passion for debating. I have previously spoken at various schools and universities, often receiving positive feedback for my engaging sessions and practical insights. I believe my experience and knowledge can inspire and empower your students to excel in debating.

Best regards

Mr. Rajan Sharma

Excerpt 2:

...It would be a privilege to participate as a guest speaker at your school's upcoming debate competition. I have participated in international debate forums and have won accolades for my arguments on global and social issues. My strength lies in connecting with young audiences and making debates relevant to real-world scenarios. I also emphasise how debating can improve public speaking, confidence, and interpersonal skills. I look forward to sharing my journey and experiences with your students to inspire them to use debating as a tool for personal growth.

Yours sincerely

Ms. Meera Kapoor

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Analyse the information in a paragraph, justifying which guest speaker would be a better choice. Consider factors such as experience, relevance to the topic, and audience engagement.

OR

5B Jaspreet, class X, is known for her creativity, excellent communication skills, and ability to think outside the box. However, she sometimes struggles with time management and prefers collaborative efforts over working solo. She has been assigned an art-integrated project presentation and must choose a partner from Sunaina, Tabassum, and Alice. Below are the profiles of the three candidates. **5**

Sunaina: Sunaina is highly disciplined and excels in meeting deadlines. She is known for her strong organisational skills and ability to handle multiple tasks efficiently. However, she is slightly reserved and prefers working in structured, predictable environments.
Tabassum: Tabassum is enthusiastic and spontaneous, with a talent for generating unique ideas. She is an excellent artist and thrives in creative settings. However, she occasionally struggles to stay focused on tasks and complete them on time.
Alice: Alice is confident and articulate, with a flair for delivering polished presentations. She is detail-oriented and ensures that the final product is of high quality. However, she sometimes prefers to take control and may overlook collaborative efforts.

Based on the features of each candidate, analyse and decide who would be the best partner for Jaspreet. Consider aspects such as complementary strengths, teamwork, and the project's requirements.

SECTION D
LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (40 marks)

6 Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two. **5**

A. He just felt a bit dizzy Then he flapped his wings once and he soared upwards. “Ga, ga, ga, Ga, ga, ga, Gaw-col-ah,” his mother swooped past him, her wings making a loud noise. He answered her with another scream. Then his father flew over him screaming. He saw his two brothers and his sister flying around him curvetting and banking and soaring and diving. Then he completely forgot that he had not always been able to fly, and commended himself to dive and soar and curve, shrieking shrilly.

(Two Stories About Flying - First Flight)

I Contradict the view that the young seagull celebrated his maiden flight alone. 2

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II Which of the following statements best explains the young seagull's experience as he starts flying? 1

a) The young seagull immediately mastered flying and was no longer afraid.
b) The young seagull gradually gained confidence and joined his family in the air.

III What can be inferred about the young seagull's emotional state after flying with his family? 1

IV Read the following sound and movement words. 1

i) flapped
ii) shrieking
iii) swooped
iv) soared
v) screaming

Select the option that correctly categorises (i) –(v) into sound and movement words.

No.	Sound	Movement
A	i, ii, v	iii, iv
B	iv, v	i, ii, iii
C	ii, v	i, iii, iv
D	v	i, ii, iii, iv

OR

B. Historian: …You haven't heard about the Martian invasion of 2040? Tsk, tsk. What do they teach children nowadays? Well, you know, the invasion never really happened, because a single book stopped it. What was the book, you ask? A noble encyclopaedia? A tome about rockets and missiles? A secret file from outer space? No, it was none of those. It was — but here, let me turn on the historiscope and show you what happened many centuries ago, in 2040. *(She turns on projector, and points it left. Spotlight on Historian goes out...)*

(The Book That saved the Earth)

I What does the pause indicated by the dash in the line 'It was — but here, let me turn on the historiscope and show you' convey? 1

i) a sense of impatience and frustration
ii) a point of suspense and anticipation
iii) a moment of confusion and hesitation
iv) a sudden shift to lightheartedness
v) a reflective moment of deep thought

A. i, ii, v
B. Only ii
C. iii and iv
D. Only v

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II How do the stage directions, such as 'Historian turns on projector' and 'Spotlight on Historian goes out,' contribute to the atmosphere and understanding of the scene in this part of the play? 2

III Select the option that correctly completes the following. 1

The Historian dismisses the noble encyclopaedia and rockets because she wants to _____

a) convey the importance of scientific knowledge and military power in stopping the invasion.
b) stress the surprising and unexpected nature of the book that stopped the invasion.

IV What emotion is the Historian most likely conveying with the phrase 'Tsk, tsk'? 1

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

A. He is learning, well behind his desperate eyes,
The epistemology of loss, how to stand up
Knowing what every man must one day know
And most know many days, how to stand up.

(The Ball Poem)

I What emotions are most appropriately conveyed by the phrase 'desperate eyes' and 'epistemology of loss'? 1

i) despair
ii) anger
iii) frustration
iv) confusion
v) helplessness

Select the correct option.

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

II What does the phrase 'how to stand up' suggest about the boy's emotional growth? 2

III Which phrase from the extract conveys the poet's idea that loss is universal? 1

IV Fill in the blank with a phrase to suitably complete the sentence. 1

The loss of his ball symbolises _____ in life.

OR

B. Or if some time when roaming round,
A noble wild beast greets you,
With black stripes on a yellow ground,
Just notice if he eats you.

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This simple rule may help you learn
The Bengal Tiger to discern.

(*How to tell Wild Animals*)

I What does the poet imply by referring to the Bengal Tiger as a 'noble wild beast'? 1

A. The tiger is majestic and dignified despite its ferocity.
B. The tiger is kind and considerate toward humans.
C. The tiger has a royal lineage and should be revered.
D. The tiger is a symbol of fear and destruction.

II Complete the following suitably. 1

The word 'ground' in the line 'With black stripes on a yellow ground' refers to _____.

III How does the poet use humour in the description of the Bengal Tiger? 2

IV Identify the phrase in the poem that is advisory in nature. 1

8 Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 50 words each. 4x3=12

I Otters are known for their peculiar behavioural traits. Support this statement with reference to any two traits mentioned in 'Mijbil the Otter.' 3

II How does the use of repetition in the poem 'Amanda!' highlight the speaker's expectations and Amanda's responses? 3

III How can Nelson Mandela's vision of 'liberating both the oppressed and the oppressor' be applied in modern-day societies to address issues of inequality and discrimination? (Nelson Mandela – Long Walk to Freedom) 3

IV How does the line 'and then moves on' reflect the transient nature of the fog thereby contributing to the poem's deeper message about life's impermanence? (Fog) 3

V How does Chubukov's reaction to Lomov's marriage proposal reflect his priorities and values? (The Proposal) 3

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

I How does 'The Necklace' illustrate the significance of honesty as the key element for leading a happy and stress-free life? 3

II Briefly evaluate the validity of the adage 'Values are caught, not taught', in the context of the relationship between Anil and Hari Singh in 'The Thief's Story'. 3

III Griffin's experiences moments of comfort and normalcy while being invisible. How do these fleeting moments impact his sense of identity and his actions 3

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throughout 'Footprints Without Feet'?

10 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words 1 x 6

A. How does literature like ‘The Baker from Goa,’ ‘Coorg,’ and ‘Tea from Assam’ contribute to promoting tourism and raising awareness about regional cultures and traditions? 6

OR

B. The poems, ‘The Trees’ and ‘A Tiger in the Zoo’ resonate the theme of importance of freedom and the desire to break free from any kind of dominance. Examine. 6

11 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. 1 x 6

A. How does the author use the narrative technique of misdirection in 'The Midnight Visitor', to enhance the suspense and the story’s unexpected ending? 6

OR

B. Comment critically on the role of the Surgery in the ‘The Triumph of Surgery’. 6

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English Language and Literature -Code No. 184
MARKING SCHEME
CLASS-X- (2025-26)

General Instructions: -

1. *The Marking Scheme carries only suggested value points for the answers / sample answers. The value points are in the nature of Guidelines only and do not constitute the complete answer. The students can have their own expression and if the expression is correct, then due marks should be awarded accordingly.*
2. *If a student has attempted an extra question, answer of the question deserving more marks should be retained and the other answer scored out with a note "Extra Question".*
3. *If more than one option is mentioned in the answer of multiple choice questions, then no marks to be awarded.*

A: READING (20 marks)		
Discursive Passage		
1.	**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.**	**10**
I	because it counters the dominance of mass-produced goods, supports sustainability, and helps preserve cultural and artistic traditions.	1
II	D. easily accessible	1
III	eco-friendly	1
IV	(a) Artisans use traditional techniques that have been refined and proven effective over generations	1
V	(a) employment : job security [(a) is correct. Just as fair trade ensures fair wages, employment aims to provide job security and both relationships focus on fairness and stability. Mass production often prioritises efficiency and cost reduction, sometimes at the expense of fairness, environmental responsibility, or the well-being of workers. Thus, (b) does not match the context of the analogy.]	1
VI	Supporting indigenous crafts improves the economic conditions of small communities by providing artisans with a stable source of income. This empowers them to sustain their livelihoods and encourages the continuation of their craftsmanship. Additionally, it reduces economic challenges in areas where other employment opportunities are limited, creating a positive cycle of growth within these communities.	2

VII	C. i -iii [Paragraph 4 emphasises the preservation of cultural heritage (i), while paragraph 5 highlights the uniqueness and creativity reflected in indigenous crafts (iii).]	1
VIII	While governments and organisations can create supportive policies and platforms, consumers play a crucial role in driving demand for indigenous crafts. Without consumer interest and investment, these efforts may fail to translate into tangible benefits for artisans. Consumers' choices directly impact the visibility and survival of handmade crafts, making their active participation essential for creating a sustainable market and preserving cultural heritage.	2
	Case-based Passage	
2.	**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above**	**10**
I	B. are when students develop and refine their writing habits. [Option B is the most likely because the study aims to explore writing preferences, which are likely to evolve during these developmental stages.]	1
II	'trends in writing habits'	1
III	precision	1
IV	By 'affordability,' the writer refers to the lower cost of ballpoint pens compared to micro-tip pens, making them accessible and budget-friendly for students.	1
V	B. The preferences for pens varied according to the students' age and the type of writing task.	1
VI	Ballpoints do not dry out quickly unlike micro-tips / Ballpoints work on a variety of surfaces unlike microtips / Ballpoints are less likely to smudge unlike microtips/ Ballpoints pens are usually more affordable	1
VII	The 'aesthetic appeal' is closely connected to 'finer lines' because finer lines create neat, elegant, and visually pleasing writing.	1
VIII	Hybrid features in pens, such as combining the speed and reliability of ballpoint pens with the precision and aesthetic appeal of micro-tip pens, would likely result in a commercially viable product as such pens would cater to a broader demographic, meeting the needs of students across different age groups and writing tasks. This would capitalise on the growing demand for versatile and functional writing tools. Which would enhance its commercial success.	2
IX	functional / useful	1

	SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20 marks)	
	GRAMMAR (10 marks)	
3.	Complete **any ten** of twelve of the following tasks, as directed.	**10x1=10**
I	illustrated	1
II	Error – the ; Correction - a	1
III	have grown	1
IV	...they would love to go there again the following year	1
V	D. regarding	1
VI	...not to try mending the trousers himself	1
VII	B. feeling	1
VIII	A. Error -Which ; Correction - What	1
IX	She asked her sister if she was joining them for lunch that day.	1
X	may	1
XI	C. Every	1
XII	A. little	1
	WRITING SKILLS (10 marks)	
4	**Format-1 Content-2 Organisation of ideas-1 Accuracy-1**	**1X5=5**
A.	(The response may be created from the following content points) ▪ Significance of Ecological Awareness: → the role of ecological awareness in protecting natural resources. → how it can foster responsible environmental behaviour in students from an early age. → the need for collective action to address pressing environmental issues such as deforestation, pollution, and loss of biodiversity. ▪ Proposal to Start Eco-Clubs in Rural Schools: → establishing Eco-Clubs in rural schools to engage students in practical environmental activities.	

	→ how these clubs can organise tree plantations, cleanliness drives, and awareness campaigns. → the educational benefits of Eco-Clubs in building future environmentally conscious citizens. ▪ Support and Resources Needed: → Request support from the Education Department in the form of resources, funding, and guidance to set up and run the Eco-Clubs. → Propose collaborations with NGOs or environmental organizations to support these initiatives.			
	OR			
B.	(The response may be created from the following content points) ▪ Challenges Posed by Cyber Threats: → the risks of identity theft, financial fraud, and data breaches. → the vulnerability of children, the elderly, and untrained individuals to phishing scams, malware, and online predators. → how ignorance about digital security increases the impact of these threats. ▪ Urgent Need for Digital Security Awareness: → the importance of educating people about safe online practices and promoting digital hygiene. → the role of schools, workplaces, and community organisations in spreading awareness. ▪ Proposed Practical Solutions: → digital literacy programmes for all age groups. → organising workshops, webinars, and public awareness campaigns on topics like strong password creation, recognising scams, and safe browsing habits. → the implementation of stricter cybersecurity policies by authorities. ▪ Call to Action: → use of the platform of the national daily to raise awareness about digital security. → the need for collaborative efforts between individuals, organisations, and the government to tackle this issue effectively.			
5	**Content - 2**	**Organisation of ideas - 2**	**Accuracy - 1**	**1X5=5**

Note:

- No title
- Analytical writing doesn't require a ‘correct’ answer. All perspectives are valid as long as the reasoning is strong and evidence is used effectively.
- The writer must address the strengths of their chosen candidate and **contrast** them with the other candidate/s’ qualities to highlight why their choice is better, in order for it to be considered an analysis.
- A recommended approach would be to know the specific needs of the event/audience and match them with the strengths of the candidate/s, ensuring a logical / audience-focused approach.

A	Option 1: Based on the letters from Mr. Rajan Sharma and Ms. Meera Kapoor, Ms. Kapoor emerges as the better choice for the guest speaker at the school's debate competition. While both candidates are experienced and skilled, Ms. Kapoor's international accolades and ability to connect debating with real-world scenarios give her a distinct edge. Her focus on making debates relevant to global and social issues aligns well with the interests of high school students, offering them a broader perspective. Although Mr. Sharma has significant experience as a coach and speaker, his approach appears more focused on techniques rather than engaging students with relevant and inspiring real-world examples. Moreover, Ms. Kapoor's emphasis on personal growth through debating resonates with the developmental needs of students. Her global exposure and relatability make her the ideal speaker to inspire and connect with the audience effectively. Option 2: Based on the letters from Mr. Rajan Sharma and Ms. Meera Kapoor, Mr. Rajan emerges as the better choice for the guest speaker at the school's debate competition. With over 10 years of experience as a debate coach and public speaker, Mr. Sharma brings unmatched expertise in nurturing critical thinking and fostering a passion for debating among students. His track record of guiding students to success in national-level competitions demonstrates his ability to deliver practical insights and techniques that directly contribute to debate performance. While Ms. Kapoor's global exposure and focus on real-world relevance are commendable, Mr. Sharma's hands-on experience in coaching students and making them competition-ready seems more aligned with the goals of the Debate Society. Additionally, his experience with school and university-level events ensures that he understands the aspects of connecting with high school audiences.
	OR
B	Option 1: Sunaina emerges as the most appropriate partner for Jaspreet in the art-integrated project presentation as her qualities balance those of Jaspreet's. Jaspreet's creativity and communication skills make her an excellent presenter and idea generator, but her struggles with time management require a partner who can complement her weaknesses. Sunaina's strong organisational skills and discipline ensure that tasks are completed on time and deadlines are met, which is crucial for the success of the project. Although Sunaina is slightly reserved, her preference for structure and predictability aligns well with Jaspreet's collaborative working style, as Jaspreet can take the lead in brainstorming and presenting ideas while Sunaina ensures everything stays on track. While Tabassum is highly creative and spontaneous, her difficulty in staying focused may amplify Jaspreet's challenges with time management, making her less suitable. Alice, on the other hand, excels in polished presentations, but her tendency to dominate and prioritise control may conflict with Jaspreet's collaborative preferences. Option 2: Tabassum would be the best partner for Jaspreet in the art-integrated project presentation as her qualities balance those of Jaspreet's. Jaspreet thrives on creativity and collaboration, and

	Tabassum's enthusiastic and spontaneous personality would complement Jaspreet's innovative thinking. As an excellent artist, Tabassum brings a unique skill set to the project, particularly in the visual and design aspects, which are crucial for an art-integrated presentation. Together, their combined creativity would result in an engaging and visually appealing final product. Although Tabassum occasionally struggles with focus and timely completion of tasks, this can be mitigated by Jaspreet's strong communication skills and preference for teamwork, allowing them to motivate and support each other effectively. In contrast, Sunaina's overly structured and predictable working style may stifle Jaspreet's free-flowing creativity. Similarly, Alice's tendency to take control might conflict with Jaspreet's collaborative approach. Option 3: Alice would be the most suitable partner for Jaspreet in the art-integrated project presentation as her qualities balance those of Jaspreet's. While Jaspreet excels in creativity and collaboration, her struggles with time management can be addressed by Alice's confidence, detail-oriented approach, and ability to deliver polished presentations. Alice's strength in ensuring a high-quality final product complements Jaspreet's talent for generating unique ideas, creating a balance between creative input and execution. Her confidence in public speaking would enhance the presentation aspect of the project, allowing Jaspreet to focus on her creative contributions. Although Sunaina is highly disciplined, her reserved nature may limit the dynamic engagement needed for such a collaborative and artistic endeavour. Tabassum, while creative and spontaneous, might worsen Jaspreet's challenges with time management.	
	SECTION D: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (40 marks)	
6	Read the given extracts and answer the questions for **any one** of the two, given	**1x5=5**
A	**Prose**	
I	The young seagull did not celebrate his maiden flight alone. His mother and father encouraged him by flying past him and prompting him. Additionally, his siblings, were flying around him, further motivating him. The collective presence of his family made the victory a shared experience rather than a solitary one.	2
II	b) The young seagull gradually gained confidence and joined his family in the air. [wasn't immediate as he felt dizzy initially]	1
III	The young seagull feels a sense of accomplishment and excitement, as he forgets that he was once afraid to fly and embraces the thrill of soaring and diving with his family.	1
IV	C. ii, v (sound) i, iii, iv (movement)	1
	OR	
B	**Prose**	
I	B. Only ii [the pause creates an expectation for the audience, setting the stage for a revelation and keeping them intrigued]	1

II	The stage directions, like turning on the projector and dimming the spotlight, help create a shift in focus and set the tone for the scene. The projector signals a transition from narration to visual storytelling, while the fading spotlight on the Historian reveals the movement toward the next key action or character, heightening the suspense and anticipation of the forthcoming revelation. These technical elements guide the audience's attention and contribute to the play's overall pacing and dramatic effect.	2
III	b) stress the surprising and unexpected nature of the book that stopped the invasion.	1
IV	disappointment / disapproval	1
7	Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ***any one*** of the two, given**.**	**1x5=5**
A.	**Poetry**	
I	B. i, iv, v ['anger' and 'frustration' are less appropriate because the focus is on emotional confusion, helplessness, and the acceptance of loss, rather than a reaction of resistance or blockage. The boy's emotional state is about grappling with a deeper understanding of life's impermanence, rather than lashing out at the loss or the situation.]	1
II	The phrase 'how to stand up' suggests that the boy is learning to confront and cope with the emotional impact of loss. It signifies his emotional growth, as he begins to understand that facing grief is an essential part of life. This realisation helps to teach him to recover from hardship and accept the inevitability of loss.	2
III	'most know'	1
IV	the inevitable hardships / the hardships / the first encounter with grief / the harsh realities / the fleeting nature of joy / the transient nature of material possessions	1
	OR	
B.	**Poetry**	
I	A. The tiger is majestic and dignified despite its ferocity.	1
II	...the background colour of the tiger's coat, which is yellow	1
III	The poet uses humour to present the Bengal Tiger's dangerous nature in a light-hearted way. By describing it as 'noble' but humorously suggesting identification through being eaten, the poet softens the fear associated with the tiger and makes its ferocity entertaining The playful tone and the ironic contradiction between calling the tiger 'noble' and focusing on its ferocity create a humorous effect, making the tiger's dangerous nature seem amusing rather than frightening.	1
IV	'This simple rule may help you learn'	1

	[This is advisory in nature as it offers a guideline / a playful instruction]	
8	Answer **any four** of the following five questions, in about 50 words.	**4x3=12**
Content – 2 Expression – 1 Accuracy – Deduct up to 1 mark from overall		
I	(Any two) ▪ Love for movement in water - Otters cannot tolerate static water. Mijbil overturned bowls, sat in them, or splashed water until it overflowed, ensuring water was always in motion. ▪ Curiosity - Mijbil explored his surroundings keenly, investigating objects and trying to interact with his environment, such as fumbling with taps to turn them on. ▪ Juggling skills - Mijbil could juggle marbles on his belly while lying on his back, displaying dexterity and coordination.	3
II	The repetition highlights the speaker's constant expectations, reinforcing Amanda's lack of freedom and autonomy. The repeated commands like 'Don't bite your nails' highlight the pressure placed on Amanda. In contrast, Amanda's imaginative escapes, which are not repetitive, reflect her desire for independence and freedom, showcasing the tension between external control and her longing for self-expression.	3
III	This vision can be applied in modern societies by fostering dialogue, understanding, and reconciliation between different groups. Addressing inequality requires not only empowering marginalised communities but also educating and transforming the mindsets of those who perpetuate discrimination, breaking the cycle of hatred and prejudice. This dual approach ensures lasting peace and equality.	3
IV	The line symbolises the fleeting and impermanent nature of the fog, paralleling the transient moments in life. Just as the fog quietly arrives, lingers briefly, and disappears, so too do many moments in life that come and go without warning, often leaving a lasting impression or a sense of reflection. This imagery reinforces the poem's theme that, like fog, many experiences are temporary, quietly arriving and departing without notice, leaving behind a sense of mystery and contemplation.	3
V	Chubukov's reaction to Lomov's marriage proposal reflects his opportunistic and materialistic priorities. He enthusiastically embraces the proposal, showing relief and joy, not because of Lomov's love for Natalya but due to the potential benefits of securing a marriage for his daughter with a neighbouring landowner. His exaggerated affection for Lomov, calling him 'my dear fellow,' contrasts sharply with his prior suspicions. This reveals Chubukov's value for a status in society and economic security over genuine emotional connections.	3
9	Answer **any two** of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.	**2x3=6**
Content – 2 Expression – 1 Accuracy – Deduct up to 1 mark from overall		

I	▪ Matilda's decision to replace the necklace without telling her friend the truth leads to a decade of suffering – how dishonesty can result in unforeseen consequences that affect one's well-being. ▪ The act of lying causes unnecessary stress and anxiety - Matilda and her husband live in constant fear of being found out, which affects their physical and emotional health. ▪ If Matilda had admitted her mistake, the outcome could have been very different - honesty fosters peace of mind.	3
II	The statement 'Values are caught, not taught' is evident in the story, particularly in the incident when Hari Singh steals Anil's money but later decides to return it. Anil's silent trust and kindness, such as forgiving Hari Singh's failed attempt at cooking and teaching him to read and write, deeply impact the thief. These actions, rather than words, teach Hari Singh the value of trust and honesty, prompting him to choose integrity over theft.	3
III	Griffin's fleeting moments of comfort, such as finding warmth and food, momentarily restore his sense of normalcy but quickly highlight his isolation. These experiences deepen his frustration and longing for connection, influencing his actions. His desperation for survival leads him to steal, disguise himself, and ultimately resort to violence, revealing the emotional toll and the erosion of his identity as he becomes increasingly detached from society.	3
10.	Answer **any one** of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words	**1x6=6**
	Content – 3 Expression – 2 Accuracy – 1	
A.	**Introduction** It plays a significant role in promoting tourism by showcasing the unique cultural, historical, and natural elements of these regions. Each narrative vividly describes local traditions, landscapes, and lifestyles, sparking interest in these destinations among readers. **Body response points** ▪ 'The Baker from Goa' highlights the enduring Goan tradition of baking, the cultural significance of the baker's role, and the idyllic charm of the region. By focusing on the local customs and the nostalgia of childhood memories, it attracts visitors eager to experience Goa's rich heritage, culinary delights, and laid-back atmosphere. ▪ 'Coorg' introduces readers to the region's beautiful landscapes, rich history, and distinct culture. It entices tourists by describing the Coorgi people's martial traditions, hospitality, and connection to nature. ▪ 'Tea from Assam' presents Assam as a tea haven, talking about its tea gardens, picturesque landscapes, and cultural significance. The story highlights the importance of tea in Assam's history, making it an attractive destination for travellers keen on exploring the tea estates, learning about tea cultivation, and experiencing the region's serene beauty. **Conclusion** The detailed depictions of these regions, make them effective tools for promoting tourism by encouraging people to visit and experience these unique places firsthand.	
	OR	
B.	**(Response to be created largely from the first point combined with either the second or third point)**	

	▪ The trees are metaphorically trapped within the house, with their roots disengaging from the cracks in the veranda. Their movement toward the forest represents a yearning for freedom and a return to their natural state. The tiger is physically confined to a cage in the zoo, symbolising the desire to break free from captivity and return to the wild. The tiger's restlessness in the cage mirrors the internal struggle for freedom. ▪ The trees symbolise natural growth and freedom. Their release from the house signifies nature's tolerance and the need for unrestricted growth, much like the human desire to escape limitations that are either physical or the society's. The tiger represents the power of nature and wildness that is stifled by human confinement. The metaphorical connection to freedom is portrayed through the tiger's yearning for the freedom to roam freely in its natural habitat. ▪ The movement of the trees towards the forest symbolises liberation from human-made boundaries, stressing how freedom brings renewal and natural growth. The zoo represents oppression, where the tiger's desire for freedom is unmet. The contrast between the freedom of the wild and the limitations of captivity is stark, showcasing the tiger's struggle.	
11.	Answer **any one** of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words	**1x6=6**
	Content – 3 Expression – 2 Accuracy – 1	
A.	The author uses the narrative technique of misdirection masterfully in 'The Midnight Visitor' to enhance suspense and deliver an unexpected ending. From the beginning, the reader is led to believe in the existence of a balcony through Ausable's fabricated story. By confidently describing how the balcony has been used for intrusions in the past, Ausable creates a believable scenario. This misdirection not only deceives Max but also builds tension as the reader anticipates how the balcony might play a role in the unfolding events. The suspense peaks when Max, in a desperate attempt to avoid the 'police,' decides to escape through the balcony—only to realise too late that it doesn't exist. This clever twist destabilises expectations and highlights Ausable's wit and resourcefulness. The use of misdirection keeps the reader engaged and ensures a surprising and satisfying conclusion to the story.	
	OR	
B.	The role of the Surgery in the story is pivotal, both as a place of physical recovery and as a catalyst for Tricki's transformation. Critically, the Surgery represents a contrast to the overindulgent environment at Mrs. Pumphrey's home. While Mrs. Pumphrey's pampering and excessive feeding led to Tricki's ill health, the Surgery offers a more balanced, structured environment where Tricki receives proper care, including a strict diet, exercise, and, importantly, social interaction with other dogs, all of which contribute significantly to his recovery. The Surgery symbolises not just medical intervention but a shift toward responsible pet care, bringing up the important aspect of a pet's well-being which requires more than affection and indulgence. Through Tricki's recovery at the Surgery, the writer critiques overindulgence and highlights the importance of holistic, responsible care for pets, both physically and emotionally.	

SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (Code No. 184)
CLASS-X- (2024-25)

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 SKILLS (20 marks)

1. Read the following text. **10**

(1) Water is one of the most essential resources on Earth, yet it is often taken for granted. Despite its abundance, the reality is that only a small fraction of the world's water is fresh and available for human use. With increasing populations, climate change, and industrial demands, the pressure on our water resources is growing. This makes water conservation not just a collective responsibility but a crucial individual duty. Each person's effort towards conserving water can significantly impact the preservation of this vital resource for future generations

(2) One of the primary reasons individual water conservation efforts are so important is the cumulative effect of small actions which may seem trivial on their own. However, when multiplied by millions of people, these actions can lead to substantial water savings. For example, a single dripping tap can waste over 15 litres of water a day. Imagine the water saved if every household in a city repaired just one leaky faucet. This highlights the power of collective individual actions in reducing water waste.

(3) Moreover, personal efforts towards water conservation often lead to greater awareness and education. When individuals take steps to conserve water, they become more conscious of their water usage and the importance of this resource. This awareness can then spread within communities, inspiring others to adopt similar practices. For instance, a family that installs water-saving devices in their home may encourage neighbours and friends to do the same, creating a ripple effect. This grassroots approach to conservation can be particularly effective in areas where larger-scale initiatives may be slow to implement or lacking in support.

(4) In addition to daily habits, individuals can also make a difference through more significant lifestyle choices. For instance, opting for drought-resistant plants in gardens and supporting water-efficient agriculture can all contribute to water conservation. Agriculture, especially livestock farming, is one of the largest consumers of water globally. By supporting sustainable farming practices, individuals can indirectly reduce the water footprint of their food.

(5) Critics might argue that individual efforts are negligible compared to the large-scale water consumption by industries and agriculture. However, this perspective overlooks the potential for individual actions to drive systemic change. When people collectively make water-conscious choices, they send a powerful message to businesses and policymakers about the importance of conservation.

(6) Each person's commitment to saving water, no matter how small, contributes to a larger culture of sustainability. By making conscious choices and spreading awareness, individuals can help ensure that future generations have access to the clean, fresh water they need to thrive. Water conservation is not just the responsibility of governments and industries; it is a shared duty that begins with each of us.

Created for Academic Usage / 441 words

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

I In paragraph 1, what does the phrase 'each person's effort towards conserving water can significantly impact the preservation of this vital resource' emphasise? 1

II Complete the following with the correct option from the two given. 1

Water is often taken for granted, despite its essential nature because_____.

a) it is abundant and always easily accessible, making people less aware of its usage
b) its importance is not always recognised, leading people to overlook its value

(paragraph 1)

III Support the writer's idea that small individual actions towards water conservation are not trivial. 2

(paragraph 2)

IV Select the option that best reflects the concept of a 'ripple effect' in the context of student life at school. 1

a) A student's act of volunteering at a local charity leads to the school administration organising a large-scale fundraising event.

b) A student who consistently follows good study practices inspires classmates to improve their own study routines, creating a culture of academic excellence in the class. (paragraph 3)

V State whether the following statement is True or False. 1

(paragraph 3)

VI The writer mentions 'sustainable farming practices' in paragraph 4. 1
Which of the following is a sustainable farming practice?

A. Using chemical fertilizers and pesticides extensively to increase crop yields.
B. Clearing large areas of natural vegetation to expand farmland for organic farming.
C. Implementing crop rotation and using organic compost to maintain soil health.
D. Relying solely on monoculture farming to maximise production efficiency.

VII List any two points that a powerful message sent to businesses and policy makers about the importance of water conservation might include. (paragraph 5) 2

VIII Fill in the blank with the correct option from those given. (paragraph 6) 1
In the phrase ‘culture of sustainability,’ the word ‘culture’ refers to_____.

A. A set of beliefs and practices shared by a group
B. The artistic and traditional practices specific to a community's heritage.
C. The lifestyle habits and choices that are popular among the urbane
D. The techniques and methods used in development efforts

2. Read the following text. **10**

(1) A thorough study conducted across several villages of north-west India unveiled fascinating insights into the mural* landscape. It revealed that a significant majority, comprising around 80%, of these vibrant artworks are meticulously crafted by the villagers themselves. Approximately 15% of the murals stem from collaborative endeavours between villagers and local or visiting artists.

(2) Surprisingly, a small fraction, about 5%, of the murals are the result of sponsored initiatives, often commissioned by governmental or non-governmental organisations. These murals convey social messages ranging from education and environmental conservation to public health awareness.

(3) Among the locally crafted murals, nearly 55% depict scenes from mythology and folklore, celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the region. About 26 % of these murals showcase daily life in the villages, capturing moments of joy, struggle, and victory. The remaining 19% feature abstract or contemporary themes, reflecting evolving artistic expressions in rural settings.

(4) Further analysis reveals that among the locally crafted murals, nearly 63% are found on the walls of community centres, temples, and other public spaces. Around 27 % adorn the exterior walls of residential houses. The remaining 10% are scattered across schools, health centres, and other institutional buildings, serving as educational tools and sources of inspiration for the younger generation.

(5) To delve deeper, comparisons across various parameters such as demographic patterns, subject matter, techniques, community engagement, and impact are crucial. Analysing these facets not only provides a comprehensive understanding of mural creation in northwest Indian villages but also unveils avenues for cultural preservation, community development, and creative expression.

* a large painting or artwork that is typically created directly on a wall or ceiling

Created for academic usage/252 words

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above

I What does the use of the phrase 'fascinating insights' by the writer, in paragraph 1, tell us about their feelings? 1
A. The writer is expressing surprise.
B. The writer is conveying boredom and frustration.
C. The writer is indicating interest and enthusiasm.
D. The writer is showing disappointment.

II Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below. 1

Assertion: The murals in northwest Indian villages are meticulously crafted.
Reason: The murals are the result of collaborative endeavours.

A. Both the assertion and reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
B. Both the assertion and reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.
C. The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
D. The assertion is false, but the reason is true.

III Identify the word that indicates that the writer anticipated a higher percentage of sponsored initiative murals? 1

IV How do the murals in northwest Indian villages contribute to community engagement and awareness? 1

V Read the given prompt and select the correct option in the brackets to fill in the blank. 1

In Hari's village, a mural depicting sustainable farming practices is showcased on the Panchayat office wall.
The percentage of mural type that this would be counted in is. (26% / 19% / 55%)

VI What does the highest percentage of different mural themes suggest about the artistic preferences and cultural priorities in northwest Indian villages? 1

VII Complete the sentence suitably. 1

The significant presence of murals on the exterior walls of residential houses highlight.

VIII Complete the following with a suitable reason. 1

The most likely reason the writer believes that a mural can serve as an 'educational tool' is because it can _____.

IX In the context of the last paragraph, describe the significance of comparing various parameters such as demographic patterns, subject matter, techniques, community engagement, and impact in understanding the mural landscape in northwest Indian villages. 2

SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20 marks)

GRAMMAR 10

3. 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 letter: 1

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

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. 1

Have you finalised the magazine content to be submitted tomorrow?

Report Rhea's question correctly

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 Complete the given school announcement by selecting the correct option to fill in the blank. 1

Good news, everyone!

Our school's robotics team has successfully_____a place in the semi-finals.

A. securing
B. secured
C. will secure
D. had secured

VIII Detect the error and supply the correction for the given observation by a child. 1

That needn't be Dad's jacket. It's too small.

ERROR	CORRECTION

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

Teacher: Did everyone understand the new assignment?
Students: Yes, we all got it, thank you!

The teacher asked if everyone had understood the new assignment, to which the students_____, expressing their gratitude.

X 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

XI 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

XII Read the conversation about social media, between a teacher and a student 1

Teacher: How do you think social media influences our perceptions of reality?
Jagrit: I believe it distorts our perception of reality by only showing the highlight reels of people's lives.
Report the student's response by completing the following.
The student remarked_____by only showing the highlight reels of people's lives.

WRITING

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

4A You are Nirmal Pillai, a concerned citizen from Aluva, Kochi. Compose a letter in about 120 words, to the Project Head of the E-Waste Management Cell at Electronics Vatika, New Delhi, highlighting the adverse effects of e-waste* pollution. Suggest measures for addressing its management through community engagement and government initiatives.

* Discarded electronic devices such as smartphones, computers, and televisions, which are no longer in use or have reached the end of their lifecycle.

OR

4B You are Chhavi Pathak of Ranchi, Bihar. Write a letter in about 120 words addressing the Secretary of the City Municipal Authority. Detail the problem of overgrown trees and shrubs in the neighbourhood and request the delegation of personnel for regular pruning.

5A Read the product details on a label for a school bag:

ECO-FRIENDLY SCHOOL BAG

1. Made from recycled materials
2. Ergonomic* design with padded shoulder straps and breathable mesh back panel
3. Spacious main compartment with multiple pockets and organisers
4. Reflective strips for visibility and safety
5. Water-resistant fabric
6. Available in various vibrant colours and patterns

Now, analyse why this school bag would be a beneficial purchase. Write the analytical paragraph in 120 words, considering factors such as its eco-friendliness, comfort features, functionality, safety aspects, and design options.

* Design that is intended to maximise comfort, efficiency, and safety for the user

OR

5B Read the given details of a playground intended for your resident area. **5**

- A central climbing structure inspired by traditional Indian architecture, such as a miniature fort, with multiple levels and slides.
- Swings adorned with colorful Indian patterns, along with monkey bars and a zip line.
- A water play feature inspired by Indian fountains or rivers
- Shaded seating areas with benches and swings, resembling traditional *chaupals* or gazebos.
- Trees, shrubs, and flower beds
- Ample open space

Analyse the details and write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words about the suitability of this playground.

Focus on factors such as safety, inclusivity, fun features, suitability for different age groups, and overall experience.

SECTION D: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (40 marks)

6 Read the given extracts and answer **any one** of the two questions given below **5**

A With a loud scream he fell outwards and given downwards into space. Then a monstrous terror seized him and his heart stood still. He could hear nothing. But it only lasted a minute. The next moment he felt his wings spread outwards. The wind rushed against his breast feathers, then under his stomach, and against his wings. He could feel the tips of his wings cutting through the air. He was not falling headlong now. He was soaring gradually downwards and outwards. (His First Flight) 1

I What effect does the experience, as described in the lines below, have on the baby seagull? 1

With a loud scream he fell outwards and downwards into space. Then a monstrous terror seized him and his heart stood still.

Chose the most suitable option.

A. exhilarates
B. overwhelms
C. energises
D. confuses

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. 1
The use of the word ‘rushed’ adds to a sense of_____(speed / relief), in the extract

IV How does the seagull's feelings towards the end of the extract contrast with the initial feeling of terror? 1

B And suddenly Bholi noticed that the teacher was standing by her side, smiling at her. “What’s your name, little one?”
“Bh-Bho-Bho-.” She could stammer no further than that.
Then she began to cry and tears flowed from her eyes in a helpless flood. She kept her head down as she sat in her corner, not daring to look up at the girls who, she knew, were still laughing at her. When the school bell rang, all the girls scurried out of the classroom, but Bholi dared not leave her corner. Her head still lowered, she kept on sobbing.
“Bholi.”
The teacher’s voice was so soft and soothing! In all her life she had never been called like that. It touched her heart. (Bholi)

I What is the tone the teacher is UNLIKELY to have used in the line, ‘“What’s your name, little one?”.' 1
A. reassuring
B. comforting
C. settling
D. calming

II How does the author's use of Bholi 's perspective help build the narrative in the extract? 2

III Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket. 1
The word ‘flood’ in the line ‘...tears flowed from her eyes in a helpless flood.’ Indicates that Bholi was crying_____(uncontrollably / unintentionally).

IV How does the teacher's comforting demeanour contrast with the behaviour of the other girls in the classroom? 1

7 Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ***any one*** of the two, given. **5**

A He stalks in his vivid stripes
The few steps of his cage,
On pads of velvet quiet,
In his quiet rage. (Tiger in the Zoo)

I What is the most likely reason the poet chooses to say 'vivid' stripes instead of just stating the colours of the stripes?

II Fill the blank with ONE word.

The tiger's stalking suggests a movement that is_____within the confines of its cage.

III How does the poet reinforce the contrast between the tiger's confined environment and its internal emotions?

IV Select the option that applies the same rhyme scheme as the lines of the given extract. **5**

A. This bird so small and sweet,
Sings aloud in the morn,
Perched on a branch green,
Chirp, chirp, tweet, tweet.

B. Perched on a branch green,
This bird so sweet and lean,
Sings aloud in a voice sweet,
Chirp, chirp, tweet, tweet.

C. This bird sings without a care,
sweet Perched on a branch green,
A song with the world to share,
With its feelings so keen.

D. This bird so small and
Sings aloud in the morn
Perched on a green branch
Singing its own melody

B Belinda paled, and she cried Help! Help!
But Mustard fled with a terrified yelp,
Ink trickled down to the bottom of the household,
And little mouse Blink strategically mouseholed.

(*The Tale of Custard the Dragon*)

I Examine the portrayal of Blink in the given lines. 2

II Complete the following suitably. 1

The word 'paled' implies that Belinda_____.

III What kind of picture is painted by the poet through the line, 'Ink trickled down to the bottom of the household'? 1

IV What kind of atmosphere is created through these lines? 1

Select the correct option
1. Urgency 2. Apprehension 3. Uncertainty 4. mystery 5. Aggression

A. 1 and 4
B. Only 2
C. 1, 2 and 3
D. 4 and 5

8 Answer ***any four*** of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words. **4x3=12**

I How does the ignorance about Mijbil as a creature in the urban environment of London reveal insights about people's perceptions and knowledge regarding animals? (Mijbil the Otter) 3

II How does the imagery of the trees' movement from the house to the forest, in 'Trees', reflect broader themes of liberation and growth in human experiences? 3

III What does the postmaster's reaction to Lencho's letter reveal about his character? (A Letter to God) 3

IV Assess the narrative's effectiveness in portraying the tension between the comfort of familiarity and the allure of the unfamiliar in 'Madam Rides the Bus'. 3

V Summarise the role of the use of parentheses in the poem 'Amanda!'. 3

9 Answer ***any two*** of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. **2x3=6**

I How does Matilda's desire for material wealth drive the plot of 'The Necklace'? 3

II Justify the opinion that Ebright's early successes were essential for his later achievements in science. (The Making of a Scientist) 3

III How does 'The Book that Saved the Earth' include elements of satirical science fiction? 3

10 Answer **any one** of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words **6**

I Both poems 'Dust of Snow' and 'Fire and Ice' use contrasting elements of nature to convey their respective messages about life and human emotions but they do it differently. Examine these differences.

II 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.

11 Answer ***any one*** of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. **6**

I Evaluate how Griffin's character is shaped by a combination of personal ambition, the unintended consequences of his scientific pursuits, and the reactions of the society he faces.

II Evaluate how James Herriot's characterisation contributes significantly to the overarching theme of responsible pet ownership and animal welfare.

MARKING SCHEME
English Language and Literature (Code No. 184)
CLASS-X- (2024-25)

General Instructions: -

1. *The Marking Scheme carries only suggested value points for the answers. These are in the nature of Guidelines only and do not constitute the complete answer. The students can have their own expression and if the expression is correct, then due marks should be awarded accordingly.*
2. *If a student has attempted an extra question, answer of the question deserving more marks should be retained and the other answer scored out with a note "Extra Question".*
3. *If more than one option is mentioned in the answer of multiple choice questions, then no marks to be awarded.*

SECTION A: READING (20 marks)		
1.	**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.**	**10**
I	It emphasises that personal responsibility is crucial in preserving water resources for future generations / that individual actions, though small, collectively contribute to a substantial impact on water conservation.	1
II	its importance is not always recognised, leading people to overlook its value	1
III	The writer's idea is supported by the fact that small actions, while minor on their own, can accumulate into substantial water savings when adopted by many people. This collective impact illustrates how individual efforts, though seemingly insignificant, are essential for achieving broader conservation goals and highlights the importance of widespread participation in water-saving practices. [The response requires evaluation/ justification rather than summarization/ explanation]	2
IV	b) A student who consistently follows good study practices inspires classmates to improve their own study routines, creating a culture of academic excellence in the class.	1
V	True [large-scale initiatives take longer time to implement , so the writer recommends grassroot efforts]	1
VI	C. Implementing crop rotation and using organic compost to maintain soil health.	1
VII	Any two points- ▪ Stress the need for businesses to implement water-efficient technologies and methods to reduce their overall water consumption. ▪ Highlight the necessity for policymakers to create and enforce regulations that promote water conservation and address water management issues more effectively. ▪ Emphasise the importance of investing in public education and awareness campaigns about water conservation to encourage broader community participation.	2

	Urge businesses to take an active role in water conservation efforts as part of their corporate social responsibility, demonstrating a commitment to environmental sustainability	
VIII	**A.** A set of beliefs and practices shared by a group	1
2.	**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above**	**10**
I	C. The writer is indicating interest and enthusiasm.	1
II	C. The assertion is true, but the reason is false.	1
III	Surprisingly	1
IV	The murals serve as visual platforms for conveying important social messages, such as education, environmental conservation, and public health awareness / The murals not only beautify the village but also serve as educational tools and sources of inspiration, nurturing community engagement and promoting awareness of pressing issues	1
V	19% (category that features abstract or contemporary themes)	1
VI	Indicates - A deep-rooted connection to cultural heritage, as a significant portion (55%) of murals depict scenes from mythology and folklore / a desire to celebrate and preserve traditional narratives and values	1
VII	...the integration of art into everyday life / artistic skills of village folk / inclination to decorate exterior walls with local art/ pursue a form of artistic expression (accept any other logically relevant)	1
VIII	...convey information through vivid imagery and symbols, making complex topics easier to understand and remember	1
	▪ A holistic understanding of mural creation ▪ Researchers can – → identify trends → assess the significance of different themes → understand the involvement of the community in mural projects → evaluate the overall impact of murals on cultural preservation and community development .	2
	SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR **GRAMMAR (10 marks)**	
3.	Complete ***any ten*** of twelve of the following tasks, as directed. **10x1=10**	
Full credit 1, for correct answers. No partial credit of ½, for any question in this section		
I	C. has been endorsed	
II	strives – strive	

III	Rhea asked her colleague if he had finalised the magazine content to be submitted the following / next day.
IV	this
V	...that she would have the presentation ready for her very soon that day
VI	A. most – every
VII	B. secured
VIII	needn't -can't
IX	responded/ replied affirmatively
X	B. should
XI	C. is
XII	that he believed social media distorts their perception of reality

WRITING SKILLS (10 marks)

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

[Content, in suggested responses, may be above the recommended word limit, as it aims to share content points that can be of use.]

(For 4A & B) **Total-1x5= 5**

Format – 1 [full credit if all aspects included. Partial credit (½ mark) if one-two aspects are missing. No credit if more than two aspects are missing]

Content -2
[½ mark for each content point area addressed -suggestion, importance, implication, recommendation]
Organisation of ideas -1
[effective style, orderly sequence, paragraphed structure and formal tone and vocabulary]

Accuracy 1
[Spelling, punctuation and grammar]

4A.	**Response outline:** 34, Gems Homes Aluva, Kochi 15 May 2024 The Project Head E-Waste Management Cell Electronics Vatika, New Delhi

	Subject: Urgent Action Needed to Address E-Waste Pollution and Management Madam ▪ Introductory paragraph: This is to draw your attention... ▪ Adverse Effects of E-Waste Pollution (any 2) → Leaching of hazardous materials into soil and water → Contamination of ecosystems → Health risks for humans due to exposure to toxic substances ▪ Community Engagement Ideas and Impact: (any 2) → Organising e-waste collection drives and recycling events → Conducting awareness campaigns in schools, colleges, and community centres → Establishing community-based e-waste management centres → Engaging local residents in e-waste segregation and recycling efforts → Promoting the reuse and refurbishment of electronic devices Government Endeavours and Impact: (any 2) → Implementing e-waste management policies and regulations → Providing funding and resources for e-waste recycling facilities → Establishing e-waste collection centres in urban and rural areas → Enforcing strict penalties for illegal dumping of e-waste → Collaborating with industry stakeholders to promote sustainable production and disposal practices ▪ Concluding sentence Yours sincerely *N.Pillai* (NIRMAL PILLAI) A concerned resident
4B.	**Response outline:** 471, Vinayakpur Ranchi 27 April 2024 The Secretary City Municipal Authority Ranchi Subject: Request for Pruning Overgrown Trees and Shrubs in the Neighbourhood Dear Sir ▪ Introductory paragraph: This is to draw your attention... ▪ Problems due to unchecked growth: (Any three)

	obstructed pathways, reduced visibility on roads, potential safety hazards due to falling branches, blocks sunlight in homes, branches grow into homes inviting insects, created an unsightly environment that diminishes the aesthetic appeal of the locality ▪ **Request** Kindly request - allocate personnel for regular pruning of these trees and shrubs - proactive measure will not only enhance the aesthetics of our neighbourhood but also ensure the safety and convenience of residents and pedestrians ▪ Concluding sentence Yours sincerely *ChhaviP* (CHHAVI PATHAK) A concerned citizen

(For 5 A & B) **Totai-1x5= 5**

Analytical paragraph writing should **NOT** be confused with writing a description of given elements or writing a summary.

It requires examining the given elements closely and sharing inputs based on given stimulant. It carries no title or heading.

Content -2 Four trends/ points included & well-developed with sustained clarity

Organisation of ideas -2 [effective style, orderly sequence, single paragraph structure, formal tone and functional vocabulary]

Accuracy 1 [Spelling, punctuation and grammar]

5A.	**Suggested response:** The Eco-Friendly School Bag stands out as an excellent purchase choice for several reasons. Firstly, its use of recycled materials demonstrates a commitment to environmental sustainability, making it an eco-conscious option. Additionally, the ergonomic design, featuring padded shoulder straps and a breathable mesh back panel, ensures maximum comfort during long school days. The spacious main compartment with multiple pockets and organisers offers ample storage space for textbooks, notebooks, and other essentials, promoting organisation and efficiency. Moreover, the inclusion of reflective strips enhances visibility and safety, especially during low light conditions. The water-resistant fabric further protects belongings from unexpected rain showers, adding durability and reliability to the bag. With its availability in various vibrant colours and patterns, this school bag not only meets functional needs but also allows for personal style expression, making it a versatile and appealing choice for students.

5B.	**Suggested response:** The proposed playground design for the resident area embodies a thoughtful fusion of traditional Indian aesthetics and modern play elements. The central climbing structure, like a miniature fort, offers multifaceted play experiences, encouraging physical activity and imaginative exploration. The swings, decorated with vibrant Indian patterns, coupled with monkey bars and a zip line, add cultural flair as well as excitement to the playground. Additionally, the incorporation of a water play feature inspired by Indian fountains or rivers not only provides sensory stimulation but also offers a refreshing respite from the heat. Shaded seating areas, resembling traditional chaupals or gazebos, provide comfortable spaces for parents and caregivers to supervise and socialise. Furthermore, the presence of trees, shrubs, and flower beds, along with ample open space, enhances the overall aesthetic appeal and promotes environmental sustainability. This playground prioritises safety, inclusivity, cultural enrichment, and environmental consciousness, ensuring an engaging and enriching experience for residents of all ages.	
SECTION D: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (40 marks)		
6	Read the given extracts and answer the questions for **any one** of the two, given	**1x5=5**
A	**Prose**	
I	B. overwhelms	1
II	The author's descriptive language -- clearly portrays the baby seagull's intense emotional journey and physical sensations during its first flight – 'monstrous terror' and 'wind rushed against his breast feathers'—help the reader sense the seagull's experience -- enhances the narrative's emotional impact – makes it real.	2
III	speed	1
IV	The seagull's initial feeling of terror contrasts sharply with the sense of exhilaration /freedom/ empowerment /excitement as it learns to fly and soars.	1
B	**Prose**	
I	C. settling	1
II	▪ provides readers with direct insight into her thoughts, emotions, and experiences -- by experiencing the events through Bholi's eyes, , easy to understand the depth of Bholi's vulnerability and distress ▪ allows the author to convey the impact of the teacher's kindness and the cruelty of her classmates' laughter more effectively ▪ draws readers into Bholi's world and enhancing their engagement with the narrative	2
III	Uncontrollably	1
IV	(Any one feature from each point) ▪ The teacher approaches Bholi with kindness and understanding, offering a supportive presence and gentle encouragement ▪ The other girls display insensitivity and cruelty by laughing at Bholi's stammering and distress	1
7	Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ***any one*** of the two, given**.**	**1x5=5**

A	**Poetry**	
I	To evoke a sense of intensity and liveliness in the tiger's appearance--the word 'vivid' suggests that the stripes are not only distinct in colour but also vibrant and full of life -- conveys the idea that the tiger's markings are not dull or subdued but rather vividly striking and attention-grabbing, pointing to the magnificence of the animal.	2
II	restless	1
III	By using of the word 'quiet' twice in the given lines.	1
IV	A. (ABCB)	1
B	**Poetry**	
I	Blink's retreat is portrayed as a calculated and swift movement to safety --the imagery of Blink 'strategically' mouse holing suggests a quick and calculated response to the perceived danger -- highlighting Blink's instinctual survival skills in the face of adversity.	2
II	...recognised that she was in a threatening situation/ danger	1
III	In this context, the picture painted is that of a slow and silent descent / a descent with Ink trying to avoid drawing attention to itself / Ink seeking safety in a cautious and inconspicuous manner	1
IV	C. 1, 2 and 3	1
8	Answer ***any four*** of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words.	**4x3=12**
Content-1; Organisation -1 ; ½ mark to be deducted for Accuracy from the overall credit of a response, if error density is high -more than a total of 2 spellings and/or grammatical errors.		
I	(Any two) ▪ highlights a general lack of knowledge about exotic animals / demonstrates a limited understanding of diverse animal species -- people may be unfamiliar with otters as pets / may not recognise them outside of their natural habitat ▪ reflects a sort of disconnect from nature in urban environments -- people may be accustomed to urban wildlife, such as pigeons or squirrels, but less familiar with species like otters – hence contribute to misconceptions about Mijbil ▪ presents opportunities for education and awareness-building about wildlife conservation and responsible pet ownership -- by learning about Mijbil's species and needs, people in London can gain a deeper appreciation for the diversity of life and the importance of respecting animals' natural behaviours and habitats	
II	▪ The trees breaking free from the constraints of the house -- represent desire for freedom and autonomy ▪ As they move towards the forest (a symbol of untamed nature) -- embody the journey towards self-discovery and expansion of possibilities ▪ This movement reflects – → human quest for liberation from norms and personal limitations,	

	→ inherent growth that comes with embracing change and venturing into new territories
III	(Any two) ▪ Character Traits of the Postmaster: → The postmaster is deeply moved by Lencho's faith, which prompts a compassionate response rather than dismissal or mockery. → He creatively devises a plan to maintain Lencho's faith, showing his ability to think outside conventional administrative duties. → His willingness to contribute his own money and encourage his staff to do the same illustrates a personal commitment to helping others in need. → He respects Lencho's belief system, despite its naivety, indicating a high regard for individual faith and personal convictions.
IV	Valli's longing to ride the bus -- showcases her yearning to break free from the confines of her everyday life and explore the unknown The familiar surroundings of her street represent safety and predictability, while the bus symbolises adventure and opportunity. This contrast creates a sense of tension as Valli grapples with her desire to step into the unfamiliar world -- the narrative effectively conveys the conflicting emotions associated with leaving behind the known for the excitement of the unknown
V	▪ Serves to establish the difference between the external commands directed at Amanda and her internal imaginative escapes. ▪ Highlights the contrast between Amanda's reality and her desires, aiding in the reader's understanding of her struggle between conforming to expectations and seeking freedom through imagination.
9	Answer ***any two*** of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. **2x3=6**
Content-1; Organisation -1; ½ mark to be deducted for Accuracy from the overall credit of a response, if error density is high -more than a total of 2 spellings and/or grammatical errors.	
I	▪ Matilda's desire leads her to borrow a necklace from her friend Forestier to appear wealthy at a party. ▪ She loses the necklace -- she and her husband embark on a desperate journey to replace it-- ultimately leads to their financial ruin. ▪ Her desire for material wealth sets off a chain of events that shape the plot.
II	▪ Early success -- pivotal for his later achievements in science ▪ These wins -- motivation, validation of talent, and opportunities for growth ▪ These wins – instilled confidence in his abilities, affirmed his passion for science, and cultivated a competitive spirit that drove him to excel further in his scientific pursuits ▪ These wins -- shape his trajectory as a successful scientist
III	▪ Through its exaggerated portrayal of Martian characters and their interactions with Earth culture ▪ The play humorously critiques human behaviour and social standards by presenting Martians as arrogant and intellectually superior beings who misunderstand basic Earth concepts

	▪ The satirical approach highlights themes of intelligence, communication, and cultural misunderstanding in a humorous manner, commenting through exaggerated scenarios and absurd situations ▪ The use of futuristic settings and space exploration adds a science fiction element to the satire
10.	Answer **any one** of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words **1x6=6**
	[A detailed discussion has been presented to allow for usage of content points as per individual choice. However, the final answer has to be a cohesive whole, structured in paragraphs, in about 120 words.]
A.	▪ *Dust of Snow* employs imagery of lightness, purity, and serenity through the snowfall and the hemlock tree. The imagery suggests that even small moments of beauty in nature can uplift the human spirit. ▪ In contrast, *Fire and Ice* utilises imagery of destruction and intensity through fire and ice -- conveys the destructive potential of desire and hatred, highlighting the darker aspects of human emotions and relationships. ▪ In *Dust of Snow*, the speaker's emotional response to nature is one of gratitude and appreciation. Conversely, *Fire and Ice* evokes a sense of fear and contemplation about the destructive forces inherent in human nature. ▪ *Dust of Snow* focuses on the idea of small, unexpected moments in nature leading to positive change and renewal in the individual. *Fire and Ice* suggests that these internal forces have the potential to shape not only individual lives but also the fate of humanity as a whole. While *Dust of Snow* emphasises the potential for beauty and renewal in even the smallest aspects of nature, *Fire and Ice* explores the darker aspects of human desire and hatred, highlighting the destructive forces that can shape human existence. **Content 3 Expression 2 Accuracy 1**
	OR
B.	▪ Both *for Anne Gregory* and *The Sermon at Benares* confront the short-lived nature of external attributes. ▪ In the poem, the speaker's shifting perception of Anne's beauty, from cherishing her hair and face to valuing her inner qualities, highlights the transient nature of physical appearance. ▪ Similarly, in *The Sermon at Benares*, the Buddha's teachings emphasise the inevitability of death and the impermanence of life, urging listeners to recognise the fleeting nature of existence. ▪ Both texts suggest that external attributes, whether beauty or life itself, are fleeting and subject to decay, prompting contemplation of deeper truths beyond the surface. **Content 3 Expression 2 Accuracy 1**
11.	Answer **any one** of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words **1x6=6**
(A)	(Any one sub-point from each point) ▪ Personal Ambition

	→ Griffin is deeply motivated by his desire to achieve scientific breakthroughs, showcasing his high intellectual ambition and dedication. → He willingly isolates himself to focus on his experiments, indicating a prioritisation of personal goals over social or ethical considerations. ▪ Unintended Consequences of Scientific Pursuits → Becoming invisible renders, him physically vulnerable, necessitating theft and deception for basic survival like warmth and food. → The state of invisibility leads to paranoia and a disconnection from human relationships, altering his perception and interaction with the world. ▪ Reactions of the Society He Faces → Society's initial reaction is a mix of curiosity and fear, which quickly shifts to hostility as Griffin's actions become more desperate and harmful. → As Griffin becomes more aggressive and society more fearful, a cycle of aggression and retaliation develops, further alienating him. → The lack of understanding from others about his condition and needs deepens his resentment and estrangement, fuelling his hostile behaviour. **Content 3 Expression 2 Accuracy 1**
OR	
(B)	James Herriot's characterisation as a compassionate yet firm veterinary surgeon: ▪ Herriot's compassion towards animals → evident throughout the narrative -- genuinely cares about Tricki's well-being and is willing to go the extra mile to ensure the dog receives the care and attention it needs. → This compassion -- reflected in his interactions with Mrs. Pumphrey, where he patiently educates her about proper pet care and advocates for Tricki's health. → Herriot's empathetic approach stresses the importance of treating animals with kindness and consideration, which aligns with the theme of responsible pet ownership. ▪ Herriot's firmness highlights his commitment to advocating for the best interests of the animals under his care. → Despite Mrs. Pumphrey's initial reluctance to acknowledge Tricki's health issues, Herriot remains steadfast in his recommendations for dietary and lifestyle changes. → His firm yet compassionate demeanour shows the importance of setting boundaries and making tough decisions for the well-being of pets. → This aspect of Herriot's characterisation reinforces the theme of responsible pet ownership by emphasising the need for owners to prioritise their pets' health and welfare above personal indulgence. **Content 3 Expression 2 Accuracy 1**