

Directorate of Education, GNCT of Delhi

Practice Paper

Session: 2024-25

Class: IX

Subject: English Language and Literature

Subject Code: 184

Duration: 3 Hours

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

- I. Vultures play a critical role in the ecosystem as nature's most efficient scavengers, skillfully cleansing the landscape of decaying carcasses. In doing so, vultures clean the ecosystem of dead animal matter and reduce the spread of disease. Their unique ability to digest even the most toxic of pathogens like rabies and anthrax, shields our entire ecosystem from outbreak of epidemics. In the absence of these scavengers, our natural world would be susceptible to the spread of dangerous pathogens.**

- II. A total of nine species of vultures are found across India. Each of the nine species, from the widespread white rumped vulture to the forest-dwelling red-headed vulture, has a unique place in the ecosystem. Other species such as the Himalayan griffon and the bearded vulture are typically found at higher elevations in the Himalayas, while the Egyptian vulture is found nearly all across the country. The slender-billed vulture lives in the northern plains and Assam valley, while its close relative, the Indian vulture, is distributed across central and peninsular regions of India. Two other species, the cinereous and the Eurasian griffon, are winter visitors to our land.
- III. In the 1960s, three of the vulture species -white-rumped, slender-billed and Indian that were once a common sight across many parts of the country, started to rapidly decline. By 2003, the situation had escalated to a major crisis with their population dropping by more than 90% across their range. The red-headed vulture followed suit to become critically endangered like the other three.
- IV. After much research, this alarming decline was attributed to the veterinary use of diclofenac, an anti-inflammatory drug that was commonly administered to livestock across the country. Vultures feeding on livestock carcasses treated with diclofenac suffered from kidney failure, leading to their death.
- V. In response to this crisis, an alternative, meloxicam, a drug found safe for vultures, began to be promoted. With vultures becoming the centre of conservation focus, it later became clear that diclofenac was just one of the many threats. Other veterinary drugs such as ketoprofen and aceclofenac were also found to be lethal to vultures. Recognising this, the two drugs were banned.
- VI. Today with the support of govts, conservation NGOs and research institutions, vulture conservation is happening at Vulture Conservation Breeding centres in Pinjore, Haryana, Rajabhatkhawa in Bengal, and Rani in Assam. Additionally, conservation centres were subsequently developed by Central Zoo Authority in collaboration with various state zoos, including Van Vihar in Bhopal, Nandankanan Zoo in Bhubaneswar, Nehru Zoological Park in Hyderabad, Muta Zoo in Ranchi, and Sakkarbaug Zoo in Junagadh.
- VII. As we look to the future, it's clear that the story of India's vultures is one of resilience and hope. Through continued conservation efforts,

we can ensure that vultures continue to soar across our skies, safeguarding our ecosystems as they have done for millennia.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage.

- i. 'Vultures play a critical role in maintaining a healthy balance in the eco system.' Justify the statement. 1
- ii. Why do you think some vulture species, such as the cinereous and Eurasian griffon, are only winter visitors to India?(para 2) 2
- iii. The resident vultures, like the white-rumped vulture, differ in ecological impact from migratory species like the Eurasian griffon in India because_____ (para 2) 1
- iv. Complete the following statement:
Recognising the threat posed by ketoprofen and aceclofenac,
_____ 1
- v. Vultures feeding on livestock carcasses treated with diclofenac suffered from which ailment that led to their death? 1
- vi. What does "breeding" refer to in the context of "Vulture Conservation Breeding centres"? 1
 - a) Feeding vultures
 - b) Providing medical care
 - c) Encouraging reproduction
 - d) Releasing vultures into the wild
- vii. According to the passage, what has led to the decline of vultures in India? 2
- viii. What tone does the author use while discussing the future of vultures in India? 1

2. Read the text given below:

10

- I. Over the past two decades, India has experienced significant changes in its transportation and mobility landscape. The number of registered vehicles increased from 55 million in 2003 to more than 295 million by 2023, a nearly fivefold rise. The growth has been driven largely by the proliferation of two-wheelers, which made up over 75% of all vehicles in India by 2023, reflecting their affordability and utility in both urban and rural areas.
- II. A key transformation has been the rise of electric vehicles (EVs). In 2013, EV adoption was minimal, with fewer than 5,000 electric vehicles sold annually. By 2023, more than 1.6 million electric vehicles, including 1.1 million electric two-wheelers, were on Indian roads, spurred by government incentives and increasing environmental concerns.
- III. The expansion of public transportation has also been notable. In 2003, India had only one metro rail system, located in Kolkata. By 2023, 20 cities across the country had operational metro networks, including Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru. The Delhi Metro, which started in 2002, saw its daily ridership grow from 1 million passengers in 2003 to over 2.9 million passengers in 2023, playing a critical role in easing urban congestion.
- IV. Air travel in India has surged as well. Domestic air passengers grew from 44 million in 2003 to more than 185 million in 2023, thanks to the expansion of low-cost airlines and greater connectivity between cities.
- V. These shifts highlight India's transition towards more diverse, sustainable, and efficient transportation modes over the last two decades, driven by economic growth, technological advancements, and urbanization.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage.

- i. By the use of the phrase 'proliferation of two-wheelers', what does the writer indicate about the role of two wheelers in para 1? 1
- A) Two-wheelers have been replaced by other modes of transport.
B) Two-wheelers have significantly increased in number and have become a dominant mode of transport.
C) Two-wheelers are no longer affordable for the general population.
D) Two-wheelers are primarily used for long-distance travel across the country.
- ii. Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below 1
Assertion (A): The expansion of metro rail networks in India has significantly helped in reducing urban congestion.
Reason (R): By 2023, 20 cities in India had operational metro networks, with the Delhi Metro's daily ridership growing from 1 million passengers in 2003 to over 2.9 million passengers in 2023.
- A. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A)
B. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
C. Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
D. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.
- iii. Which word in Paragraph 1 means the same as 'movement'? 1
- iv. In what ways has the expansion of metro rail networks, such as in Delhi, contributed to reducing traffic congestion and pollution in urban areas? 1
- v. According to the passage _____ has caused an increase in Air travel in India. 1

vi. Which of the following factors has NOT contributed to the rise in electric vehicle adoption in India? 1

- A) Government incentives
- B) Increased environmental awareness
- C) Decrease in fuel prices
- D) Technological advancements in battery life

vii. How has public transport affected social mobility in the country in past two decades? 2

viii. By how many millions the daily metro ridership of passengers grew between 2003-2023? 1

- A) 1.0 million
- B) 2.9 million
- C) 1.9 million
- D) 0.5 million

ix. What do you understand by the expression 'domestic air passengers' in the sentence given below? 1

'Domestic air passengers grew from 44 million in 2003 to more than 185 million in 2023.'

3. Complete any ten of twelve of the following tasks, as directed. 1 x 10 = 10

i. Fill in the blank with the correct option to complete the opening line of a formal letter:

Dear Sir,

We _____ to announce the grand opening of a new branch of our company in CR Colony, Mumbai on Nov 10, 20xx.

- A. are glad
- B. have been glad
- C. has been glad
- D. am glad

ii. Read the given sentence from a school report. Identify the error and supply the correction in the given format.

We are dedicated to fostering a love of knowledge; promote academic excellence, and cultivating leadership skills in our high school students.

ERROR	CORRECTION

iii. Salma asked the following question to her friend, Sahil.

Have you completed the task given by the teacher yesterday?

Report Salma’s question correctly.

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

Dear Parents,

It has been observed that many students are coming to school late. Please ensure _____ (that/these/this) your child reaches school by 8.00 a.m. sharp.

v. Read David’s reply to a customer, regarding an issue he/she has been facing.

“I’m sorry for the trouble you’ve encountered. We’re here to help.”

Report David’s reply by completing the following sentence correctly.

David apologised for the trouble encountered and said _____.

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

Indian Ocean warming has reduce rainfall, says Study.

Option No.	Error	Correction
A.	says	say
B.	rainfall	rain
C.	reduce	reduced
D.	has	have

- vii. Complete the given announcement by selecting the correct option to fill in the blank.

We are happy to announce that our daughter Kusum _____ her graduation from the University of Delhi.

- A. completes
- B. complete
- C. has completed
- D. have completed

- viii. Detect the error and supply the correction for the given observation by a statement from a story.

In a peaceful village nestled between the mountains, two friends, Raj and Sam, live side by side.

ERROR	CORRECTION

- ix. Report the dialogue between a teacher and a student, by completing sentence.

Teacher: "Can you finish this by 5 PM?" he asked.

Student: "I will try my best," she replied.

The teacher asked if the student could finish that work by 5 pm to which the student _____.

- x. Select the correct option to complete the given sentence.
She _____ swim very fast when she was younger.

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

- xi. Complete the given sentence about an office report.

The report _____ submitted on Monday.

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

- xii. Read the conversation about research project, between a teacher and a student:

Teacher: "Why did you choose this topic for your research project?"

Student: "I find the subject fascinating, and there's a gap in the existing research that I want to address."

Report the student's response by completing the following.

The teacher inquired why the student _____ for the research project.

SECTION D: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK

(40 marks)

Q4. You and your friends recently explored the picturesque beaches of Goa, known for their vibrant atmosphere and stunning sunsets. Write a descriptive paragraph about your trip in 100-120 words. 5

OR

You spent a week with your aunt in your hometown, where she taught you about gardening and cooking. Write a descriptive paragraph about your aunt in 100-120 words.

Q5. Complete the following story and give it a title also- (100-120 words) 5

In a small village, there was a wise old woman known for her herbal remedies. One day...

OR

You are Ashima /Aakash studying in class IX. On your way back to home, you helped an elderly person who had fallen on the street. Write a diary entry about this experience in about 100-120 words.

Q6. Read the given extracts and answer any one of the two questions given below. 5 marks

Margie always hated school, but now she hated it more than ever. The mechanical teacher had been giving her test after test in geography and she had been doing worse and worse until her mother had shaken her head sorrowfully and sent for the County Inspector.

(The Fun They Had)

- i. Which of the following statements best describes Margie's feelings towards her schooling situation? 1

- A) Margie enjoyed the challenges presented by her mechanical teacher.
- B) Margie was indifferent to her performance in geography tests.
- C) Margie's dislike for school increased due to her poor performance on tests.
- D) Margie's mother was pleased with her progress in geography.

ii. What action did Margie's mother take in response to Margie's declining performance in geography? 1

iii. Fill in the blank suitably: 1

Margie's increased dislike for school was primarily due to _____

iv. In what ways did Margie's declining performance in geography tests affect her overall attitude towards school, and what steps did her mother take to seek help for her situation after noticing Margie's distress? 2

OR

A group of dragon-flies were bustling about on their gaudy purple wings, intercepting the flight of a lone black bee or butterfly in search of sweetness from the flowers. The child followed them in the air with his gaze, till one of them would still its wings and rest, and he would try to catch it. But it would go fluttering, flapping, up into the air, when he had almost caught it in his hands. Then his mother gave a cautionary call: "Come, child, come, come on to the footpath."

- i. Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket. 1
In the passage, the word "gaudy" is used to describe the wings of the dragon-flies. Based on the context, "gaudy" most likely means _____. (delicate and fragile/ Bright and showy)
- ii. What action does the child take in response to the dragon-flies' flight, and how does this reflect his character? 1
A) He stands still, observing them quietly, showing patience.
B) He tries to catch a dragon-fly, demonstrating his curiosity and playfulness.
C) He ignores the dragon-flies, focusing on the flowers instead.
D) He calls for his mother, indicating his dependence on her.
- iii. In what way does the mother's cautionary call illustrate her role in the child's experience? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- iv. How does the description of the dragon-flies' wings contribute to the overall mood of the passage? 1

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

There, look what you did — you threw them all down.

You tore the pages of the books.

You brought rain again.

You're very clever at poking fun at weaklings.

Frail crumbling houses, crumbling doors, crumbling rafters,
crumbling wood, crumbling bodies, crumbling lives,
crumbling hearts —

(Wind)

- i. What theme is primarily reflected in the lines mentioning "crumbling houses, crumbling doors, crumbling rafters," and similar phrases? 1
 - A) The strength of nature
 - B) The fragility of life and structures
 - C) The beauty of resilience
 - D) The joy of childhood play
- ii. What does the term "crumbling" suggest about the houses and lives mentioned in the passage? 2
- iii. Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket 1
The poem reflects on the struggle against _____ (construction/ destruction) and the pain it brings.
- iv. How do the phrases describing crumbling structures contribute to the poem's overall message about life? 1

OR

I will arise and go now, for always night and day

I hear the lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;

,

While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,

I hear it in the deep heart's core

(The Lake Isle of Innisfree)

- i. What does the phrase "I hear it in the deep heart's core" suggest about the speaker's connection to the lake? 1
 - A) The speaker feels indifferent to the lake's sounds.
 - B) The sounds of the lake resonate deeply within the speaker.
 - C) The speaker only hears the lake when they are near it.
 - D) The lake represents a distant memory for the speaker.

 - ii. What literary device is employed in the phrase "the lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore," and what effect does it create? 2

 - iii. Why does the speaker feel compelled to "arise and go now"? 1

 - iv. Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket 1
As the poet stands on the roadway or the grey pavement, the _____ (disassociation/connection) to the lake feels profound.
8. Answer any four of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words. 4x3=12
- i. How do you think Evelyn's hard work and outreach programs affect deaf children's views on what they can achieve? (The Sound of Music)

- ii. How does Santosh's determination to live life on her own terms reflect her views on traditional societal norms? and what actions does she take to challenge those norms? (Reach For The Top)
- iii. How does the speaker's message about hate and conflict make us think about our own actions in relationships with others? Explain. (No Men Are Foreign)
- iv. How does Kalam's experience during World War II and his friendships show the themes of strength and togetherness despite differences in background? (My Childhood)
- v. What do you think the poet means by saying "No motion has she now, no force," and how does this relate to his understanding of mortality? (A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal)

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

- i. How does the Happy Prince's understanding of happiness and sorrow change after his death and mention the first action that he takes to address the suffering he sees in his city?
- ii. Why was Johnsy so eager to see the last leaf fall, and how does it relate to her feelings about her health? (The Last Leaf)
- iii. How does the author feel about starting high school and how does his old teachers help them during this time? (A House is Not a Home)

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

A. The chapter "The Little Girl" ends on the following note -

What's the matter?" asked her father. "Another dream?" "Oh," said the little girl, "my head's on your heart. I can hear it going. What a big heart you've got, Father dear.

Elucidate on the significance of the ending with respect to emotional connection and character development of the father and the little girl.

OR

B. Explore the themes related to choices, growth and the consequences of actions with reference to the poems "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost and "On Killing a Tree" by Gieve Patel.

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

A. In the story "The Beggar," Lushkoff undergoes several transformative experiences that reveal different aspects of his character. Elaborate the character traits that emerge during the course of his journey through the chapter.

OR

B. Explore the significance of wisdom and foresight as the most essential qualities of the guru's character and discuss how these traits shape his actions and influence those around him.
(In The Kingdom of Fools)