

**DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION, GNCT OF DELHI**

**PRACTICE PAPER -- MID-TERM**

**SUBJECT - ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE - Code No. 184**

**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**

- I. In today's world, the media plays a crucial role in shaping the way people think, act, and respond to various situations. From newspapers and television to the internet and social media platforms, media has become an inseparable part of modern life. It informs, educates, entertains, and influences public opinion like never before.
- II. One of the most important roles of media is to keep the public informed. News channels, websites, and newspapers bring updates on national and international events to people within minutes. This allows citizens to stay aware of what is happening around them and to make informed decisions. Whether it is an election, a natural disaster, or a government policy, the media ensures that people are not left in the dark.
- III. Apart from providing news, the media also educates the masses. It spreads awareness about important issues such as health, education, environment, and social justice. For instance, during the COVID-19 pandemic, media played a vital role in sharing safety guidelines, promoting vaccination, and countering misinformation.
- IV. Entertainment is another key function of media. Through movies, music, sports, and talk shows, media provides people with a way to relax and enjoy their free time. In fact, the entertainment industry relies heavily on media to reach audiences worldwide.
- V. However, the media is not without its flaws. In recent years, concerns have been raised about biased reporting, sensationalism, and the spread of fake news. Sometimes, media

outlets may focus more on gaining attention and viewers rather than presenting the truth. Social media, in particular, has made it easy for false information to spread rapidly, leading to confusion and sometimes even panic.

- VI. Despite these challenges, the role of media in a democratic society remains vital. A free and responsible media holds power to account, exposes corruption, and gives voice to the voiceless. When used properly, media can be a powerful tool for change and development.
- VII. In conclusion, the media is a double-edged sword. It can either serve the public with truth and integrity or mislead them for profit. It is the responsibility of both media professionals and the public to ensure that media serves the greater good of society.

**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above**

- i. **What are the main roles of media in modern society? Answer in about 40 words** **2**
- ii. **The media helps people make informed decisions by:** **1**  
a) Entertaining them  
b) Providing news and updates  
c) Creating confusion  
d) Spreading rumour
- iii. **Find a word from the passage which mean the following:** **1**  
The act of giving wrong information (Paragraph 3)
- iv. **Complete the following suitably:** **1**  
A major problem with social media is \_\_\_\_\_
- v. **Select the option that is True from (a)–(c) for what the phrase ‘a double-edged sword’ suggests in the last paragraph of the passage.** **1**  
A. Media always benefits society regardless of how it is used.  
B. Media has both positive and negative effects depending on how it is used.  
C. Media can only harm society if it is not properly regulated.
- vi. **Complete the analogy by selecting the correct option (a) or (b):**  
**media : awareness :: \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_**  
(a) education : knowledge                      (b) entertainment : misinformation

- vii. Why is a free and responsible media important in a democracy? 2  
viii. What is a key danger of sensationalism in media? 1

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

- I. Health experts are raising alarms over the rising trend of energy drink consumption among adolescents. Issues such as sleep disorders, anxiety, obesity, and even heart problems are becoming increasingly common as youngsters develop a dependence on caffeine and sugar-laden beverages.
- II. Two years ago, some YouTubers introduced an energy drink. Despite not being officially launched in India at the time, it quickly gained popularity among young people, with some paying as much as ₹1,500 for a can in the black market. Now available for around ₹250, Prime's success reflects a growing thirst for quick energy boosts among teens, who often end up consuming one drink after another, becoming trapped in an unhealthy cycle.
- III. While an occasional drink may not cause harm, experts warn that excessive intake can have serious consequences. In teenagers, it can raise heart rate, cause sugar crashes, and disrupt hormone function, increasing the risk of long-term health issues. A 250ml cola has about 22mg of caffeine, whereas most energy drinks contain 80mg or more. Prime Energy tops the list with 106mg of caffeine per 250ml, significantly higher than a cappuccino's 75mg. According to health guidelines, children under 12 should avoid caffeine completely, while those aged 12–18 should limit intake to 100mg per day.
- IV. Several countries have implemented strict regulations. Lithuania banned the sale of energy drinks to minors in 2014, followed by Latvia and Poland. Sweden, Turkey, Hungary, Denmark, and Uruguay have also imposed bans or restrictions. Despite this, global consumption remains high, partly because energy drinks are marketed as performance boosters.
- V. However, scientific evidence shows they harm mental and physical health, affecting behaviour, sleep, and focus. For example, a 16-year-old girl who consumed three to four cans daily for a year needed medical intervention for withdrawal symptoms, including headaches, mood swings, and insomnia.
- VI. Experts stress the need for awareness, regulation, and moderation. Energy drinks may offer a temporary boost, but their long-term effects can be harmful, especially for growing teens. Responsible consumption, backed by education and parental guidance, is the key to preventing this ticking health time bomb.

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

- i. Why do health experts most likely warn against excessive consumption of energy drinks among teenagers? (Paragraph 1) 1

This is so because these drinks \_\_\_\_.

- A. are the cheapest source of refreshment for students.
- B. can cause serious physical and mental health issues in young people.
- C. have been approved as performance enhancers by medical bodies.
- D. are an essential part of a healthy diet.

ii. **Identify the phrase in paragraph 2 that conveys the writer's reference to how Prime became popular even before it officially launched in India.** 1

iii. **Complete the following by selecting the correct option from those given in the brackets. (Paragraph 3)** 1

A 14-year-old wants to stay alert for late-night studying and drinks an energy drink. This is risky because the \_\_\_\_\_ (high caffeine content / low sugar content) can lead to disturbed sleep and health problems.

iv. **What does the writer mean by 'trapped in an unhealthy cycle' in paragraph 2?** 1

v. **Complete the following with the correct option.** 1

When the writer says 'significantly higher' in the line 'Prime Energy tops the list with 106mg of caffeine per 250ml, significantly higher than a cappuccino's 75mg' (Paragraph 3), s/he means that \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Prime Energy contains slightly more caffeine than cappuccino.
- B. Prime Energy's caffeine content is much more than cappuccino.
- C. Cappuccino has twice the caffeine of Prime Energy.
- D. Prime Energy is only marginally stronger than cappuccino.

vi. **Complete the following appropriately.** 1

One likely reason why countries like Lithuania and Poland banned energy drinks for minors is \_\_\_\_\_. (Paragraph 4)

vii. **How are 'performance boosters' and 'marketing strategies' connected? (Paragraph 5)** 1

viii. **Elaborate how parental guidance can help reduce the harmful effects of energy drink consumption among teenagers. (Paragraph 6)** 2

ix. **Fill in the blank with ONE suitable word. (Paragraph 6)** 1

Experts stress the need for awareness, regulation, and \_\_\_\_\_ to control excessive energy drink use among teens.

## 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 brackets for the given sentence from a sports magazine: 1  
The athlete's determination was clearly \_\_\_\_\_ (admire) by the crowd.
- ii. Identify the error and write the correction in the given sentence from a health brochure: 1  
Drinking enough water is essential to maintain a good heath.  
Use the given format:

#### Error Correction

- iii. Fill in the blank with the correct form of the verb given in the brackets. 1  
We \_\_\_\_\_ (plan) this picnic for weeks, and I'm glad it's finally happening.
- iv. Report the following: 1  
She said to me, "I will help you with your homework."  
Complete the sentence:  
She told me that \_\_\_\_\_.
- v. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the ending of an email to a supplier: 1  
We hope the products will be delivered \_\_\_\_\_ the agreed date.  
A. on  
B. to  
C. for  
D. at
- vi. Report the following command: 1  
"Please send me the photos by evening," Riya requested.  
Riya requested \_\_\_\_\_.
- vii. Complete the given sentence by filling the blank with the correct option: 1  
The teacher looked \_\_\_\_\_ pleased with the students' performance in the test.  
A. truly  
B. true  
C. truth

D. truthfully

- viii. The given sentence has an error. Select the option that correctly identifies the error and the correction: 1  
My brother enjoy playing cricket every weekend.

**No. Error Correction**

- A. enjoy enjoys  
B. My Me  
C. weekend weekends  
D. playing played
- ix. Report the following question: 1  
He said to her, "Can you help me carry this box?"
- x. Fill in the blank with the correct option from those given in the brackets: 1  
The manager said he \_\_\_\_\_ (will / may) review the project by next week.
- xi. Fill in the blank to complete the sentence from a class register: 1  
Only \_\_\_\_\_ students were absent during the science practical.  
A. a few  
B. little  
C. few  
D. less
- xii. Choose the correct option to fill the blank: 1  
I was surprised to see there were \_\_\_\_\_ chairs left in the hall after the guests arrived.  
A. no  
B. some  
C. any  
D. much

**WRITING**

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

4. As Riya, the Head of the Technology Club in your school, you strongly believe in the importance of integrating digital learning tools in schools located in underprivileged urban areas around your city. Write a letter to the Education Secretary of your city, in about 120 words, highlighting the benefits of digital education and suggesting the need to introduce smart classrooms and computer training in these schools.

OR

As Aarav, the School Captain of Sunrise Public School, you are concerned about the rising cases of stress, anxiety, and emotional challenges faced by students of all age groups. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily in about 120 words, stressing the urgent need to promote mental health awareness in schools. Highlight the challenges students face and propose practical solutions to support their emotional well-being.

5. You are Rohan, and you need to select an assistant from Neha, Aditya, and Sameer.

Neha: Neha is extremely organised, with strong skills in budgeting, scheduling, and maintaining records. She prefers to work behind the scenes but ensures that every task is completed on time. She is not as comfortable pitching ideas in front of clients.

Aditya: Aditya is outgoing and confident, with experience in handling public relations and media. He is persuasive in client meetings but can be inconsistent with meeting deadlines and managing documents.

Sameer: Sameer is detail-oriented and skilled in market research and analytics. He ensures accuracy in reports and data but can be hesitant when quick decisions are required in high-pressure situations.

Based on the strengths and weaknesses of each candidate, analyse the given information and write an analytical paragraph, in about 100-120 words, and decide who would be the best assistant for Rohan for the product launch. Consider complementary skills, ability to meet project demands, and teamwork potential.

OR

You are the Head of your school's Environment Club. Two people, Mr. Anil Kumar and Ms. Pooja Singh, have written to you to say they would like to be guest speakers for your Save Nature programme. Read what they wrote:

Excerpt 1:

I have been working as an environmental science teacher for 12 years. I have helped many schools start tree-planting drives and waste recycling projects. I also guide students on how to reduce plastic use and keep their surroundings clean. I believe my talk can give your club members practical ideas to protect nature.

Best regards,

Mr. Anil Kumar

Excerpt 2:

I am a wildlife photographer and have travelled to many forests in India. I take pictures of animals and birds and talk about how to save them. I have given talks in schools to make

students aware of the importance of protecting animals and their homes. My stories and photos will inspire students to care for nature.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Pooja Singh

Analyse the given information and write an analytical paragraph in 100-120 words, justifying which guest speaker would be a better choice. Consider factors such as experience, relevance to the topic, and audience engagement.

## SECTION C

### LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (40 marks)

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

A. Not a leaf remained on the trees. The corn was totally destroyed. The flowers were gone from the plants. Lencho's soul was filled with sadness. When the storm had passed, he stood in the middle of the field and said to his sons, "A plague of locusts would have left more than this. The hail has left nothing. This year we will have no corn."

That night was a sorrowful one.

"All our work, for nothing."

"There's no one who can help us."

"We'll all go hungry this year."

(A Letter to God)

**I. Contradict the view that Lencho remained hopeful after the storm. 2**

**II. Which of the following statements best explains the family's emotional state after the storm? 1**

- a) They were calm and optimistic about finding alternate food sources.
- b) They were worried but began searching for another field.
- c) They were devastated and felt helpless about their situation.
- d) They decided to move to a new village immediately.

**III. What can be inferred about Lencho's relationship with farming from this extract? 1**

**IV. Categorise the following phrases into 'natural destruction' and 'emotional reaction': 1**

- i) "Not a leaf remained on the trees"
- ii) "All our work, for nothing."
- iii) "The corn was totally destroyed."
- iv) "There's no one who can help us."



No.	Natural Destruction	Emotional Reaction
A	i, iii	ii, iv
B	ii, iv	i, iii
C	i, ii	iii, iv
D	iii, iv	i, ii

OR

B. Later, he patted me on the head and said never mind, he'd teach me to cook. He also taught me to write my name and said he would soon teach me to write whole sentences and to add numbers. I was grateful. I knew that once I could write like an educated man there would be no limit to what I could achieve.

It was quite pleasant working for Anil. I made the tea in the morning and then would take my time buying the day's supplies, usually making a profit of about a rupee a day. I think he knew I made a little money this way but he did not seem to mind. (The Thief's Story)

**I. What does the phrase "he patted me on the head and said never mind" reveal about Anil's character?** 1

- a) He was disappointed but unwilling to show it.
- b) He was encouraging and forgiving.
- c) He was firm and authoritative.
- d) He was indifferent to the narrator's mistakes.

II. How does the narrator's relationship with Anil influence his aspirations and behaviour? Support your answer with evidence from the extract. 2

**III. Complete the sentence appropriately:** 1

The narrator suspects that Anil was aware of the profit he made, yet Anil didn't react because \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) he respected the narrator's survival instincts
- b) he hoped trust would change the narrator

IV. Identify the two contrasting tones in the narrator's actions and thoughts as seen in the extract. 1

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

**5**

- A. But he's locked in a concrete cell  
His strength behind bars  
Stalking the length of his cage

Ignoring visitors.

(A Tiger in the Zoo)

**I. What emotions are most appropriately conveyed by the phrases 'locked in a concrete cell' and 'his strength behind bars'?** 1

- i) helplessness
- ii) rage
- iii) frustration
- iv) boredom
- v) captivity

**Select the correct option.**

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

**II. How do the lines 'stalking the length of his cage / ignoring visitors' reflect the tiger's state of mind?** 2

**III. Which phrase from the extract highlights the contrast between the tiger's strength and his current condition?** 1

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

The phrase "*locked in a concrete cell*" symbolises the tiger's \_\_\_\_\_ from its natural habitat.

OR

B. The true Chameleon is small,  
A lizard sort of thing;  
He hasn't any ears at all,  
And not a single wing.  
If there is nothing on the tree,  
'Tis the chameleon you see. (How to tell Wild Animals)

**I. What does the poet convey through the lines 'If there is nothing on the tree, 'Tis the chameleon you see'?** 1

- i) The chameleon is hard to detect due to its size and colour.
- ii) The chameleon can vanish entirely from sight.
- iii) The poet is mocking the chameleon's invisibility.
- iv) The chameleon is easy to identify because it hides well.
- v) The poet finds chameleons fascinating due to their stillness.

**Select the correct option.**

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

**II. Complete the following sentence appropriately:** 1

The poet compares the chameleon to *a lizard sort of thing* to emphasise \_\_\_\_\_.

III. How does the poet use humour to describe the chameleon in the extract? 2

IV. Which line from the extract can be seen as an ironic observation on the chameleon's ability to camouflage? 1

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

I. How does the mother seagull's approach reflect an understanding of fear and motivation in helping her young one take flight? Support your answer with reference to her actions. (Two Stories About Flying – His First Flight)

II. In what ways does the ball symbolise loss and personal growth in the boy's life? Discuss how the poet uses this simple incident to convey a universal life lesson. (The Ball Poem)

III. How does the metaphor 'a deep and lasting wound' reflect the emotional and societal damage caused by apartheid, according to Mandela? Explain the significance of this comparison in the context of South Africa's struggle for freedom. (Nelson Mandela – Long Walk to Freedom)

IV. What does the tiger's act of ignoring visitors suggest about his emotional state and the poet's commentary on captivity? Support your answer with reference to the poem. (A Tiger in the Zoo)

V. Contrast Rajvir's excitement with Pranjal's indifference as they travel through the tea plantations. What does this reveal about their backgrounds and perspectives? (Glimpses of India – Tea from Assam)

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

I. How does James Herriot use the bond between Mrs. Pumphrey and Tricki to reflect societal attitudes towards pet ownership and the often-misunderstood responsibilities of caregiving? Support your answer with reference to the story *A Triumph of Surgery*.

II. How does Ausable's calm presence of mind and clever use of his surroundings help him outsmart Max and resolve a potentially dangerous situation? Illustrate with reference to *The Midnight Visitor*.

III. How does the sudden voice in the doorway change the course of Horace Danby's burglary attempt in *A Question of Trust*? Discuss how this moment reveals his personality and decision-making under pressure.

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

- A. Compare how Lencho in 'A Letter to God' and the boy in 'The Ball Poem' cope with loss. What do their responses reveal about their beliefs and emotional maturity?
- B. How do both poems, 'A Tiger in the Zoo' and 'How to tell Wild Animals', present wild animals differently—one with humour and the other with empathy? What effect does the tone have on the reader?

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

A. Anil never preached honesty to Hari Singh, yet his actions influenced the young thief's conscience. Analyze how Anil's behaviour and attitude fostered transformation in Hari Singh. What does this suggest about the power of trust and empathy in changing someone's character? (The Thief's Story)

B. Griffin's scientific brilliance is overshadowed by his misuse of knowledge and disregard for morality. Discuss how the chapter *Footprints Without Feet* reflects the consequences of scientific advancement when separated from ethical responsibility. Support your answer with relevant textual evidence.