

DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION, GOVT OF NCT, DELHI

MID TERM PRACTICE PAPER (2025-26)

CLASS: IX

SUBJECT: ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE (184)

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Read the instructions given carefully and strictly follow them:

(i) This question paper comprises 11 questions. All questions are compulsory.

(ii) The question paper contains THREE sections:

- Section A: Reading
- Section B: Grammar and Creative Writing Skills
- Section C: Literature

(iii) Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

Section A: Reading

20 Marks

Q1. Read the passage given below:

10

1. In today's rapidly changing world, the role of technology in education has become a topic of immense discussion. For centuries, classrooms remained almost unchanged — a teacher lecturing, students taking notes, and textbooks being the main source of information. However, the digital revolution has transformed this traditional model and brought about a new era of learning.
2. Smart classrooms equipped with projectors, interactive whiteboards, and internet connectivity are now common in many schools. Teachers use digital content,

videos, and simulations to make complex topics more engaging and easier to understand. For instance, a science teacher can demonstrate volcanic eruptions through 3D animations rather than just describing them. Such tools not only capture attention but also help in better retention of knowledge.

3. Another remarkable change is the rise of online learning platforms. Students can now access courses from top universities across the globe, often free of cost. This has opened opportunities for learners from remote areas who otherwise lacked access to quality education. In addition, e-books, digital libraries, and language-learning apps have made knowledge accessible at the touch of a button.
4. Despite these advantages, the integration of technology in education faces challenges. Not every school can afford advanced digital tools. Many rural areas in India still lack stable internet connectivity, making online learning difficult. Moreover, excessive dependence on gadgets can reduce students' ability to think critically and solve problems independently. Educators often stress that technology should complement, not replace, traditional teaching methods.
5. The future of education is likely to be a blend of both — where technology enhances classroom teaching while personal interaction with teachers builds values and creativity. As one educationist rightly said, “A computer can teach facts, but only a teacher can inspire dreams.” The ultimate goal should be to create a balanced system that combines the efficiency of machines with the empathy of human educators.

(Adapted from UNESCO reports on Digital Education and ICT in Learning)

Based on your reading of the passage, answer the following questions:

I. Complete the following with reference to paragraph 1: (1)

The biggest transformation in education has come from _____.

II. Based on the passage, how do teachers make learning more engaging with technology? Give an example. (2)

III. List two advantages of online learning platforms. (1)

IV. Fill in the blanks suitably with reference to paragraph 4: (2)

According to the passage, technology should _____, not _____ traditional teaching methods.

V. Substitute the underlined phrase with the correct word from paragraph 3: (1)

E-books, digital libraries and educational apps have made knowledge **accessible** at the touch of a button.

- (a) available
- (b) expensive
- (c) complex
- (d) temporary

VI. What problem does rural India face in adopting digital education? (1)

VII. What role, according to the passage, can only a teacher play in a student's life? (1)

VIII. Complete the sentence with the correct response: (1)

The writer's tone in the passage is _____.

Q2. Read the passage given below: 10

1. Plastic pollution has become one of the most pressing environmental issues of our time. Lightweight, inexpensive, and durable, plastic is used in almost every aspect of modern life. From packaging and bottles to electronics and automobiles, its applications are countless. However, these very qualities make it harmful to the planet, as plastic waste does not decompose easily and can remain in the environment for hundreds of years.
2. According to a UN report, the world produces over **400 million tonnes of plastic every year**, and nearly **40% of it is single-use plastic**. Every year, around **11 million tonnes of plastic enter the oceans**. Scientists warn that if current trends continue, by **2050 there could be more plastic than fish in the oceans by weight**.
3. The impact on marine life is devastating. Sea turtles mistake plastic bags for jellyfish, seabirds die after eating bottle caps, and whales are often found with stomachs full of plastic. Microplastics — tiny fragments less than 5 mm in size — have been discovered in **seafood, drinking water, and even human blood samples**, raising concerns about long-term health risks.
4. Governments and organisations worldwide are acting to address the crisis. More than **60 countries** have introduced bans or taxes on single-use plastics. Campaigns encourage recycling, afforestation, and alternatives like jute and cloth bags. However, experts emphasise that lasting change depends on consumers reducing unnecessary plastic use in their daily lives.

(Adapted from United Nations Environment Programme reports on plastic pollution)

Based on your reading of the passage, answer the following questions:

I. What does the phrase “pressing environmental issue” in paragraph 1 tell us about plastic pollution?

(1)

- (a) It is minor and unimportant
- (b) It is serious and urgent
- (c) It is fun and entertaining
- (d) It is temporary

II. Select the option that is true for the Assertion and Reason given below: (1)

Assertion (A): By 2050 there could be more plastic than fish in the oceans by weight.

Reason (R): Plastic waste remains in the environment for hundreds of years.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true, R is false.
- (d) A is false, R is true.

III. State any two harmful effects of plastic on marine animals. (2)

IV. Pick the option that is closest in meaning to the word “devastating” as used in paragraph 3. (1)

- (a) harmless
- (b) destructive
- (c) joyful

(d) temporary

V. How are governments and organisations acting to reduce plastic pollution? (1)

VI. Complete the following sentence: (1)

The world produces over _____ tonnes of plastic every year.

VII. What evidence from paragraph 3 shows that microplastics affect human health? (1)

VIII. Complete the following suitably: (2)

According to the passage, experts believe that lasting change in plastic use will come only when _____.

SECTION-B (GRAMMAR & CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS) 20 Marks

Q3. Complete ANY TEN of the twelve following tasks, as directed: (10x1=10)

(i) Supply the correct form of the verb in the following sentence:

The train _____ (arrive) late yesterday due to heavy rains.

(ii) Choose the most suitable modal to make the sentence meaningful.

We _____ (should/might/must) respect our elders.

(iii) **Identify the error and correct it:** She don't like to play badminton.

Error	Correction
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(iv) Take a look at the conversation between a teacher and a student about homework:

Teacher: Did you complete your assignment on time?

Student: Yes, I submitted it yesterday.

Select the correct option to complete the reporting of the above dialogue:

The teacher asked the student if he had completed his assignment on time. The student replied that _____.

(A) he submits it yesterday

(B) he had submitted it the previous day

(C) he has submitted it on yesterday

(D) he submitted it on previous day

(v) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the line given below:

She go to the library every Saturday with her friends.

Options:

Error	Correction
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(A) go	goes
(B) library	libraries
(C) with	by
(D) Saturday	Saturdays

(vi) Report the dialogue by completing the sentence:

Mother: Please switch off the lights before sleeping.

Son: Sure, I will.

The mother requested the son _____.

(vii) Identify the error and supply the correction in the space given:

A basket of mangoes were lying on the table.

Error	Correction

(viii) Complete the given narrative by filling the blank with the correct option:

When we reached the cinema hall, the movie _____ already begun.

(A) has

(B) have

(C) had

(D) will have

(ix) Fill in the blank by choosing the most appropriate option:

There isn't _____ milk left in the jug.

(A) many

(B) some

(C) any

(D) few

(x). Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the line given below:

We _____ always respect our national flag. (should/might)

(xi). Complete the sentence by selecting the correct option:

Neither of the boys _____ guilty of the mistake.

(A) are

(B) is

(C) were

(D) have

(xii). Identify the error and supply correction for the following sentence:

The children was playing happily in the park.

Error	Correction

Creative Writing Skills

Q4. (A) Write a descriptive paragraph on “**A visit to a historical monument**” you recently made with your classmates. Describe what you saw, learnt, and felt in about 80 words. **(5 Marks)**

OR

(B) Write a descriptive paragraph on “**A festival celebration in your neighbourhood**”.

Q5. (A) You saw a stray dog injured on the road. You and your friends helped it reach an animal shelter. Write a diary entry about this incident and how you felt afterwards in about 80 words. **(5 Marks)**

OR

(B) You were travelling by train when suddenly it stopped in the middle of a forest at night. Describe the experience in the form of a story.

SECTION: C (LITERATURE)

40 Marks

Q6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given: 5 Marks

“She had been to the headmistress’s room and as she came out she noticed a girl playing the piano. It fascinated her, and she thought of learning it. But her teachers discouraged her. Only one person spotted her talent.” (The Sound of Music)

- i. Why did most teachers discourage her? (1)
- ii. Which instrument fascinated her? (1)
 - (a) Guitar
 - (b) Piano
 - (c) Violin
 - (d) Flute
- iii. Fill in the blank:
The one teacher who recognised her talent was _____. (1)
- iv. How did this teacher’s guidance help her overcome her difficulty? (2)

OR

“A balloon seller held a pole with many coloured balloons. The child was attracted by their bright colours and wanted one. But he knew his parents would not agree, so he walked away quietly.” (The Lost Child) 5 Marks

- i. What attracted the child in this scene? (1)
- ii. The balloons in the passage were: (1)
- (a) plain
- (b) colourful
- (c) torn
- (d) dull
- iii. Fill in the blank:
The child knew his parents would call him _____ if he asked for a balloon. (1)
- iv. What does this extract reveal about the child's feelings towards his parents? (2)

Q7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given: 5 Marks

“Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth.”
(The Road Not Taken)

- i. What dilemma does the poet face in this stanza? (1)
- ii. The “yellow wood” refers to: (1)
- (a) A forest in summer
 - (b) A forest in spring
 - (c) A forest in autumn
 - (d) A forest at night
- iii. Fill in the blank: (1)
- The poet looked down the road to where it _____.
- iv. What life lesson does the poet convey through the image of “two roads”? (2)

OR

“When the humid shadows hover
Over all the starry spheres,
And the melancholy darkness
Gently weeps in rainy tears,
What a bliss to press the pillow
Of a cottage-chamber bed
And lie listening to the patter
Of the soft rain overhead!”

(Rain on the Roof)

- i. What do the “humid shadows” refer to in the stanza? (1)
- ii. The phrase “melancholy darkness” creates a mood of: (1)
 - (a) joy
 - (b) sadness
 - (c) anger
 - (d) surprise
- iii. Fill in the blank: (1)

The poet listens to the _____ of the soft rain.
- iv. How does the poet describe the soothing effect of rain in these lines? (2)

Q8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions in about 40–50 words each. (4×3=12)

- a) How did Evelyn Glennie learn to sense sound without hearing? (The Sound of Music)
- b) How does the story highlight the difference between mechanical teaching and traditional schooling? (The Fun They Had)
- c) How does Kezia’s attitude towards her father change in the end? (The Little Girl)

d) Why is Einstein remembered as a humanitarian as well as a genius? (A Truly Beautiful Mind)

e) Why does the doctor in the story call himself foolish and stupid? (The Snake and the Mirror)

Q9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions in about 60-80 words each. (2×3=6)

a) How did the narrator's family realise that keeping Toto was troublesome? (The Adventures of Toto)

b) How does Iswaran show his imagination and storytelling skill? (Iswaran the Storyteller)

c) How did the guru outwit the king and save his disciple? (The Kingdom of Fools)

Q10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 80 words. (1×6=6)

a) How does the story highlight the theme of fear and love in a parent-child relationship? (The Little Girl)

OR

b) What does Ustad Bismillah Khan's life teach us about simplicity and devotion to art? (The Sound of Music)

Q11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 80 words. (1×6=6)

a) How does the author highlight the innocence and vulnerability of the child? (The Lost Child)

OR

b) How are Mahendra and Iswaran different from each other? What do their reactions show about fear and belief? (Iswaran the Storyteller)
