

Directorate of Education, GNCT of Delhi
PRACTICE PAPER (Mid Term)
(2026-27)
CLASS: X
SUBJECT: ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (184)

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. India's textile tradition is far more than a history of fabrics and fashion—it is a living narrative of art, culture, craftsmanship, and identity. For thousands of years, Indian textiles have reflected the country's diverse geography, rich heritage, and creative spirit. From the ancient settlements of the Indus Valley Civilization to contemporary fashion runways, every thread woven, dyed, embroidered, or printed tells a story of people, places, and traditions. These textiles are not merely decorative; they are enduring symbols of India's cultural continuity and artistic excellence.

2. The remarkable diversity of Indian textiles lies in the unique techniques perfected by generations of skilled artisans. Across the country, communities have developed distinct forms of embroidery, resist dyeing, printing, and hand weaving that are deeply rooted in their regional identities. Delicate Kashida from Kashmir captures the beauty of nature, vibrant Phulkari celebrates the spirit of Punjab, while ChambaRumal transforms embroidery into 'needle painting'. Similarly, Bandhani, Ikat, Kalamkari, Banarasi brocades, Kanjeevaram silks, Chanderi weaves, and countless other traditions showcase extraordinary technical mastery combined with artistic imagination. Each textile embodies local materials, indigenous knowledge, and centuries of inherited craftsmanship.
3. Beyond their aesthetic appeal, traditional Indian textiles have played a vital role in shaping the nation's economy and society. The textile sector has long been one of India's largest sources of employment, supporting millions of artisans, weavers, dyers, embroiderers, and craftspeople. It contributes significantly to industrial production, exports, and foreign exchange earnings while sustaining numerous rural communities. Government initiatives, skill development programmes, and vocational education have further strengthened the industry by encouraging young learners to appreciate traditional crafts and prepare for careers in textile design and related fields.
4. Indian textiles also bear witness to the country's historical journey. They flourished under royal patronage, survived colonial exploitation, and became powerful symbols of self-reliance during the freedom movement through Mahatma Gandhi's promotion of Khadi and the Swadeshi movement. Even today, these traditions continue to evolve without losing their authenticity. Artisans skilfully adapt age-old techniques to create contemporary garments,

home furnishings, accessories, and lifestyle products, ensuring that tradition remains relevant in the modern world.

5. As globalization transforms consumer choices, preserving India's textile heritage has become both a cultural responsibility and an economic necessity. Every handcrafted textile represents countless hours of dedication, inherited wisdom, and artistic passion. By valuing traditional Indian textiles, we honour the creativity of our artisans, safeguard centuries-old knowledge, and ensure that future generations inherit a legacy woven with resilience, diversity, and pride. In every motif, every colour, and every weave, Indian textiles continue to narrate the timeless story of a civilisation that has always celebrated beauty through craftsmanship.

Created for academic usage / 438 words

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- I. Why does the author describe Indian textiles as 'enduring symbols of India's cultural continuity and artistic excellence'? (Paragraph 1) 1
- II. According to Paragraph 2, Indian textile traditions are characterised by all of the following EXCEPT 1
- A. regional identities
 - B. inherited craftsmanship
 - C. artistic imagination
 - D. mechanised production

- III. Complete the following by selecting the correct option from those given in the brackets: 1

The traditional techniques of Indian textiles have been perfected by generations of _____ artisans. (skilled/commercial)(Paragraph 2)

- IV. Select the option that is TRUE for what the phrase 'without losing their authenticity' suggests in Paragraph 4. 1

- A. Traditional textiles have adapted to changing times while preserving their original character.
- B. Traditional textile designs have remained unchanged over the centuries.

C. Artisans prefer producing only traditional garments instead of modern products.

V. Complete the analogy by selecting the correct option. 1

Khadi : Symbol of self-reliance :: Handcrafted textile

(a) Symbol of cultural heritage

(b) Symbol of industrialization

VI. Why does the author regard the textile industry as an important contributor to India's economy as well as society? (Paragraph 3) 2

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

i. Traditional Indian textiles continue to remain relevant by adapting to modern needs.

ii. Preserving India's textile heritage is both a cultural responsibility and an economic necessity.

iii. Traditional Indian textiles have become outdated in the modern world

iv. Every handcrafted textile reflects dedication, inherited wisdom, and artistic passion.

v. Globalisation has encouraged the replacement of handcrafted textiles with machine-made products.

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

VIII. Why does the author emphasise the need to value traditional Indian textiles in the age of globalisation? (Paragraph 5) 2

2. Read the following passage. 10

1. Writing remains an integral part of teenagers' lives despite the growing popularity of digital communication. A survey involving **700 teenagers aged 12–17 years** explored how frequently young people write both inside and outside the classroom. The findings revealed that **every**

participant wrote for school in some form, while **93% (651 students)** also engaged in writing beyond academic requirements. However, only 50% (350 students) reported writing for school almost every day, compared with just 36% (252 students) who wrote regularly outside school. These figures suggest that although personal writing is common, it is not always a daily habit.

2. The survey also highlighted differences in students' attitudes towards writing. Nearly 49% (343 students) said they greatly enjoyed writing for themselves, including journals, stories, **blogs and** messages, whereas **only** 17% (119 students) expressed the same enthusiasm for school writing. Interestingly, many teenagers believed that personal writing allowed them greater creativity and freedom of expression than classroom assignments, which often followed fixed formats and assessment criteria.
3. The findings indicate that while academic writing remains an essential part of education, students are more motivated when they have opportunities to write about topics of personal interest. Educators suggest that incorporating creative tasks, real-life situations and collaborative writing activities into the curriculum could make classroom writing more engaging. In an increasingly digital world, effective writing continues to be a valuable skill that supports communication, learning and future career success.

Created for academic usage / 233 words

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- I. Why do the survey findings suggest that writing continues to remain important despite the growing use of digital communication? (Paragraph 1) 1
- II. Complete the following by selecting the correct option from those given in the brackets. 1
Although 651 out of 700 teenagers reported writing outside school, only **252** did so

regularly. This suggests that regular personal writing was comparatively _____.

(infrequent / universal)(Paragraph 1)

- III. Select the option that best explains the expression '**greater freedom of expression**' in Paragraph 2. 1

A. Students can choose what and how they wish to write.
B. Students are free from grammatical rules.
C. Students are not required to complete school assignments.
D. Students write only on digital platforms.

- IV. Complete the following with the correct option. 1

The statement "students are more motivated when they have opportunities to write about topics of personal interest" suggests that

A. students prefer to avoid all forms of academic writing.
B. personal choice increases students' interest in writing.
C. classroom writing should completely replace creative writing.
D. students write effectively only on digital platforms.

- V. Complete the analogy by selecting the correct option. 1

Academic writing : Formal learning :: Personal writing :

(a) Self-expression
(b) Examination

- VI. Complete the following appropriately. 1

The fact that 343 teenagers greatly enjoyed personal writing suggests that they valued the opportunity to _____. (Paragraph 2)

- VII. How can introducing creative tasks, real-life situations and collaborative writing **activities** make classroom writing more engaging for students? (Paragraph 3) 1

- VIII. Why does the author believe that effective writing will continue to remain an essential skill in the digital age? (Paragraph 3) 1

- IX. The author suggests that schools should make writing activities more engaging. Explain how this could benefit students in the long run. (Paragraph 3) 2

SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR**(20 marks)****GRAMMAR - 10****3. Complete any ten of twelve of the following tasks, as directed****(10x1=10)**

- I.** Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket for the given portion of a travel brochure:

The historical monuments of the city are beautifully _____ (describe) to attract tourists from across the world

- II.** Identify the error and write the correction in the given sentence.

I have been waiting since two hours.

ERROR	CORRECTION

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

The students _____ (prepare) for the annual examination for several weeks, and they are feeling more confident now.

- IV.** Read the given statement.

The captain said, "We have won the match because of our teamwork."

Report it correctly by completing the following.

The captain said that _____

- V.** Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the sentence.

The museum provides information _____ the history and culture of the region.

- A. about
- B. between
- C. among
- D. across

- VI.** Report the following by completing the sentence correctly.

"Please help me carry these boxes," the old man requested the boy.

The old man requested _____

VII. Complete the given opinion by filling the blank with correct option.

The training session enabled the employees _____ their skills and work more effectively.

- A. improving
- B. improved
- C. improve
- D. improves

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

Why did the manager rejected the proposal even though it contained several useful suggestions for improving the company’s performance?

No.	Error	Correction
A.	manager	managers
B.	rejected	reject
C.	contained	contain
D.	improving	improved

IX. Report the following question.

The doctor said to the patient, “Are you feeling better after taking the medicine?”

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

The team has practised regularly, so they _____ (should / cannot) perform well in the final match.

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

_____ of the two students completed the science project successfully.

- A. Both
- B. Every
- C. All
- D. Much

XII. Identify the error and write the correction in the given sentence.

The committee have decided to organise a special event for raising awareness about road safety.

ERROR	CORRECTION

WRITING - 10

4. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B

1 X 5 = 5

As Riya/Raman, the President of your school's Nature Club, you have observed that many students in nearby villages are unaware of the importance of protecting the environment. You believe that forming Nature Clubs in rural schools can encourage students to participate in tree plantation, waste management, and water conservation activities.

Write a letter to the District Education Officer of your district, in about **120 words**, explaining the importance of environmental awareness and requesting the establishment of Nature Clubs in rural schools.

OR

As **Kanika/ Karan**, the Head Boy of Green Valley School, you have noticed a sharp rise in cases of online fraud, identity theft, and misuse of social media among students and senior citizens. You believe that spreading awareness about safe online practices is essential to protect people from cybercrime.

Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily in about **120 words**, highlighting the importance of cyber safety awareness, explaining the risks of online scams, and suggesting practical measures such as digital literacy programmes, strong password practices, and awareness campaigns to ensure a safer digital environment.

5. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B

1 X 5 = 5

Myra/Manish, the Editor of the school newsletter, is known for her excellent writing skills, creativity, and eye for detail. She enjoys producing high-quality content and encourages new ideas from her team. However, she sometimes spends too much time perfecting articles, which leads to missed deadlines. She has to choose an assistant editor who can help publish the newsletter on time while maintaining its quality.

Tanvi: Tanvi is highly disciplined and manages her time effectively. She carefully edits articles for grammar, spelling, and clarity and ensures that every task is completed before the deadline. She is dependable and organised but is not very creative when it comes to generating fresh ideas or designing attractive content.

Rahul: Rahul is imaginative and enjoys creating catchy headlines, interesting stories, and attractive layouts. He often suggests innovative ideas that make the newsletter more engaging. However, he gets distracted easily, sometimes leaves work incomplete, and needs frequent reminders to stay focused and meet deadlines.

Based on the profiles, analyse and decide who would be the better assistant editor for Myra/Manish. In your answer, consider the importance of teamwork, complementary skills, creativity, time management, and the responsibilities of publishing the school newsletter on schedule. (100-120 words)

OR

B. The table below compares the features of **Smartphone A** and **Smartphone B**.

Features	Smartphone A	Smartphone B
Price	₹18,000	₹22,000
Battery	5000 mAh	4500 mAh
Camera	50 MP	64 MP
Storage	128 GB	256 GB
RAM	6 GB	8 GB
Warranty	1 Year	2 Years

Study the data given above and write an analytical paragraph in about 100–120 words, comparing the two smartphones. Analyse their features, identify their strengths and limitations, and suggest which smartphone would be a better choice for a student, giving suitable reasons.

SECTION C (LITERATURE)

40 Marks

6. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (a) or (b): 5

(a)

The moon was coming up in the east, behind me, and stars were shining in the clear sky above me. There wasn't a cloud in the sky. I was happy to be alone high up above the sleeping countryside. I was flying my old Dakota aeroplane over France back to England. I was dreaming of my holiday and looking forward to being with my family. I looked at my watch: one thirty in the morning.

(Two Stories About Flying)

I. What time of the day is the above extract set in?

1

- (A) dawn
- (B) afternoon
- (C) night
- (D) dusk

II. State any one inference about the writer from the given context.

1

"I was looking forward to being with my family."

III. Fill in the blank with the appropriate option.

1

The expression "clear sky" indicates that the weather conditions were _____.

- (A) favourable
- (B) unpredictable
- (C) threatening
- (D) turbulent

IV. How does the serene atmosphere described in the extract contribute to the narrator's mood and anticipation of his journey to England? Answer in about 40 words.

2

OR

(b)

"It's not my balcony," Ausable said with extreme irritation. "It belongs to the next apartment." He glanced explanatorily at Fowler. "You see," he said, "this room used to be part of a large unit, and the next room — through that door there — used to be the living room. It had the balcony, which extends under my window now. You can get onto it from the empty room two doors down — and somebody did, last month. The management promised to block it off. But they haven't."

(The Midnight Visitor)

I. What was the management supposed to do regarding the balcony?

1

II. Which of the following best explains Ausable's apparent irritation?

1

- (A) The balcony was too narrow to be used safely.
- (B) The balcony belonged to the neighbouring apartment.
- (C) The management had failed to block access to the balcony despite its promise.
- (D) Fowler repeatedly questioned him about the balcony.

III. How does Ausable's detailed account of the balcony make his invented story convincing and intensify the suspense in the scene? Answer in about 40 words.

2

IV. Complete the following suitably.

1

Ausable's reference to "last month" and "now" makes his explanation appear more _____.

- (A) humorous
- (B) convincing

- (C) contradictory
- (D) emotional

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (a) or (b): 5

(a)

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree
Has given my heart
A change of mood

(Dust of Snow)

- I. Complete the following suitably. 1

The falling dust of snow changed the speaker's mood by _____.

- II. How do the crow, the hemlock tree and the dust of snow collectively bring about a change in the speaker's emotional state? Answer in about 40 words. 2

- III. 'Dust of Snow' is referred to as: 1

- (A) mist
- (B) dust of branches
- (C) snow residue
- (D) snowflakes

- IV. The crow and the hemlock tree are conventionally associated with: 1

- (A) sorrow and gloom
- (B) celebration and success
- (C) hope and enthusiasm
- (D) beauty and prosperity

OR

(b)

He stalks in his vivid stripes
 The few steps of his cage,
 On pads of velvet quiet,
 In his quiet rage.
 He should be lurking in shadow,
 Sliding through long grass

(A Tiger in the Zoo)

- I.** Identify any one poetic device used in the extract and explain its effect. 2
- II.** Fill in the blank with one word. 1
- The expression “pads of velvet” suggests that the tiger’s movement is _____.
- III.** Which option best describes the tiger’s emotional state in the extract? 1
- (A) calm and content
 (B) restrained yet angry
 (C) frustrated yet cheerful
 (D) angry and famished
- IV.** Which feature of the rhyme scheme in the first four lines best supports the mood of the extract? 1
- (A) It creates a cheerful and musical effect.
 (B) It reflects the restrained yet repetitive movement of the tiger.
 (C) It gives the poem a humorous tone.
 (D) It makes the tiger appear energetic and playful.

8. Answer any four of the following five questions in 40–50 words each: (4 × 3 = 12)

- I.** How do the young seagull’s fear of flying and eventual first flight contribute to the themes of courage and independence? Justify. **(Two Stories about Flying)**
- II.** How does the contrast between the tiger’s natural habitat and its confinement in a concrete cell highlight the consequences of captivity for wild animals?**(A Tiger in the Zoo)**
- III.** The portrayal of the baker’s attire and role in the village emphasizes the cultural and social significance of bread-making in the community. Elaborate.**(Glimpses of India – A Baker from Goa)**

IV. Each wild animal has certain distinctive features by which it can be identified. Explain how the poet presents these characteristics humorously in “How to Tell Wild Animals”.

V. How did the hailstorm affect Lencho's cornfield? What were his expectations after the destruction of his crop?(A letter to God)

9. Answer any two of the following three questions in 40–50 words each: (2 × 3 = 6)

I. How did the absence of Mrs Pumphrey’s excessive attention help Tricki become healthier? (A Triumph of Surgery’)

II. Why did Max believe Ausable’s story about the police? What does this reveal about Max’s state of mind? (The Midnight Visitor)

III. “Overconfidence can make even an experienced person vulnerable to deception.” Explain with reference to the lesson, ‘A Question of Trust’.

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

(A) Mandela believes that hatred can be overcome through understanding, while Frost warns of the destructive power of emotions. Compare the messages of both texts and explain how they encourage responsible behaviour.

OR

(B) A small incident changes the poet's mood in *Dust of Snow*, while a small incident teaches the boy an important lesson in *The Ball Poem*. Compare how ordinary experiences become meaningful turning points in both poems.

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

(A) In the lesson, “Footprints Without Feet”, Griffin succeeds in becoming invisible but fails to earn trust or respect. What does the story suggest about the qualities that make a person truly successful?

OR

(B) The turning point in Hari Singh's life comes from an inner conflict rather than an external punishment. Discuss how the author highlights the power of self-realisation with reference to the lesson, 'A Thief's Story'?