

Directorate of Education, GNCT of Delhi
PRACTICE PAPER (Mid Term)
(2026-27)
CLASS: IX
SUBJECT: ENGLISH (R2)

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: Writing Skills and Grammar
Section – C: Literature Textbook
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each Part.

SECTION A READING SKILLS

20 Marks

Q1. Read the passage given below:

12

1. When a bee settles on a flower, it may appear to be simply searching for food. In reality, it may be performing a task essential to the life of a plant and, ultimately, to our own food supply. Pollination occurs when pollen is transferred from one flower to another, allowing plants to reproduce and produce fruits and seeds. Bees are among the best-known pollinators, but they are not alone. Butterflies, moths, beetles, flies, birds and bats also play this quiet but important role.
2. India has a remarkably rich diversity of pollinators. According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the country has more than 800 species of bees, along with many other pollinating animals. Their importance extends far beyond gardens and forests. A large number of crops depend, to varying degrees, on pollination. When pollinators move from flower to flower, they help maintain plant diversity and support the production of fruits, vegetables and seeds.
3. The relationship between plants and pollinators is surprisingly specialised. Some flowers attract particular visitors through their colour, scent, shape or supply of nectar. A pollinator, in turn, may depend on certain plants for food. This creates an intricate network in which plants and animals benefit from one another. If flowering plants disappear from an area, pollinators may lose important sources of food and shelter. The effect can extend beyond individual insects to the wider ecosystem.
4. Pollinators, however, face growing challenges. The loss of natural habitats, fewer flowering plants and inappropriate use of agricultural chemicals can make it difficult for them to survive. Conservation therefore involves more than protecting insects; it also means creating places where they can feed, shelter and reproduce. ICAR

researchers have promoted flowering plants and seasonal floral resources as ways of supporting pollinator populations and improving agricultural landscapes.

5. An interesting example of such an approach has emerged on India's highways. In 2026, the National Highways Authority of India announced plans to develop "Bee Corridors" along national highways. These corridors will use flowering trees and plants to provide nectar and pollen across different seasons. Native species such as Neem, Jamun, Mahua and Palash are among those proposed for plantation. The idea is to turn stretches of infrastructure into spaces that can also support biodiversity.
6. The hidden world of pollinators reminds us that nature often depends on relationships that are easy to overlook. A tiny bee, butterfly or hoverfly may seem insignificant when viewed alone, yet its movement between flowers can contribute to food production, plant reproduction and ecological balance. Protecting pollinators, therefore, means protecting a network of life in which humans are also deeply connected.

(438 words approximately; created for academic use)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

I. Which of the following statements can be inferred from the passage? 1

- i. Pollination involves interactions between plants and animals.
- ii. Only bees are important for pollination.
- iii. The loss of flowering plants can affect pollinator populations.
- iv. Protecting pollinators also contributes to maintaining ecological balance.

- A.** i and ii only
B. i, iii and iv only
C. ii and iii only
D. i, ii and iv only

II. Select the option that best explains why pollinators are important to human beings, according to the passage. 1

- a. They make flowers more attractive in gardens.
- b. They help plants reproduce and contribute to the production of fruits and seeds.
- c. They provide shelter to other animals in forests.
- d. They prevent all agricultural pests from damaging crops.

III. Complete the following sentence with a suitable phrase from Paragraph 3. 1

Some flowers attract particular pollinators through their colour, scent, shape or _____.

IV. Complete the following table using information from Paragraphs 4 and 5. 2

Challenge / Initiative	Response or Purpose
Loss of natural habitats and fewer flowering plants	_____
“Bee Corridors” along national highways	_____

V. State whether the following statement is **True or False**. Justify your answer with evidence from the passage. 1

Pollinator conservation requires only the protection of insects and does not involve changes to their surroundings.

True / False: _____
Evidence: _____

VI. According to **Paragraph 4**, mention **any one** way in which pollinator populations can be supported. 1

VII. Explain how the relationship between plants and pollinators benefits both the natural environment and human food production. 2

VIII. How does the development of “**Bee Corridors**” illustrate an attempt to combine infrastructure development with biodiversity conservation? 2
(Paragraph 5)

IX. Fill in the blank with **ONE** suitable word. 1

A bee, butterfly or hoverfly may appear insignificant, but its movement between flowers contributes to food production, plant reproduction and ecological

_____.

Q2. Read the passage given below: 8

1. For generations, the school library was associated with shelves of printed books, reading periods and handwritten borrowing registers. Today, however, school libraries are gradually becoming more diverse learning spaces. Students may still borrow novels, reference books and magazines, but they can also access digital books, audio resources and online learning materials. The Government of India’s **Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya**, for instance, provides free access to digital books across languages, genres and age groups. It also supports formats such as e-books, audiobooks and text-to-speech resources.
2. The changing nature of libraries does not mean that printed books have lost their value. UDISE+ data for 2022–23 recorded more than **1.11 billion books** in school libraries, book banks and reading corners across India, averaging about **763 books per school**.

A school-level survey can help illustrate how students are using these changing library facilities:

Library Activity	2023–24	2025–26
Average monthly library visits	420	560
Books borrowed per month	310	445
Students using digital resources	28%	61%

(Note: The school-level data presented above is illustrative and has been created for academic assessment purposes.)

3. The figures suggest that digital resources can complement rather than replace physical libraries. An increased library visit alongside greater digital-resource use indicates that students may value different formats for different purposes. Printed books can encourage sustained reading, while digital resources can provide quick access to varied materials.
4. The modern school library, therefore, is no longer simply a room where books are stored. It can become a flexible learning space where students read, explore, research and develop independent learning habits. The challenge for schools is to ensure that technology expands access to knowledge without allowing screens to replace the pleasure and concentration associated with reading a book.

(250 words approximately; created for academic use)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

I. Choose the correct option to complete the sentence.

1

The passage suggests that school libraries are evolving mainly by

- a) replacing printed books completely with digital resources.
- b) combining traditional reading materials with diverse digital learning resources.
- c) reducing students' access to physical books.
- d) limiting library use to academic textbooks.

II. Read the following Assertion (A) and Reason (R) and choose the correct option.

1

Assertion (A): Digital resources are becoming an important part of modern school libraries.

Reason (R): They can provide students with access to varied learning materials in formats such as e-books and audiobooks.

- 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, but R is false.
- d) A is false, but R is true.

III. Complete the following appropriately. 1

The passage suggests that modern school libraries should use technology to expand access to knowledge without _____.

IV. Study the statistical table given in the passage and answer the following question. 1

Which of the following statements is NOT supported by the data in the table?

- a) Average monthly library visits increased between 2023–24 and 2025–26.
- b) The number of books borrowed per month increased during the period.
- c) The proportion of students using digital resources more than doubled.
- d) Students borrowed fewer books in 2025–26 than in 2023–24.

V. How do the figures in the table support the passage's view that digital resources can complement rather than replace printed books? Give evidence from the table. 2

VI. State whether the following statement is True or False. Justify your answer with evidence from the passage. 1

The passage suggests that the growing use of digital resources has made printed books unnecessary in school libraries.

True / False: _____

Evidence: _____

VII. Which of the following best captures the central idea of the passage? 1

- a) School libraries are becoming unnecessary because students can access information online.
- b) Modern school libraries are combining traditional reading materials with digital resources to create more flexible learning spaces.
- c) Digital resources should completely replace printed books in schools.
- d) The primary purpose of school libraries is to increase the number of books borrowed by students.

SECTION B: GRAMMAR AND CREATIVE WRITING 30 MARKS

GRAMMAR

10

3. Complete the following passage by choosing the correct options from those given below. (4 × 1 = 4)

Community gardens (i) _____ people living in cities to grow plants in shared spaces. Many residents (ii) _____ these gardens to grow vegetables, herbs, and flowers. Such gardens (iii) _____ improve the surroundings and provide opportunities for people to work together. They also (iv) _____ a sense of community among neighbours.

Options:

(i)

- a) encourages
- b) encourage
- c) encouraged
- d) encouraging

(ii)

- a) uses
- b) used
- c) use
- d) using

(iii)

- a) helps
- b) helped
- c) help
- d) helping

(iv)

- a) develops
- b) developed
- c) develop
- d) developing

4. Rearrange the following words/phrases to form meaningful sentences. (3 × 1 = 3)

i.

- a) regularly
- b) students
- c) should
- d) read newspapers

ii.

- a) helps
- b) outdoor activities
- c) maintain
- d) good health

iii.

- a) an important source
- b) trees
- c) of
- d) clean air
- e) are

5. Change the following sentences to Reported Speech.

(3 × 1 = 3)

- i. The teacher said, "Complete your project before Friday."
- ii. Meera asked, "Have you finished reading the book?"
- iii. Rohan said, "I am going to participate in the inter-school quiz."

WRITING SKILLS- 20 MARKS

6. ATTEMPT ANY ONE FROM (A) AND (B):

(1x4=4)

- (A)** Your school is organising a "Skills for Life" Week to help students learn practical skills such as basic first aid, financial awareness, gardening, public speaking, and simple repairs. As the Skill Education Club Secretary, draft a notice inviting students to participate. Mention the purpose of the programme, activities offered, dates, registration process, and contact details. (Word Limit: 50 words)

OR

- (B)** Your school is starting a "Read and Share" Book Exchange Programme to encourage students to exchange books they have already read instead of purchasing new ones. As the Literary Club Secretary, draft a notice inviting students to contribute books and participate in the programme. Mention the type of books accepted, collection dates, venue, and contact details. (Word Limit: 50 words)

7. ATTEMPT ANY ONE FROM (A) AND (B):

(1x5=5)

- (A)** Urban development has reduced the number of trees and natural spaces available to birds, butterflies, bees, and other small creatures. The loss of such biodiversity can affect the ecological balance of cities.

As Aditya of 25, Green Avenue, Bengaluru, write a letter to the Editor of a national daily highlighting the importance of protecting urban biodiversity. Suggest practical steps such as planting native species, developing small community gardens, protecting old trees, and reducing harmful chemicals. (Word Limit: 120–150 words)

OR

- (B)** Traditional crafts such as pottery, weaving, embroidery, woodwork, and block printing reflect the cultural identity of different regions of India. However, many artisans are finding it difficult to continue their work because of competition from mass-produced goods, changing consumer preferences, and limited access to markets.

As Rohan of 18, Shastri Nagar, Jaipur, write a letter to the Editor of a national daily highlighting the need to support local artisans and traditional crafts. Discuss their cultural and economic importance and suggest ways in which citizens, schools, and government agencies can help preserve them. (Word Limit: 120–150 words)

8. Attempt ANY ONE from (A) and (B).

(1x5=5)

(A) Your school recently organised an inter-house activity week in which students worked in teams for quizzes, sports, creative tasks and problem-solving activities. The events showed how cooperation, communication and shared responsibility can help a group achieve its goals.

Based on the given information, write an article for your school magazine on the topic “Together We Achieve More”. Highlight the importance of teamwork and how students can develop the spirit of cooperation in everyday school life. You are XYZ of Class IX. (120–150 words)

OR

(B) Many teenagers spend a considerable amount of time on mobile phones, gaming and social media. Digital devices are useful for learning and communication, but excessive use may affect sleep, concentration and face-to-face interaction.

Write an article for your school magazine on the topic “Screen Time: Finding the Right Balance”. Highlight the need for responsible use of digital devices and suggest practical ways to maintain a healthy balance. You are XYZ of Class IX. (120–150 words)

9. Attempt ANY ONE from (A) and (B).

(1x6=6)

(A) Write a narrative essay in about 150–180 words based on the following beginning:

“As I reached the school gate for an important competition, I suddenly realised that the folder containing all my preparation notes was missing...”

Develop the story describing what happened next, how you dealt with the situation, and what you learnt from the experience.

OR

(B) During a class picnic at a nature park, one student suddenly got separated from the group. The incident created concern and required everyone to act responsibly and remain calm. Write a narrative essay describing what happened, how the situation was handled, and what you learnt from the experience. **(Word Limit: 150–180 words)**

10. Read the given extracts (A) and (B) and answer ANY ONE of the two. (5 × 1 = 5)

A) The villagers raced to the house, and sent for Mesoba. When Arenla’s body was being carried out of the house the next morning, Sentila ran after it, shouting, “Mother, I did not wish it to happen this way; it simply came to me. Please forgive me.” Those who heard her, did not understand what she meant, except for Onula. She intuitively sensed that something momentous had happened. On her way back, Onula noticed that the door to the work shed was slightly ajar.

(The Pot Maker)

- I. Which of the following best explains Sentila's words, "Please forgive me"? 1
A. She feels guilty and emotionally disturbed by what has happened.
B. She is angry because the villagers do not understand her.
C. She regrets learning the art of pot making from Onula.
D. She wants to leave the village immediately.
- II. What can be inferred from Onula's reaction to Sentila's words? 1
- III. The word "momentous" in the extract most nearly means: 1
A. ordinary and expected
B. important and significant
C. confusing and unclear
D. temporary and unimportant
- IV. State whether the following statement is True or False. 1
Onula understood that Sentila's words were connected with something important that had happened.
- V. Complete the following suitably. 1
The slightly open door of the work shed makes Onula suspect that _____.

OR

- B) Once I went for a wedding with my cousins to the neighbouring village. In those days, a wedding was a great event. We children enjoyed ourselves thoroughly. We would eat and play endlessly, savouring the freedom because all the elders were busy. I went for a couple of days but ended up staying there for a week. When I came back to my village, I saw my grandmother in tears. I was surprised, for I had never seen her cry even in the most difficult situations. What had happened? I was worried.

(How I Taught My Grandmother to Read)

- I. Which of the following best explains why the narrator was surprised to see her grandmother crying? 1
A. Her grandmother usually became emotional during family events.
B. She had never seen her grandmother cry even during difficult times.
C. Her grandmother was unhappy that she had attended the wedding.
D. She thought her grandmother wanted to visit the neighbouring village.
- II. What can be inferred about the narrator's relationship with her grandmother from her reaction? 1
- III. The word "savouring" in the extract most nearly means: 1
A. avoiding
B. enjoying fully

- C. remembering sadly
- D. sharing equally

IV. State whether the following statement is True or False. 1
The narrator had originally planned to stay in the neighbouring village for an entire week.

V. Complete the following suitably. 1
Seeing her grandmother in tears made the narrator feel _____

11 Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two. (5x1=5)

A) In modern times, the use of pankhas has been restricted to decorative purposes, and they have become traditional craft items in India. The structure of each fan reflects the cultural core of the region that crafts it. For instance, the appliqué hand fan of Rajasthan is an antique pankha made of pieces of fabric in different shapes and patterns sewn onto another cloth with the use of ornamental needlework. Furthermore, the zardozi hand fan of Rajasthan differs in its use of glittering, ornate and encrusted gold threadwork.

(Winds of Change)

I. Why have pankhas acquired cultural significance in modern times? 1

II. Complete the following sentence appropriately: 1

The design of a pankha reveals the cultural identity of its region because_____.

III. Select the option that correctly distinguishes an appliqué hand fan from a zardozi hand fan. 1

- A. The appliqué fan uses shaped fabric pieces, whereas the zardozi fan uses elaborate gold threadwork.
- B. The appliqué fan is used for cooling, whereas the zardozi fan is used for decoration.
- C. The appliqué fan is modern, whereas the zardozi fan is antique.
- D. The appliqué fan is made of gold, whereas the zardozi fan is made of plain cloth.

IV The expression “cultural core of the region” refers to its: 1

- A. climatic conditions
- B. distinctive traditions and artistic identity
- C. geographical boundaries
- D. economic development

V. Which quality of traditional Indian craftsmanship is most strongly highlighted in the extract? 1

- A. Simplicity and mass production
- B. Uniformity across different regions
- C. Regional diversity and artistic excellence

D. Dependence on modern machinery

OR

B) "I'll go and buy it for you," Ravi offered.

"I hope you're not going to be as tiresome as your mother, Ravi. Treating me like a baby! Has she told you not to let me go out on my own? Told you to keep me a prisoner here, has she?" Grandpa looked suspicious at this thought.

Ravi felt guilty for a moment, then quickly recovered to say loyally, "Of course not, Grandpa. Mamma would never treat you like a baby ... or a prisoner."

(Vitamin M)

I. Why did Grandpa object to Ravi's offer to buy the item for him? 1

II. Complete the following sentence appropriately: 1

Grandpa's reference to himself as a "prisoner" reveals that he _____.

III. Select the option that best explains why Ravi "felt guilty for a moment". 1

A. He had forgotten to buy the item Grandpa wanted.

B. Grandpa had correctly suspected that Ravi had been asked to watch over him.

C. He had spoken disrespectfully to his mother.

D. He did not want to spend time with Grandpa.

IV. Which quality is reflected in Ravi's response to Grandpa? 1

A. Loyalty towards his mother

B. Anger towards Grandpa

C. Indifference towards the family

D. Fear of leaving the house

V. What does the extract reveal about Grandpa's feelings regarding his independence? 1

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

A.)

The mighty Himavanta is ours
there's no equal anywhere on earth.

The generous Ganga is ours
which other river can match her grace?

The sacred Upanishads are ours
what scriptures else to name with them?

This sunny golden land is ours
she's peerless, let's praise her!

(Bharat Our Land)

- | | | |
|-------------|--|---|
| I. | Which word from the poem refers to ancient sacred texts? | 1 |
| | a) Generous | |
| | b) Himavant | |
| | c) Upanishads | |
| | d) Peerless | |
| II. | What is the central idea of the poem? | 1 |
| III. | Name any two treasures of India mentioned in the poem. | 1 |
| IV. | Why does the poet compare India's treasures with those of the world? | 1 |
| V. | Find a word from the poem that means "kind and giving." | 1 |

OR

B)

Palette of earth, rich and deep,
Where dreams of gardeners seep.
Brushstrokes of seeds, planted true,
Awaiting spring's vibrant hue.

(Canvas of Soil)

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| I. | What are compared to "brushstrokes" in the poem? |
| II. | What does the word "palette" suggest in the poem? |
| | a) A collection of colours |
| | b) A gardening tool |
| | c) A type of seed |
| | d) A place to sleep |
| III. | What picture of nature does the poet create through these lines? |
| IV. | How do gardeners contribute to the beauty of nature? |
| V. | Find a word from the poem that means "full of energy and brightness." |

13. Answer Any Five of the following Seven questions, in about 40 - 50 words each.

(5x2 = 10)

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| I. | How did the grandmother's inability to read affect her emotionally? (How I Taught My Grandmother) |
| II. | How does the poem highlight the importance of different vocations in society? (Gifts of Grace: Honouring Our Vocations) |
| III. | How does Sentila's mother's opinion about pot making create a conflict? (The Pot Maker) |
| IV. | What message does the poem give about nature? (Canvas of Soil) |
| V. | How does the title "Winds of Change" relate to the chapter? |
| VI. | Why does the poet say that he cannot remember his mother? (I Cannot Remember My Mother) |
| VII. | How does Grandpa prove that elderly people should not be underestimated? (Vitamin M) |

14. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.(1 x 5 = 5)

- A. “Change is necessary for growth, but roots should not be forgotten.” Explain this idea with reference to the chapter “*Winds of Change*”. Why is it important for society to accept change while protecting its cultural identity?

OR

- B. The story *KashiYatre* became a turning point in the grandmother’s life and inspired her to learn reading despite her age. Analyse this idea with reference to the chapter *How I Taught My Grandmother to Read*. What message does the grandmother’s journey give to people who wish to learn something new at any stage of life?