

DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION, GNCT OF DELHI
PRACTICE PAPER – ANNUAL 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 our rush to urbanise, we often forget that the natural world speaks its own quiet language. The rustle of leaves, the rhythm of rain, and the song of a bird at dawn are all part of a vocabulary older than any written word. Yet most of us have stopped listening. For today's generation, whose days are filled with screens and deadlines, nature's voice is becoming faint, almost forgotten. We may scroll endlessly through pictures of mountains and forests, but how many of us pause to feel the wind, smell the earth after rain, or simply watch clouds drift by?
- II. The poet William Wordsworth believed that nature was the greatest teacher. He found lessons in every flower and hill, believing that true wisdom arises not from books alone but from communion with the earth. Modern science now agrees, studies show that time spent in nature lowers stress, sharpens focus, and increases creativity. For students under constant academic pressure, a walk in a park can often do more than hours of revision. Psychologists call this *attention restoration*, the mind heals itself when surrounded by trees, sky, and silence.
- III. The disconnection from nature has consequences beyond our mental health. When we stop noticing, we stop caring. Litter on the street, polluted rivers or vanishing birds become background noise. The less we observe, the more detached we grow from our shared environment. Education that integrates outdoor learninglike gardening projects, sky-watching sessions, or nature journalscan rekindle this bond and awaken

a sense of stewardship. When children plant a sapling and watch it grow, they begin to understand responsibility more deeply than any lecture could teach.

- IV. Interestingly, nature does not lecture; it demonstrates. The cycle of seasons teaches patience, the resilience of a tree teaches strength, and the harmony of an ecosystem reminds us of balance. Every lesson waits quietly, needing only our attention. For the young learner, these metaphors can be as powerful as any classroom concept. Observing a beehive or a spider's web can explain teamwork and precision more vividly than a textbook paragraph.
- V. If we could re-learn to read the language of nature, we might rediscover an older literacy i.e. the literacy of care, observation, and gratitude. Listening to a river or watching a seed sprout could remind us that progress and preservation must coexist. After all, the planet is not just our home; it is our first classroom and perhaps our most patient teacher.

Created for academic usage / 410 words

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above

- I. Why does the author call the natural world's sounds a "*quiet language*"? 1
- II. What does the author mean when saying that "nature's voice is becoming faint"? 1
- III. Complete the following by selecting the correct option.
Spending time in nature restores our ability to concentrate because it provides _____ (a break from screens / new study material). 1
- IV. Select the statement that is *True from (A) – (C)*, according to paragraph 2. 1
- A. Wordsworth valued imagination more than observation.
B. Nature was viewed as a source of both wisdom and calm.
C. Modern science disagrees with Wordsworth's views.
- V. Complete the analogy by selecting one of the two correct options (a), (b). 1
Tree : Resilience :: _____ : _____ (Paragraph 4)
(a) Ecosystem : Balance (b) Season : Teaches
- VI. How does outdoor learning help reconnect students with nature? 2

VII. Identify the main ideas of paragraph 4 and paragraph 5.

1

Option	Para 4 – Main Idea	Para 5 – Main Idea
A	Nature teaches through observation	Humanity must rediscover care and gratitude
B	Nature causes an imbalance	Technology replaces gratitude
C	Environmental issues worsen	Books alone build empathy

VIII. In what sense does the author describe the planet as “our first classroom”?

2

2. Read the following passage.

10

- I. A survey was conducted among 1,200 students from Classes 8 to 10 across five metropolitan cities to understand changes in their reading habits over the past three years. The study aimed to analyse what kind of reading material students prefer today and how much time they devote to reading outside their academic requirements.
- II. The findings revealed that 35% of the students preferred reading e-books on mobile phones or tablets, and 25% chose online blogs or articles, appreciating their easy access and interactive appeal. 12% of students listened to audiobooks or podcasts, citing convenience and multitasking as key reasons. Only 28% of respondents read printed books or magazines, explaining that they valued the tactile experience of turning pages and enjoyed being free from screen exposure.
- III. Teachers observed that students who engaged mostly with digital reading showed reduced attention spans and rarely completed long novels. However, 68% of students who continued reading printed books reported improved focus and less screen fatigue. Libraries that introduced “screen-free reading hours” and “book-exchange corners” noted a 30% rise in participation, especially among Class 9 students.
- IV. The study concluded that while technology has widened access to reading material, it has also led to shorter reading durations. Encouraging a healthy balance between digital and print formats can help nurture concentration and sustain the joy of reading among students.

Created for academic usage / 224 words

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above

- I. Why were Classes 8 to 10 chosen for this survey? (Paragraph I) 1
This is so because these classes _____.
A. represent an age group when reading preferences begin to diversify.
B. are the only ones that read printed books regularly.
C. were easier to contact through online surveys.
D. have compulsory library periods in all schools.
- II. Identify the phrase in paragraph II that conveys the writer's reference to *why* students liked online blogs and articles. 1
- III. Complete the following by selecting the correct option from those given in brackets. (Paragraph II)
A student who enjoys multitasking while consuming stories would most likely prefer listening to _____ (e-books/audiobooks). 1
- IV. What does the expression "*tactile experience of turning pages*" (Paragraph II) suggest about the students' attitude towards printed books? 1
- V. Complete the following with the correct option. 1
When the writer mentions "*reduced attention spans*" in paragraph III, it means that students who rely mainly on digital reading —
A. tend to lose focus more quickly while reading long texts.
B. are able to read faster and for longer durations.
C. prefer detailed and lengthy printed novels.
D. find it easier to recall what they read.
- VI. Complete the following appropriately. 1
The one likely reason why some students still prefer printed books, even in the digital age, is _____. (Paragraph II)
- VII. How are "*screen-free reading hours*" and "*book-exchange corners*" connected in paragraph III? 1
- VIII. Elaborate on how balancing digital and print reading habits can support students' learning and well-being. (Paragraph IV) 2
- IX. Fill in the blank with ONE suitable word. (Paragraph IV) 1
Encouraging a healthy balance between reading formats helps nurture students' _____ as well as sustain their interest in reading.

SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20 marks)

GRAMMAR (10 Marks)

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 school report:
The students were deeply _____ (inspire) by the motivational speech delivered by the guest speaker.

- ii. Identify the error and write the correction in the given sentence.
Use the given format.
Neither of the two proposals have been approved by the committee.

Error	Correction

- iii. Fill in the blank with the correct form of verb given in the brackets.
My grandparents _____ (live) in this house since they got married.

- iv. Read the given statement.
The tourist said to the officer, "I lost my passport at the station."

Report it correctly by completing the following.
The tourist told the officer that _____.

- v. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the conclusion of a letter of complaint.
We hope that prompt action will be taken _____ our grievance at the earliest.
A. in
B. on
C. to
D. by

- vi. Report the following by completing the sentence correctly.
"Please check the flight schedule before leaving for the airport," he advised her.

He advised her _____.

- vii. Complete the given opinion by filling the blank with the correct option.
Using digital tools in classrooms has made learning _____ interactive and engaging for students.
A. much
B. more
C. most
D. many

- viii. Select the option that correctly identifies the error and the correction.
He play cricket very well for his school team.

Option	Error	Correction
A	play	plays
B	very	lot
C	for	by
D	well	good

- ix. Report the following question.

They said to the travel agent, “Can we book our tickets for next weekend?”

They asked the travel agent _____.

- x. Fill in the blank with the correct option from those given in the brackets.
You _____ (should / would) wear a helmet while riding a two-wheeler for your safety.
- xi. Fill in the blank to complete the sentence in a librarian’s note by choosing the correct option.
_____ book on the top shelf needs to be repaired before it can be issued again.
A. Each
B. Some
C. Many
D. Few
- xii. Choose the correct option to fill the blank.
We have _____ time left before the meeting starts, so please finish your notes quickly.
A. few
B. a few
C. little
D. many

WRITING (10 Marks)

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

4. Attempt Any One from A and B

5 Marks

A. As **Meera/Mohit**, the **Cultural Secretary** of Samay school, you feel that traditional art forms and crafts are slowly disappearing among today's youth. You believe schools can play a major role in preserving and promoting this part of our heritage. Write a letter to the **Director of School Education** of your city, in about **120 words**, expressing your concern over the fading interest in traditional arts. Emphasize the importance of integrating **folk music, dance and handicraft workshops** into the school curriculum and suggest ways schools can encourage students to value and learn these art forms.

OR

B. As **Sneha/Sohil**, the **Literary Club Secretary** of Greenfield School, you are concerned about the declining interest in reading among students due to the growing influence of digital entertainment. Write a letter to the **Editor of a national daily**, in about **120 words**, highlighting the importance of cultivating reading habits among the youth. Emphasize how reading enhances imagination and critical thinking and suggest ways schools and parents can encourage students to read more books.

5. Attempt Any One from A and B

5 Marks

A. You are the **Secretary of your school's Eco Club**. Two environmentalists — **Dr. Arvind Nair** and **Ms. Kavita Desai** — have written to express their interest in being guest speakers at your school's upcoming seminar on *Sustainable Living*. Below are excerpts from their letters.

Excerpt 1:

...As an environmental scientist with over 15 years of experience in climate research, I have worked with several organizations to promote waste management and renewable energy awareness. My presentations are data-driven and focus on scientific solutions to modern environmental challenges. I believe students must understand the science behind sustainability to take meaningful action.

– **Dr. Arvind Nair**

Excerpt 2:

...Having spent over a decade working with rural communities on eco-friendly practices, I emphasize the importance of small, everyday lifestyle changes. My workshops include interactive activities, demonstrations, and success stories from across India that inspire young people to live sustainably. I aim to help students see how personal choices can have a positive global impact.

– **Ms. Kavita Desai**

Analyse the given information and write analytical paragraph in about 120 words, justifying which guest speaker would be a better choice. Consider factors such as **experience, practical relevance, and ability to engage students**.

OR

B. Aarav, a Class X student, has been chosen to lead a community awareness campaign on road safety. He is confident, persuasive and has strong leadership skills but sometimes struggles with organization and tends to overlook small details. He needs to select a co-leader from Riya, Manav and Sneha.

Riya: Riya is meticulous and highly organized. She plans every detail carefully and ensures all tasks are completed on time. However, she is slightly introverted and prefers to work behind the scenes rather than take the lead during public events.

Manav: Manav is energetic, social and great at motivating others. He enjoys public speaking and can easily engage with large crowds. However, he sometimes acts impulsively and finds it difficult to stick to a schedule.

Sneha: Sneha is creative and thoughtful. She designs visually appealing posters and presentations but is often hesitant to take quick decisions in high-pressure situations.

Based on the strengths and weaknesses of each candidate, write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words, and decide who would be the best co-leader for Aarav. Consider factors such as leadership balance, communication, and organizational skills.

SECTION-D
LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (40 Marks)

6. Read the given extracts A and B and answer any ONE of the TWO. 5

The bus rolled on now cutting across a bare landscape, now rushing through a tiny hamlet or past an odd wayside shop. Sometimes the bus seemed on the point of gobbling up another vehicle that was coming towards them or a pedestrian crossing the road. But lo! somehow it passed on smoothly, leaving all obstacles safely behind. Trees came running towards them but then stopped as the bus reached them and simply stood there helpless for a moment by the side of the road before rushing away in the other direction. Suddenly Valli clapped her hands with glee. A young cow, tail high in the air, was running very fast, right in the middle of the road, right in front of the bus. The bus slowed to a crawl, and the driver sounded his horn loudly again and again. But the more he honked, the more frightened the animal became and the faster it galloped — always right in front of the bus.

(Madam Rides the Bus)

I. Contradict the view that Valli was a passive observer during her bus journey.

(2)

II. Which of the following statements best describes Valli's reaction during the journey?

(1)

- a) She sat quietly, uninterested in what was happening around her.
- b) She observed everything keenly and reacted with excitement and curiosity.

III. What can be inferred about Valli's personality from her reaction to the running cow?

(1)

IV. Read the following sound and movement words:

- i) honked
- ii) rushed
- iii) galloped
- iv) clapped
- v) rolled

Select the option that correctly categorises (i)–(v) into sound and movement words.

(1)

No. Sound Movement

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

OR

Historian: Good afternoon. Welcome to our Museum of Ancient History, and to my department — curiosities of the good old, far-off twentieth century. The twentieth century was often called the Era of the Book. In those days, there were books about everything, from ant eaters to Zulus. Books taught people how to, and when to, and where to, and why to. They illustrated, educated, punctuated, and even decorated. But the Reprint 2025-26 The Book That Saved the Earth 57 strangest thing a book ever did was to save the Earth. You haven't heard about the Martian invasion of 2040? Tsk, tsk. What do they teach children nowadays? Well, you know, the invasion never really happened, because a single book stopped it. What was the book, you ask?

(The Book That saved the Earth)

I. What do the Historian's words reveal about the attitude towards books in the twentieth century? (1)

- i) Books were considered essential sources of knowledge.
- ii) Books were valued for their entertainment only.
- iii) Books were viewed as outdated and unnecessary.
- iv) Books played an important role in education and creativity.

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

II. How does the Historian's tone in the opening lines contribute to the mood of the play?
(2)

III. Select the option that correctly completes the following: (1)
The Historian refers to the twentieth century as the "Era of the Book" because she wants to —

- a) emphasise the cultural and educational significance of books during that period.
- b) show that books were rare and only available to scientists and scholars.

IV. What emotion is the Historian most likely conveying through the phrase "Tsk, tsk. What do they teach children nowadays?" (1)

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

A. Belinda giggled till she shook the house,
And Blink said Weeck! which is giggling for a mouse,
Ink and Mustard rudely asked his age,
When Custard cried for a nice safe cage

(Tale of Custard The Dragon)

I. What emotions are most appropriately conveyed through the reactions of Belinda and her pets in this stanza? (1)

- i) amusement
- ii) mockery
- iii) admiration
- iv) disbelief
- v) sympathy

Select the correct option.

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

II. What does the poet's use of humour in this stanza suggest about Custard's relationship with the other pets? (2)

III. Which phrase from the stanza reveals Custard's timid and fearful nature? (1)

IV. Fill in the blank suitably to complete the sentence: (1)
The mockery by Belinda and her pets reflects their _____ towards Custard's gentle and cautious temperament.

OR

B. "Never shall a young man,

Thrown into despair
By those great honey-coloured
Ramparts at your ear,
Love you for yourself alone
And not your yellow hair.”

(For Anne Gregory)

I. What does the poet suggest through the phrase “*Thrown into despair*” (1)

- A. The young man feels hopeless because he cannot win Anne’s true love.
- B. The young man is angry about losing his wealth.
- C. The young man regrets not writing poetry for Anne.
- D. The young man feels guilty for deceiving Anne.

II. Complete the following suitably: (1)

The phrase “*love you for yourself alone*” expresses the poet’s wish that Anne be loved for her _____.

III. How does the poet highlight the difference between outer beauty and inner worth in this stanza? (2)

IV. Identify the phrase in the stanza that symbolises *external attraction* rather than emotional connection (1)

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

- I. How does Anne Frank’s diary reveal her emotional maturity and self-awareness despite the restrictions of her life in hiding? (Diary of a Young Girl)
- II. The story “*The Black Aeroplane*” presents a mysterious experience that transforms the pilot’s perspective. Discuss how this mystery adds depth to the story’s theme. (Two Stories About Flying)
- III. How does the writer’s portrayal of Coorg’s people contribute to the theme of pride in cultural identity? (Glimpses of India)
- IV. In what way does the poet highlight the loss of dignity and power when wild animals are kept in captivity? (A Tiger in the Zoo)
- V. How does the poet use a simple incident to teach a profound lesson about growing up and accepting loss? (The Ball Poem)

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

- I. Why is the story titled “*The Triumph of Surgery*”? What does it suggest about Mrs. Pumphrey’s attitude and Tricki’s recovery?

- II. How does Richard Ebright's approach to learning reflect the qualities of a true scientist? (The Making of a Scientist)
- III. How does the twist at the end of "*The Necklace*" reinforce the story's message about vanity and pride?

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

- A. "*Coorg*" and "*Tea from Assam*" celebrate India's diversity and natural richness. How do these lessons promote respect for culture, environment, and tradition?

OR

- B. "*The Ball Poem*" and "*Dust of Snow*" explore the impact of small moments on emotional growth. Compare how both poems use simple imagery to deliver deeper insights about life and change.

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

- A. In "*Bholi*" and "*The Thief's Story*", both protagonists undergo inner transformation. Discuss how their experiences teach that self-realisation and moral courage are more valuable than wealth or appearance.

OR

- B. "*The Necklace*" and "*A Question of Trust*" reveal how deception and misplaced values lead to suffering. Discuss how both stories highlight the consequences of greed and dishonest.