

English Language and Literature (184)

Time Allowed : 3 Hrs.

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections READING, GRAMMAR & WRITING and LITERATURE.
 2. Attempt question based on specific instructions for each part.
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SECTION A - READING SKILLS

20

Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages

1. Read the following text.

10

1. Crows are incredibly aware of their surroundings and have a way of observing humans. Corvids-a family of birds including crows, magpies, and ravens develop relationship with human beings. Once corvids accept the friendship, it is expressed by bringing gifts for their human friends. This, crow lovers say, is a possibility but not a given. Some people feed crows as a meditative practice.
2. Crow behaviour varies from family to family and region to region. There are about 50 species of corvids around the world, and they behave differently from each other. They're not the only intelligent birds around, but in general, corvids are smart in a way that resonates deeply with humans, because they're good at some of the things that we are good at. Crows can think about their own thoughts. Crows can recognize individual human faces, associate them with friendliness or danger, and pass that knowledge along to their pals.
3. Their social system is the most like the Western human civilization of any animal that we know of. American crows have a family and a space that they defend, but they also have a neighborhood that they pay attention to. And crows will interact with larger groups of crows that they don't know as well, sort of the way how humans will engage with their communities beyond their closest relationships.
4. But they're also cautious. Crows have been paying attention to individual people more than perhaps any other bird. PET scans reveal that when crows viewed human faces that they associated with threat or care, the birds had increased activity in the amygdala, thalamus and brain stem-areas related to emotional processing and fear learning. In response to threatening faces, areas that regulate perception, attention and fleeing also lit up. Similarities to the human brain in this case are most striking.
5. They do have preferences in food. If you put out a pile of different foods, like a little buffet for the crows, they're all going to kind of home in on something. All one needs are patience and routine. Crows need to learn you're not a threat, that the food is safe, and that it will be there every day. Crows go viral for bringing their human friends gifts. But the reality of being a friend to corvids reflects a deeper responsibility.
6. Crow lovers have been encouraging humans to feed crows for decades. But there are ways for this practice to go wrong and make them a nuisance. Leaving out too much food can lead crows to mob your neighbourhood constantly. Just as the crows talk to each other, human crow friends need to be aware of how their habits affect their human neighbours.

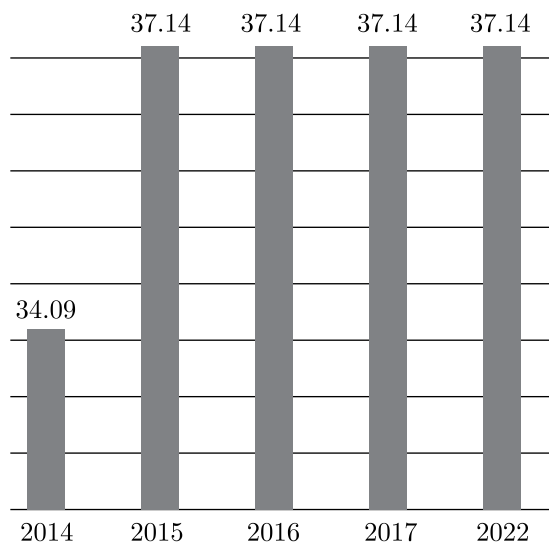
Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- i.** The writer asserts in paragraph 3 that crows are socially responsible birds much like human beings. Which of the following statements agrees with this assertion? 1
1. All 50 species of crows behave differently in different social settings.
 2. Crows can be friendly with humans.
 3. They pay attention to their neighbourhood.
 4. They interact with larger groups of crows from other areas.
 5. American crows have a family and a space that they defend.
- (a) 1 and 4 (b) 2 and 5
 (c) 3 and 4 (d) 4 and 5
- ii.** What makes the writer compare ‘the social system of the crows is closest to the Western human civilization of any animal known to humans’ in the given lines from paragraph 3? Rationalise your response in about 40 words. 2
- iii.** Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
 The author’s observation that crows have been paying attention to individual people more than perhaps any other bird is backed by _____.
- iv.** The passage includes some words that are either opposites of or similar to each other. From the sets (a)-(e) below, identify two sets that belong neither to antonyms or synonyms. 1
- (a) neighbourhood and family space
 - (b) patience and routine
 - (c) threat or care
 - (d) communities and closest relationships
 - (e) emotional processing and fear learning
- v.** The writer says in paragraph 2 that corvids are good at detecting friendship as well as danger - some of the things that we, humans are also good at but _____. 1
- vi.** Based on the reading of the passage, examine, in about 40 words, how does the author emphasise the most fascinating traits of crows. 2
- vii.** Evaluate the options below and pick out the one that is incorrect from the set and does not correspond to crow behaviour. 1
- (a) They can handle vast quantities of food.
 - (b) Crows are territorial.
 - (c) They process different emotions just like humans.
 - (d) Crows are independent thinkers.
- viii.** Mention two points to remember while feeding the crows. 1

2. Read the following text.**10**

1. Sports and energy drinks consumed by athletes and fitness-freaks, are beverages rich in essential components such as nutrients, vitamins, carbohydrates, etc., that provide much-needed mental and physical stimulation. They not only provide an instant energy boost but also help to replenish the electrolytes which are lost during the workout keeping the body hydrated which is of utmost importance. Indian consumers drink 120 billion liters of beverages of which 4% are ready-to-drink energy drinks which are available in a variety of flavours and also in an organic avatar.
2. Furthermore, aggressive promotion and marketing by the big brands across all media have also contributed significantly to their market growth. Collaboration with celebrities and sports personalities, development of more consumer-oriented products such as sugar-free drinks or customizable drinks, product availability across various platforms, and sponsoring various sporting events or teams are believed to even further increase the growth of these brands.

Energy Drinks Market Revenue (USD million),
Convenience stores, India, 2014-2022



3. The market size of Indian Sports and energy drinks reached US\$ 2.4 billion in 2022. And going by the current rate, projections estimate the market size to reach US\$ 5.0 billion by the year 2027; thereby exhibiting a growth rate of (CAGR) of 13.27 during 2022-2027.
4. A lot of athletes gets confused between an energy drink and sports drink. Sugar is the biggest enemy for any athlete if its intake is not balanced correctly. Any beverage which contains more than 10% of sugar is considered to be an energy drink. So aerated beverages, sodas, juices (like mango, lime etc.) all fall under the energy drink category. When an athlete consumes any energy drink, it creates a sudden insulin spike in the body and for a short duration of period feels energetic. However, the insulin spike is soon followed by an insulin spike drop, leaving behind the athlete dull, lethargic and fatigued. This is not desirable in an athlete as they need to constantly maintain their energy & focus for higher performance.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- i. Complete the following analogy appropriately, based on your understanding of paragraphs 1 and 2. 1
The fact that sports drinks are the preferred choice of sports persons is comparable with the fact that energy drinks seem to be _____.

- ii.** Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of paragraph 2. 1
 Indian consumers drink 120 billion liters of beverages of which 4% or 4.8 billion liters are ready-to-drink energy drinks that are available in a variety of flavours and also in an organic avatar is _____ (a fact/ opinion) because it is _____ (a/an subjective judgement/ objective detail).
- iii.** Justify the following, in about 40 words : 2
 Big brands and MNCs are keenly pushing and aiding the growth of their beverages' markets by widening their consumer base.
- iv.** Based on the passage, mention two marketing tactics involving big events and known faces adopted by the big brands to popularise their energy and sports drinks? 1
- v.** Study the statement: 'Sports and energy drinks are beverages that seem to have nailed not only the wide-ranging taste buds of the consumers but also the latest fads prevalent in society.' 1
 State any one inference that can be drawn from this.
- vi.** Select the option that correctly displays what 'avatar' signifies. (Reference-Paragraph 1) 1



(i)



(ii)



(iii)



(iv)



(v)

- (a) Only (i) (b) (i) and (iii)
 (c) Only (v) (d) (ii), (iii) and (iv)
- vii.** Infer one benefit and one drawback of athletes consuming sports and energy drinks. Answer in about 40 words. 2
- viii.** Select the appropriate option to fill in the blanks. 1
 From paragraph 1, we can infer that sports and energy drinks are a source of _____ and _____ especially if you are into regular and heavy work-outs.
1. electrolytes
 2. instant energy
 3. hydration
 4. organic matter
 5. flavours
- (a) 1 and 4 (b) 2 and 3
 (c) 4 and 5 (d) 1 and 5

SECTION B - GRAMMAR & WRITING SKILLS**20****GRAMMAR****10**

3. Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed. **1 × 10 = 10**

i. The ACC _____ the date of examination to recruit soldiers and train them to become commissioned officers in the Indian Army. 1

- (a) will announce (b) has announced
(c) to be announced (d) announcing

ii. Read the conversation between Amit and Shlok. Complete the sentence by reporting Shlok's statement correctly. 1

Amit : Are you going to Delhi today?

Shlok : No, I am coming with Devendra. He will start day after tomorrow.

Amit rang up Shlok and asked whether he was going to Delhi the following day. In response to this, Shlok replied _____.

iii. Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given line, from the speech of the school President. 1

I _____ admit, the trek which we thought would be a boring and exhausting experience was one of the most enjoyable experiences we have had this term.

- (a) must (b) should
(c) need (d) would

iv. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line, from a news report: 1

Every inhabitant of planet Earth depend on water for their survival and their day-to-day activities.

Option No.	Error	Correction
(a)	their	there
(b)	depend	depends
(c)	every	each
(d)	and	or

v. Complete the given narrative, by filling in the blank with the correct option. 1

If you move around hoping your problems _____, they won't.

- (a) will solve (b) will solved
(c) will have solved (d) will be solved

vi. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter: 1
Subject : Electricity problem in the locality

Please _____ (publish) an article in your esteemed daily, so that the authorities should focus on that and take any action against the situation. So that we will be free from the current worst condition of the electricity breakdown.

- vii.** Report the dialogue between Aman and a confectioner, by completing Aman's sentence : 1

Confectioner : How may I help you, child?

Aman : I am looking for an eggless cake for my granny's birthday.

The confectioner on noticing a small child Aman, asked him affectionately _____. In response to the question of the confectioner, Aman replied that he was looking for an eggless cake for his granny's birthday.

- viii.** Identify the error in the given sentence, from an e-magazine report and supply the correction. 1

In the last decade, conservationists and academics have turned his attention to studying the best ways to install these natural features in the North.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

- ix.** The class teacher shared some information, with Prakriti, about the Open House. Report class teacher's question. 1

Why were your parents absent, yesterday?

- x.** Read the slogan by the local counsellor of your ward. Identify the error and supply the correction. 1

May we afford to survive without trees? Think twice.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

- xi.** Select the correct option to complete the conversation between Abhigyan and Anmol. 1

Abhigyan : Anmol, why did you not attend the Biology class yesterday?

Anmol : Actually, I was practising for my Physics test.

Abhigyan asked _____. Anmol replied that he had been practising for his Physics test, actually.

- (a) Anmol why he has not attended the Biology class last day.
 (b) Anmol that why he has not attended the Biology class last day.
 (c) Anmol why he had not attended the Biology class last day.
 (d) Anmol why he has not attended the Biology class yesterday.

- xii.** Identify the error spotted from a local newspaper and supply the correction required : 1

Save Wildlife

Its all part of an effort to find ways to protect coastal communities and make space for wildlife.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

WRITING**10**

Note : All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.

4. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below. 5

- A.** You are Arnav / Athiya, a resident of Surya Nagar Colony, Vadodara, Gujarat. You noticed that the curb on wearing masks has been lifted but even then, we, as sincere citizen need to be responsible and wear masks religiously.

Write a letter to the editor of The Gujarat Times, drawing attention towards the same. Explain how such acts impact the health of the community and requesting immediate intervention and strict action against the violators.

Or

- B.** Whenever a child is restless, they are given to play a video on mobile phone. Children also use it as bait and they refuse to eat. In no time, your child becomes obsessed with screens. Mobile phones have become a common fad these days.

Write a letter to the editor requesting to publish an article voicing your opinion and concern that the children are being physically inactive while sitting over time with a mobile phone.

Assign yourself as Nidhi Kamat, Vasant Kunj Lane, Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh.

5. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below. 5

- A.** Habits take time to develop. It doesn't happen overnight. When you find yourself engaging in an unhealthy habit, stop as quickly as possible as it leads to obesity. Analyse the given statement and write a paragraph with the help of points mentioned below

- Reinforce your new, healthy habits and be patient with yourself.
- Eat only when you're truly hungry.
- Plan meals ahead of time.

Or

- B.** Homelessness is not a condition unknown to children in India. Situations like natural disasters and conflicts render many homeless or force them to live in unsafe housing conditions. Living on the streets or in urban slum dwellings, lack of basic facilities and unhygienic living conditions become a way of life.

In view of the above remarks, write a paragraph analysing the mentioned points given below.

- Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances
- Orphaned and Abandoned Child
- Migrant Children
- Child Labour
- Child Trafficking
- Child Suffering from Abuse

SECTION C - LITERATURE

40

6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 5

- A.** “He knows that I am lost”, I thought ‘He’s trying to help me.’ He turned his aeroplane slowly to the north, in front of my Dakota, so that it would be easier for me to follow him. I was very happy to go behind the strange aeroplane like an obedient child. After half an hour the strange black aeroplane was still there in front of me in the clouds. Now, there was only enough fuel in the old Dakota’s last tank to fly for five or ten minutes more. I was starting to feel frightened again. But then he started to go down and I followed through the storm.

(Two Stories about Flying-Black Aeroplane)

- i.** State TRUE or FALSE, 1
None of the following options (a)-(d) perfectly justifies this statement. “He knows that I am lost”, I thought ‘He’s trying to help me.’
- (a) It’s true because the stranger-pilot knew how to negotiate the storm quite well.
(b) It’s false because the stranger-pilot was out to trick the author.
(c) Definitely true because the stranger pilot had been sent by God to help the author.
(d) It was probably the author’s subconscious that was trying to find a way out.
- ii.** The author says, “But then he started to go down and I followed through the storm.” What happened after this? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- iii.** Which figure of speech has been used in the given statement: “I was very happy to go behind the strange aeroplane like an obedient child”?
1
- iv.** If this extract were to be filmed, what would be required to bring out the dramatic effect of this moment?
1

Or

- B.** NATALYA : No you’re simply joking, or making fun of me. What a surprise! We’ve had the land for nearly three hundred years, and then we’re suddenly told that it isn’t ours! Ivan Vassilevitch, I can hardly believe my own ears. These Meadows aren’t worth much to me. They only come to five dessiatins, and are worth perhaps 300 roubles, but I can’t stand unfairness. Say what you will, I can’t stand unfairness. LOMOV : Hear me out, I implore you! The peasants of your father’s grandfather, as I have already had the honour of explaining to you, used to make bricks for my aunt’s grandmother, wishing to make them a pleasant ...

(The Proposal)

- i.** Which of the facts given below is the most accurate explanation to complete the statement: 1
Natalya told Lomov that he was simply joking or making fun of her because ____.
- (a) Chabukovs’ land extended to Burnt Marsh which included Oxen Meadows.
(b) he claimed that Oxen Meadows was his ancestral property.
(c) he declared that his land extended to Burnt Marsh.
(d) Oxen Meadows had belonged to Natalya’s mother for generations.
- ii.** Why were the Meadows not worth fighting or arguing over between the neighbours? Answer in about 40 words. 2

- iii. Read the following descriptions (a)-(c) and identify which one correctly corresponds to the extract given to you for analysis. 1
- (a) The extract is a debate usually with two or more people presenting different viewpoints and arguments.
- (b) The extract is a soliloquy or a speech given by a character alone on stage, which reveals their innermost thoughts and feelings to the audience.
- (c) The extract is an argument or an exchange of diverging or opposite views, typically a heated or angry one.
- iv. On the basis of your understanding of the extract, which common character traits are exhibited by both Natalya and Lomov? 1

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 5

A. “Where no bird could sit
no insect hide
no sun bury its feet in shadow
the forest that was empty all these nights
will be full of trees by morning.”

(The Trees)

- i. Fill the blank with one word. 1
When the speaker rattles off her thoughts in a run-on manner, she is using this figure of speech _____.
- ii. What is the symbolism in the ‘forest’ and why is the forest empty? 2
- iii. Complete the statement with reference to the extract. 1
The poet uses the trees as a symbol of _____.
(a) the emancipation of women from their confinement.
(b) the fight of people for their civil rights.
(c) the emancipation of trees from the room.
(d) the fight of people for their political rights
- iv. Comment on the poet’s use of poetic devices in these lines. 1

Or

B. “Never shall a young man, Thrown into despair
By those great honey-coloured
Ramparts at your my;
Love you for yourself alone
And not your yellow hair.”

(For Anne Gregory)

- i. What is the contextual meaning of the word ‘rampart’ 1
- ii. Why does Anne want to change the colour of her hair? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- iii. Choose the phrase that best represents, ‘love you for yourself alone’. 1
(a) one-sided love (b) mutual love
(c) unconditional love (d) blind love

- iv. Comment on the poet's use of language in these lines. 1
- 8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words. $4 \times 3 = 12$**
- i. 'Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run.' How do you think this statement would work for the young seagull? 3
(Two Stories About Flying)
- ii. Discuss what Frost wants to convey through the poem 'Fire and Ice'. 3
- iii. Valli's venture to the town brings an alarm to the parents. Elucidate. 3
(Madam Rides the Bus)
- iv. Give the character sketch of the dragon. 3
(The Tale of Custard the Dragon)
- v. Chubukov's attempt to appease Lomov is no strange in context with today's scenario where marriage of Indian daughters is concerned. Comment. 3
(The Proposal)
- 9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. $2 \times 3 = 6$**
- i. Do you think Mrs Pumphrey's overindulgence would not let Tricky lead a healthy lifestyle? Give reason for your answer. 3
(A Triumph of Surgery)
- ii. Fowler was disappointed to see Ausable. Validate the statement. 3
(The Midnight Visitor)
- iii. All might have been well, had Griffin woken up on time in the store. Elucidate the statement. 3
(Footprints without Feet)
- 10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. $1 \times 6 = 6$**
- A. Imagine that you met Rajvir and discussed with him more about tea plantation. Develop the conversation. 6
(Glimpses of India)

Or

- B. One should understand that human beings are mortal and no one can escape death. Revelations made by Lord Buddha teach us so.
Share two key opinions from what you learnt from the lesson 'The Sermon at Benares'. 6
(The Sermon at Benares)
- 11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. $1 \times 6 = 6$**
- A. Hari Singh's change of heart surprised everyone and a seasoned thief like Hari Singh was forced to change his ways. Show your acquaintance with the statement analysing the chapter 'A Question of Trust'.

Or

- B. Hari Singh (A Thief's Story) and the lady (A Question of Trust) in red were alike.
Validate the statement by giving valid reasons.

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