

## Class X Exam 2023-24

### 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.**

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1. The funding crisis at many zoos has reopened the debate over the value of zoos and whether they should be allowed to exist at all. People who are in favour of zoos argue that they perform an essential role in conserving rare animal species. Over the past 20 years zoos have developed programmes designed to help preserve endangered species. This involves breeding animals in captivity in ‘captive breeding programmes’-and then reintroducing them into their natural habitats to replenish the number living in the wild.
2. Zoos cooperate with each other in order to ensure the success of their breeding programmes. Animals are passed from one zoo to another in order to prevent inbreeding-breeding from closely related animals. If animals that are closely related to one another mate there is a danger that they will produce deformed offspring.
3. Supporters of zoos argue that they have an important role in educating children, millions of who visit zoos every year. Television-viewing is no substitute for encountering real animals, they argue. Zoos also carry out important research, for example, on the best conditions for rare species to reproduce. If zoos were forced to close, it would be disastrous for world conservation, zoo supporters say. And most animals in captivity would have to be killed.
4. Opponents of zoos accept that some species have been saved from extinction by ‘captive breeding programmes’, but they argue that this offers no solution to the worldwide conservation crisis. The number of animals protected by zoos is tiny compared with the overall problem. It cost millions to save the Arabian onyx from dying out; but could that amount be available for every species that is endangered? The value of zoo-breeding programmes is also questioned as some species, such as the African elephant, do not reproduce well in captivity.
5. Captive animals are often kept in poor and inhumane conditions, opponents say. In the worst zoos, animals are still displayed for the entertainment of the public. Where animals are placed in impoverished and unsuitable surroundings, they often behave in abnormal and neurotic ways. It is common for polar bears constantly to pace up and down or twist their heads and circle over and over again. This behaviour is now recognised by scientists as a sign of stress and frustration. When children visit zoos where animals are acting in neurotic and abnormal ways, they are not being educated. Instead, opponents say, they are being given inaccurate information.

**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.**

- i.** What are the advantages of zoos? 1
- (a) Children are educated about wildlife in zoos.  
 (b) Breeding of endangered species is done.  
 (c) Both (a) and (b)  
 (d) None of the above
- ii.** How would closing of zoos be disastrous? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- iii.** Complete the following with a reason from paragraph 2 : 1  
 Inbreeding can lead to deformed animals because \_\_\_\_\_.
- iv.** The passage includes some words that are opposites of each other. From the sets (a)-(e) below, identify a set of synonyms. 1
- (a) Reproduce and breed  
 (b) Rare and endangered  
 (c) Supporters and opponents  
 (d) Crisis and solution  
 (e) Reintroduce and replenish
- v.** Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
 Cooperation amongst zoos support Captive Breeding Programme by \_\_\_\_\_ .
- vi.** Supply the disadvantages of zoo. (Answer in about 40 words.) 2
- vii.** Zoos provide a chance to encounter real animals, \_\_\_\_\_ 1
- (a) which can irritate the animals in the zoo  
 (b) which gives visitors a chance to take pictures with animals  
 (c) but visitors do not always see the natural behaviour of animals  
 (d) None of the above
- viii.** Do you think captive breeding programmes are 100% successful? 1

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

1. Access to primary education is a basic right of every child. An effective primary education can build a solid foundation and open avenues for future success. With its profound implications on both the individual and society, primary education plays a crucial role in reducing extreme poverty and promoting social changes. The Sustainable Development Agenda acknowledges the importance of primary education in Goal 4 which stipulates that by 2030, the world should ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, including a target on universal access to primary education. Though there are varying standards, primary education is typically designed for children 6 to 11 years of age.

2. Significant progress has been made toward achieving universal primary education. Globally, the adjusted net attendance rate reached 87 percent in 2019 and about four out of five children attending primary education completed it. Additionally, over the past two decades, the number of out-of-school children was reduced by over 40 percent. However, there is still a long way to go: 58 million children of primary school age remain out of school, with the majority of them coming from marginalised groups. In addition, recent Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) results show that many children do not have foundational reading and numeracy skills, highlighting the massive challenge to achieving inclusive and equitable quality education for all.
3. Globally, a lower proportion of children from the poorest families attend primary education compared with their wealthier peers. While almost all children from the top wealth quintile attend primary education, only 75 percent of children from the bottom wealth quintile do.
4. Across different regions, household wealth impacts primary school completion rates differently. West and Central Africa has the largest gap of 58 percentage points in primary school completion rates between the richest and poorest quintiles. In contrast, in East Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, children from the top and bottom wealth quintiles complete primary school at more similar rates, with a gap of just 13 percentage points.
5. In the past 20 years, the number of out-of-school children of primary education age fell by more than 40 per cent, from 99 million in 2000 to 58 million in 2019. However, 54 per cent of these out-of-school children were girls. Despite this tremendous progress, the world must accelerate the pace at which the number of out-of-school children is reduced, as the total has remained stagnant since 2007.

**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.**

- i. Complete the following sentence appropriately. 1  
 \_\_\_\_\_ have the highest rates of primary education completion in the rich quintile.
- ii. Fill the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of the passage : 1  
 There was a decline of \_\_\_\_\_ (from 99 million in 2000 to 58 million in 2019/ from 99 million in 2000 to 68 million in 2019) in the number of out-of-school children of primary education age is seen in the past two decades.
- iii. How is primary education critical to both an individual and a society? 2
- iv. State one target related to primary education. 1
- v. How much decline in the number of out-of-school children of primary education age is seen in the past two decades? 1
- vi. Which word can substitute the word 'Foundational' in the following, sentence from paragraph 2. 1  
 In addition, recent Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) results show that many children do not have foundational reading and numeracy skills, highlighting the massive challenge to achieving inclusive and equitable quality education for all.
  - (a) Essential
  - (b) Fundamental
  - (c) Required
  - (d) Primary

- vii.** How does the Sustainable Development Goals give importance to primary education? 2
- viii.** In 2019, about four out of five children attending primary education completed it suggests that 1
- (a) almost 100% children completed primary education
- (b) about 80% children completed the primary education
- (c) more than 80% children completed primary education
- (d) less than 80% children completed primary education

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

**GRAMMAR 10**

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

- i.** Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the sentence. 1

At one time, Mr. Nigel \_\_\_\_\_ this supermarket.

- (a) owned
- (b) used to own
- (c) had owned
- (d) was owing

- ii.** Read the conversation between Nisha and Anjali. Complete the narration by reporting Anjali's reply correctly. 1

Nisha : I want to improve my command over the English language.

Anjali : For that you need to do a lot of reading in English.

Nisha said she wanted to improve her command over the English language. Anjali said that \_\_\_\_\_.

- iii.** Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given line. 1

Principal to a student : You \_\_\_\_\_ with bad girls.

- (a) must not mix
- (b) cannot mix
- (c) may not mix
- (d) None of these

- iv.** Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line : 1

We, here in India have so many religions, we eat so many different foods, we wear so much different kinds of dresses.

Option No.	Error	Correction
(a)	much	many
(b)	eat	ate
(c)	have	has
(d)	wear	wears

- v. Complete the given sentence, by filling in the blank with the correct option : 1  
Two years have passed since he \_\_\_\_\_ here.  
(a) has come  
(b) come  
(c) came  
(d) had come

- vi. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket. 1  
They \_\_\_\_\_ (wish) me on my birthday every year.

- vii. Report the dialogue between Parul and Nikhil, by completing the narration : 1  
Parul : Where did you spend your holidays?  
Nikhil : I went to many hill stations.

Parul asked Nikhil \_\_\_\_\_. Nikhil replied that he had gone to many hill stations.

- viii. Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction. 1  
I like to drinking juice in the morning, and tea at lunchtime.

Use the given format for your answer:

Error	Correction

- ix. Transform the following direct speech into reported speech : 1  
“Who now”, they had asked, “will listen to our troubles and protect us from the crocodiles ?”

- x. Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction. 1  
The father divided his property among his three sons lest they will quarrel afterwards.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

- xi. Select the correct option to complete the narration of the dialogue between Arthur and Kevin. 1  
Arthur : Kevin, are you going to the hospital again? Is your mother okay?  
Kevin : My mother is now better. Thank God, she has been back to normal since Friday.

Arthur asked Kevin if he was going to the hospital again. He also asked him whether his mother was okay. Kevin replied that \_\_\_\_\_ and thanking God, the boy said that his mother had been back to normal since.

- (a) his mother was better now  
(b) his mother had been better now  
(c) his mother is better now  
(d) his mother has been better now

- xii.** Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction. 1

I walk 3 kilometres each day to reach my school.

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 Nitish /Nikita, the Head Boy/ Girl of Tagore Public School, Agra. Write a letter to Messers New Star Sports, Kalkaji, New Delhi asking them to send sports equipment for the games and sports department of your school.

**Or**

- B.** Write a letter to the editor of a local daily complaining against the school-bus drivers for rash-driving and overcrowding of buses causing risk to the lives of innocent school children. You are Dipti/Deepak of C-156, Janakpuri, New Delhi.

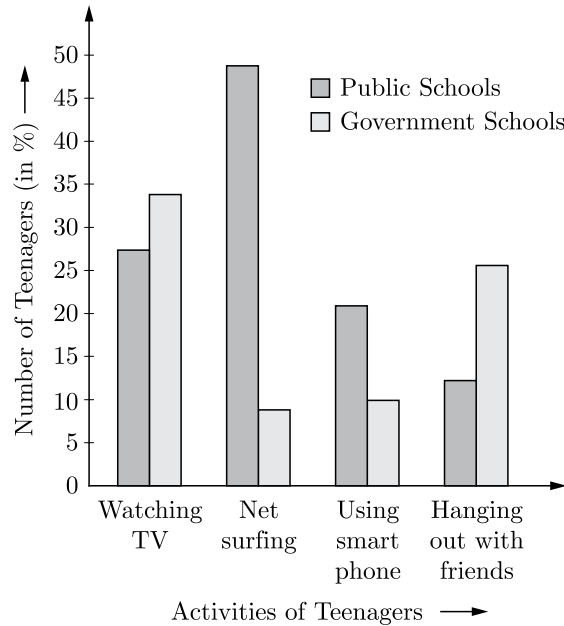
- 5. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.** 5

- A.** The following table gives information about some of the world's most studied languages. Write an analytical paragraph summarizing the given information by analyzing and reporting the main and relevant information.

S. No.	Languages	No. of people studying a language	Native speakers of a language	Speakers in
1.	English	1.5 billion	527 million	101
2.	French	82 million	118 million	51
3.	Chinese	30 million	1.39 billion	33
4.	Spanish	14.5 million	389 million	31
5.	Italian	8 million	67 million	29
6.	Japanese	3 million	123 million	25

**Or**

- B.** Look at the given bar graph which shows the result of a survey conducted in the public and government schools of Mathura. The graph depicts the types of activities the teenagers from the age of 14 years to 19 years are involved in during their leisure time.



Write an analytical paragraph highlighting the result of the survey, including all the main points and relevant information.

### SECTION C - LITERATURE

40

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

**A.** It was only when I began to learn that my boyhood freedom was an illusion when I discovered as a young man that my freedom had already been taken from me, that I began to hunger for it. At first, as a student, I wanted freedom only for myself, the transitory freedoms of being able to stay out at night, read what I pleased and go where I chose. Later, as a young man in Johannesburg, I yearned for the basic and honourable freedoms of achieving my potential, of earning my keep, of marrying and having a family - the freedom not to be obstructed in a lawful life.

*(Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom)*

- i.** Why was freedom an illusion for the speaker? 1
- ii.** Why do you think the speaker mentions some freedoms as ‘transitory’? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- iii.** From where does the speaker’s hunger for freedom begin? 1
- iv.** State TRUE or FALSE 1  
None of the terms (a)-(d) can be applied to the statement - “I yearned for the basic and honourable freedoms of achieving my potential”.
  - (a) A hypothesis - a proposed explanation for a phenomenon
  - (b) An Assumption - Something that is taken for granted or assumed to be true
  - (c) A hyperbole - exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally
  - (d) A premise - a proposition that forms the basis of an argument

**Or**

- B.** “Marriage gifts are meaningless without the sweet bread known as the ‘bol’ just as a party or a feast loses its charm without bread. Not enough can be said to show how important a baker can be for a village. The lady of the house must prepare sandwiches on the occasion of her daughter’s engagement. Cakes and ‘bor are a must for Christmas as well as other festivals. Thus, the presence of the baker in the village is absolutely essential.”

*(Glimpses of India)*

- i.** Breads are a very important part of the culture of the people in Goa. Which of the given options does not corroborate the statement? 1
- (a) Bols are central to marriage celebrations and festivals.  
 (b) Festivals especially Christmas are incomplete without cakes.  
 (c) Every house has their own furnace in Goa.  
 (d) Special sandwiches are made on a daughter’s engagement.
- ii.** What makes the marriage gifts meaningless? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- iii.** The word ‘sandwich’ is named after the Earl of Sandwich who loved eating sandwiches. 1  
 Read the following descriptions (a)-(c) and identify which one does not correspond to the name of a person in its origin as shown in the extract.
- (a) It is Murphy’s Law.  
 (b) Maintain the temperature at 200 Fahrenheit.  
 (c) We are leaving for the Indira Gandhi International airport.
- iv.** What is the traditional name of bakers in Goa and what made them different from other people in appearance? 1

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

- A.** An ultimate shaking grief fixes the boy  
 As he stands rigid, trembling, staring down  
 All his young days into the harbour where  
 His ball went. I would not intrude on him;  
 A dime, another ball, is worthless.  
 Now he senses first responsibility  
 In a world of possessions.

*(The Ball Poem)*

- i.** Fill the blank with one word. 1  
 The boy’s ball went into the dark waters of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- ii.** What is the significance of the use of the words ‘All his young days into the harbour’ to describe the loss of the ball in the poem and how does this word choice contribute to the overall mood and tone of the poem? 1



- iii. Complete the statement with correct facts : 1  
 'I' will not intrude on the boy because \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) he won't like the intrusion.  
 (b) 'I' wants him to face the situation.  
 (c) another ball can be given to him.  
 (d) the boy is stubborn.
- iv. Comment on the poet's use of language in these lines. 2

**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  
 Near the water hole  
 Where plump deer pass.

*(A Tiger in the Zoo)*

- i. Why is the tiger in a 'quiet rage'? 1
- ii. Complete the following sentence with the appropriate option. 1  
 The meaning of the line 'in his quiet rage' is \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) The tiger is hungry  
 (b) The tiger is sleepy  
 (c) The tiger is unhappy and controlling his anger  
 (d) The tiger is lazy
- iii. How does the tiger show his presence? 1
- iv. Why does a tiger express his rage quietly ? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- 8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words. 4 × 3 = 12**
- i. Mr. Keesing was a strict but kind teacher. Explain the truth of this statement. 3  
*(From the Diary of Anne Frank)*
- ii. What does Natalya say about the dog named Guess? 3  
*(The Proposal)*
- iii. How did the young seagull try to catch the attention of his family? 3  
*(Two Stories About Flying)*
- iv. How would a life on a tower be different from a life anywhere else for Amanda ? 3  
*(Amanda!)*
- v. Do you think the trees are justified in the revolt? State two values which man should possess to stop the revolt. 3  
*(The Trees)*

9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.  $2 \times 3 = 6$

- i. How and when did Matilda find the borrowed necklace missing ? 3  
(*The Necklace*)
- ii. “The two boys stared in surprise at the fresh muddy imprints of a pair of bare feet.” What did the bewildered boys observe while looking at these footprints ? 3  
(*Footprints Without Feet*)
- iii. Had Anil really forgiven Hari Singh ? Support your answer with evidence. 3  
(*The Thief’s Story*)

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.  $1 \times 6 = 6$

- A. “So, in order not to shake the writer’s faith in God, the postmaster came up with an idea to answer the letter”.  
What does this statement tell us about the postmaster? Was his idea successful ? How did the receiver react?  
(*A Letter to God*)

**Or**

- B. Being impressed by Custard’s feat, the young seagull’s sister wrote a letter to Custard seeking advice on addressing the situation with her young brother. Write Custard’s response to this letter. Base the advice from his experiences.  
You may begin like this:  
Dear Ms Seagull,  
Thank you for seeking me out. I am humbled. Based on my limited experiences I feel...  
(*The Tale of Custard the Dragon*)

11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.  $1 \times 6 = 6$

- A. After reading the story ‘Bholi’ by the author K.A. Abbas, what impression do you form of the protagonist of the story Bholi?

**Or**

- B. “Horace had some hope because she seemed to be amused at meeting him.” Why did Horace feel so? Did he consider the young lady compassionate towards him? Did he find her free from biases? Discuss the values Horace should have imbibe understanding of the person.  
(*A Question of Trust*)