



SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER (2023-24)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (Code No. 184)

CLASS-X

Time allowed: 3 Hrs.

General Instructions:

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

Maximum Marks: 80

SECTION A : READING SKILLS (20 marks)

Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages

1. Read the following text.

10m

(1) One would imagine that at the very sight of the panther, deer, antelopes and its other preys would just run for their lives. Nothing of the sort. They all stand their ground and make such a loud noise that the panther is left with no other choice except to leave quietly. I have seen a tinny chital baby standing in the middle of an opening in the forest, stamping its feet on the ground and shooting away a tiger. With the white of its erect tail showing, it kept up its shrill call until the tiger made itself scarce. No tiger in its senses would attempt to catch such an impertinent brat, just as you would not dream of catching an offending crow cawing away in your veranda.

(2) While the panther sticks to cover and hugs the edge of the forest, the game animals, on the other hand, like to assemble right out in open vast grazing grounds. Open spaces, which the panther carefully avoids, are what the game animals deliberately seek.

(3) It is difficult to describe the pandemonium kicked up by various animals when they spot or suspect a panther around. The chital strikes a shrill note, the kakar emits a deafening bark and the sambar rings a bell. The peacock on its perch, the jungle fowl on the ground, and the monkey treetops, all join in the chorus of condemnation of the panther. They curse the panther in their

own inimitable language. The resulting confusion of sounds is so irritating to the sharp ears of the panther that it is left with no other option except to go away.

(4) The panther has thus to deal with its ever alert and watchful associates who show no mercy and expect none. It is a fight between finesse and flight, between clever and skilful defence.

(5) Contrary to the common belief, the panther never springs upon its prey. It stalks as close to its victim as it can manage, and then makes the final dash by rushing at it at lightning speed.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- 1. What strategy do animals like deer, antelopes etc adopt to drive away the panther?**
- 2. How do the panther and the game animals (deer, antelopes, etc) react to open spaces?**
- 3. What effect does the loud noise made by birds and animals have on the panther?**
- 4. How does the panther kill its prey?**
- 5. The word..... in para 1 means the same as “high-pitched and piercing”.**
- 6. The word..... in para 2 is the synonym of ‘intentionally’.**
- 7. Which word in para 3 is an antonym of ‘praise’?**
 - a) pandemonium
 - b) confusion
 - c) condemnation
 - d) irritating
- 8. Which of the following words is a synonym of ‘springs’ in para 5?**
 - a) flies
 - b) leaps
 - c) originates
 - d) evolves

2. Read the following text.

10m

I. Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. Close at hand is a bridge over the River Thames, an admirable vantage ground for us to make a survey. We are here to consider facts; now we must fix our eyes upon the procession—the procession of the sons of educated men. There they go, our brothers who have been educated at public schools and universities, mounting those steps, passing in and out of those doors, ascending those pulpits, preaching, teaching, administering justice, practising medicine, transacting business, making money. It is a solemn sight always—a procession, like a caravan crossing a desert... But now, for the past twenty years or so, it is no longer a sight merely, a photograph, or fresco scrawled upon the walls of time, at which we can look with merely an aesthetic appreciation.

2. For there, traipsing along at the tail end of the procession, we go ourselves. And that makes a difference. We who have looked so long at the pageant in books, or from a curtained window watched educated men leaving the house at about nine-thirty to go to an office, returning to the house at about six-thirty from an office, need to look passively no longer. We too can leave the house, can mount those steps, pass in and out of those doors...make money, and administer justice.

3. Nobody will dare contradict us then; we shall be the mouthpieces of the divine spirit—a solemn thought, is it not? We are here, on the bridge, to ask ourselves certain questions. And they are very important questions; and we have very little time in which to answer them. The questions that we have to ask and to answer about that procession during this moment of transition are so important that they may well change the lives of all men and women forever. For we have to ask ourselves, here and now, do we wish to join that procession, or don't we? On what terms shall we join that procession? Above all, where is it leading us, the procession of educated men?

4. As you know from your own experience, and there are facts that prove it, the daughters of educated men have always done their thinking from hand to mouth; not under green lamps at study tables in the cloisters of secluded colleges. They have thought while they stirred the pot, while they rocked the cradle. It was thus, that they won us the right to our brand-new six pence. It falls to us now to go on thinking; how are we to spend that sixpence? Think we must. Let us think in offices; in omnibuses; while we are standing in the crowd, watching Coronations and Lord Mayor's Shows; let us think...in the gallery of the House of Commons; in the Law Courts; let us think at baptisms and marriages and funerals.

(Adapted from 'Three Guineas', Virginia Woolf)

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, complete the statements given below by choosing the most appropriate option. (1X10=10)

1. The main purpose of the passage is to:
 - a. emphasize the value of a tradition
 - b. stress the urgency of an issue.
 - c. highlight the severity of social divisions.
 - d. question the feasibility of an undertaking.
2. The author uses the word "we" throughout the passage mainly to:
 - a. reflect the growing friendliness among a group of people.
 - b. advance the need for candor among a group of people.
 - c. establish a sense of solidarity among a group of people.
 - d. reinforce the need for respect among a group of people
3. According to the passage, Woolf chooses the setting of the bridge because it:
 - a. is conducive to a mood of fanciful reflection.
 - b. provides a good view of the procession of the sons of educated men.
 - c. is within sight of historic episodes to which she alludes.
 - d. is symbolic of the legacy of past and present sons of educated men.
4. Which choice most closely captures the meaning of the figurative 'sixpence' referred to in paragraph 4? (1m)
 - a. Tolerance
 - b. Knowledge
 - c. Opportunity
 - d. Perspective
5. The range of places and occasions listed in paragraph 4 ('Let us think in offices; in omnibuses; while we are standing in the crowd watching Coronations and Lord Mayor's Shows; let us think ... in the gallery of the House of Commons; in the Law Courts; let us think at baptisms and marriages and funerals.') mainly serves to emphasise how- (1m)
 - a. how novel the challenge faced by women is.
 - b. pervasive the need for critical reflection is.
 - c. complex the political and social issues of the day are.
 - d. enjoyable the career possibilities for women are.
6. Why is the author jubilant on looking at the procession?
7. What/who did the procession traditionally consist of?
8. According to the author, what is the purpose for the women to be on the bridge?
9. How have women learnt to think differently compared to men?
10. Select a word from the options given below, which means the same as 'mouthpieces', as used in Para 3.
 - (i) Musical instruments
 - (ii) Spokespersons
 - (iii) Handsets
 - (iv) Receptacles

FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES

Vertical gardening is a unique method of gardening.

1. an indefinite
2. an exclusive
3. a combined
4. a standard

XI. Infer one benefit and one drawback of vertical gardening, in comparison to other solutions, 2 such as community gardens or parks. (Answer in about 40 words)

XII. Which of the following is the main takeaway from the study mentioned in the passage?

1. Vertical gardening has minimal impact on the environment or human well-being.
2. Vertical gardening is a sustainable practice that can transform urban spaces into green areas.
3. The impact of vertical gardening on the environment and human well-being has already been thoroughly explored.
4. The study needs to include experts from horticultural firms to offer any recommendations for further research.

SECTION B : WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20 marks)

Grammar

10

3. **Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed.**

10 X 1

i. Fill in the blank by using the form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter:

Dear Sir

Through the columns of your reputed newspaper, I _____ (Wished) to make the people aware of the growing need and demands of solar power.

1



ii. **The following paragraph has not been edited. There is an error in each line. Write the error along with its correction in the space provided.**

1

The city police have decide to taking stern action against drivers

| Error | Correction |
|-------|------------|
|-------|------------|

| | |
|-------|-------|
| | |
| | |

iii. Read the conversation between a teacher and student and complete the passage that follows.

Biology Teacher: I instructed you to draw the diagram of bacteria. Why did you submit a blank sheet?

Sameer: Sir, I had drawn the diagram of bacteria, but you can't see it because it is not visible to the naked eye

The biology teacher had instructed Sameer to draw the diagram of a bacterial cell and asked him (a) a blank sheet. Sameer respectfully answered that he had drawn the diagram but (b) to the naked eye.

iv. Read the dialogue between Shabnam and her mentor, Sara, regarding her summer internship programme.

Sara: Why did you choose to participate in this internship programme?

Shabnam: Ah! I am convinced this programme has the potential to enhance my abilities.

Select the correct option to complete the reporting of the above dialogue.

Sara asked Shabnam _____ in that internship programme. Shabnam sighed and exclaimed that she was convinced that programme had the potential to enhance her abilities.

- why to choose to participate
- to choose participation
- why he had chosen to participate
- with her choice in participating

v. Fill the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the concluding line of a paragraph.

..... people visit this temple now.

- (a) A (b) That (c) Few (d) Little

vi. The following paragraph has not been edited. There is an error in each line. Write the error along with its correction in the space provided.

| | | | |
|--|-----|-------|-------|
| Tallam is situated in an | (a) | | |
| altitude of about 550 feet on a southern | (b) | | |

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

Last week a child was not allowed to board the plane at Ranchi airport.

| Option | Error | Correction |
|--------|-------|------------|
| A. | child | children |
| B. | last | previous |
| C. | the | a |
| D. | at | in |

viii. Complete the given narrative, by filling in the blank with the correct option:

As I was standing on the dock, looking out at the lake for the last time, a feeling of emptiness over me like darkness.

ix. Read the following dialogue between a mother and her son. Complete the paragraph that follows by filling in the gaps appropriately.

Marie: Did you see my new umbrella? Isn't it fine?

Tony: Yes, it is! Did you buy it from the mall?

Marie: No, your father has brought it for me.

Marie asked her son Tony (a) and she wanted to know whether it was a fine one. Tony agreed and asked his mother (b) His mother replied in the negative and added that (c)

x. Choose the correct form of the verbs given in the brackets in the following sentences:

Each of these producers..... his own advantage

- Has
- Have
- Had
- Will be having

xi. Complete the line by choosing the correct option:

Besides encountering the strange aborigines, the first English settlers found themselves in the presence of new and wide variations of climate. In their old home, they _____(accustom) to a moderate temperature.

- Accustomed
- Had been accustomed
- Will be accustomed
- Shall accustom

xii. Identify the error in the given sentence, from a school magazine report and supply the correction.

In order to balancing the sentiments of the Eagles and the Hawks, the Student Council suggested a rematch between the teams.

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 .

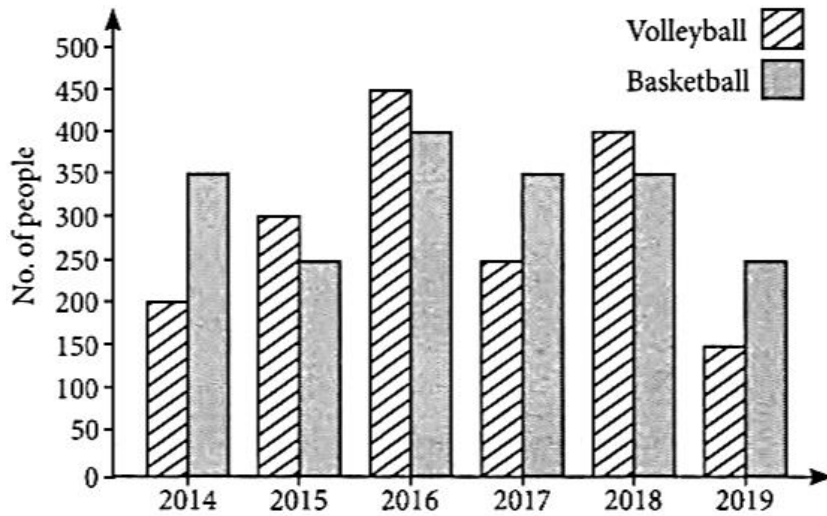
4.A Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, expressing your opinion and views on the increased human dependence on technology. Right from a small child to an adult, or even an old man, everyone wants gadgets only-cell phone, I-pod, laptop, etc. This also has a negative effect on social relationships. Using your own ideas and the unit, 'Science', write the letter in 100-120 words.

5

OR

4.B You are Zac Skaria, a resident of # 412, Magna Greens Apartments, Gandhi Marg, Jonpara, Mumbai. Three students of grade 10 from your residential complex have rescued and rehabilitated a few old beggars from the neighbourhood. You think that their work deserves appreciation and recognition. Write a letter to the President of the RWA, seeking recommendation for these youth, to be nominated for 'Serving Citizens' Award'. Suggest other ways such acts of kindness could be recognised and awarded in the future.

5.A. The given double bar graph shows the preferences of children in a school in playing different games over the span of six years. Write an analytical paragraph about the given information.



OR

5.B. The table below displays the responses of 85 college athlete-respondents, aged 16-24, about sources of nutrition information. Write a paragraph analysing the given data.

| Variable | Group | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-----------|------------|
| gender | Male | 39 | 45.88 |
| | Female | 46 | 54.12 |
| Year in College | 1st year | 9 | 10.59 |
| | 2nd year | 10 | 11.76 |
| | 3rd year | 57 | 67.06 |
| | 4th year | 9 | 10.59 |
| Source of Nutrition Info | Coach | 18 | 21.18 |
| | Magazine | 4 | 4.71 |
| | TV | 11 | 12.94 |
| | Athletic Trainer | 15 | 17.65 |

SECTION D : LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40 marks)

6. Read the given extracts and answer the question for ANY ONE of the two, given. 5x1=5

(A) Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.

5

“Hey, a tea garden!” Rajvir cried excitedly.

Pranjol, who had been born and brought up on a plantation, didn’t share Rajvir’s excitement.

“Oh, this is tea country now,” he said. “Assam has the largest concentration of plantations in the world. You will see enough gardens to last you a lifetime!”

“I have been reading as much as I could about tea,” Rajvir said. “No one really knows who discovered tea but there are many legends.”

i. Why was Pranjol not as excited as Rajvir about the tea gardens? 1

- A. He disliked looking at tea gardens.
- B. He had worked in tea gardens himself.
- C. He had grown up in and around tea gardens.
- D. He was bored with tea gardens.

ii. What does Pranjol mean by saying that Assam has the largest concentration of plantations in the world? 1

iii. Fill in the blank with ONE WORD only.

Pranjol's _____ comes through clearly when he exclaims, “You will see enough gardens to last you a lifetime!” 1

iv. How according to Rajvir does the world know about the discovery of tea?

- 1. Historical places 1
- 2. Traditional tales
- 3. Authentic anecdotes
- 4. Popular publications

v. Select the option that correctly captures the application of the word ‘cried’ as used in line 1 of the extract.

- 1. Jaspreet cried a lot in spite of winning second place in a competition.
- 2. Jaspreet cried out loud when she saw a white tiger in the sanctuary. 1
- 3. Jaspreet cried for hours when the police were unable to find her lost pet.
- 4. Jaspreet has barely cried since she was three years of age.

OR

(B)The use of symbolism in the poem ‘Fire and Ice’ conveys the poet’s message effectively. Expand with reference to the poem. 5

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 5x1=5

LOMOV : It's cold... I'm trembling all over, just as if I'd got an examination before me. The great thing is , I must have my mind made up. If I give myself time to think, to hesitate, to talk a lot, to look for an ideal, or for real love, then I'll never get married. Brr...It's cold! Natalya Stepanovna is an excellent housekeeper, not bad-looking, well-educated. What more do I want? But I'm getting a noise in my ears from excitement. (Drinks) And it's impossible for me not to marry. In the first place, I'm already 35— a critical age, so to speak. In the second place, I ought to lead a quiet and regular life. I suffer from palpitations, I'm excitable and always getting awfully upset; at this very moment my lips are trembling, and there's a twitch in my right eyebrow.

(The Proposal)

i. Which of the following is NOT a reason why Lomov thinks he must marry?

A. He is already 35 years old.

B. He suffers from palpitations.

C. He is excitable and easily upset. D. He is in love with Natalya.

1

ii. Why is it fair to say that Lomov's tone, when he says "What more do I want?", is uncertain 2 and questioning? Answer in about 40 words.

2

iii. Read the following descriptions (a)-(c) and identify which one correctly corresponds to the extract.

(a) A debate is a formal discussion on a particular topic, usually with two or more people presenting different viewpoints and arguments.

1

(b) A soliloquy is a speech given by a character alone on stage, which reveals their innermost thoughts and feelings to the audience.

(c) An aside is a brief comment or remark made by a character directly to the audience, which is not intended to be heard by other characters on stage.

iv. If an actor were to enact this extract, what would he be required to focus on, while modulating his voice? 1

OR

7.B. Hari Singh says- "He knew it but neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything."

your reading of The Thief's Story.

5

8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words. 4x3=12

i. Justify the poet's allusion to Rapunzel in 'Amanda'.

ii. Annie writes that it was fortunate that Mr. Keesing took the joke the right way. Why does she feel so?

iii. Validate the given statement with reference to baby seagull's fear. 'Fear doesn't exist anywhere else other than one's mind.'

(His First Flight- Two Stories about Flying)

iv. How can we say that Natalya was continuously successful in maintaining an upper hand during her arguments with Lomov? (Any one example)

v. Dr. Herriot knew his patients as well as their owners really well. Discuss.
(The Triumph of Surgery)

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

1. i. How does education play a transformative role in Bholi's life?

(Bholi)

ii. The various elements of Robert Arthur's writing style work together to create a sense of tension, uncertainty, and suspense, well-suited to the mystery and suspense genre of the story, *The Midnight Visitor*. Comment, with reference to any one element.

iii. Explain why the poet personally holds the conviction that the world will primarily end in fire?

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. 1x6=6

(A) You have been asked to present an evaluation of the approaches of the mothers of both, the baby seagull and Amanda, towards helping their children. Write this presentation draft including your insights, in about 120 words, comparing the approaches of both parents.

You may begin this way:

One acknowledges that both parents, Amanda's mother and the baby seagull's mother both....however, ...

(Reference -*Amanda! & His First Flight*)

ZIEL
OR

(B) Mijbil and the Tiger, both were looked after by humans. Assume they both meet each other in the zoo and have a conversation about their lifestyle and feelings.

Write this conversation as per your understanding of Mijbil the Otter and A Tiger in the Zoo.

You may begin like this

Tiger: Thanks for visiting me, though I don't usually like visitors. Mijbil: Oh? I would love visitors, I think.

11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. 1x6=6

(A) Imagine that M. Loisel, from *The Necklace* by Guy de Maupassant, writes a diary entry, exploring the theme of class and social status, and the nature of social mobility, in the context of his own experience. Write this diary entry, as M. Loisel, in about 120 words.

OR

(B) 'Honour among thieves' is considered a popular code. Examine A Question of Trust as a story woven around this code.

ZIEL