

**केन्द्रीय विद्यालय संगठन, कोलकाता संभाग**  
**KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN, KOLKATA REGION**  
**प्री-बोर्ड परीक्षा/ PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION – 2024-25**

**कक्षा / CLASS – X**  
**विषय/SUB. - ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

**अधिकतम अंक/MAX. MARKS – 80**  
**समय/TIME – 03 घंटे/Hours**

General Instructions:

- 1 The Question Paper contains Three Sections-Reading, Grammar & Writing and Literature.
- 2 Attempt questions based on specific instructions given for each part.

**SECTION A: READING SKILLS (20 marks)**

**Q1 Read the following text carefully.**

**10m**

1 Life is like a roller coaster, full of twists, turns, and unexpected surprises. One important lesson we often encounter on this thrilling ride is avoiding the envy trap. But what exactly is the envy trap, and how can we learn to be content with our circumstances, no matter what they may be?

2 Imagine you're scrolling through social media, and you come across pictures of your friends on exciting vacations or enjoying the latest gadgets. It's easy to feel a pang of envy, wishing you were in their shoes. This is the envy trap – the cycle of comparing ourselves to others and feeling discontented with what we have.

3 Avoiding the envy trap begins with understanding that everyone's journey is unique. Just because someone else is on a dazzling adventure doesn't mean your own path is any less incredible. We each have our own story to write, with different highs and lows that shape who we are.

4 Being content doesn't mean settling for less; it means appreciating what we have while working towards our goals. It's like having a delicious laddoo – you enjoy each bite without constantly eyeing someone else's treats. Being content is finding joy in the present, even as we strive for a better future.

5 Think about a time when you achieved something you worked hard for, like acing a challenging test or mastering a new skill. That sense of accomplishment is part of being content. It's about recognising and celebrating our achievements, big or small, without letting comparison steal our joy. Moreover, contentment is like having a superpower – it shields us from the negative effects of envy. Instead of feeling bitter or resentful, we can genuinely celebrate the successes of others. Their victories become a source of inspiration rather than a cause for jealousy.

6 Another essential aspect of avoiding the envy trap is fostering gratitude. Take a moment each day to reflect on the positive aspects of your life. It could be the support of your family, the beauty of nature, or the simple pleasures like a good book or a warm cup of cocoa. Gratitude helps us focus on the abundance in our lives, making it harder for envy to creep in. Embracing contentment now will set the stage for a fulfilling journey ahead. Remember, it's okay to have goals and dreams, but let them fuel your passion rather than fuelling comparison.

7 Avoiding the envy trap is a valuable skill that will serve you well throughout life. By learning to be content, you'll discover the true magic in appreciating the present while eagerly anticipating the adventures that lie ahead.

(431 words)

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

i) Infer ONE likely purpose of the writer's choice of the opening line, "Life is like a roller coaster, full of twists, turns, and unexpected surprises." 1

ii) What is the primary relationship between paragraphs 1 and 2 in the passage? 1

A Cause and Effect

B Problem and Solution

C Comparison and Contrast

D Concept and Exemplification

iii) What lesson does paragraph 3 convey about individual journeys? 1

A Each journey is similar, emphasising shared experiences.

B Exclusive paths define each person's characteristic narrative.

C Similar accomplishments lead to a common destination.

D Different perspectives hinder the understanding of personal stories.

iv) Explain the analogy of enjoying a laddoo, 30-40 words. (Ref: paragraph 4) 2

v) Complete the following analogy correctly, by filling the blanks correctly with words from paragraph 5. 1

shield: defence: \_\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_

vi) State whether TRUE or FALSE. (Ref: paragraph 5) 1

The author suggests a shift from a mindset of contentment to one where individuals genuinely celebrate the successes of others.

vii) Quote the textual evidence from paragraph 6, that supports the following opinions about 'envy'. 1

♣ Envy will catch you unawares

♣ Envy is quite sneaky

♣ Envy stealthily gets a hold on you

viii) Rationalise, in 30-40 words, why the writer uses of the phrase, "true magic", for the skill of inculcating contentment. (Ref; paragraph 7) 2

**Q2 Read the following text carefully**

**10 m**

1 In a recent research study conducted on the footwear preferences and influencing factors among young teens in India, valuable insights were gathered to understand the choices and motivations behind their

footwear purchases. Based on the survey conducted with a sample size of 500 students aged 13-16, from various schools across different regions of India, the following data and observations were noted:

## 2 Footwear Preferences:

- 42% of the respondents indicated a preference for sneakers or sports shoes as their primary choice of footwear.
- 28% expressed a preference for sandals or flip-flops.
- 20% favoured casual shoes or loafers.
- 10% showed a preference for formal shoes or boots.

## Influencing Factors:

- Price and affordability were found to be the most significant influencing factors, with 55% of the respondents considering it as a primary factor in their purchase decision.
- Brand reputation and popularity played a role in the decision-making process for 30% of the respondents.
- Comfort and fit were considered important by 10% of the participants.
- Fashion trends and peer influence influenced the purchase decisions of 5% of the respondents.

## Regional Variations:

- The research also highlighted regional variations in footwear preferences. For example, in urban areas, sneakers or sports shoes were more popular (47% of respondents), while in rural areas, sandals or flip flops were preferred (32% of respondents).

3 The researchers feel that understanding these insights can aid footwear manufacturers and retailers in catering to the specific needs and preferences of this target demographic, ultimately offering them footwear options that align with their desires and aspirations.

258 words

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

- i) List one merit of using a face-to-face interview as a better way of gathering information for this particular study, as opposed to an online survey. 1
- ii) Rationalise, in 30-40 words, why price and affordability were identified as the most significant influencing factors for young teens, when purchasing footwear. 2
- iii) The impact of fashion trends and peer influence was picked by only 5% of the respondents. Infer what this displays. (Any ONE point) 1
- iv) Based on the provided data on footwear preferences among teens across the nation, select the LEAST likely reason why sports shoes are the most preferred. 1
  - A. Sports shoes are deemed more stylish and trendy among teenagers.
  - B. Sports shoes offer comfort and flexibility for various activities.
  - C. Respondents find sports shoes more affordable than other options.
  - D. Sports shoes are associated with a higher social status among teens.
- v) Study the data on influencing factors, from the table. Identify which percentage of respondents (30%; 10%; 5%), match with cases I-III, given below. **(ANY TWO)** 2

## Cases:

- I. Rupinder, a practical and active individual, who believes that comfortable shoes are essential for his daily activities and overall well-being.
- II. Raza, a trend-conscious teenager, is heavily influenced by celebrity styles and strives to stay updated with the latest and upcoming product designs.
- III. Revathi, a fashion-forward teen, values the way she dresses and is particular about being acknowledged for her popular national and international expensive choices.

vi) Fill the blanks appropriately, to complete the sentence. 1  
 One advantage of including regional variation in the study is that \_\_\_\_\_.

vii) State the reason for **ANY ONE**, from (i) & (ii) below, in 30- 40 words. 1  
 (i) NGOs are the most likely to be sponsors for this study.  
 (ii) NGOs are the least likely to be sponsors for this study.

viii) Identify the phrase that replaces the underlined part appropriately: 1  
 Young teens seek footwear options that not only meet their functional needs but also resonate with their personal style, fashion preferences, and self-expression.

### SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20 marks)

#### GRAMMAR

10

**Q3 Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed.** 10

i) Mona's mother is very proud of her daughter. Complete her expression by filling the blank with the correct form of the word in brackets. 1

Mona is at university. She \_\_\_\_\_(be) studying chemistry.

ii) Read the given conversation between two friends. 1

Sumitra: What do you plan to do after your graduation?

Ragini: I have processed my admission at Wharton School. Very soon, I shall be leaving for Penslyvannia.

Report what Ragini told her friend, by completing the following sentence.

Ragini replied that\_\_\_\_\_.

iii) Fill the blank to complete the cautionary declaration by the traffic police, given below. 1

Adhering to safety protocols \_\_\_\_\_ ensure everyone reaches their destination safely.

iv) Fill the blank with the correct option to complete the line from a magazine article. 1

In the vast and bustling market, \_\_\_\_\_ vendors from different regions gather to display their unique goods, ranging from freshly harvested vegetables to intricately crafted jewelry.

- A. many
- B. most
- C. much
- D. more

v) Select the correct option to fill the blank about Dorothy's nature. 1  
 Her kindness \_\_\_\_\_ through every action she takes, always putting others at ease and

making the world around her a little brighter with each gesture.

- A. radiate
- B. radiates
- C. radiated
- D. have radiated

vi) Identify the error in the given opinion below and supply the correction. 1

The rise or control of artificial intelligence (AI) is impacting society, as a whole.

Error - \_\_\_\_\_; Correction - \_\_\_\_\_

vii) Fill the blank with the correct option, about Girish's habit. 1

Girish, along with his father, \_\_\_\_\_ every official meeting.

- A. attend
- B. are attending
- C. have attended
- D. attends

viii) Report the given question Kirthana asked her teacher. 1

Could you please clarify the main objectives and due date for the project you assigned, Sir?

ix) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the opening line of a report. 1

As the season begins, we highlight the key trends that are reshaping fashion and made strong impressions on the Run way and in everyday wear.

ERROR	CORRECTION
A. begins	began
B. highlight	highlighted
C. are	is
D. made	making

x) Fill the blank to complete a line from a Professor's introductory address to her class. (Use the correct tense of the word given in the bracket). 1

We \_\_\_\_\_ (complete) the course by next year.

xi) Complete the sentence by correctly reporting Jagdeep's advice to Gopi. 1

If I were you, I'd seize the opportunity and give it my best shot.

Jagdeep said that if he were in Gopi's position \_\_\_\_\_

xii) Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given line to complete an online update. 1

During the college days, I \_\_\_\_\_ beat them all in the race!

- A. could
- B. should
- C. can
- D. might

## WRITING 10

**Q4 Attempt any ONE of two questions given below.**

5

4A. As Abhinandan Puri, a college student living at 21B, Vanasthali Apartments, Vaishali Street, Delhi, write a letter to the editor of a national daily in 120 words.

State your belief that ecological preservation isn't just the government's duty but also that of citizens, especially the youth. Explain how youth-led initiatives can significantly help prevent environmental damage. Suggest practical ways for the youth to work with the government to improve the local environment.

OR

4B. Draft a 120-word complaint letter as Navjyot Khosla, the Purchase Executive at Home Décor and Furnishings in Siliguri, West Bengal. Describe your situation: you spoke to a sales executive from Grihashakti Housing and Furnishings about delivering carpets, decoration items, and art materials, but haven't received any response since. Despite trying to reach them again via the provided phone number, there's been no success. Address the letter to the proprietor of Grihashakti Housing and Furnishings, 60, Durga Market Street, Kolkata, and express your concern about the lack of communication and the impact on your store's operations.

**Q5 Attempt any ONE of two questions given below.**

**5**

5A. Your school's teacher coordinator for co-curricular activities has tasked you, as the Head girl, with reviewing the quotes and description letters of two flower vendors for the decoration of the Annual Day celebrations. She has requested you to share your recommendation, based on analytical inputs. Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words, recommending Vendor B, as opposed to Vendor A, for the event.

**Vendor A**

Dear Madam Co-ordinator

Our team at *Blossom Delight* is dedicated to delivering beautiful and vibrant floral arrangements that will enhance the aesthetic appeal of your event.

We offer a variety of packages to suit your needs, including elegant bouquets, table centre-pieces, and decorative installations. Our experienced team will work closely with you to understand the theme and colour scheme of the event, ensuring that our floral designs complement the overall atmosphere.

Price Estimate for Basic Package:

- Standard two-flower bouquets: ₹ 290 per piece. (Customised -Extra charges)
- Table Centre-pieces: ₹ 150 each
- Decorative Installations: ₹ 550 per area

We look forward to the opportunity to contribute to the success of your annual day celebrations.

Yours sincerely  
[Vendor A]

**Vendor B**

Dear Madam Co-ordinator

At *Petal Perfect*, we take pride in creating unique and personalised floral arrangements that reflect the essence of your school.

Our packages include a diverse range of floral designs, from classic bouquets to intricate installations. We understand the importance of customisation and will tailor our creations to align seamlessly with the theme and spirit of your event.

Price Estimate for Basic Package:

- Bouquets: ₹ 310 per piece for two-flower setting (standard or customised)
- Table Centre-pieces: ₹ 150 each
- Decorative Installations: ₹ 575 per area (One ceremonial flower rangoli FREE.)

As part of our commitment to sustainability, we use locally sourced and eco-friendly materials in our arrangements.

We look forward to the prospect of contributing to the annual day celebrations.

Warm regards  
[Vendor B]

5B. As the President of the Movie Club of your school, you have been tasked with selecting a movie for the upcoming screening event for classes IX-XII. Given below are brief descriptions and snippets of newspaper and critic reviews for TWO potential film choices (i-ii). Analyse the information and decide which movie

would be most suitable for the school screening. Consider aspects such as content appropriateness, audience engagement, and critical acclaim.

You may begin like this:

The choice of film (i) "MEMORIES: 1970-2000" , for the school screening, is a decision based on the film's ...  
OR

The choice of film (ii) "Mrs. SUNNY SINGH & FAMILY" , for the school screening, is a decision based on the film's ...

**(i) MEMORIES: 1970-2000**

Description: A heartwarming family drama set against the backdrop of a small town in Eastern India. It explores themes of friendship, courage, and the pursuit of dreams.

**Critic Reviews:**

- ✓ *"Memories:1970-2000" captures the essence of human connection with its touching narrative. A must-watch for all ages. – Daily Today*
- ✓ *A feel-good movie that leaves a lasting impression. Its universal themes make it an ideal*

**(ii) Mrs. SUNNY SINGH & FAMILY**

Description: A comedy extravaganza that promises non-stop laughter. It features a star-studded cast in a hilarious plot filled with witty humour.

**Critic Reviews:**

- ✓ *"Laugh Riot" delivers on its promise, providing a hilarious escape from reality. Perfect for a light-hearted movie plan. – Comedy Critic Weekly*
- ✓ *A comedy for the ages, with impeccable timing and a script that keeps the audience in stitches. A fantastic choice for a fun-filled screening event. – The Humour Hub*

**SECTION C LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40 marks)**

**Q6 Read the extracts given and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two.**

**5**

6 A) Mr. Keesing had a good laugh at my arguments, but when I proceeded to talk my way through the next lesson, he assigned me a second essay. This time it was supposed to be on 'An Incurable Chatterbox.' I handed it in, and Mr. Keesing had nothing to complain about for two whole lessons. However, during the third lesson, he'd finally had enough. "Anne Frank, as a punishment for talking in class, write an essay entitled-'Quack, Quack, Quack, said Mistress Chatterbox.'"

(From the Diary of Anne Frank)

- i) How does Mr. Keesing's assignment of the essay "'Quack, Quack, Quack, said Mistress Chatterbox'" serve as both a punishment and a creative response to Anne Frank's talkative nature? 2
- ii) In the context of Mr. Keesing, the phrase, 'had a good laugh' implies \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- iii) With reference to Anne Frank's approach to authority figures like Mr. Keesing, which option is the LEAST likely? 1

- A Subtle resistance to authority
- B Assertiveness and independence
- C Enthusiasm for intellectual discourse

D Compliance with classroom norms

iv) The use of terms like “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” and “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” , point towards Anne's talkative and lively communication style. 1

OR

6B) THINK-TANK: Mirror, mirror, in my hand. Who is the most fantastically intellectually gifted being in the land?

OFFSTAGE VOICE: (after a pause) You, sir.

THINK -TANK: (smacking mirror) Quicker. Answer quicker next time. I hate a slow mirror. (He admires himself in the mirror.) Ah, there I am. Are we Martians not a handsome race? So much more attractive than those ugly Earthlings with their tiny heads. Noodle, you keep on exercising your mind, and someday you'll have a balloon brain just like mine.

NOODLE: Oh, I hope so, Mighty Think-Tank. I hope so.

THINK -TANK: Now, contact the space probe. I want to invade that primitive ball of mud called Earth before lunch.

NOODLE: It shall be done, sir. (He adjusts levers on switchboard. Electronic buzzes and beeps are heard as the curtains open. (The Book that Saved the Earth)

i) What does Think-Tank's interaction with the mirror reveal about his attitude towards intelligence and appearance? Answer in 30-40 words. 2

ii) State whether TRUE or FALSE. Noodle's hopeful response to Think-Tank's comment lends an insight into the rich heritage and culture of the Martian society. 1

iii) Select the appropriate option to fill the blank. 1

The desire to conquer a "primitive ball of mud" reflects a \_\_\_\_\_ mindset.

A diplomatic

B colonial

C conciliatory

D democratic

iv) The playwright's decision to put certain content in brackets serves the purpose of \_\_\_\_\_. 1

**Q7 Read the extracts given and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two.** 5

7A) I thought I told you to clean your shoes,  
Amanda!

(I am an orphan, roaming the street.

I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet.

The silence is golden; the freedom is sweet.)

Don't eat that chocolate, Amanda!

(Amanda)

i) Which of the following best describes the symbolic meaning of the soft dust and hushed, bare feet in Amanda's orphan daydream? 1

A) A sense of isolation and loneliness

B) Freedom and independence

C) Poverty and hardship

D) Conformity and obedience



- ii) What does the contrast between the speaker's commands and Amanda's daydream suggest about her imaginative escape? (Answer in 30-40 words) 2
- iii) Complete the following with the impact on the reader. The lack of the special use of parentheses would have resulted in \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- iv) How does the line, "I thought I told you to clean your shoes, Amanda!" help us infer that Amanda's actions are being closely monitored and directed. 1

OR

7B) 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; ...

(The Ball Poem)

- i) In the line, "ultimate shaking grief fixes the boy", what does the following tell us? 1+1=2

(i) "ultimate" - This tells us .....

(ii) "fixes" – This tells us .....

(Answer in a total of about 40 words)

- ii) Complete the following with a correct option. 1

The use of "rigid" and "trembling" in the same line creates a powerful contrast between \_\_\_\_\_.

- A unchangeable circumstances and visible sobbing  
B defence mechanism and submission to a situation  
C emotional numbness and physical quivering  
D strong beliefs and unexpected reality

- iii) State why the following is TRUE. 1

The line "All his young days into the harbour where / His ball went" refers to losing the ball as just a material loss.

- iv) Fill the blank with an appropriate phrase from those given in the brackets. 1

The speaker chooses not to intrude on the boy. This choosing not to intrude, reflects a sensitivity to the boy's emotional state and a respect for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the grieving process. (universal occurrence / passing over / personal nature)

**Q8 Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words. 4x3=12**

- i) Do you think Lencho's decision to rely solely on God, instead of seeking other solutions, was justified? Why or why not? (A Letter to God)

ii) The young seagull "failed to muster up courage to take that plunge".

How can the term "plunge" in the context of the young seagull's hesitation be interpreted both literally and metaphorically? Explain. (His First Flight)

iii) What is the poet's purpose in using behavioral cues like roaring, smiling, or weeping in the poem **How to Tell Wild Animals**?

- iv) What does Mijbil's behaviour suggest about the otter's adaptability to urban surroundings?

(Mijbil the Otter)

v) In the poem **For Anne Gregory**, Anne Gregory's suggestion to dye her hair serves two main purposes. What are these? Present your response this way: One purpose is ..... Another purpose is .....

**Q9 Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. 2x3=6**

- i) How does the writer's use of the literary device-a twist in the tale- towards the story's end, impact the narrative of **The Necklace**?

ii) What was the impact of the goodies that came for Tricky during his convalescence, on the household?

**(The Triumph of Surgery)**

iii) Comment on the writer's likely choice to create an unconventional spy character like Ausable in **The Midnight Visitor**.

**Q 10 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.**

**1x6=6**

10A) In the poem, **Dust of Snow**, the crow symbolically transforms the narrator's mood, while in the story, **His First Flight**, the baby seagull undergoes a literal transformation as it learns to fly. Analyse how these avian characters play similar or different thematic roles in their respective poem and story.

**OR**

10B) Examine how, both **Madam Rides the Bus** and **Tea from Assam (Glimpses of India III)**, celebrate the power of exploration, with reference to Valli and Rajvir, respectively.

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

11A) Based on your reading of the textual cue given below, write a conversation between the two characters – Mrs. Hall and Griffin.

"Mrs. Hall, the landlord's wife made every effort to be friendly, but Griffin had no desire to talk."

**(Footprints Without Feet)**

**OR**

11B) Examine how Anil's identity as a writer could have contributed to his understanding of Hari Singh.

**(The Thief's Story)**