

SAHODAYA PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION, 2025-26
MARKING SCHEME (SET-1)
CLASS-X (ENGLISH LANG & LIT)

General Instructions:

1. *The Marking Scheme carries only suggested value points for the answers. The value points are in the nature of Guidelines only and do not constitute the complete answer. The students can have their own expression and if the expression is correct, then due marks should be awarded accordingly.*
2. *If a student has attempted an extra question, answer of the question deserving more marks should be retained and the other answer scored out with a note "Extra Question".*
3. *If more than one option is mentioned in the answer of multiple choice questions, then no marks to be awarded.*

SECTION -A: READING (20 marks)		
Discursive Passage		
Qn. No.	Content/Value Points	Marks
1.	<i>Answer the following questions, based on the passage above</i>	10
I.	Because silence is becoming uncommon in a noisy, digital world and people fail to recognize its importance	1
II.	C: a distraction from focus	1
III.	restorative	1
IV.	B: Purposeful stillness chosen to calm the mind	1
V.	B: understanding	1
VI.	Silence enhances creativity because it allows the mind to wander freely without noise, pressure, or distractions. In quietness, thinkers can connect ideas deeply, explore possibilities and develop original insights.	2
VII.	A: Paragraph 4-i, Paragraph 5- ii	1
VIII.	Because constant digital noise causes burnout and reduces creativity, so stepping away allows one to regain clarity, balance and healthy thinking.	2
Case Based Factual Passage		10
2	<i>Answer the following questions, based on the passage above</i>	
I.	A. represent different stages of reading maturity and interest.	1
II.	"preferences evolve with age and academic demands"	1
III.	A. From entertainment to education	1
IV.	imagination.	1
V.	C) They were too mature for their age	1
VI.	appealing/engaging - or any other relevant answer	1
VII.	As students grow older, they seek practical guidance and self-improvement, moving from stories of imagination to real-life insights and motivational content.	2
VIII.	Understanding preferences helps design engaging reading material suited to age and maturity, encouraging lifelong reading habits and learning and nurture personal development.	1
IX.	The Self-help category shows the greatest increase in preference as students grow older.	1

	SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20 marks)	
	GRAMMAR (10 marks)	
	Instructions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No partial credit score to be awarded. • Any Ten Correct Answers of Twelve to be evaluated. • Each Correct Answer carries 01 mark. 	
3.	(I) washed	1
	(II) she wanted as a gift	1
	(III) The teacher told her students that their exams would go well and advised them not to panic.	1
	(IV) reflected	1
	(V) those	1
	(VI) Error: could, Correction: Must/should	1
	(VII) Option: A, Error: are, Correction: is	1
	(VIII) he would like to buy a pack of ball pens and two registers	1
	(IX) (A) a few	1
	(X) (B) lies	1
	(XI) (A) should	1
	(XII) (C) each	1
	WRITING SKILLS (10 marks)	
4.	Format:01 Content:02 Organisation: 01 Accuracy:01	1x5=5
A	<p>(The response to be created from following content points)</p> <p>A-52, Green Park New Delhi – 110016 2 December 2025</p> <p>The Editor Hindustan Times New Delhi</p> <p>Subject: Need for Stronger Mental Health Awareness in Schools</p> <p>Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I wish to draw attention to a matter of growing concern—the rising levels of stress and anxiety among school students. As a student myself, I firmly believe that schools must take more concrete steps to promote mental health awareness and create an environment where emotional well-being is treated with the same seriousness as academic performance.</p> <p>In recent years, the academic pressure on students has increased tremendously. Constant competition, heavy workloads, fear of failure, and social pressures often result in stress, anxiety, and in severe cases, long-term mental health issues. Unfortunately, most schools continue to focus solely on academic excellence, while mental wellness—an equally important aspect of a child’s development—remains overlooked.</p>	

	<p>To address this, schools should introduce regular mental health and counselling programs as a part of the academic calendar. Professional counsellors must be appointed to conduct weekly sessions where students can openly discuss their concerns in a safe and confidential setting. Additionally, workshops on managing stress, developing emotional resilience, and practising mindfulness can help students understand and cope with their feelings better.</p> <p>Teachers should also be given basic training to identify early signs of anxiety, stress, or behavioural changes in students. Creating peer-support groups and organizing mental health awareness campaigns can further help normalize seeking help and reduce the stigma attached to mental health issues.</p> <p>I sincerely hope that through your newspaper, educational authorities and school administrations will recognize the urgency of this matter and take proactive steps to safeguard the mental well-being of students.</p> <p>Thank you. Yours sincerely Rohan Mehta</p>	
OR		
B	<p>(The response to be created from following content points)</p> <p>Asha Sharma B-27, Shanti Vihar Delhi – 110092</p> <p>2 December 2025</p> <p>The Municipal Commissioner Delhi Municipal Corporation Delhi</p> <p>Subject: Complaint Regarding Poor Maintenance of Public Park in Shanti Vihar</p> <p>Respected Sir/Madam</p> <p>I am writing to bring to your attention the extremely unhygienic and neglected condition of the public park in our locality, Shanti Vihar. The park, which once served as an important recreational space for children, senior citizens, and daily walkers, has now become unusable due to lack of maintenance.</p> <p>The entire area is littered with plastic waste, food wrappers, and other garbage that has not been cleared for weeks. Broken benches lie scattered around the park, making it unsafe for people to sit or rest. The grass has grown excessively long, giving the park an unkempt appearance and creating a breeding ground for insects. The</p>	

	<p>teammate for Neha in organising the charity fundraiser. Since Neha is creative, proactive, and a strong leader, she needs someone who can support her with consistent organisation and efficient task management. Priya's strengths in budgeting, planning, and maintaining records complement Neha's abilities perfectly, ensuring that the event runs smoothly without financial or scheduling issues. Although Priya is less confident in public engagement, Neha's leadership and creativity can help balance this limitation. Moreover, Neha can handle the outreach aspect more effectively, while Priya ensures the backend operations remain streamlined. Together, they create a reliable and efficient team capable of delivering a successful and well-managed charity event.</p>	
	OR	
<p>B</p>	<p><u>Option-1</u> Akash would be a suitable teammate for Neha because his strong networking skills and ability to reach out to potential sponsors can significantly boost the fundraiser's financial support. Since securing donations is central to any charity event, his persuasive communication can ensure that the fundraiser attracts generous contributors and gains visibility. Although he struggles with budgeting and scheduling, Neha's own organisational strengths can easily balance this weakness, creating a complementary partnership. With Neha handling the structural planning and Akash focusing on sponsorship outreach, the team can function smoothly. His confidence in approaching donors and establishing connections would enhance public engagement, making him a valuable asset in ensuring the event's success.</p> <p><u>Option-2</u> Priya is the most reliable teammate for Neha because her strengths perfectly align with the organisational demands of a charity fundraiser. Since she excels in managing finances, planning tasks, and maintaining accurate records, Priya would ensure the event runs systematically and stays within budget. These skills are crucial for resource allocation, scheduling, and accountability. While she is less confident in public engagement, Neha's leadership and creativity can bridge this gap by handling outreach and communication. Priya's dependability reduces the chances of errors or delays, allowing Neha to focus on creative planning and execution. Together, they would form a balanced team with strong administrative support, ultimately ensuring the fundraiser is smooth, transparent, and well-managed.</p> <p><u>Option-3</u> Arnav would be a strong teammate for Neha because his charisma and persuasive abilities can significantly enhance public engagement, which is crucial for attracting participants and donors to a charity fundraiser. His energy and confidence can create excitement around the event, helping it reach a wider audience. Although he struggles with record-keeping and sticking to plans, Neha's organised and proactive nature can effectively fill this gap. With Neha managing</p>	

	the structure, schedules, and documentation, Arnav can focus on promotions and motivating others. This complementary combination ensures both visibility and order. His strengths in communication and outreach would greatly support Neha's vision, making him an impactful choice for ensuring strong participation and successful execution of the event.	
	SECTION C: LITERATURE TEXT BOOK (40 marks)	
6.	Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.	5 marks
A.	Prose	
I.	C. (i) and (iii)	1
II.	B. satirise the superficiality of the upper class in Russian society	1
III.	Lomov is disrespectful towards MrChubukov, accuses Chubukov's grandfather of embezzlement and his mother to be hump-backed. Honourable people never lose their temper like this.	2
IV.	Chubukov lacks mental maturity what an elderly man supposed to have. He is rough and lacks mannerism and etiquettes.	1
	OR	
B.	Prose	
I	The speaker, Think Tank, the epitome of self-importance is overreacting and exaggerating as usual.	1
II	C. Think Tank's premise was incorrect	1
III	Think Tank is a self-obsessed Martian who takes a phrase from a book of nursery rhymes as a clue of the Earthlings' plan to attack and colonise Mars. The irony is that the Martians have such plans because they consider the Earthlings to be less intelligent owing to their small heads.	2
IV	traces	1
7.	Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.	5 marks
A.	Poetry	
I	Belinda and her pets looked upon the dragon as a coward. It was so because the dragon always clamoured for a nice safe cage. Belinda and others made fun of him. Belinda would tickle the dragon mercilessly. The pets him Percival in jest. However, the dragon proved all of them wrong in a grave situation.	2
II	A. politely	1
III	he wanted to create a poetic effect.	1
IV	Belinda tickles custard unmercifully; it shows her cruel nature as she knows that it would scare Custard.	1
B.	Poetry	
I	Correct Option: B. i, iii → People often judge others by appearance, and only divine love is truly unconditional.	1
II	The poet uses Anne Gregory's <i>yellow hair</i> as a symbol of physical beauty. He suggests that people admire her for her looks rather than	2

	for her true nature, showing the superficial nature of human affection.	
III	The phrase “ <i>I heard an old religious man</i> ” refers to spiritual or religious wisdom.	1
IV	inner qualities or soul	1
8.	Answer any four of the following five questions, in about 50 words	4x3=12
	Content: 2 Expression: 01 Note: <i>Up to 01 mark may be deducted over all in Accuracy level.</i>	
I	Two Stories About Flying, the young seagull experiences intense fear of flying when it first tries to fly. This fear is natural because flying is a new and risky activity, and the seagull feels unsafe and hesitant. However, hunger and the need to survive motivate him to confront his fear. By taking steps and gradually diving to fly, the young seagull gains confidence. Eventually, he learns to soar freely in the sky, discovering the joy and independence of flying.	3
II	Even though he was a maths teacher, he preferred in punishing by giving extra assignments which was situation appropriate. However, he took the argument in right way, studied the sentiment of the student and became submissive which ultimately reformed himself than reforming the child.	3
III	The black people were in chains everywhere. They were not allowed to participate in any social activities, deprived of their basic human rights. This inhuman process will always stay in their mind for a long time.	3
IV	Mijbil the Otter teaches lessons of responsibility, kindness, and compassion through Maxwell’s actions. He cares for Mijbil with patience, ensuring his comfort and safety. His gentle handling, understanding of Mijbil’s needs and affectionate bond reflect empathy and respect for animals, promoting coexistence between humans and nature.	3
V	Madam Rides the Bus effectively portrays the tension between familiarity and curiosity through Valli’s bus journey. Her longing to explore the outside world contrasts with the safety of her home. The narrative beautifully captures her innocence, excitement, and eventual realization that adventure brings both joy and awareness of life’s deeper realities, especially loss and maturity.	3
9	Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.	2x3=6
	Content: 2 Expression: 01 Note: <i>Up to 01 mark may be deducted over all in Accuracy level.</i>	
I	Griffin’s invisibility empowers him but also isolates him morally. His unchecked freedom leads to unethical acts, showing how lack of accountability results in downfall.	3

II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anil's character- Kind, trusting, and humble; treats Hari with genuine care, teaches him to read and write; never judges him. Effect on Hari Singh- Hari feels guilty after stealing; realizes Anil's selflessness and trust; begins to value honesty and education over theft. Turning point / Moral- Kindness and trust reform Hari; he decides to change his life- shows power of compassion to transform human character. 	3
III	In Bholi, the protagonist is an unattractive, timid, and stammering girl who is often ridiculed by her classmates and overlooked by her family. Despite her appearance and speech difficulties, Bholi develops courage and self-respect over time, especially after her teacher encourages her to be confident and assertive. This inner strength becomes evident when she refuses to marry the greedy Bisambarnath, standing up for her despite societal expectations. The story shows that social approval or beauty is temporary, but self-confidence and moral courage define a person's true character.	3
10.	Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words	1x6
	Content: 03 Expression: 02 Accuracy: 01	
A.	Both Lencho in A Letter to God and Kisa Gotami in The Sermon at Benares experience deep grief but respond differently, revealing human resilience and hope. Lencho faces the loss of his crops with unshakable faith in God, symbolizing simple yet powerful trust in divine help. His hope, though naïve, reflects strength and optimism in adversity. Kisa Gotami, grieving her dead child, initially seeks a cure in denial until the Buddha teaches her that death is universal. Through this realization, she attains wisdom, acceptance, and spiritual peace. While Lencho's faith is outward and innocent, Kisa's transformation is inward and reflective. Both characters show that true strength lies in hope, understanding, and the ability to rise above suffering.	
	OR	
B.	The poem 'The Trees' directly addresses the impact of the destruction of natural resources due to the felling of trees. It emphasizes the importance of preserving nature and natural resources. It also highlights the significance of trees in the lives of other beings, including humans. The destruction caused by deforestation has a lasting impact on the lives of all related beings. Similarly, in 'Fire and Ice', the poet talks about the hatred and coldness that destroy human relationships and ultimately, humanity. Thus, the poems are similar in highlighting the theme of empathy and concern for fellow beings and nature. However, they also differ slightly in that 'Fire and Ice' explores a more spiritual theme of love and human emotions.	

11.	Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words	1x6
	Content: 03 Expression: 02 Accuracy: 01	
A.	Dear Matilda Our meeting today filled me with sadness and regret. I can hardly believe the hardships you endured for a necklace that was never real. If only you had spoken the truth, both our lives could have been different. Your silence, born from pride, cost you your youth and joy. I blame myself, too, for not assuring you that friendship is stronger than appearances. Please accept my sympathy and forgiveness. I hope you find peace knowing that your suffering has made you wiser and stronger. Let us leave the past behind and remember the kindness that once connected us. Yours affectionately Jeanne Forestier	
	OR	
B.	The author uses the technique of chronological progression to show how Richard Ebright grew from a curious child into a successful scientist. The story begins with Ebright's early interest in collecting butterflies and other things. Then, it moves step by step through his school years, science fair projects, and important discoveries. Each stage shows how his curiosity, hard work, and support from his mother helped him grow. His experiments became more serious over time, leading to a new theory about cells. By following the order of events, the author helps readers understand how Ebright's passion and efforts slowly built his success. This makes the story clear, inspiring, and easy for young readers to follow and learn from.	
