

SET-1

Roll No.

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Candidates must write the Set No. on the title page of the answer book.

SAHODAYA PRE BOARD EXAMINATION - 2025-26

- Please check that this question paper contains **09** printed pages.
- Set number given on the right-hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer book by the candidate.
- Check that this question paper contains **11** questions.
- Write down the Serial Number of the question in the left side of the margin before attempting it.
- 15 minutes time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the examination. The students will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer script during this period. Students should not write anything in the question paper.

CLASS-X

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (Code No. 184)

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. *This question paper is divided into three sections: A, B & C.*

<i>Section A: Reading</i>	<i>20 marks</i>
<i>Section B: Grammar & Creative Writing Skills</i>	<i>20 marks</i>
<i>Section C: Literature Text Book</i>	<i>40 marks</i>
2. *Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part*
3. *All questions of a particular section must be attempted in the correct order.*
4. *Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

- A. Silence that occurs accidentally due to isolation.
- B. Purposeful stillness chosen to calm the mind.
- C. Silence forced by external circumstances.
- V. Complete the analogy by selecting the correct option. 1
 listening: empathy: silence: _____ (Paragraph 3)
 A. distraction B. understanding C. hesitation D. avoidance
- VI. Why does the author claim that silence enhances creativity, as mentioned in paragraph- 4? 2
- VII. What are the main ideas of paragraph 4 and paragraph 5? 1
 i) Silence encourages deep imagination and innovation.
 ii) Modern society often misinterprets silence as laziness.
 iii) Creative breakthroughs occur during moments of distraction.
 iv) Constant digital engagement promotes mindfulness.
 v) Solitude helps artists and thinkers explore new ideas.

Select the correct option.

Options	Main idea of paragraph 4	Main idea of paragraph 5
A	i	ii
B	iii	iv
C	v	i
D	ii	iii

- VIII. According to the author, why is it important for individuals to “step away from the digital cacophony”? (Paragraph- 5) 2

2. Read the passage given below.

10

1. A recent study conducted among students aged 12–14 and 15–17 explored their preferences for different types of books, such as fiction, non-fiction, and self-help genres. The study aimed to understand how students choose what to read, the factors influencing their choices, and how these preferences evolve with age and academic demands.
2. Among students aged 12–14, fiction was the most popular category, with 70% of respondents selecting storybooks and fantasy novels as their first choice. They mentioned imagination, adventure, and relatable characters as key reasons for their preference. Non-fiction books, including biographies and science-based titles, attracted about 20%, while only 10% chose self-help books, finding them “too mature” for their age.
3. In the 15–17 age group, the pattern shifted notably. Here, 45% favoured self-help and motivational books, citing personal growth and stress management as reasons. Around 35% preferred fiction, particularly contemporary novels that reflect real-life issues. Non-fiction accounted for 20%, especially titles related to career planning or world affairs. The findings revealed that older students tend to value books offering practical guidance and emotional insight.
4. These results suggest that students’ reading preferences are strongly shaped by their emotional and educational needs. Publishers and educators can encourage reading by balancing entertainment and inspiration—offering titles that both engage young minds and nurture personal development.

(Created for academic usage/220)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- I. Why did the study include the two specific age groups of 12–14 and 15–17? (Paragraph 1)

VI. Identify the error and supply the correction for the following statement. 1

The national team could adhere to a strict code of conduct, refraining from cheating and unethical behaviour, or else they will be disqualified.

Use the given format.

ERROR	CORRECTION

VII. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the given line, from a survey. 1

Everyone are expected to submit their feedback to our customer service representative at the event.

Option	Error	Correction
A	are	is
B	their	your
C	feedback	feedbacks
D	the	a

VIII. Report the following by completing the sentence correctly. 1

‘I would like to buy a pack of ball pens and two registers’, said the student.

The student said that _____

IX. Fill the blank by choosing the correct option. 1

I have _____ books on my shelf, but I haven't read any of them yet.

A. a few B. few C. a little D. any

X. Complete Nelson Mandela's quote by filling in the blank with the correct option. 1

"The greatest glory in living _____ not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." - Nelson Mandela

A. lie B. lies C. lays D. laying

XI. Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given line, from a news report.

In India, the death toll due to road accidents has increased drastically. Wider road awareness among road users _____ be taught to all the people.

A. should B. would C. can D. will

XII. Choose the correct option to fill the blank. 1

The classroom was unusually quiet today as _____ student was busy working.

(A) all (B) few (C) each (D) many.

WRITING

NOTE: All details presented in the questions in writing section are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.

4A. You are Rohan Mehta, a student of Greenfield Public School, Delhi. You strongly feel that schools should take more steps to promote mental health awareness among students to reduce stress and anxiety. Write a letter to the Editor of The Hindustan Times highlighting the importance of mental well-being in schools and suggesting ways to implement regular mental health and counselling programmes. 5

OR

- 4B.** You are Asha/Amit, a resident of Model Town, Delhi. You are deeply concerned about the unhygienic condition of the public park in your locality. The park is littered with plastic waste, broken benches, and untrimmed grass, making it unsafe for children and senior citizens. Write a letter to the Municipal Commissioner, Delhi Municipal Corporation, in about 120 words complaining against the poor maintenance of the park and requesting immediate action.
- 5A.** You are the Cultural Secretary of your school. Two guest artists—Mr. Arvind Mehra and Ms. Tanya Iyer—have written to express their interest in performing at your Annual Cultural Fest. Below are excerpts from their letters:

Excerpt 1:

I have been a professional classical dancer for over 15 years, performing at national and international festivals. My performances focus on storytelling through traditional dance forms, and I have trained several students who have won accolades in dance competitions. I believe my workshop and performance can inspire students to appreciate the depth and beauty of classical dance.”
—Mr. Arvind Mehra

Excerpt 2:

“I specialise in contemporary and fusion dance styles, having performed at youth festivals across India and abroad. My workshops are interactive and aim to make dance accessible and enjoyable for beginners. I emphasise creativity, expression, and confidence-building through movement. I am excited to share my experience and encourage students to explore dance as a form of personal expression.”
—Ms. Tanya Iyer

Analyse the information and write a paragraph in about 120 words justifying which guest artist would be a better choice for your school’s Annual Cultural Fest, considering factors such as relevance, experience and audience engagement.

5

OR

- 5B.** Neha, a responsible and capable Class X student, has been assigned to organise a charity fundraiser at her school for a local orphanage. She is creative, organized and proactive with strong leadership skills and a clear vision for the event. To ensure its success, she needs a reliable and efficient team member who can complement her strengths and assist in planning and executing all aspects of the fundraiser smoothly.

Akash: Skilled in networking and reaching out to potential sponsors: Akash can help secure donations through his persuasive abilities. However, he struggles with budgeting and scheduling, which may affect the event’s smooth execution.

Priya: Highly organised and dependable, Priya excels at managing finances and planning tasks. Yet, she is less confident in public engagement and attracting donors.

Arnav: Charismatic and persuasive in public campaigns, Arnav can attract participants and generate excitement, but he often finds it challenging to follow plans and maintain records.

Analyse the information and write a paragraph of about 120 words recommending the most suitable teammate for Neha. Justify your choice by considering fundraising effectiveness, organisational skills, and public engagement, explaining why the selected teammate would contribute to the success of the charity event.

SECTION C
LITERATURE TEXTBOOK

(40 marks)

6A. Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two.

5

LOMOV: Never mind about my people! The Lomovs have all been honourable people, and not one has ever been tried for embezzlement, like your grandfather!

CHUBUKOV: You Lomovs have had lunacy in your family, all of you!

NATALYA: All, all, all!

CHUBUKOV: Your grandfather was a drunkard, and your younger aunt, Nastasya Mihailovna, ran away with an architect, and so on...

LOMOV: And your mother was hump-backed. [Clutches at his heart] Something pulling in my side... My head.... Help! Water!

CHUBUKOV: Your father was a guzzling gambler! (The Proposal)

I. Choose the option that correctly identifies the tone of the characters in the given extract. 1

i. antagonism ii. humour iii. contempt iv. irony

A. (i) and (ii) B. (ii) and (iv) C. (i) and (iii) D. (iii) and (iv)

II. The playwright's intention in the given extract is to _____. 1

A. emphasize that family history is important in a marriage proposal.

B. satirize the superficiality of the upper class in Russian society.

III. Contradict the statement that "The Lomovs have all been honourable people". 2

IV. What can be inferred about Chubukov from the above extract? 1

OR

B. "It's me! It's my Great and Mighty Balloon Brain. The Earthlings have seen me, and they're after me. "Had a great fall"- That means they plan to capture Mars Central Control and me! It's an invasion of Mars! Noodle; prepare a space capsule for me. I must escape without delay. Space people, you must leave Earth at once, but be sure to remove all traces of your visit. The Earthlings must not know that I know."

(The Book that Saved the Earth)

I. State any one inference about the speaker from the given context. 1

'It's an invasion of Mars!'

II. Think Tank was worried about his 'Great and Mighty Balloon Brain' and thought that the Earthlings would catch him because of this. State whether this thought matches any of the options given below. 1

A. It was a hypothesis.

B. Think tank's thought was based on an assumption.

C. Think Tank's premise was incorrect.

D. This is not a valid theory.

III. Elaborate the irony in the statement with reference to the extract. 2

"Had a great fall"- That means they plan to capture Mars Central Control and me!'

IV. Which word would correctly substitute 'trails' given in the bracket? 1

No _____ (traces/escape) of Jewish worship have been found at Ostia, but at Portus, a considerable number of Jewish inscriptions in Greek have come to light.

7. Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two.

5

A. Belinda tickled him, she tickled him unmerciful,
Ink, Blink and Mustard, they rudely called him Percival,
They all sat laughing in the little red wagon
At the realio, trulio, cowardly dragon.

(The Tale of Custard the Dragon)

- I. Assess Belinda and her followers' attitude towards the dragon. 2
II. Which word in line-2 would have replaced 'rudely' if the dragon had really been considered as brave as Percival? 1
A. politely B. contemptuously C. casually D. respectfully
III. The poet has used 'reliao, trulio' instead of 'really, truly' in line-4 because _____ . 1
IV. What shows the cruel nature of Belinda? 1

OR

B. "I heard an old religious man

But yesternight declare
That he had found a text to prove
That only God, my dear,
Could love you for yourself alone
And not your yellow hair."

(For Anne Gregory)

- I. What message does the phrase "only God... could love you for yourself alone" convey about human nature? 1
(i) People often judge others by appearance.
(ii) People always value inner qualities.
(iii) Only divine love is selfless and unconditional.
(iv) Love based on looks is temporary.
Select the correct option.
A. i, ii
B. i, iii
C. ii, iv
D. i, iv
II. What does the poet imply about *Anne Gregory's* yellow hair as a symbol? 2
III. Which phrase from the extract shows that the speaker refers to spiritual or religious wisdom? 1
IV. Fill in the blank to complete the sentence: 1
The poem suggests that true love lies in valuing a person for their _____ rather than their appearance.

8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 50 words each.

4x3=12

- I. "Fear is natural, but overcoming it makes one successful." Explain this statement in the context of the young seagull. (Two stories about flying) 3
II. Mr. Keesing reformed himself rather than reforming Anne. Describe the way it happened with the old fogey. (From the Diary of Anne Frank) 3
III. The policy of 'apartheid' has certainly left a lasting wound in the people of South Africa which would take a long time to heal. Briefly comment. (Nelson Mandela; A Long Walk to Freedom) 3
IV. What lessons about responsibility, kindness and compassion does 'Mijbil the Otter' convey? Illustrate with examples from the story, showing how Maxwell's care and actions reflect these values. 3
V. How effectively does 'Madam Rides the Bus' depict the tension between the safety of the familiar and the excitement of the unknown? Analyze how the narrative conveys this conflict. 3

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

2x3=6

- I. The interplay between visibility and invisibility in “Footprints Without Feet” serves as a metaphor for moral transparency. Analyse how Griffin’s invisibility becomes both his power and his undoing. 3
- II. Anil’s simple lifestyle and honest nature brought an unexpected change in Hari Singh’s attitude. Examine how Anil’s kindness becomes a turning point in Hari’s life. (The Thief’s Story) 3
- III. The lesson ‘Bholi’ teaches that true strength comes from courage, self-respect and inner confidence, rather than physical appearance or social approval. Discuss.

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

1x6=6

A. Grief is a universal human response to loss or sudden change. Analyze and compare how Lencho in ‘A Letter to God’ and Kisa Gotami in ‘The Sermon at Benares’ respond to their respective hardships and what their reactions reveal about human resilience and hope. 6

OR

B. Both the poems ‘The Trees’ and ‘Fire and Ice’ highlight the underlying causes of destruction, while ‘The Trees’ uses a direct approach, ‘Fire and Ice’ is a metaphorical and spiritual take on human destruction. Examine the similarities and dissimilarities. 6

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

1x6=6

A. As Mme. Forestier, you pity the poor fate Matilda was subjected to because she couldn’t tell you the truth. After your meeting in the park, you decide to write a letter to her expressing your sympathy, and reflecting on how a simple confession could have changed both your lives. Draft the letter in about 120 words offering her words of comfort and reconciliation. (The Necklace) 6

OR

B. The author uses the narrative techniques of chronological progression in ‘The Making of a Scientist’ to highlight Ebright’s growth? Validate your answer taking supporting details from the text. 6
