No of printed pages -9

CLASS-X
PRE-MID TERM EXAMINATION 2025-26
ENGLISH – Language and Literature (184)
SET A2

Time allowed: 2 Hrs. Maximum Marks: 50

General Instructions:
1. This paper is divided into three parts: A,B and C. All questions are compulsory.
2. Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.
3. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION -A READING (10 marks)

1. Read the following text . 10

1. The choices we make on a daily basis—wearing a seatbelt, lifting heavy objects correctly or purposely staying out of any dangerous situation—can either ensure our safety or bring about potentially harmful circumstances. You and I need to make a decision that we are going to get our lives in order. Exercising self-control, self-discipline and establishing boundaries and borders in our lives are some of the most important things we can do. A life without discipline is one that's filled with carelessness.

2. We can think it's kind of exciting to live life on the edge. We like the image of "Yeah! That's me! Living on the edge! Woo-hoo!" It's become a popular way to look at life. But if you see, even highways have lines, which provide margins for our safety while we're driving. If we go over one side, we'll go into the ditch. If we cross over the line in the middle, we could get killed. And we like those lines because they help to keep us safe. Sometimes we don't even realize how lines help to keep us safe. I'm not proud of this, but for the first 20 years of my life at work, I ignored my limits.

3. I felt horrible, physically, most of the time. I used to tell myself "I know I have limits and that I've reached them, but I'm going to ignore them and see if or how long I can get by with it." I ran to doctors, trying to make myself feel better through pills, vitamins, natural stuff and anything I could get my hands on. Some of the doctors would tell me, "It's just stress." That just made me mad. I thought stress meant you don't like what you do or can't handle life, and I love what I do. But I kept pushing myself, traveling, doing speaking engagements and soon— simply exhausting myself.

4. Finally, I understood I was living an unsustainable life and needed to make some changes in my outlook and lifestyle. You and I don't have to be like everyone else or keep up with anyone else. Each of us needs to be exactly the way we are, and we don't have to apologize for it. We're not all alike and we need to find a comfort zone in which we can enjoy our lives instead of making ourselves sick with an overload of stress and pressure.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above. 10

I. Choose the option that best captures the central idea of the passage from the given quotes. 1

1. "It's all about quality of life and finding a happy balance between work and friends".
2. "To go beyond is as wrong as to fall short".
3. "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance you must keep moving".
4. "Balance is not something you find, it's something you create".

a) Option (1)
b) Option (2)
c) Option (3)
d) Option (4)

II. What is the state of mind of the author in the context: "I know I have limits and that I've reached them, but I'm going to ignore them and see if or how long I can get by with it"? 1

III. Select the option that makes the correct use of "unsustainable", as used in **Para 4**. 1

a) In the long run, the unsustainable officials followed emergency procedures.
b) Emergency procedures were unsustainable by the officials.
c) Officials reported an unsustainable set of events during the emergency.
d) Officials admit that the emergency system will be unsustainable in the longer run.

IV. Identify the tone of the author in **Para 1** ?Rationalize your response in about **40 words**. 2

V. Based on the reading of the passage, examine, in about **40 words**, the change in our outlook towards life that the author wants us to incorporate.

VI.Choose the option that correctly states the two meanings of 'outlook', as used in **Para 4.** 1

1. A person's evaluation of life
2. A person's experiences in life
3. A person's point of view towards life
4. A person's regrets in life
5. A person's general attitude to life

a) (1) and (4)
b) (2) and (3)
c) (3) and (5)
d) (4) and (5)

VII. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1

We can say that the tone of the author changes from direct and positive in the first paragraph to satirical and whimsical in the second as he wants to convey that……

VIII. The author expresses frustration about something in **Para 3**. Identify the phrase that projects his feelings clearly. 1

SECTION B - WRITING SKILLS AND GRAMMAR (16Marks)

GRAMMAR

2. Complete **any ten** of twelve of the following tasks, as directed. 1x10=10

i. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete.

Social media played a huge part in adding fuel to the communal fire that _____ in Leicester city igniting communal riots between two religious communities.

(a) kept flaring (b) flared up
(c) had flared up (d) would flare up

ii. Read the conversation between a doctor and his patient. Complete the sentence by reporting the dialogue.

Inspector : What are the arrangements made by the school for feeding these children?
Principal : Each one of the students is given a nutritious mid-day meal every day.

To answer the query of the inspector about the arrangements made by the school to feed the children, the Principal replied that ___

iii. Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given line, from an article from a health magazine.

She _____ put her mind to her work, for she had a very sickly feeling in the bottom of her stomach.
(a) could not (b) might not
(c) need not (d) dare not

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

According to a health survey, carbonated drinks were harmful to health and children are as addicted to fizzy drinks as adults to nicotine.

Option No.	Error	Correction
(a)	a	the
(b)	to	for
©	were	are
(d)	addicted	addictive

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

Priest : Trust and compassion can reform a person more than punishment.
Ira : Don't you think the reverse of this approach is more effective?
When a priest told Ira that trust and compassion can reform a person more than punishment, she asked him if _____.

(a) didn't he think that the reverse of that approach was more effective.
(b) did he not think that the reverse of that approach could be more effective.
(c) he didn't think that the reverse of that approach is more effective.
(d) he didn't think that the reverse of that approach was more effective.

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

Subject: Complaint regarding defective TV

I regret to inform you that the TV has started giving me trouble only after three days and ____(develop) some technical snags.

vii. A primary student reported the poor behaviour of his classmates to his teacher.

Student :-Ma'am, “We were laughing at one of the students yesterday”

viii. Read the conversation between a mother and her son. Complete the sentence by reporting the

son’s reply correctly.

Mother: Why didn’t you clean your room as I asked?

Son: I forgot about it.

The mother asked her son why he hadn’t cleaned his room, and he replied _____.

ix. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the given sentence:

Most were right in predicting a Bharat Unity Front win the past two times, but not on

anticipating the extent of the victory.

A. were-was
B. an-a
C. of-at
D. on-in

x. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket:

They have been (practise) for the competition since last month.

A. practised
B. practising
C. practise
D. to practise

xi. Report the dialogue between a librarian and a student by completing the sentence:

Librarian: Good afternoon. Is there something I can help you find?

Student: Yes, I need resources for my history paper on the Civil War.

The librarian politely inquired if the student needed assistance, and the student replied that_____.

xii. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line,from an article:

We often make mistakes while taking risks, but all brush them aside and learn.

Option no.	Error	Correction
A	make	makes
B	while	at
C	all	some
D	but	and

WRITING SKILLS 6 marks

3A. Two main parks in your locality have suffered from neglect on the part of local authorities. They have virtually been taken over by undesirable elements. As a result, the residents have stopped going to the parks. Write a letter in 100-120 words to the editor of a local newspaper expressing your concern about the problems the neglect has created and suggest measures to reclaim the parks for children. You are Gautam/ Gauri of 2,Gobind Enclave, Meerut. 6

OR

3B.You recently bought a Sony 52-inch LED from the Croma store. The LED has not been functioning ever since its installation. Write a letter of complaint to the General Manager Customer care, reporting the matter and requesting for immediate action. You are Satyam Jain residing at C-5/51 East of Kailash, New Delhi. (100-120 words) 6

SECTION C – LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (24Marks)

4. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for **any one** of the two, given. 5

A. But if it had to perish twice,
I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction ice

Is also great
And would suffice.

(Fire and Ice)

i.Fill in the blacks with one word . 1

When the speaker says that ice could also bring about the end of the world, he refers to_____, as the means for destruction.

ii What does the speaker's alignment with those who favour ice, suggest? 1

iii Which of the following best describes the speaker's attitude toward destruction caused by Ice? 1

A. Indifferent
B. Fearful
C. Dismissive
D. Respectful

iv Comment on the poet's use of language in these lines. 2

OR

B.

If strolling forth, a beast you view,
Whose hide with spots is peppered,
As soon as he has lept on you, you'll
know it is the Leopard. 'Twill do no
good to roar with pain, He'll only lep
and lep again.

(How to tell wild Animals)

i. Given below are four examples of activities that Jasmeet does. Choose the option that correctly demonstrates the correct usage of the word 'strolling'. 1

a) Jasmeet runs with great speed after being chased by a dog.
b) Jasmeet walks in the garden, relaxing while listening to his favourite song.
c) Jasmeet skids sharply on the icy skate rink.
d) Jasmeet rushes to switch off the water pump in the backyard.

ii. The repetition used in ―he'll only lep and lep again is an example of….. 1

a) Poetic justice

b) Satire
c) Allusion
d) Poetic licence

iii. What might the leopard's behaviour suggest about the nature of certain adversities in life, based on the lines "'Twill do no good to roar with pain, He'll only lep and lep again"? 1

iv .Based on your understanding of the poem, bring out the underlying message the poet is trying to convey to the readers. 2

5. Answer **any three** of the four questions given below, in about 40-50 words. 3x3=9

I. Explain with reference from the chapter 'Bakers of Goa', how the baker was a friend, companion and guide of the children?

II.Why does Anne Frank feel that writing in a diary is a strange experience?

III. Why does the narrator say, "I landed and was not sorry to walk away from the old Dakota…"? (The Black Aeroplane)

IV. A popular quote states: 'Responsibility is self-taught'. How does 'The Ball poem' address this thought?

6.Answer **any two** of the three questions given below, in about 40-50 words. 2x2=4

I. Was Hari Singh successful in robbing Anil? Was Anil the only one who was robbed or did Hari also rob himself of something? (The Thief's Story)

II. What was Tricky's ailment? How did it worry Mrs. Pumphrey? (A Triumph of Surgery)

OR

III.Why does Mrs Pumphrey think the dog's recovery is 'a triumph of surgery'?(A Triumph of Surgery)

7. Answer **any one** of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. 6

I. What did being free mean to Mandela as a boy, and as a student? How does he contrast these "transitory freedoms" with "the basic and honourable freedoms"?

OR

II.Love for freedom is the natural instinct of every living being. Comment on the basis of the poem ‘A Tiger in the Zoo’.