No. of Printed Pages- 11

CLASS-X- (2024-25)
POST MIDTERM
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (Code No. 184)
SET B1

Time allowed: 3 Hrs. **Maximum Marks: 80**

General Instructions:

Read the instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. This question paper comprises 11 questions. All questions are compulsory.

2. The question paper contains THREE sections –

Section – A: Reading Skills

Section – B: Grammar and Creative Writing Skills

Section – C: Literature Textbook

3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each Part.

SECTION A
READING SKILLS (20 marks)

1. Read the following text. **10**

(1) The world is a wonderful place to live in. Technology has made it even more alluring. But behind the facade of fabulous lifestyles and high-end cars are loneliness, depression, and sorrow. Even those who have reached the pinnacle of success suffer from anxiety, failed relationships, and mental health issues.

(2) The single most important determinant of success, happiness, and growth is the intellect. The mind is a flow of thought, the domain of emotions, feelings, and impulses. The intellect can discern, discriminate between pairs of opposites, and decide. A well-fortified intellect stands apart from emotions, from the likes and dislikes of the mind, and thinks clearly.

(3) Look within. Shift your gaze from the world to yourself. When you look at yourself objectively, you see the demons within. You begin to change the way you think, feel, and act, and the results are magical. You think happiness lies out there in the world, in the malls of the world. If happiness were truly in the world, the same object should give the same quantum of happiness to all. This does not happen. Are we barking up the wrong tree? We seek instant gratification. Swipe, and you get what you want in a jiffy. But that which gives instant joy gives sorrow in the long run. Junk food is delicious. However, too much of it leads to ill health. It may feel good to be nasty to people, but it makes for a lonely life later. In the rush for instant pleasure, we sign up for a life of unhappiness.

(4) This does not mean you live a life of pain and self-denial. Enjoy instant pleasure, but also invest in your long-term happiness. Wake up early and exercise most days, but sleep in late once in a while. We all want success in life. We do not realise that perfection lies within. Why are you working? If it is only for personal profit and pleasure, you become mediocre. Motivated by a higher ideal you become amazingly successful. Don Bradman did not play cricket for money. Ustad Bismillah Khan played the shehnai for the love of it. Einstein was dedicated to Physics.

(5) Expand your circle of love, and you feel connected. Feel one with people, and life becomes extraordinary. Your loved ones go well beyond the routine to do things for you. You experience the incredible result of collective, cooperative effort. The larger your circle of love, the greater the happiness.

(6) Lastly, understand that everything in the world is impermanent. Search for the permanent, that which always remains with you. The wise do not bother with the passing, ephemeral joys of life. Seek the eternal and attain it. Then you become truly extraordinary.

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

i. In paragraph 1, what does the phrase "loneliness, depression, and sorrow" emphasize about the lives behind fabulous lifestyles? 1

ii. Complete the following with the correct option from the two given. 1

The intellect is crucial for success, happiness, and growth because it _____.
a) can discern and decide, standing apart from emotions
b) is influenced by the likes and dislikes of the mind

iii. Select the option that best reflects the concept of seeking instant gratification and its long-term effects. 1
a) Eating junk food frequently because it is delicious, but suffering from ill health later.
b) Exercising regularly and maintaining a balanced diet for long-term health benefits.

iv. How does the author highlight the importance of looking within and changing oneself? (40 words) 2

v. State whether the following statement is True or False.
According to the passage, working solely for personal profit and pleasure leads to mediocrity.
(True/False) 1

vi. Select the option that best reflects the analogy given in the passage. 1
Happiness is to material objects as:
a) Success is to intellect b) Short-term joy is to long-term sorrow

vii. Explain any two benefits of expanding one's circle of love as mentioned in the passage in about 40 words. 2

viii. Fill in the blank with the correct option from those given. 1

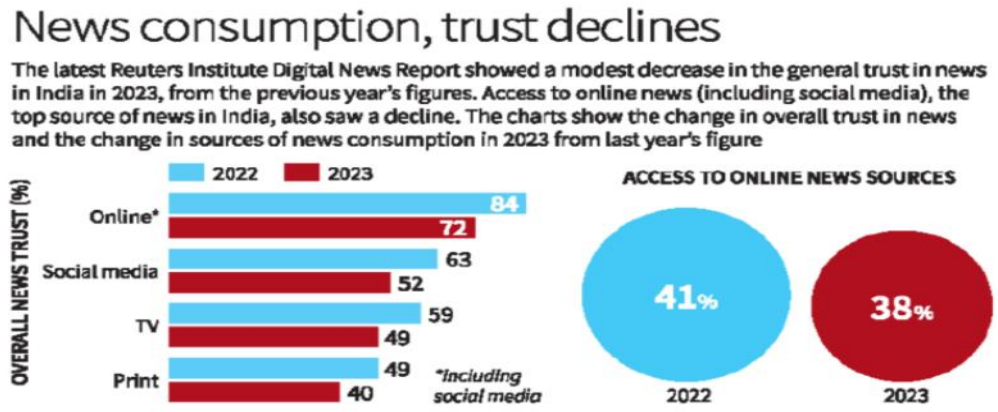
The wise do not bother with the passing, ephemeral joys of life because they seek the ____.

A. material
B. temporary
C. eternal
D. superficial

2. Read the following text. **10**

(1) The grandeur of a newspaper enjoyed with a piping cup of coffee, while the golden rays of the rising sun stream into verandas and Juliet balconies, is fast becoming a thing of the past. The print media, once venerated as the fourth estate—the press, is now struggling hard just to survive the fierce competition from digital media, the game-changer of mass media that the 21st century brought along.

(2) The digital 'deluge' has almost swept away the relevance of traditional print media in most parts of the world. print media has an irreplaceable role in mass media with regard to intellectual honesty and physical outreach to millions of people. Newspapers, standardising the flow of information across different geographical areas, not only communicate with people but also groom them as responsible citizens with scientific temper and rationality.



(3) While digital media revolutionised the narrative of mass media, its embarrassing side effect has been a new wave called 'citizen journalism,' mainly urban-centric, thriving in blogs, social media sites, podcasts, webcasts, and emails, not to mention the maddening torrential posts in 'WhatsApp University.' Issues like long exposure to screens involving health hazards and payment for access to news and knowledge on certain sites have made online media far from reader-friendly.

(4) Digital media can be compared to a pageantry of attractive fast foods, and print media to a sumptuous and healthy home meal. The Indian story of print media is one of a sustained journey alongside digital media, since the digital divide in the country, affordability of smartphones and devices, network disruptions, and inadequate digital literacy happen to be a blessing in disguise.

(5) The daily newspapers have become an integral part of our life so much so that while they provide us with information and knowledge, they also have multipurpose uses, from packaging wrappers to

a poor man's tissue paper. Print media is not just a business in the news but a responsible institution of public good.

(6) Even as the media houses are trying new hybrid business models to sustain the business, they also need liberal state support, at least by way of lowering the import duty on newsprint. Last but not the least is the need for a mechanism to effectively address the unfettered freedom in digital forums and social media sites.

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

i. Identify the primary cause for the following statement. 1
The grandeur of newspapers has diminished.

ii. Identify the word that indicates the writer's belief that print media has a crucial role in mass media. (Paragraph 2) 1

iii. The author has termed the side effects of digital media as 'embarrassing' because _____. 1
a) Newspaper readership has seen a steady decline.
b) The credibility of digital news is easily compromised.
c) The reality is the uncomfortable truth we must face.
d) Both b) and c)

iv. Read the given prompt and select the correct option in the brackets to fill in the blank. 1
Issues like long exposure to screens involving health hazards and payment for access to news and knowledge on certain sites have made online media _____. (reader-friendly / far from reader-friendly / universally accessible)

v. The infographic reveals the decline of trust in news. How does social media factor into this decline? 1

vi. The most likely reason the writer compares digital media to fast food and print media to a home-cooked meal is because digital media is _____. 1
a) quick and attractive but less substantial
b) slow and unattractive but more substantial
c) expensive and less accessible
d) traditional and less popular

vii. What does the use of the phrase 'responsible institution of public good' by the writer, in paragraph 5, tell us about their feelings? 1

a) The writer is expressing skepticism.
b) The writer is conveying indifference.
c) The writer is indicating respect and appreciation.
d) The writer is showing disappointment.

viii. Fill in the blank to complete the sentence with a word from paragraph 6. 1
The media houses need _____ state support to sustain their business.

ix. Explain how daily newspapers serve multiple purposes beyond providing information and knowledge. Provide two examples mentioned in the passage. (40 words) 2

SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20 marks)

GRAMMAR 10

1. Complete **any ten** of twelve of the following tasks, as directed.

i. Fill in the blank with the correct option to complete the opening line of a formal letter: Dear Mr. Patel,
We are pleased to inform you that the committee _____ the proposal after much deliberation.
A. have approved
B. has approved
C. will approve
D. approving

ii. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter.
Dear Arundhati
It has been a while since I _____ (write) to you but my brother is getting married and the arrangements take up a lot of my time….

iii. Report the following question correctly:
Rohan asked his friend, "Did you complete the assignment on time?"

iv. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the announcement:
Attention all students, please ensure that _____ assignments are submitted by Friday.
A. your
B. you're
C. yours
D. you

v. Complete the given school announcement by selecting the correct option to fill in the blank.
Attention students! The Annual Science Fair has been a huge success, and we have _____ the date for the prize distribution ceremony.
a) announcing b) announce c) announced d) will

vi. Identify and correct the error in the given sentence:
Each of the students have submitted their projects.
ERROR: _____
CORRECTION: _____

vii. Select the correct option to complete the given sentence from an employee manual.
Employees _____ submit their timesheets by Friday every week.
A. must B. may C. can D. could

viii. Detect the error and supply the correction for the given observation:
By the time the teacher reached the studio, many of the student had left with their sketches and stationery.
ERROR: _____
CORRECTION: _____

ix. Report the dialogue of the teacher:
Teacher: "Did you understand the new concept?"
Student: “Yes, I did.”

x. Select the correct option to complete the given sentence:
The manager _____ review the proposal before making a decision.
A. should
B. will
C. might
D. can

xi. Complete the sentence about the reaction of some friends:
The group of friends _____ excited about their upcoming trip.
A. is
B. are
C. was
D. were

xii. Identify and correct the error in the given line taken from an online news report:

Neither of the options were suitable for the project.

Option No.	Error	Correction
A.	options	option
B.	were	was
C.	suitable	suitability
D.	for	of

WRITING **10**

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

4A. You are Sanjay Rao, a student from Hyderabad. Compose a letter in about 120 words to the Editor of "The Hyderabad Herald," expressing your concern about the improper disposal of plastic waste in your city. Suggest ways in which the community and local authorities can work together to manage plastic waste effectively. 5

OR

4B. You are Rohit Verma, the cultural secretary of your school, ABC Public School, New Delhi. Your school is organizing its annual cultural fest next month and you have been given the responsibility to order a hundred customized T-shirts for the participants. Write a letter in about 120 words to M/s PQR Garments, New Delhi, placing the order for the T-shirts. Mention the specifications like size, colour, design, and delivery date. Also, request a discount for bulk ordering. 5

5A. Read the product details on the label for a water bottle:

ECO-FRIENDLY WATER BOTTLE

- Made from BPA-free, recycled materials
- Double-wall vacuum insulated to keep beverages hot or cold for hours
- Leak-proof and spill-proof design with a secure screw-on lid
- Built-in carrying handle for convenience
- Easy to clean, dishwasher safe
- Available in multiple sizes and attractive colours

Now, analyse why this water bottle would be a beneficial purchase. Write the analytical paragraph in 120 words, considering factors such as its eco-friendliness, insulation features, functionality, safety aspects, and design options 5

OR

5B. Read the given details of a community library intended for your residential area.

A dedicated children's section with colourful bookshelves, reading nooks, and interactive learning stations.

- A quiet study area for students and adults with ample seating and free Wi-Fi.
- A multimedia section with computers, tablets, and access to e-books and audiobooks.
- Regular storytelling sessions and educational workshops for different age groups.
- Comfortable seating areas with bean bags and lounge chairs for casual reading.
- A small café serving refreshments.
- Accessibility features such as ramps and elevators for people with disabilities.

Analyse the details and write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words about the suitability of this community library. Focus on factors such as accessibility, inclusivity, available resources, suitability for different age groups, and overall experience. 5

SECTION D: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (40 marks)

6. Read the given extracts and answer <u>any one</u> of the two questions given below. 5

A. The young seagull was alone on his ledge. His two brothers and his sister had already flown away the day before. He had been afraid to fly with them. Somehow when he had taken a little run forward to the brink of the ledge and attempted to flap his wings, he became afraid. The great expanse of sea stretched down beneath, and it was such a long way down miles

down. He felt certain that his wings would never support him; so, he bent his head and ran away back to the little hole under the ledge where he slept at night. (His First Flight)

i. What effect does the experience, as described in the lines below, have on the young seagull?
The great expanse of sea stretched down beneath, and it was such a long way down miles down.
Choose the most suitable option. 1
A. exhilarates B. overwhelms C. energises D. confuses

ii. Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket. 1
The use of the word 'afraid' adds to a sense of _____ in the extract (fear/excitement).

iii. What did the young seagull do after he became afraid to fly? 1

iv. How does the author's use of descriptive language enhance the narrative technique in the paragraph? 2

B. Her name was Sulekha, but since her childhood, everyone had been calling her Bholi, the simpleton. She was the fourth daughter of Numberdar Ramlal. When she was ten months old, she had fallen off the cot on her head and perhaps it had damaged some part of her brain. That was why she remained a backward child and came to be known as Bholi, the simpleton. At birth, the child was very fair and pretty. But when she was two years old, she had an attack of smallpox. Only the eyes were saved, but the entire body was permanently disfigured by deep black pockmarks. Little Sulekha could not speak till she was five, and when at last she learnt to speak, she stammered. The other children often made fun of her and mimicked her. The other children often made fun of her and mimicked her. As a result, she talked very little. (Bholi)

i. What effect does the experience, as described in the lines below, have on Bholi? 1
When she was ten months old, she had fallen off the cot on her head and perhaps it had damaged some part of her brain.
Choose the most suitable option.

A. exhilarates B. overwhelms C. incapacitates D. confuses

ii. Why did Bholi's condition make her talk very little? 1
A. Because she was always sleepy
B. Because she was afraid of being ridiculed
C. Because she liked silence
D. Because she had no friends

iii. Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket. 1
The word 'stammered' in the line '…when at last she learnt to speak, she stammered' indicates that Bholi had difficulty speaking _____ (fluently / articulately).

iv. List any two challenges Bholi faced in her early childhood as depicted in the passage. 2

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

A. He should be snarling around houses
At the jungle's edge,
Baring his white fangs, his claws,
Terrorising the village! (Tiger in the Zoo)

i. Fill in the blank with ONE word. 1

The word 'terrorising' in the line 'Terrorising the village!' indicates that the tiger's presence is causing _____.

ii. Select the option that applies the same rhyme scheme as the lines of the given extract. 1

A. In the quiet of the night,
The moon casts down its gentle glow,
The stars in silent twinkles show,
Creating dreams that take their flight.

B. The sun sets low upon the hill,
A gentle breeze begins to sway,
Whispers of dreams fill the night,
As stars come out to light the way.

C. The morning sun begins to rise,
And paints the sky with golden dyes.
The birds awake and start to sing,
Announcing joy that dawn will bring.

D. Leaves rustle in the gentle breeze,
Clouds drift lazily across the sky,
Children laugh and play in the distance,
A moment of peace in the busy day.

iii. 'Fangs' means _____. 1

A. moustache
B. teeth
C. claws
D. paws

iv. What is the most likely reason the poet chooses to describe the tiger as 'snarling around houses' instead of just stating that the tiger is angry? 2

B. Pistol in his left hand, pistol in his right,
And he held in his teeth a cutlass bright,
His beard was black, one leg was wood;
It was clear that the pirate meant no good. *(The Tale of Custard the Dragon)*

i. Complete the following suitably. 1
The phrase 'his beard was black, one leg was wood' implies that the pirate had a _____ appearance (rugged/gentle).

ii. What does the expression 'the pirate meant no good' convey? 1

iii. What kind of atmosphere is created through these lines? Select the correct option: 1
1. Urgency
2. Apprehension
3. Uncertainty
4. Mystery
5. Aggression

A. 1 and 4 B. Only 2 C. 1, 2, and 3 D. 4 and 5

iv. Examine the portrayal of the pirate in the given lines. 2

8. Answer <u>any four</u> of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words. 3x4=12

i. Why does Maxwell say the air hostess was "the very queen of her kind"? (Mijbil the Otter)

ii. How does the imagery of the trees' movement to the open sky in the poem 'Trees' reflect broader themes of freedom and self-discovery in human experiences? (Trees)

iii. Why does the postmaster send money to Lencho? Why does he sign the letter 'God'?

iv. Analyze how the author of "Madam Rides the Bus" effectively conveys Valli's curiosity and excitement about the world outside her village. How does this curiosity drive the narrative forward?

v. Explain how the author's use of contrast between Amanda's imagination and reality in the poem 'Amanda!' highlights her desire for freedom and escape.

9. Answer any two of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. 3x2=6

i. How does the theme of appearance versus reality drive the plot of 'The Necklace'?

ii. Explain how Ebright's curiosity and passion for collecting butterflies in his childhood contributed to his future scientific achievements. (The Making of a Scientist)

iii. Explain how the Martians' misinterpretation of a book in 'The Book that Saved the Earth' serves as a satirical critique of human behaviour.

10. Answer <u>any one</u> of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. 6

i. Compare the use of natural imagery in "Dust of Snow" and "Fire and Ice." How does Frost utilize nature to convey his messages in each poem?

ii. What similarities can be drawn between the advice given to Anne Gregory about love and the spiritual guidance provided in Buddha's sermon?

11. Answer <u>any one</u> of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. 6

i. What lessons can we learn from Griffin's misuse of his scientific discovery, and how can they be applied to modern scientific research and innovation?

ii. What lessons can we learn from Mrs. Pumphrey's experience with Tricki, and how can they be applied to responsible pet ownership?