

DAV BR PUBLIC SCHOOL, BINA
Half Yearly Examination 2024-25
PRACTICE PAPER

Class - X Subject – English (Language and Literature)

Time Allowed – 3 Hours

MM: - 80

General Instructions –

1. 15-minute prior reading time allotted for question paper reading.
2. This question paper contains three sections- Reading, Grammar & Writing and Literature.
 - ❖ Section A - Reading 20 Marks
 - ❖ Section B - Grammar and Writing Skill 20 Marks
 - ❖ Section C - Literature 40 Marks
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part and question.
4. Children are advised to write the answers of the same section together.
5. Write correct question numbers and don't change the format of the question numbers.

Section 'A' – Reading Skills

20Marks

Q1. Read the passage given below carefully.

10 Marks

- 1 Happiness is like the sun; it is often hidden by the clouds of thoughts, worries and desires. We have to scatter and dissolve these clouds to experience happiness. You don't have to create it; all you have to do is calm your mind, because when there is a quiet mind and inner peace, there is happiness. It is not something far away and unattainable and does not depend on circumstances, objects or events. Happiness is an inseparable part of our consciousness, of our essence, but hidden and covered from sight by our thoughts, desires, and worries.
- 2 The mind is always in a constant race from one thought to another, from one worry to another. It constantly moves from one object or task to another. This restlessness hides the happiness that is within you. It is like a choppy sea that hides the bottom. When the sea gets calm, you can see the bottom. In the same way, when the mind gets quiet, you sense the happiness that is within you.
- 3 You cannot see a treasure at the bottom of a stormy and muddy lake although it is there. However, when the wind stops, the water becomes still and the mud sinks, you can see the treasure. The treasure is there, whether you see it or not. So is happiness. It is always here, only hidden by thoughts, desires and worries.
- 4 You can experience more happiness in your life. Only your thoughts stand in your way of experiencing it. Next time you feel happy, stop for a moment and watch the state of your mind. You will be surprised to discover that it is calm, and there are almost no thoughts in your mind. Since the mind is not accustomed to stay in this peaceful state for long, it soon becomes active again, and the sense of happiness disappears.
- 5 Many people connect happiness to achievement of certain goals. This makes happiness a reward and not an emotion that must be felt. We forget that it is something that comes by looking inward rather than waiting for an external trigger. Once you start looking inwards, you will have to treat yourself as you would treat a valued friend. This will lead to happiness. Take time to appreciate yourself, your work and your accomplishments. Surround yourself with happy people and recall positive memories. It is important to recognise that you have the power to feel happy within you and with practice, it will be felt frequently.

Now on the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions -

- i Why does the writer say that you have to scatter and dissolve these clouds to experience happiness? 1
 (a) Our thoughts and worries hide the true essence of our happiness.
 (b) Our inner peace has to be dissolved to enhance true happiness.
 (c) Our desires, thoughts and worries are a part of our consciousness and bring happiness.
 (d) These clouds don't show us the real truth.
- ii Select the option that corresponds to the following relation below : 1
 Happiness is like the sun, hidden by clouds of worry.
 (a) Happiness is where there is a quiet mind and inner peace.
 (b) Less work is like a breeze which brings happiness.
 (c) The choppy sea hides the treasure of happiness.
 (d) The wind blows and brings happiness.
- iii Select the option that displays what the writer projects, with reference to the following: (Paragraph 1) 1
 Happiness is not something far away and unattainable.
 (a) doubt
 (b) caution
 (c) conviction
 (d) denial
- iv Select the phrase that states reference to the following reason (Para 2) : 1
- | Opinion | Reason |
|---------|---|
| | This restlessness hides the happiness within. |
- v The writer compares the choppy sea hiding the bottom to _____ . 1
- vi Based on your reading of the text, list two reasons why the writer says happiness is an inseparable part of our consciousness. 1
 (a) _____ (b) _____
- vii What connect does the writer draw out between the treasure that cannot be seen and happiness? (Paragraph 3) 1
- viii The writer says 'Next time you feel happy, stop for a moment and watch the state of your mind'. The state of your mind will be : 1
 (a) resolute
 (b) calm
 (c) firm
 (d) decisive
- ix Supply one point to justify the following : 1
 'Connecting happiness to achievement of certain goals makes it a reward, not an emotion.'
- x Evaluate the *inappropriate* reason for having the power to feel happy to be within ourselves. 1
 (a) recalling positive memories
 (b) appreciating yourself
 (c) achievement of certain goals
 (d) looking inwards

Q2. Read the passage given below carefully.

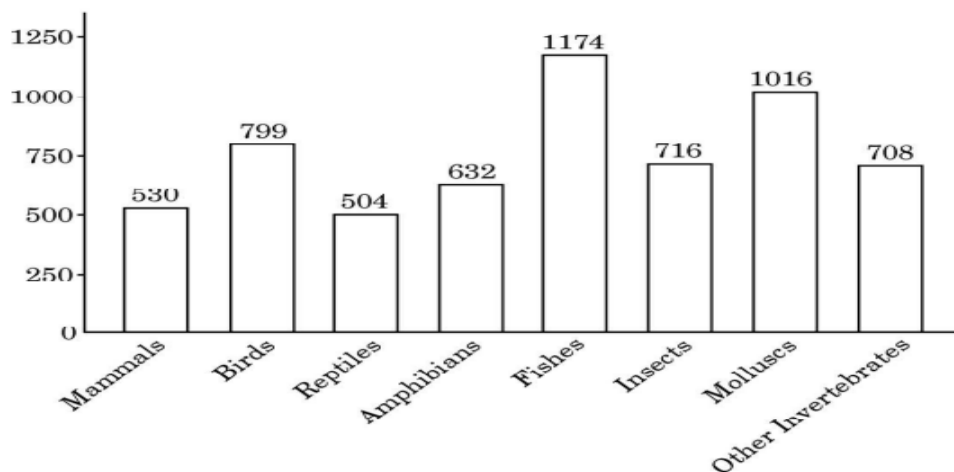
10 Marks

- There was a time when human interference was minimum, the number of wild animals was quite high and there was no problem of their protection or conservation.
- Due to the irrational use of natural and biotic resources of the Earth in the past, most of the wildlife has been destroyed beyond retrieval. According to an estimate, in India about 200 species of wild animals and birds have become extinct and another 2500 are on the verge of extinction. Some of them are black buck, chinkara, wolf, swamp deer, nilgai, Indian gazelle, antelope, tiger, rhinoceros, gir lion, crocodile, flamingo, pelican, bustard,

white crane, grey heron, mountain quail, etc.

- 3 In India, the Government and NGOs are taking keen interest in the protection of wildlife. The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, has several provisions for the conservation of wildlife. As many as 165 game sanctuaries and 21 national parks have been deployed to protect the natural habitat and wild animals. Apart from this, Wildlife Conservation Week is also celebrated from 1st to 7th October every year. But still there is a long way to go in this direction.
- 4 Preservation of wildlife does not mean a blanket protection to all faunal and floral species; rather it implies a proper, judicious control over the multiplication of plants and animals which interact together to provide a proper environment to man whose very existence is in peril today.
- 5 It is our urgent duty to protect the natural splendour of ecosystems and to evolve a system of coexistence with every living creature upon the Earth.

*based on IUCN Red List data



Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below.

- i Infer one reason for the following, based on the information in the passage. 1
'The number of wild animals was quite high and there was no problem of their protection or conservation.'
- ii Select the appropriate options to fill in the blanks. 1
Most of the wildlife has been _____ beyond _____ due to the irrational use of natural resources on the Earth.
 - I. destroyed
 - II. retrieval
 - III. desertion
 - IV. build
 - V. revived
 - (a) I and II
 - (b) II and III
 - (c) III and IV
 - (d) IV and V
- iii Complete the following analogy correctly with a word/phrase from the passage. 1
Flowers : Garden : : _____ : Sanctuaries
(Clue: Just like flowers are in a garden, similarly _____ are in the sanctuaries.)
- iv Select the correct option to complete the sentence. 1
Judicious control over the multiplication of plants and animals which provide
 - (a) natural splendour of ecosystem
 - (b) proper environment to man

- (c) blanket protection
(d) happy and comfortable living
- v According to the graph, which is the most vulnerable animal species and the least vulnerable from the graph. 1
- I. Birds
 - II. Insects
 - III. Fishes
 - IV. Reptiles
 - V. Insects
 - VI. Mammals
 - VII. Molluscs
- (a) I and II
(b) III and IV
(c) V and VI
(d) VI and VII
- vi Fill in the blanks by selecting the correct option. 1
The Wildlife Protection Policy has several provisions for _____ of wildlife.
- (a) conservation
 - (b) safety
 - (c) habitation
 - (d) well being
- vii Substitute the word 'extinction' with one word similar in meaning from the passage. 1
Many species are at the verge of extinction because of carelessness of human race.
- (a) multiplying
 - (b) disappearance
 - (c) diseased
 - (d) poaching
- viii List any two examples of Government and NGOs trying to protect the wildlife. 1
- ix List one reason why the Government makes certain recommendations for protection of wild animals. 1
- x Select the option that can be the best title for the passage. 1
- (a) Wild Animals
 - (b) Sanctuaries
 - (c) Natural Resources
 - (d) Conservation of Wildlife

Section 'B' – Grammar and Writing Skills

20Marks

Q3. Attempt ANY TEN of the following questions

- i Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the sentence. 1
If only Rajan _____ us earlier, things would have gone according to the plan.
- (a) has informed
 - (b) would have informed
 - (c) had informed
 - (d) should have informed
- ii Read the conversation between Sumayya and Smriti. Complete the narration correctly. 1
Sumayya : Can you teach me how to sing?
Smriti: Yes, I will. Come to my singing club tomorrow.
Sumayya asked Smriti if she could teach her how to sing. Smriti replied that she would. She also asked Sumayya _____.
- iii Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given line. 1
If I ate these chocolates, I _____ fall ill.
- (a) Would

- (b) Should
- (c) May
- (d) Can

iv Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line: 1

The grasshopper would spend his days sleeping or playing his guitar while the ant would collect food and built his ant hill.

Option No.	Error	Correction
a.	spend	spends
b.	Built	build
c.	And	but
d.	Would	should

v Complete the given news report by filling in the blank with the correct option: 1

The crocodile went to the monkey and said that his wife _____ him for dinner.

- (a) have called
- (b) are calling
- (c) had called
- (d) would have called

vi Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket. 1

As night _____ (fall) on the city, the bustling lanes of Chandni Chowk light up and dot the Old Delhi landscape.

vii Report the dialogue between Nitya and Sakshi by completing the narration: 1

Nitya : When are you joining the dance classes?

Sakshi: I am joining the classes on the 18th. Do you wish to join along?

Nitya asked Sakshi when she was joining the dance classes. Sakshi replied that she was joining the classes on 16th and she further asked_____.

viii Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction. 1

I am really not sure where the cat is, but I think she will be playing in the kitchen.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

ix Transform the following direct speech into reported speech: 1

"My friend said to Deepak, "Have you ever been to Agra?"

x Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the sentence. 1

If you had let me know earlier, I _____ have been able to come.

- (a) Will
- (b) Could
- (c) Might
- (d) Would

xi Select the correct option to complete the narration of the dialogue between a mother and her son. 1

Mother : Why are you late from school, Amit ?

Rohit : While coming from school to bus stop, I slipped by stepping on a banana peel.

Mother asked Rohit why was he late from school. Rohit replied that while coming from school to bus stop_____.

- (a) he slipped by stepping on a banana peel.
- (b) he had slipped by stepping on a banana peel.
- (c) he slipped and stepped on a banana peel.
- (d) he has slipped by stepping on a banana peel.

xii Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction for the following sentence. 1

Winter is one of the most important seasons in India. It is a part of the four seasons that occurs in India.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

Q4 Attempt any one from (A) and (B) given below :

5

(A) You are Kanika/Kunal. Write a letter in about 100 – 120 words to the editor of a leading daily, voicing your concern about the increasing cost of living, rise in prices of daily edible items and other products. The common man whose earning does not increase correspondingly is hit hard in these circumstances and even resorts to desperate measures. There is an increase in unemployment and petty crime.

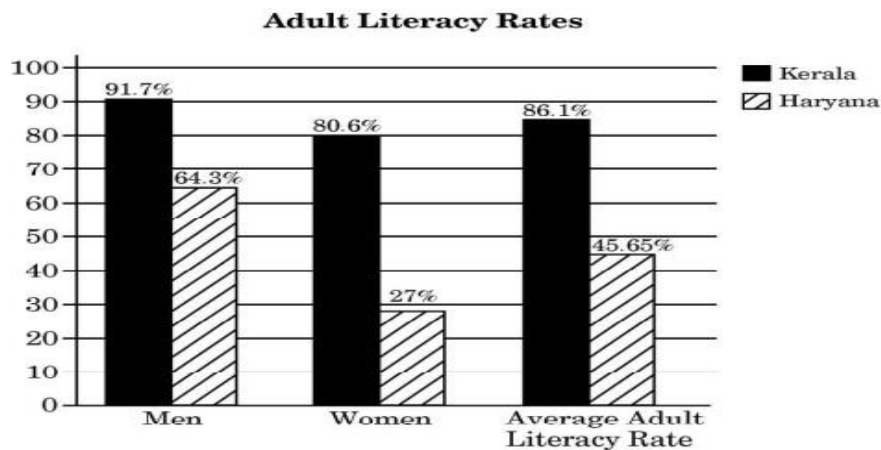
OR

(B) Your school is organising an inter-school cricket tournament. You placed an order of cricket equipment for your team. However, when the items arrived they were not as per the order placed. The cricket bats were of inferior quality and the gloves and balls, of a different company. Write a letter in 100 – 120 words to the Manager of Sporting World informing him of the mistake.

Q5 Attempt any one from (A) and (B) given below :

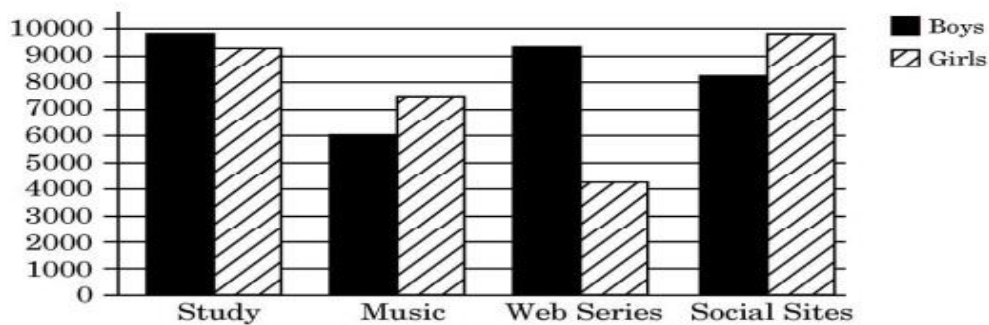
5

(A) The bar graph given here depicts the adult literacy rate in two states of India. Write an analytical paragraph in 100 – 120 words drawing comparison between the two and write possible reasons for this difference.



OR

(B) On the basis of the given bar graph, by analysing and carefully understanding the data, write an analytical paragraph. A survey conducted about the use of Internet by the students, shows that the students are using the Internet more than they did earlier. The graph depicts for what purposes the Internet is being used. Write an analytical paragraph drawing a comparison in 100 – 120 words.



6

SECTION 'C' – Literature

40 marks

Q6 Attempt any one from (A) and (B) given below :

(A) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow : 5x1=5

“That evening, after I'd finished the rest of my homework, the note about the essay caught my eye. I began thinking about the subject while chewing the tip of my fountain pen. Anyone could ramble on and leave big spaces between the words, but the trick was to come up with convincing arguments to prove the necessity of talking. I thought and thought, and suddenly I had an idea (i) I wrote the three pages Mr Keesing had assigned me and was satisfied. I argued that talking is a student's trait and that I would do my best to keep it under control, but that I would never be able to cure myself of the habit since my mother talked as much as I did if not more, and that there's not much you can do about inherited traits.

(a) Anne didn't want to just ramble on in the essay Mr Keesing had given her as punishment homework. What does this show about her?

(i) She had self-belief (ii) She was argumentative

(iii) She was an egoist (iv) She was disrespectful

(b) Anne did not wish to follow the beaten track of casually doing her homework. How do we know this?

(c) Fill up the blank to complete the statement:

When Anne said that ----- she was referring to the typical behaviour of students in a classroom.

(d) What does Anne's intention when she says the following sentence?

'I would never be able to cure myself of the habit since my mother talked as much as I did if not more, and that there's not much you can do about inherited traits.'

(i) Her mother was to be blamed (iii) She refuted the accusation

(ii) he refused to defend her position (iv) She herself was guilty

OR

(B) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow : 5x1=5

“After half an hour the strange black aeroplane was still there in front of me in the clouds. Now there was only enough fuel in the old Dakota's last tank to fly for five or ten minutes more. I was starting to feel frightened again. But then he started to go down and I followed through the storm. Suddenly I came out of the clouds and saw two long straight lines of lights in front of me. It was a runway! An airport! I was safe! I turned to look for my friend in the black aeroplane, but the sky was empty. There was nothing there. The black aeroplane was gone. I could not see it anywhere.”

(a) How would you describe the mental state of the pilot when he saw two long straight lines of lights in front of him?

(i) freedom and liberty (ii) respite and relief

(iii) reinforcement and support (iv) saturation and stress

(b) In the statement, 'I turned to look for my friend in the black aeroplane, but the sky was empty' why does the author refer to a stranger as 'my friend'?

(c) The author calls the black aeroplane 'strange' because -----.

(d) Find the best synonym for the phrasal verb 'to look for' in the passage from the options given below.

(i) seek out (ii) pursue

(iii) rummage through (iv) scan thoroughly

Q7 Attempt any one from (A) and (B) given below :

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow: 5x1=5

Some say the world will end in fire

Some say in ice.

From what I've tasted of desire

I hold with those who favour fire.

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.

- (i) Complete the analogy with reference to the text.
wish : desire : : die : _____
- (ii) Complete the sentence appropriately.
It is clear that alliteration is the poetic device used for 'world will...' because _____. (Clue – explain how alliteration applies here)
- (iii) State whether the following statement is 'True' or 'False'.
The poet believes that both feelings like indifference and jealousy, and violence and rage will end the world one day.
- (iv) Select the appropriate option to complete the sentence, according to the extract.
I _____ those who favour ice.
(a) disbelieve (c) betray
(b) support (d) belittle

- (v) Complete the analogy with a word from the extract.
construction : destruction : : _____ : dissatisfy

Q8 Answer any four of the following questions in about 40 – 50 words each : 4x3=12

- (a) Why was the young seagull afraid to fly with his family members?
(b) Why does Anne think that 'paper' has more patience than 'people'?
(c) Why did the pilot fly straight into the storm instead of returning to Paris?
(d) What does Mandela mean when he says he is 'simply the sum of all those African patriots' who had gone before him?
(e) Why does the poet say Money is external in The Ball Poem?

Q9 Answer any two of the following questions in about 40 – 50 words each: 2x3=6

- (a) What kind of person do you think the narrator, a veterinary surgeon, is? Would you say he is tactful as well as full of common sense?
(b) What are Hari Singh's reactions to the prospect of receiving an education? Do they change over time?
(c) How was Horace cheated?

Q10 Answer any one of the following questions in about 100 – 120 words : 6

- (a) Do you think Keesing was justified in punishing Anne? Would you support such a punishment in your class? Why/Why not?

OR

- (b) Why was Nelson Mandela overwhelmed with a sense of victory? How did he succeed in ending the apartheid regime in South Africa?

Q11 Answer any one of the following questions in about 100 – 120 words : 6

- (a) Love is the basic human attribute that can transform evil into goodness. How did this attribute of Anil change Hari Singh?
