

HALF TERM EXAMINATION-(2026-27)
CLASS X - ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE (184)

TIME: 3 Hour

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

Printed Pages : 08

1. All questions are compulsory.
2. Separate instructions are given with each question where ever necessary.
3. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A (Reading Skills)

Q1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. (10 Marks)

The Value of Time in a Fast-Paced World

Time is one of the most valuable resources available to human beings. Unlike money or material possessions, time cannot be stored, recovered, or borrowed. Every person receives the same twenty-four hours in a day, yet people use these hours differently. Some achieve their goals by managing their time wisely, while others often feel overwhelmed because they postpone important tasks.

In today's fast-paced world, students especially face numerous distractions. Mobile phones, social media, online games, and entertainment platforms can easily consume several hours without the user even realising it. Technology itself is not harmful; in fact, it has made learning and communication easier than ever. The problem arises when technology is used without limits. Spending excessive time on digital devices may reduce concentration and leave less time for studies, physical activity, hobbies, and meaningful interaction with family and friends.

Effective time management does not mean working continuously without taking breaks. Rather, it means using time purposefully. A student can begin by preparing a simple schedule that includes study, recreation, exercise, meals, sleep, and other responsibilities. Setting priorities is equally important. Tasks that are urgent and important should be completed first, while less important activities can be taken up later. Breaking a large task into smaller sections can also make it easier to complete. Another useful habit is avoiding procrastination. People often postpone difficult tasks because they appear tiring or complicated. However, delaying them usually increases stress. Starting with even a small step can create confidence and make the task seem more manageable. Regularity is more effective than last-minute effort.

Good time management also allows people to maintain a healthy balance in life. Adequate sleep, physical activity, relaxation, and social interaction are essential for overall well-being. Therefore, managing time is not simply about completing more tasks; it is about making thoughtful choices and giving proper attention to what truly matters.

Answer the following questions:

1. Choose the correct option. (1 mark)

According to the passage, what makes time different from money and material possessions?

- a) It can be earned easily.
- b) It can be stored for future use.
- c) It cannot be recovered once lost.
- d) It can be borrowed from others.

2. Fill in the blank with a suitable word from the passage. (1 mark)

Using technology without proper limits can reduce a student's _____.

3. Answer in one word. (1 mark)

What habit refers to delaying or postponing important tasks?

4. Choose the correct option. (1 mark)

Which of the following is suggested as an effective time-management strategy?

- a) Avoiding all breaks
- b) Completing every task at once
- c) Setting priorities
- d) Spending more time online

5. Complete the analogy. (1 mark)

Time : Resource :: Technology :

6. Answer the following in 30–40 words. (2 marks)

Why does the writer say that effective time management does not mean working continuously?

7. Answer the following in 30–40 words. (2 marks)

How can avoiding procrastination help students?

8. What is the central idea of the passage? (1 mark)

- a) Technology should be completely avoided.
- b) Students should study throughout the day.
- c) Wise use of time helps maintain productivity and balance in life.
- d) Entertainment is harmful to everyone.

Q2. Read the following case-based factual passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. (10 Marks)

Reading Habits Among Students

A school conducted a survey among 500 students of Classes IX and X to understand their reading habits. The survey showed that 62% of students preferred digital reading, while 38% preferred printed books. Among those who preferred digital reading, 45% used mobile phones, 30% used tablets, and 25% used laptops or computers.

The survey also recorded the amount of time students spent reading every day. About 18% of students read for less than 30 minutes, 35% read for 30–60 minutes, 29% read for 1–2 hours, and 18% spent more than two hours reading. Teachers noticed that students who read for at least one hour every day displayed greater confidence in vocabulary and comprehension-based activities.

The survey further examined students' preferred reading categories. Fiction was the most popular category, chosen by 34% of students. Educational and academic material was preferred by 28%, biographies and autobiographies by 16%, newspapers and magazines by 12%, while 10% preferred other types of reading.

The findings suggest that although digital devices have changed the way students access reading material, the habit of reading regularly remains important. Teachers therefore encouraged students to read a variety of materials and to maintain a balanced reading routine.

Answer the following questions:

1. Choose the correct option. (1 mark)

What percentage of students preferred printed books?

- a) 28%
- b) 38%
- c) 45%
- d) 62%

2. Fill in the blank with a suitable word/number from the passage. (1 mark)

_____ % of students preferred biographies and autobiographies.

3. Answer in one word. (1 mark)

Which category of reading was the most popular among the students?

4. Complete the analogy. (1 mark)

Mobile phones : 45% :: Tablets : _____%

5. Choose the correct option. (1 mark)

Which group of students showed greater confidence in vocabulary and comprehension activities?

- a) Students reading for less than 30 minutes
- b) Students reading for 30–60 minutes
- c) Students reading for at least one hour daily
- d) Students reading only digital material

6. Assertion and Reasoning (1 mark)

Assertion (A): Regular reading can help improve students' vocabulary and comprehension skills.

Reason (R): Students who read for at least one hour daily showed greater confidence in vocabulary and comprehension-based activities.

Choose the correct option:

- a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true, but R is false.
- d) A is false, but R is true.

7. State whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE. (1 mark)

More students preferred printed books than digital reading.

8. Choose the correct option. (1 mark)

What was the main purpose of conducting the survey?

- a) To compare different schools
- b) To understand students' reading habits
- c) To test students' vocabulary
- d) To identify the best digital device

9. Answer the following in 30–40 words. (2 marks)

What do the survey findings suggest about the changing nature of reading and the importance of maintaining a regular reading habit?

SECTION-B(Grammar & Creative Writing Skills)

Q3. Answer any TEN of the following questions:- (10 Marks)

1. Fill in the blank with the correct form of the verb given in brackets.

The students _____ their project before the deadline. (complete)

2. Choose the correct option to complete the sentence.

Neither the teacher nor the students _____ aware of the change in schedule.

- a) was
- b) were
- c) is
- d) has

3. Fill in the blank with a suitable modal.

You _____ respect the rules of the school to maintain discipline.

- a) might
- b) should
- c) could
- d) would

4. Change the following into reported speech.

Riya said, "I am preparing for my examination."

5. Choose the correct determiner.

There is _____ milk left in the refrigerator.

- a) many
- b) a few
- c) little
- d) several

6. Fill in the blank with the correct tense form of the verb given in brackets.

By the time we reached the station, the train _____. (leave)

7. Choose the correct option.

Each of the participants _____ given a certificate.

- a) were
- b) have
- c) was
- d) are

8. Change the following into reported speech.

The teacher said to the students, "Do not waste your time."

9. Fill in the blank with the appropriate preposition.

The principal congratulated the students _____ their excellent performance.

10. Choose the correct option.

You _____ wear your school uniform on Monday.

- a) must
- b) might
- c) could
- d) would

11. Identify the error and write the correction.

The news are very encouraging.

Error_____ Correction_____

12. Read the following dialogue and complete the passage by reporting the conversation.

Teacher: Have you completed your English project?

Student: Yes, I completed it yesterday.

The teacher asked the student whether he had completed his English project. The student replied that _____.

Q4(A). You are Rohan/Riya, a resident of Green Park, Bhopal. You are concerned about the increasing use of plastic bags in your locality, which is causing environmental pollution and blocking drains. Write a letter to the Editor of The Times of India, Bhopal, highlighting the harmful effects of plastic bags and suggesting practical measures to control their use. (100-120 words) (5 Marks)

OR

(B). You are the Head of the English Department, Sunrise Public School, Bhopal. Your school requires books for the school library. Write a letter to the Sales Manager, National Book House, New Delhi, placing an order for 100 English reference books, 50 dictionaries and 50 thesauruses. Mention the required quality, discount, mode of payment and delivery details. (100-120 words) (5 Marks)

Q5(A). You are Ananya/Anuj, a resident of Shanti Nagar, Bhopal. You purchased a study table from Modern Furniture House, Bhopal, two weeks ago. The table has developed cracks and one of its drawers is not functioning properly. Write a letter to

the Manager of the showroom complaining about the defective product and requesting its replacement or repair. (100-120 words) (5 Marks)

OR

(B). You are Mehak/Manav, a student of Class X, Bal Bhawan School, Bhopal. You wish to join a summer personality development and spoken English course during your vacation. Write a letter to the Director of Bright Future Institute, Bhopal, enquiring about the duration, course fee, eligibility, class timings, study material and certificate. (100-120 words) (5 Marks)

SECTION-C (Language Through Literature)

Q6(A). Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow: (5)

"What is the boy now, who has lost his ball"

(a) What has happened to the boy?

- a) He has found a new ball.
- b) He has lost his ball.
- c) He has broken his ball.
- d) He has given away his ball.

(b) The loss of the ball symbolises:

- a) fear of failure
- b) loss and the experience of growing up
- c) childhood happiness
- d) material success

(c) What poetic device is prominent in the phrase "What is the boy now"?

- a) Metaphor
- b) Rhetorical question
- c) Simile
- d) Alliteration

(d) Assertion-Reasoning:

Assertion (A): The boy's loss of the ball is presented as an important learning experience.

Reason (R): The poet suggests that loss is a natural part of life and helps one learn to cope with it.

- a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true, but R is false.
- d) A is false, but R is true.

(e) What does the boy learn through the loss of his ball?

Answer in one sentence.)

OR

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

"Some say the world will end in fire"

(a) What does "fire" symbolise in the poem?

- a) kindness
- b) desire and uncontrolled passion

- c) peace
- d) wisdom

(b) Which poetic device is used in "Some say" to introduce an opinion?

- a) Repetition
- b) Enjambment
- c) Alliteration
- d) Personification

(c) The central theme of the poem is:

- a) beauty of nature
- b) destructive power of human emotions
- c) importance of friendship
- d) celebration of life

(d) Assertion-Reasoning:

Assertion (A): The poet considers both fire and ice capable of destroying the world.
Reason (R): Fire represents desire, while ice represents hatred and cold indifference.

- a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true, but R is false.
- d) A is false, but R is true.

(e) What does "ice" represent in the poem?

(Answer in one sentence.)

Q7(A) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow: (5)

."Paper has more patience than people."

(a) Why does Anne make this observation?

- a) She dislikes writing.
- b) She feels that paper can listen to her thoughts without judging her.
- c) She wants to become a writer immediately.
- d) She has no books to read.

(b) Anne decides to write a diary because she:

- a) wants to complete a school assignment
- b) needs a true friend with whom she can share her thoughts
- c) wants to improve her handwriting
- d) has been instructed by her teacher

(c) The statement is an example of:

- a) Personification
- b) Simile
- c) Hyperbole
- d) Alliteration

(d) Assertion-Reasoning:

Assertion (A): Anne treats her diary as a close friend.

Reason (R): She feels that she cannot easily share her innermost feelings with people around her.

- a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true, but R is false.

d) A is false, but R is true.

(e) What name does Anne give to her diary?
(Answer in one sentence.)

OR

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

"The oppressed and the oppressor alike are robbed of their humanity."

(a) According to Mandela, who loses humanity under an oppressive system?

- a) Only the oppressed
- b) Only the oppressor
- c) Both the oppressed and the oppressor
- d) Neither of them

(b) What does Mandela consider true freedom to be?

- a) Freedom only for oneself
- b) Freedom from responsibilities
- c) Freedom for all people
- d) Freedom to acquire wealth

(c) The word "oppressed" means:

- a) respected
- b) treated cruelly and unfairly
- c) encouraged
- d) rewarded

(d) Assertion-Reasoning:

Assertion (A): Mandela believes that freedom is incomplete if only one section of society enjoys it.

Reason (R): He believes that both the oppressed and the oppressor are affected by the system of injustice.

- a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true, but R is false.
- d) A is false, but R is true.

(e) What does Mandela suggest about the relationship between freedom and humanity?

Answer in one sentence.

Q8. Answer any FOUR of the following questions in about 40-50 words (4×3=12)

(a). How does the author establish that the tradition of baking bread was an important part of Goan culture? Mention any two details from the chapter that show the significance of bakers in the lives of Goan people

(b) How does Carolyn Wells use humour and exaggeration to describe dangerous wild animals in the poem How to Tell Wild Animals? Explain how these humorous descriptions make the poem entertaining despite its subject.

(c). Why was the young seagull initially afraid to fly? How did hunger finally help him overcome his fear and make his first flight?

(d). Contrast the tiger's life in the zoo with the life he would naturally lead in the jungle. What does the poet convey through this contrast about captivity?

(e). Lencho had complete faith in God even after his crops were destroyed by the hailstorm. How did this faith influence his actions and reveal his character?

Q9. Answer any TWO of the following questions in about 40-50 words. (2×3=6)

(a) How did Anil's trust and kindness bring about a change in Hari Singh? Explain how Anil's behaviour influenced the thief and made him reconsider his decision.

(b) Why did Dr Herriot feel that Tricki's illness was mainly caused by Mrs Pumphrey's excessive love and overfeeding? How did he help Tricki recover without using any medicines?

(c) How did Ausable outsmart Max despite appearing very different from the conventional image of a secret agent? What does his handling of the situation reveal about his intelligence and presence of mind?

Q10. Answer any ONE of the following questions in about 100-120 words. (6)

(a). The loss of the ball becomes a lesson in growing up for the young boy. Discuss how the poet uses the boy's experience to convey the idea that loss is an inevitable part of life and that people must learn to accept it.

(b). Anne Frank's diary reflects her loneliness, maturity, honesty and keen observation of the world around her. Discuss how Anne's diary entries provide an insight into her personality and her relationship with her family, friends and teachers.

Q11. Answer any ONE of the following questions in about 100-120 words. (6)

(a) Griffin was a brilliant scientist, but he misused his scientific discovery of invisibility. Discuss how Griffin's actions reveal that scientific knowledge without morality and responsibility can become dangerous.

(b) Horace Danby considered himself an honest man despite being a thief. How does his encounter with the young woman at Shotover Grange expose the contradiction in his character? What lesson does the story convey about trust and appearances?

End of Question Paper