

HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION (2026-27)
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
CLASS IX

TIME 3 Hrs
[Printed pages: 8]

MM: 80
Date: 17.09.2026

Instructions:

1. Read each question carefully and follow the instructions.
2. Do not write anything on the question paper.
3. Strictly adhere to the word limit.
4. All the answers should be correctly numbered.
5. Marks will be deducted for illegible handwriting.

The paper consists of three sections

Section A – Reading Skills 20 marks

Section B – Grammar & Writing Skills 30 marks

Section C – Literature 30 marks

SECTION A – READING SKILLS

- I). On the basis of understanding the passage, answer the questions that follow.

The Living Light of the Deep Sea

1. Long before humans invented electric bulbs, nature had already perfected the art of producing light without heat. This phenomenon, known as bioluminescence, occurs when living organisms generate light through a chemical reaction inside their bodies. It is most commonly found in marine creatures, especially those dwelling in the deep, sunless parts of the ocean where sunlight never penetrates. In fact, scientists estimate that below a depth of a thousand metres, bioluminescence is not the exception but the rule; the vast majority of creatures encountered there possess some capacity to glow.

2. The process behind bioluminescence involves a molecule called luciferin, which reacts with oxygen in the presence of an enzyme called luciferase. This reaction releases energy almost entirely in the form of light rather than heat, making it remarkably efficient compared to man-made light sources, which waste a significant proportion of their energy as heat. An incandescent bulb, for instance, converts only a small fraction of its energy into visible light; a firefly, by contrast, achieves near-total efficiency, a feat that continues to humble engineers attempting to replicate it artificially.

3. Different creatures have evolved to use this glowing ability for strikingly different, and sometimes contradictory, purposes. Anglerfish dangle a glowing lure above their heads to attract unsuspecting prey in the pitch-black depths, essentially weaponising light as a tool of deception.

4. Beyond these natural applications, scientists have found bioluminescence unexpectedly useful in laboratories far removed from the ocean floor. The glowing protein

extracted from jellyfish, known as Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP), has become an indispensable tool in medical research. By genetically attaching this protein to specific cells, researchers can track the movement and behaviour of those cells inside living organisms, offering insights into diseases such as cancer and Alzheimer's that would otherwise remain hidden from direct observation. The discovery of GFP was considered significant enough to earn its researchers a Nobel Prize, a rare instance of a jellyfish indirectly shaping the course of modern medicine.

5. Despite its growing usefulness, bioluminescence remains one of nature's most mysterious gifts, and much about it continues to elude full scientific explanation. Nearly three-quarters of ocean creatures are believed to possess this ability in some form, yet marine biologists continue to discover new species and previously unknown applications for this natural light every year.

Answer the following questions:

10x1=10

1. The passage suggests that below a depth of a thousand metres, bioluminescence is:
 - a) Rare and unusual
 - b) Found only in fish
 - c) So common that it is the norm rather than the exception
 - d) Impossible due to water pressure
2. Why does the author compare a firefly's light output to an incandescent bulb's?
 - a) To show that bulbs are brighter than fireflies
 - b) To highlight how inefficient man-made light is by comparison
 - c) To prove that fireflies use electricity
 - d) To explain how bulbs were invented
3. The phrase "**weaponising light as a tool of deception**" in reference to the anglerfish implies that the fish: (para 3)
 - a) Uses light purely for self-defence
 - b) Uses light dishonestly to lure and trap prey
 - c) Uses light to communicate with other anglerfish
 - d) Uses light accidentally, without any purpose
4. Why is bioluminescence more beneficial than artificial light sources?
 - a) Natural way of producing light.
 - b) It produces less heat.
 - c) Chemical reaction is fast.
 - d) None of the above.
5. The discovery of GFP is described as significant partly because:
 - a) It made jellyfish extinct
 - b) It was the first light ever discovered in nature
 - c) It indirectly contributed to advances in medical research and earned a Nobel Prize
 - d) It replaced the need for microscopes

(Eng9-2)

6. Why is bioluminescence unexpectedly useful?
- a) It has no side effect.
 - b) It is used as a tool in medical research.
 - c) It is natural process.
 - d) A & C
7. What is the overall structure of the passage?
- a) It presents an argument and then refutes it
 - b) It explains a phenomenon, gives varied examples, then discusses its scientific applications and mysteries
 - c) It narrates a single story from beginning to end
 - d) It compares two opposing scientific theories
8. The word "**indispensable**" in the passage is closest in meaning to: (para 4)
- a) Unnecessary
 - b) Optional
 - c) Essential
 - d) Temporary
9. Choose the correct antonym of "Protrude" as used in the passage : (para1)
- a) Encountered
 - b) Penetrate
 - c) Dwelling
 - d) Phenomenon
10. Assertion (A): Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP) has become important in medical research.
- Reason (R): GFP allows scientists to track the movement of specific cells inside living organisms.
- a) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
 - b) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.
 - c) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
 - d) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true

II). On the basis of understanding the passage, answer the questions that follow:

The Mobile Phone Dilemma among Students

1. In recent years, mobile phones have transformed from a luxury into what many students consider a necessity. While these devices offer undeniable benefits — instant access to information, communication with family, and educational apps — their excessive use among students has become a growing concern for parents, teachers, and psychologists alike.
2. Studies conducted across various schools reveal that a significant number of students spend more than five hours a day on their phones, much of it devoted to social media, gaming, and entertainment rather than academic purposes. This constant engagement has measurable consequences. Attention spans have shortened considerably, making it difficult for students to concentrate on lengthy textbooks or classroom lectures without the urge to check notifications. Sleep patterns, too, have suffered, as many teenagers scroll through their phones late into the night, sacrificing the rest their developing minds and bodies require.

(Eng9-3)

3. Beyond academics, excessive phone use has been linked to a decline in face-to-face social skills. Many students now find it easier to communicate through text messages and emojis than through direct conversation, leading to increased social anxiety in real-world interactions. Physical health has not been spared either; prolonged screen time contributes to poor posture, eye strain, and a sedentary lifestyle that reduces physical activity.

4. However, it would be unfair to point mobile phones as entirely harmful. When used responsibly, they serve as powerful learning tools, offering access to online courses, educational videos, and instant research capabilities that previous generations never had. The real issue, experts argue, lies not in the technology itself but in the lack of self-regulation and awareness surrounding its use.

5. To address this growing problem, many schools have begun implementing phone-free zones during class hours, while some parents encourage designated "screen-free" periods at home. Teaching students to use technology mindfully, rather than banning it outright, appears to be the most sustainable solution. As one educator aptly noted, the goal is not to fear the phone but to master it before it masters us.

Answer the following questions:

$$10 \times 1 = 10$$

- 10x1=10
1. According to the passage, mobile phones have transformed from a luxury into:
a) A punishment
b) A necessity
c) An entertainment device only
d) A forbidden object
 2. The author's use of the phrase "measurable consequences" primarily serves to:
a) Suggest that the effects of phone use are merely opinions
b) Indicate that the effects described are based on observable evidence, not speculation
c) Prove that phones have no real impact on students
d) Show that consequences cannot be studied scientifically
 3. The quotation "the goal is not to fear the phone but to master it before it masters us" implies that:
a) Phones are inherently dangerous and should be avoided
b) Students should give up control over their phone habits
c) Self-control over technology is more important than avoiding it altogether
d) Teachers should confiscate all phones permanently
 4. What social consequence of excessive phone use is mentioned in the passage?
a) Shortened attention span
b) Increased social anxiety in face-to-face interactions
c) Better public speaking abilities
d) Poor posture and eye strain.
 5. What physical health issues are linked to prolonged screen time?
a) Improved eyesight and posture
b) Poor posture, eye strain, and a sedentary lifestyle
c) Increased physical activity
d) Stronger bones

6. According to experts mentioned in the passage, the real problem lies in:
 a) The lack of self-regulation
 b) The lack of confidence
 c) The lack of awareness
 d) A & C
7. The word "**sustainable**" in the context of "the most sustainable solution" most Likely means: (para 5)
 a) Temporary and quickly abandoned
 b) Able to be maintained effectively over the long term
 c) Expensive and impractical
 d) Immediately forgotten
8. The word "**sedentary**" in the passage most nearly means: (para 3)
 a) Active and energetic
 b) Involving little physical movement
 c) Related to sleep
 d) Extremely fast-paced
9. What is the main idea of the passage?
 a) Mobile phones should be completely banned for students
 b) Mobile phones are responsible for social anxiety.
 c) Excessive, unregulated phone use harms students, but mindful use of technology can be beneficial
 d) do not spend more time on phone.
10. Which statement best reflects the overall tone of the passage?
 a) Alarmist and one-sided, condemning all phone use
 b) Balanced and analytical, acknowledging both drawbacks and benefits
 c) Dismissive of the issue as unimportant
 d) Purely celebratory of technology's benefits

SECTION B – GRAMMAR & WRITING SKILLS

III). SENTENCE REARRANGEMENT

3X1=3

1. Rearrange the following jumbled words/phrases in the given dialogue (underlined) or sentence, to create meaningful sentence

Mohan : Do you know why many people , now a days do not like the concept of zoo. ?

Lalit: No, I don't.

Mohan: ⁵like/⁶zoos/⁵animals in / ⁶cages/ ¹many/³do not/⁵zoo/²concept of/ ⁵people/²this/²keep/as

2. Students/ used by/are being/ social networks/as a/tool/communication
 3. Flecking / scientists say/the /stars/ that /of the /distance/indicates

IV). SENTENCE TRANSFORMATION

3X1=3

1 She said to her sister, " Are you joining us for lunch today". (Report the question)

2 Teacher : Why were you absent yesterday ?

Student : I was suffering from a high fever.

Teacher: I hope you have recovered completely.

(Eng9-5)

The teacher asked the student why he had been absent the previous day. The student explained that he had.....

(Complete the dialogue)

3. Rahul said, "I am writing a letter now." (change into indirect speech)

1. Rahul said that I was writing a letter now.
2. Rahul said that he was writing a letter now.
3. Rahul said that he was writing a letter then.
4. Rahul said that he had been writing a letter then.

V). Identify the missing word in each sentence. Use the following format:

Word before omitted word word after

2X1=2

1. The sport of archery has its roots prehistoric times
2. We reduce waste, conserve energy, and plant trees.

VI). Identify the error and write the correction in the given sentence

2X1=2

1. The road to success is not the bed of roses.

ERROR

CORRECTION

2. Neither of the proposal seem suitable for the community development project.

ERROR

CORRECTION

VII). **WRITING SKILLS**

4 Marks

1. You are Abhay/Ankita Tripathi, Literary Club Secretary, Ryan School, New Delhi. Your school magazine is going to be published shortly. As the Secretary, write a notice inviting applications from students interested in editing, proofreading, creative writing and designing. (Word limit 50 words)

OR

Design a poster for a school campaign on cyber safety. Highlight safe online behavior and responsible use of internet.

5 Marks

2. You are Jay/Jaya Tripathi, residing at H no. 24 A sector, Gurgaon. Write a letter to the editor explaining how public transport can reduce traffic congestion and pollution. Also mention the ways to encourage public transport over the use of private vehicles. (Word limit- 100-120words)

5 Marks

3. Write an email to the travel agency asking for a quotation and details for an educational trip for a group of students and staff members. (word limit- 100-120words)

6 Marks

4. Write a speech on "Time Management is the key to the student success" in about 120-150 words.

OR

Write an article for your school magazine, on "How technology is changing the way we learn" in about 100-120 words.

(Eng9-6)

SECTION C- LITERATURE

VIII A). Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow
5 Marks

*I cannot remember my mother
Only sometimes in the midst of my play
A tune seems to hover over my playthings,
The tune of some song that she used to
Hum while rocking my cradle.*

1. Which 'word' from the extract best shows that the tune remains gently around the poet while he is playing?
2. Which line from the extract suggests that the poet is recalling an early childhood memory?
3. The word 'hum' is an example of which poetic device?
4. In reference to the lines given, which word means middle or center?
5. The poet experiences the tune lingering over playthings, only occasionally, during playtime. (State whether the statement is true or false)

B) Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions
that follow

5 Marks

One of the first steps to preserve the essence of the craft is by celebrating pankhas, and appreciating the culture, stories and artistry that this handicraft invokes. This allows contemporary pankha makers to demonstrate their craft and regain its popularity. It also helps provide them with a commercial platform to create a sustainable livelihood. Initiatives such as pankha making workshops, both within and outside the handicraft exhibitions help spread awareness about the beauty and importance of this craft in India's culture.

1. The handicraft of pankha making invokes culture, and artistry.
2. Which word from the text means 'to show'?
3. Assertion (A) : celebrating pankhas can help revive their popularity.
Reason (R) It gives contemporary makers an opportunity to showcase their craft
 - a) Both A & R are true and R is correct explanation of A
 - b) Both A & R are true and R is not the correct explanation of A
 - c) A is true but R is false
 - d) A is false but R is true
4. Appreciating the culture and stories behind the pankhas helps preserve the craft. True or False
5. The phrase 'sustainable livelihood' means a livelihood that.....
(answer in one line)

(Eng9-7)

C) Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow
5 Marks

Palette of earth, rich and deep,
Where dreams of gardeners seep
Brushstrokes of seeds, planted true,
Awaiting spring's vibrant hue.

- a) Identify the poetic device in first two lines.
- b) What mood is created by these lines?
Hopeful/ argumentative/ Rationale
- c) What are compared to brushstrokes?
(i) Trees (ii) Plants (iii) Seeds (iv) Earth
- d) What does the phrase 'Vibrant hue' refer to :
(i) Spring season (ii) Blooming of flowers
(iii) Bright lively colors (iv) Both i & ii
- e) Why and how is the palette of earth rich and deep? Answer in one line.

IX). Answer the questions in about 40-50 words (Any Five)

5 x2 =10 marks

- 1. Why did Grandpa dislike living in the city with his daughter? (Vitamin M)
- 2. Explain the significance of the line, 'the voice of their vocation is the voice of their identity'.
- 3. Why does grandmother touch narrator's feet even though the narrator is much younger than her?
- 4. What is the central message of the chapter "The Pot Maker"?
- 5. What is the role of the blue sky in the poem 'I cannot remember my mother'?
- 6. Justify the title 'Winds of change'.

X). Answer the following question in about 120-150 words (ANY ONE)

5 Marks

- 1. The poem 'I cannot remember by mother' and the lesson 'The pot maker' explores the bond between a mother and a child. Compare the relationship and role of a mother in reference to the poem and lesson.

OR

Compose grandpa's character sketch in the story 'Vitamin M' written by Asha Nehemiah.

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