



PRINCE ACADEMY

OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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SAMPLE PAPER - I (2025-26)

Time : 03 Hour

CLASS : X

MM : 80

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE (184)

General Instructions:

Read the instructions carefully and 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

- I. Read the following passage carefully: 10**
LADY TARZAN CUTS TIMBER MAFIA TO SIZE
1. Eleven years ago, Muturkham forests, lying southeast of capital Ranchi, used to be the timber mafia's busy workplace. No different from the rest of the state, which has lost 50% of forest cover to illegal logging in the last 10 years. Until 1999, when Muturkham's jungle mafia met 'Lady Tarzan'.
 2. Jamuna Tuddu, 32, a short and stout woman belonging to the Santhal tribe who had studied till Class X, led a band of 25 tribal housewives to form the 'Van Suraksha Samity' (Forest Protection Committee) and registered it with the state forest department. The women patrolled the forests in three groups, collared illegal loggers-usually hired hands from nearby villages - and handed them over to the forest department. Word spread that the trees in Muturkham were not to be touched. The 50-hectare forest in East Singhbhum district which had turned barren (the mafia had chopped down every tree over three metres tall) now has one lakh trees. There is a kendu, eucalyptus or acacia tree every six feet; the gap between two trees 10 years ago used to be more than 24 feet. Several species of reptiles and avians, wild boars, hares and the elephant have made this forest their home.
 3. The local initiative could well be the model for protecting the 23,60,500 hectares of Jharkhand's rich jungle cover - the size of about 16 Delhis - from timber cartels.
 4. Tuddu has worked as a mason as well as a beautician to supplement the family income. Her reasons for forming this committee were prompted by basic economics: there was no firewood in her kitchen.
 5. "Earlier, there was no shade in summers. We had no firewood, no fodder for our cattle and water levels were dipping across a 15-km area," she says. "Today, anyone caught felling trees is fined Rs. 501 and handed over to the forest department." The amount is deposited in the Samity's fund, utilised for community welfare work and to purchase cell phones for better networking during patrols.

6. Tuddu's women say their forest duties do not affect their household and farming responsibilities. The village head, Charu Charan Tuddu, says, "the entire village is in their debt and thanks to the committee, Muturkham women feel empowered."
7. Women who earlier had no mode of earning now make plates from sal leaves with manual compressors and earn up to Rs 12,000-15,000 a year selling them in nearby market places. The state government has recognised the committee's achievements led by Tuddu with cash awards. Tuddu contested the panchayat polls last year for the mukhiya's post but lost by just 18 votes.
8. But Tuddu has a bigger job. She is the guardian of the forest.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions.

- (i) What happened when Muturkham's jungle mafia 'met' Lady Tarzan? 1
- (ii) List two direct benefits of the work of the 'Van Suraksha Samity' (Forest Protection Committee) as mentioned in paragraph 2. 2
- (iii) Complete the following with appropriate information from paragraph 2. 1

OPINION	Reason
The trees in the Muturkham area were not to be touched.	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>

- (iv) The expression 'the size of about 16 Delhis' (paragraph 3) gives the readers an idea of 1

- (a) the area in which the forest cover is lost
- (b) the size of the forest cover in Jharkhand
- (c) the forest area protected so far by the 'Van Suraksha Samity'
- (d) the area in which the Muturkham model of forest protection has been implemented
- (v) Paragraph 5 mentions all of the following except one as the negative impacts of the loss of forest cover in Muturkham area. Identify the inappropriate one. 1

- (a) There was no shade in summers.
- (b) There was no wildlife left in the area.
- (c) There was no firewood and fodder for cattle.
- (d) Water level had gone down.
- (vi) Supply one point to justify the following: 2

"Jamuna Tuddu has a bigger job to do than to be the village head."

- (vii) The author's attitude to the work of Jamuna Tuddu and her Forest Protection Committee is generally one of 1

- (a) admiration (b) criticism (c) disbelief (d) envy

- (viii) In the context of the passage, say whether the following statement is likely to be True or False? 1

"The narrower the gap between trees in a forest is, the better are the chances of the wildlife and ecological balance returning to the area."

II. Read the following passage carefully: 10

TEA CONSUMPTION TRENDS IN INDIA: A REPORT

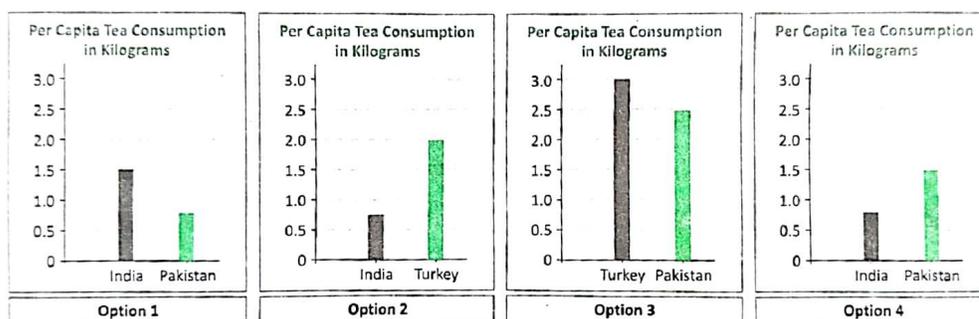
1. Gujarat is the biggest consumer of tea among Indian states, followed by Haryana and Goa, a study commissioned by the Tea Board India and conducted by Deloitte has found. The given table shows per capita tea consumption in five states along with the national average.

CUP COUNT			
(Tea consumption in per capita kg)			
India	0.78	Goa	1.079
Gujarat	1.385	Punjab	1.048
Haryana	1.231	Bengal	0.705

2. The study, the most comprehensive one to be done in a decade to measure consumption habit in India - the world's second largest producer of tea after China - suggests that abundance of milk availability could be the driver for higher consumption.
3. The per capita consumption of tea stood at 0.78 kg last year in India, nearly half of Pakistan, which consumes 1.5 kg. Turkey is the biggest consumer of the beverage (above 3 kg per person a year).
4. "Indians love to add milk to their tea and wherever milk is abundant, consumption is high," Arun Kumar Ray, deputy chairman of the Tea Board India, said.
5. Punjab, Goa, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh are some of the top states consuming over a kg. An average person in Bengal, home to the world famous Darjeeling tea, consumes less than the national average at 0.705 kg.
6. Ray, who joined the board about a month ago, said there would have to be a concerted effort to popularise tea among young kids. "While tea is consumed in age groups between 1 and 12 in several countries, this is not a practice in India, despite tea having many health benefits," he said.
7. The study also found out that consumers' buying patterns have changed. Close to 80 percent of urban and 75 per cent of rural households shifted to packet tea because of its perceived quality and better storage options, S. Soundararajan, director (tea development) of the Tea Board, said. Buying of loose tea is still prevalent in eastern and central India. Modern retail has become the second largest channel for buying tea, followed by small stores. Consumption of green tea and ready-to-drink tea is growing too.
8. On the Tea Board's restructuring, Ray said it would be focusing on quality of tea, especially by small growers. The board will also restructure its operations, reducing manpower by natural attrition.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions.

- (i) What influence does milk have on the consumption of tea in India? 1
- (ii) Select the chart that appropriately represents the per capita consumption of tea in the listed countries.



- (a) Option 1 (b) Option 3 (c) Option 2 (d) Option 4
- (iii) Name the state where the average tea consumption is lower than the national average. 1
- (iv) Which of the following statements is INCORRECT in the context of the passage? 1

 - (a) People all over India add milk to tea just because milk is available in plenty.
 - (b) The passage gives statistical evidence to argue that milk is the chief reason for higher consumption of tea in India.
 - (c) A majority of Indian tea consumers prefer the drink with milk.
 - (d) India occupies the second position globally in the production of tea.
 - (v) Darjeeling tea is world famous, yet tea consumption in Bengal where Darjeeling is located is low. This situation can be described as a/an..... one. 1

 - (a) unfortunate (b) pleasant (c) ironical (d) ideal

- (vi) Which of the following statements could have been the key statement of Arun Kumar Ray in a meeting of the Tea Board? 1
- (a) "I want to see Indian children drinking more tea."
 (b) "Tea is not healthy enough for children aged 1 to 12."
 (c) "Why do we have to target children in our ad campaign? It's unethical!"
 (d) "Indian children are a tea-planter's best friends."
- (vii) According to paragraph 7, more people now prefer to buy packaged tea. Why? 1
- (viii) List two priorities that the Tea Board has, according to the information given in the passage. 2
- (ix) Substitute the word 'concerted' with another word without changing the meaning of the following sentence from paragraph 6 of the passage. 1
- "There would have to be a concerted effort to popularise tea among young kids."

SECTION - B

GRAMMAR AND CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

III. Attempt any TEN of the following questions :

10×1=10

- (i) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option :
 After many months of research, the scientists _____ the invisible barrier.
 (a) break down (b) broke out (c) broke in (d) broke through
- (ii) Read the conversation between a teacher and a student.
 Complete the sentence by reporting the reply correctly :
 Teacher : Would you like to take part in a debate competition?
 Student : Yes, When is the competition?
 The teacher asked whether the student would like to participate in a debate competition to which the student affirmed and asked _____.
- (iii) Select the correct option to fill in the blanks for the given line:
 Don't you have _____ friends in the school?
 (a) much (b) few (c) little (d) any
- (iv) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line from a sports journal :
 The captain of the team was accused with not encouraging the team members.

Option No.	Error Correction

- (a) the - a (b) with - of
 (c) encouraging - encouragement (d) members - member
- (v) Complete the given narrative by filling in the blank with the correct option :
 The children _____ better safety procedures after the unexpected fire in the school.
 (a) called for (b) called in (c) called by (d) called out
- (vi) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket :
 The teacher _____ (complete) the preparations for the function before the term ended.
- (vii) Report the dialogue between the shopkeeper and customer, by completing the sentence :
 Customer : Do you sell battery operated toys for children?
 Shop keeper : Yes, we have a wide range of toys.
 The customer asked the shopkeeper if he sold battery operated toys for children. In response, the shopkeeper replied _____.
- (viii) Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction :
 The stage performance put up by the students were spectacular.
 Use the given format for your response :

Error	Correction

(ix) Rohina shared some information with Ruchi regarding her summer internship at the bank. Report Ruchi's question.

What was the duration of your internship?

(x) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option:

You _____ keep your promise.

(a) may (b) can (c) shall (d) must

(xi) Select the correct option to complete the narration of a dialogue between Raj and his wife :

Raj : I have invited my friends for dinner.

Wife : I'll invite my friends too.

Raj told his wife that he had invited his friends for dinner. The wife added that _____.

(a) she will invite her friends too (b) she would invite her friends too

(c) she can invite her friends too (d) she could invite her friends too

(xii) Identify the error in the statement given below and supply the correction :

Illegally parked vehicles will be fine.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

- IV. (A)** When you think about your city, you feel proud of its historical monuments, places of cultural interest, shopping centres and beautiful parks. Write a letter in 100-120 words to the editor of a national daily expressing your views on 'Your City'. Also suggest ways to increase footfall to these places like the government's recent initiative of free entry to all historical monuments on the occasion 75th Independence Day. You are Sangeeta / Sanjay, 45 Vijay Nagar, Delhi. (Word limit 100 - 125 words)

5

OR

(B) You are Ankit/Ankita of Mahavir Public School, Delhi. You have seen an advertisement in 'The Times of India' regarding the starting of new batches of 'Astronomy Club' by the National Science Centre. You wish to join the club. Write a letter to the Director, enquiring about the venue, duration, fee-structure, activities, etc. (Word limit 100-125 words)

- V. (A)** Junk food can harm our bodies in different ways. Write an analytical paragraph in about 100-120 words on Junk Food and its impact on the Body, you may use the following cues.

- They have high level of cholesterol, sugar/salt, calories and more.
- rising popularity of junk food due to taste, low prices, convenience.
- Spikes energy levels and then leads to drop in concentration.
- Consumption leads to density and adverse impact on lives.
- Impairs cognitive functions
- Role of decision creating awarders.

OR

(B) Excessive usage of screen time can cause damage to a growing child. Moreover, it cannot be denied that the child of the digital era cannot be separated from the use of technology. Write an analytical paragraph in about 100-120 words on 'Screen Time and the Digital Generation'. You can use the following cues :

- Technology has changed our lifestyle and has become a part of our lives.
- Screens refer to mobiles, televisions, laptops, Ipads etc.
- Many progressive schools encourage the use of laptops.
- During lockdown - screens came to the rescue of uninterrupted education.
- Cannot replace face to face, physical interaction between teacher and taught.

SECTION - C

LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (40 marks)

VI. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given.5

(A) And as the light came on, Fowler had his first authentic thrill of the day. For halfway across the room, a small automatic pistol in his hand stood a man. Ausable blinked a few times.

- (i) Who was standing in the room with a pistol in his hand? 1
- (ii) Ausable blinked because he: 1
 - (a) was getting adjusted to the light.
 - (b) got afraid of the man with a pistol.
 - (c) was thrilled to have reached his room.
 - (d) started thinking of how to get rid of the man.
- (iii) Fowler was thrilled because what he saw looked like a _____. 2
- (iv) Which word in the extract means the same as 'genuine/real'? 1

OR

(B) He wrote "To God" on the envelope, put the letter inside and, still troubled, went to town. At the post office, he placed a stamp on the letter and dropped it into the mailbox. One of the employees, who was a postman and also helped at the post office, went to his boss laughing heartily and showed him the letter to God. Never in his career as a postman had he known that address. The postmaster- a fat, amiable fellow- also broke out laughing, but almost immediately he turned serious and, tapping the letter on his desk, commented, "What faith! I wish I had the faith of the man who wrote this letter. Starting up a correspondence with God!"

- (i) What made the postman laugh heartily, suggest? 1
- (ii) Why did the postmaster become serious suddenly? Which of the following best describes the postmaster's attitude towards the situation given in the extract? 1
 - (a) Mocking (b) Serious (c) Indifferent (d) Respectful
- (iii) Comment on the author's use of language in the above extract with reference to the situation of 'letter writing'. 2
- (iv) In what way would you describe Lencho's act of dropping the letter to God? 1

VII. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given.5

(A) The trees inside are moving out into the forest,
the forest that was empty all these days
where no bird could sit
no insect hide

no sun bury its feet in shadow
the forest that was empty all these nights
will be full of trees by morning.

- (i) Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
It is clear that personification is the poetic device used for 'No sun bury its feet....'
- (ii) State whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE. Also, provide an explanation.
The extract uses trees as a symbol for conservative people. 1
- (iii) Which of the following best describes the idea of a forest that has been 'empty all these days' is _____. 1
 - (a) unnatural (b) scary (c) magical (d) legendary
- (iv) Which three things cannot happen in a treeless forest? 2

OR

(B) Custard the dragon had big sharp teeth,
And spikes on top of him and scales underneath,
Mouth like a fireplace, chimney for a nose,
And realio, trulio daggers on his toes.

- (i) Describe the physical appearance of Custard the dragon. 1

(ii) Fill in the blank with one word. This extract describes the physical appearance of Custard.

He carried all the features of _____ that could make him powerful, scary, and brave. 1

(iii) Which belief about dragons is in contrast to Custard's behaviour in the extract.1

- (a) Dragons are brave and feared.
- (b) Dragons can grant wishes.
- (c) Dragons can become invisible at will.
- (d) Dragons are soft-hearted and kind.

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

VIII. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words 12

(i) How does Frost in his poem "Fire and Ice" use symbolism to explore the destructive forces of desire and hatred? **(Fire and Ice)** 3

(ii) Describe some of the activities of the tiger as stated by the poet. **(A Tiger in the Zoo)** 3

(iii) How does Chubukov defend Squeezer? **(The Proposal)** 3

(iv) In what way does 'Anne Frank's Diary' reflect the theme of isolation? **(From the Diary of Anne Frank)** 3

(v) Discuss, with examples from the text, the role of the baker in shaping the memories and experiences of the people in Goa. **(A Baker from Goa)** 3

IX. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. 6

(i) What was Mrs. Pumphrey's reaction after hearing Tricki's good health? **(A Triumph of Surgery)** 3

(ii) How would you have reacted if you were one of the guests witnessing Bholi's wedding when she refused to marry Bishamber Nath? **(Bholi)** 3

(iii) Why did Griffin decide to become visible and to go to Iping? **(Footprints without Feet)** 3

X. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words 6

(A) Read the extracts given below and comment on the difference in the nature of help both the characters, of these two stories, received.

(i) Suddenly I came out of the clouds and saw two 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. **[The Black Aeroplane]**

(ii) All through the night Lencho thought only of his one hope: the help of God...The following Sunday, at daybreak he began to write a letter...It was nothing less than a letter to God...The following Sunday Lencho came a bit earlier than usual to ask if there was a letter for him.... Lencho showed not the slightest surprise on seeing the money, such was his confidence. **[A Letter to God]**

OR

(B) In the chapter, **Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom**, the swearing-in ceremony represented a shared victory for justice, peace, and human dignity over the most despised apartheid regime based on racial discrimination. Similarly, in the poem **The Tress**, the hard-fought victory for the trees has been achieved. They have been freed from the artificial glasshouse that held them captive. Imagine Nelson Mandela is congratulating trees on their victory in a letter in which he describes what freedom meant to him.

You may begin like this.

Dear Trees,

It is with great joy that I write to you today on the occasion of your freedom ...

XI. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. 6

(A) One of your friends has to attend a class party at his/her school and wants to purchase the most expensive clothes and shoes. He/She feels that this would make him/her stand out in the crowd. You receive a call from your friend seeking advice on this matter. Write down that telephonic conversation between your friend and yourself. You may begin this way:

Friend: Hey, I want an honest opinion from you. Will you please help me?

You: ...

Friend: So, there's this class party I have to attend. It's a big deal!

You: ...

Answer in the context of the lesson **The Necklace**.

OR

(B) Horace ends up in prison only to regret that a man should not trust anyone blindly without finding out the truth. Do you think his own foolishness was responsible for his arrest? Give a reasoned answer. **(A Question of Trust)**

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