



PRINCE ACADEMY

OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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SAMPLE PAPER - II (2025-26)

CLASS : X

Time : 03 Hour

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE (184)

MM : 80

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 (20 marks)

Reading Skills

- I. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow : 10**
1. Floods are not new to India and this subcontinent, but in recent years the problem of flooding has received much greater attention, perhaps largely because it has led to greater damage now than it did in the past. Even though information on the impending occurrence of floods is now more accurate and certainly more timely, often there is very little time or support infrastructure in place by which damage can be minimised. This is particularly true in the case of flash floods resulting from sudden and excessive heavy rain.
 2. In the case of India, Flooding is very much related to the seasonal nature of our rainfall. The monsoons are spread over a short period during the year and often bring a concentrated volume of rain, which cannot be absorbed by the earth and finds an outlet only in the form of streams that join up with our major river systems. Flooding due to heavy rain is confined not only to the main rivers of the country, but also affects smaller tributaries and streams. Once these streams spill over their banks they could cause excessive harm, mainly because those living near the banks of these streams, particularly in mountain areas, do not have easy recourse to move away quickly.
 3. One major factor that could lead to a higher severity of flooding in the future is the danger of climate change. While the evidence of the nature of impacts, resulting from climate change on precipitation and flooding at the regional level, is not entirely clear, it could happen that the Indian subcontinent witnesses and suffers the effects of a significantly changed pattern of monsoons. One set of scientists has estimated that the monsoons could be shorter in duration but far more intensive; in other words, much greater precipitation would take place in a much shorter period of time, thereby increasing the danger of floods. Climate change is the result of human actions through the increased concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, of which carbon dioxide is the most prominent.

4. At the local level also human actions have heightened the danger of floods through the cutting of trees in the mountains as well as in the plains. In case of India, the ecological damage through deforestation of the Himalayas has led to large-scale erosion of the mountain slopes and high levels of siltation. These lead to the deposition of silt on the riverbeds in the plains and hence spillover of water whenever the volume in the river reaches a certain level. With siltation on the riverbeds, flooding occurs even at very shallow water levels. The vulnerability of the population has increased substantially because of population pressures. An example is the stubborn and perhaps helpless settling of slum dwellers on the banks of the river Yamuna in Delhi, who become victims of flooding. What is a mere trickle most of the year, bursts its banks during the monsoons, as it has been the case in recent years.
5. Flood forecasting is critical to minimising the damage from floods. It is for this reason that the Central Water Commission has set up a network of forecasting stations, which cover the most important flood-prone interstate rivers in the country. These stations produce forecasts that are used to alert the public and to mobilize various official agencies so that they take both preventive as well relief measures, whenever required. However even in cases where forecasts have been timely and generally accurate, people have often been reluctant to move away, because in most cases they lack the means and physical options for moving away from a danger zone to one that is relatively safe. In the case of flash floods, forecasts are difficult to make, and often the time available for relief is very short.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- (i) Based on your reading of the text, why does the writer say that, in spite of timely forecasting people have suffered? [Paragraph 5] 2
- (ii) Why does the author say that flooding can occur even at very shallow water levels too? Mention two reasons for the same. [Paragraph 4] 2
- (iii) Why do some scientists estimate that a shorter duration of monsoon season is more harmful than a prolonged one? [Paragraph 3] 1
- (iv) What are the main ideas of paragraph 2 and paragraph 3? 1
- (1) Unchecked urban development (2) Landslides in mountain areas
 (3) Concentrated monsoon rainfall (4) Deforestation
 (5) Climate change

Select the correct option.

Options	Main idea of paragraph 2	Main idea of paragraph 3
(i)	Deforestation	Landslides in mountain areas
(ii)	Concentrated monsoon rainfall	Climate change
(iii)	Landslides in mountain areas	Unchecked urban development
(iv)	Unchecked urban development	Deforestation

- (v) Complete the following by selecting the correct option from those given in the brackets. [Paragraph 4] 1
 With siltation on the riverbeds, flooding occurs even at very (shallow/deep) water levels.
- (vi) The problem of floods has been considered more important recently because [Paragraph 1] 1
- (a) floods have led to much greater damage now than in the past.
 (b) floods are resulting in increased relocation.
 (c) floods occur only during the monsoon season.
 (d) of problems of frequent tornadoes and cyclones in the subcontinent.

(vii) Complete the analogy by selecting one of the two correct option.

Monsoon : heavy rainfall : : stream : [Paragraph 2]

1

(a) cloud formation (b) river system

(viii) Select the option that is True from (a) to (c) given for what the phrase, 'impending occurrence suggest in paragraph 1.

1

(a) An event that already happened in the past

(b) A likely event that is about to happen soon

(c) An imaginary situation that may never occur

II. Read the passage given below:

10

1. Reduction in green areas has caused various environmental problems. People squeezed between concrete structures are looking for various ways to meet their longing for green. One of the ways to do so, is vertical gardens and green walls. Vertical gardening is a unique method of gardening where plants are grown in a vertical position or upward, rather than in the traditional method of planting them on the ground.

2. The purpose of vertical gardens and green walls, which arises from the studies of different disciplines (landscape architects, architects, engineers, etc.), is to close the cold image of concrete and increase the visual value. In these systems, nature and structures are integrated, and thus, urban areas and the desired environment have become intertwined.

3. Vertical garden case studies often show that, though functionality should be in the foreground, when vertical gardens are planned, they are generally made as aesthetic elements in the city's underpasses and city squares, and decorative elements in residences, without seeking functionality.

4. Experts support that the visual quality and evaluation of landscape architecture is determined based on the satisfaction of the users. Hence, a survey questionnaire was prepared for residents of varied age groups from of a metropolitan city. The given Table 1, displays these responses:

Table 1- Total number of participants: 400						
No.	Survey statements	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Vertical gardens-						
1	improve quality of life of people in urban areas	191	138	43	9	19
2	reduce noise pollution	128	164	77	25	6
3	increase air quality -indoors and outdoors	172	147	51	28	2
4	reduce energy and water consumption	58	47	125	68	2
5	positively impact global warming	114	144	106	30	6
6	have a relaxing and calming effect	161	177	44	7	11
7	cost too much	86	107	152	42	13
8	make plants look beautiful	195	139	44	6	16
9	add naturalness to the environs	135	173	55	25	12
10	are among the determining factor to visiting a place	59	133	141	54	13
11	are inconvenient indoors	9	84	123	126	48
12	can be applied in every place	71	132	97	77	23
13	have a functional feature	81	207	100	10	2
14	distract drivers	34	101	106	131	28
15	funds are best used for social issues	57	72	100	130	41

5. The study acknowledged that vertical gardening has the potential to transform urban spaces into green, sustainable areas, and further research should explore the impact of vertical gardening on the environment and human well-being.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

(i) How can we say that the situation of people living in concrete structures is comparable with fish in a fishbowl? 1

- (a) They live in small apartments like small fishbowls.
- (b) They can't breathe fresh air because of the absence of gardens.
- (c) They are trapped in an unsuitable environment.
- (d) They have the fluidity of movement because of their cars.

(ii) Complete the following by selecting the correct option from those given in the brackets.

In vertical gardens and green walls systems, nature and structures are integrated, and thus, urban areas and the desired environment have become..... (integrated/intertwined). 1

(iii) Identify the word that means "meshed as used by the author. 1

In these systems, nature and structures are integrated, and thus, urban areas and the desired environment have become intertwined.

(iv) Based on the survey results, which two concerns should a city government, looking to install vertical gardens address? 2

(v) Which of the following is the main takeaway from the study mentioned in the passage? 1

- (a) Vertical gardening has minimal impact on the environment or human well-being.
- (b) Vertical gardening is a sustainable practice that can transform urban spaces into green areas.

(c) The impact of vertical gardening on the environment and human well-being has already been thoroughly explored.

(d) The study needs to include experts from horticultural firms to offer any recommendations for further research.

(vi) Based on your understanding of the statement, provide a valid justification. 1

The purpose of having vertical gardens and green walls is a result of concerted efforts by a range of professionals and consultants.

(vii) Complete the following sentence suitably: 1

Urban spaces have become more closely connected with the desired natural surroundings through the incorporation of.....

(viii) Fill in the blank with ONE suitable word. 1

Vertical gardening is a method of growing plants..... instead of on the ground.

(ix) In Table 1, statement 3, "Vertical gardens increase air quality indoors and outdoors," received the most neutral responses from participants, with 51 respondents indicating a neutral stance. State any one inference that can be drawn from this. 1

SECTION B : WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20 marks)

GRAMMAR

III. Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed 10

(i) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter: 1

I _____ (request) you to have this faulty lot replaced by a new one, with the best quality at the earliest and would appreciate if you initiated action in this matter fast.

(ii) Identify the error and supply the correction for the following note in a mobile phone's user guide. 1

To maintaining the water-resistant and dust-resistant features of your device, make sure that the SIM card tray openings are free of dust and water.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

(iii) Read the conversation between two friends Ravi and Reena. Complete the sentence by reporting Reena's reply correctly. 1

Ravi: "Reena, lend me hundred rupees".

Reena: "I don't have it right now, but I will arrange it for you".

Ravi asked Reena to lend him hundred rupees, to which Reena replied that _____.

(iv) "You can't bathe in this sea," he said to me, "it's very rough." 1

Reported speech: _____

(a) He said that you couldn't bathe in the sea if it was very rough.

(b) He said that I couldn't bathe in that sea as it was very rough.

(c) He said that I can't bathe in this sea because it's very rough.

(d) He said that you can't bathe in this sea since it was very rough.

(v) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option. 1

Both players in the tennis match have been warned by the referee but _____ (either / neither / every) of them seems to take it seriously.

(vi) Identify the error in the given sentence, from a report from the News for Kids site and supply the correction. 1

The gardens are filled with flowers and plants chosen to attract bees and butterflies. In the UK, The Wildlife Trusts is given advice on the location of the shelters and the plants that are included.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

(vii) Identify the error and supply the correction. 1

The art displays in the wall are a wonderful way for children to express their talents.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

(viii) It _____ a nice day, therefore we went swimming. 1

(a) was (b) has been (c) had been (d) would be

(ix) Report the dialogue between a student and his teacher, by completing the sentence:

Student : Please explain it again. 1

Teacher : Acid reacts with a base to form salt.

In response to a student's request to explain that again, the teacher said that _____.

(x) He said, "I shall go as soon as possible". 1

Reported speech: _____

(a) He said that he will go as soon as it was possible.

(b) He said that he would go as soon as it was possible.

(c) He said that he would go as soon as possible.

(d) He said he would go as soon as it was possible.

(xi) Complete the line from a self-awareness song, by filling the blank with the correct option. 1

My Mother is not the sort of Mum

Who'll _____ and faint and shiver,

Darkness doesn't scare her,

When it thunders, she won't _____!

(a) be squealing, quiver

(b) squeal, be quiver

(c) squeal, quiver

(d) be squealing, have been quivered

(xii) Identify the error and supply the correction, for the following:

1

Maharashtra State Innovation Society

STARTUP WEEK 2021

A platform to create impact at large scale with Government

Startups across India is eligible to apply

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

WRITING

- IV. (A)** The youth of a society are a positive functional unit and agent of any major change. They are the future leaders. Channelising their energy in the right direction can result in commendable work. As Zac Sakria, a resident of 412, Magna Green Apartments, Gandhi Marg, Jonpara, Mumbai, compose a letter in about 120 words to The President, Resident Welfare Association of your society highlighting the commendable social work done by some students of the society. Recommend their names for Serving Citizens Award. **5**

OR

(B) Technology is a good servant but a bad master. With every technology come its uses and misuses. It is the user's responsibility to use technology with caution. You are Rahul/Reena of 140 C, Defence Enclave, New Delhi. Compose a letter in about 120 words to the editor of a national newspaper expressing your concern over the excessive use of mobile phones by youngsters. Suggest measures to control this evergrowing problem.

- V. (A)** In the technology-driven world, children are spending longer hours of screen time leading to concerns regarding health and social skills. Write a paragraph of not more than 120 words analyzing the given information: **5**

Screen Time
iPad
Mobile phone
Laptop
Internet
Social media
Online classes
Research
Entertainment

Effects
Obesity
Weakening eyesight
Poor social skills
Increasing isolation
Sedentary lifestyle

OR

(B) The school authorities view eating junk food as a strong reason for the rising obesity among school children. There is a move to change canteen food to healthier options.

Students on the other hand have spoken strongly against such a move.

Write a paragraph in not more than 120 words analysing the above argument.

SECTION - C
LITERATURE

- VI.** (A) Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow : 5
I started right away at the Montessori nursery school. I stayed there until I was six, at which time I started in the first form. In the sixth form my teacher was Mrs. Kuperus, the headmistress. At the end of the year we were both in tears as we said a heartbreaking farewell. In the summer of 1941 Grandma fell ill and had to have an operation, so my birthday passed with little celebration.
- (i) The narrator 'I' refers to 1
(a) Mr. Keesing (b) Mrs. Kuperus (c) Anne Frank (d) Miss Margot
- (ii) What does the narrator mean by saying 'we were both in tears'? 2
- (iii) Complete the analogy by selecting a word from the text: 1
dawn : dusk : : joyful : _____.
- (iv) Select the option that correctly captures the application of the word 'form' as used in the extract. 1
- (a) Raghav was in good form while playing the match.
(b) Saheb was promoted to the next form after the annual exam.
(c) My brother did not know how to form a circle.
(d) Anne saw the form on the headmaster's desk.

OR

- (B)** The two boys started in surprise at the fresh muddy imprints of a pair of bare feet. What was a barefooted man doing on the steps of a house in the middle of London? And where was the man? 5
As they gazed, a remarkable sight met their eyes. A fresh footmark appeared from nowhere! Further footprints followed, one after another, descending the steps and progressing down the street. The boys followed, fascinated, until the muddy impressions became fainter and fainter and at last disappeared altogether.
- (i) The boys were surprised to see a barefooted man in London because _____. 1
(a) everybody in London moved around in shoes.
(b) it was very cold in London to move around barefoot.
(c) the muddy footprints were fresh.
(d) only a homeless person would walk barefoot.
- (ii) Select the option that correctly captures the usage of the word 'started' in the above extract. 1
(a) When I reached the theatre the movie had already started.
(b) The fire started from the kitchen.
(c) On hearing the bell ring, the sleeping Raman started and jumped out of bed.
(d) Taking a deep breath, Ravi started down the stairs
- (iii) Complete the analogy by selecting the suitable word from the text : 1
Disappeared : Vanished :: Extraordinary :
- (iv) What was the secret behind this mystery? 2
- VII. (A)** Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option : 5
If strolling forth, a beast you view,
Whose hide with spots is peppered,
As soon as he has leapt on you,
You'll know it's the leopard.
'Twill do no good to roar with pain,
He'll only leap and leap again.
- (i) One can find out that it is a leopard by the way it _____. 1
(a) leaps (b) eats (c) looks (d) roars

- (ii) Complete the sentence appropriately : 1
 It is clear that repetition is a poetic device used for 'lep and lep again' because _____.
 (Clue : explain how repetition is applied here.)
- (iii) Complete the analogy with a word from the extract : 1
 claws : nails : : ? : skin
- (iv) How do you find this poem humorous? 2

OR

- (B)** He stalks in his vivid stripes 5
 The few steps of his cage
 On pads of velvet quiet
 In his quiet rage.
 He should be lurking in shadow
 Sliding through long grass
 Near the water hole
 Where plump deer pass
- (i) 'He' is in a rage because he is 1
 (a) hungry (b) tied (c) thirsty (d) in a cage
- (ii) He is lurking in the shadow because _____. 1
- (iii) Complete the sentence appropriately : 1
 It is clear that metaphor is the poetic device used for 'pads of
 velvet' - because _____. (Clue : explain how metaphor is applied here.)
- (iv) What is the contrast given in the above poem? 2

VIII. Read the following questions and answer any four of the five questions given below: 4×3=12

- (i) What did Kisa Gotami do after the death of her only son?
 (ii) What has Lencho compared raindrops to and why?
 (iii) How is the Goan baker still an important part of the life of a Goan village ?
 (iv) How can we say that Natalya and Lomov were not a compatible couple yet they decide to spend their life with each other?
 (v) Amanda gets a list of instructions from her mother of dos and don'ts.
 What do these tell you about the relationship between Amanda and her mother ?

IX. Read the following questions and answer any two of the three questions that follow: 2×3=6

- (i) Why did Hari Singh smile in his most appealing way towards the end of the story?
 (ii) What excuses did Mrs. Pumphrey make about Mr. Herriot's advice?
 (iii) What are the values required to become a successful scientist like Richard Ebright?
 Elaborate with reference to the lesson 'The Making of a Scientist'.

X. Answer any one of the following questions in 100-120 words : 6
(A) Motivation plays an important role in taking risks in life and in succeeding. Do you agree ? Discuss with reference to the pilot of the old Dakota and the young seagull.

OR

(B) 'Appearances are deceptive' is an apt summation of the poem, 'The Tale of Custard, the Dragon.' It also affirms the essence of Anne Frank's approach to life and friendship in contrast to her young years. Make a comparative study of both.

XI. Answer any one of the following questions in 100-120 words : 6
(A) How does Think-Tank compare the Martians with the people on Earth? What guesses are made by him about the books found on Earth?

OR

(B) Horace was a successful thief because he carefully planned his robberies. Should we call him a successful thief and still appreciate his work? Why or why not?

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