



COMMON PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE - Code No. 184

CLASS-X- (2025-26)

SET: 1

Time allowed: 3 Hrs.

Maximum Marks: 80

MARKING SCHEME

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (20 Marks)

- I. On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer the questions given below: 10**
- (d) ii, iii and iv 1
 - Our thoughts 1
 - (b) ii, iii and vi 1
 - 1
 - (a)

“We are addicted to our thoughts. We cannot change anything if we cannot change our thinking.” – Santosh Kalwar
 - By altering our thoughts and making it pure and noble. By socialising with cheerful and positive people. (Any similar answer from the passage with two points) 2
 - impression 1
 - Theosophy teaches us that every thought, no matter how fleeting, leaves a seed in the mind of the thinker. These small seeds together go to make up a large thought seed and determine one's general character. 1
 - When it is generated in the brain and mind, and sent out. 1
 - Metaphor 1
- II. On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer the questions given below: 10**
- When an animal, such as a dog or cat, is sick or unwell, its first natural instinct is to refuse food. Their body automatically cuts down appetite till they recover. They may drink water, but nothing else. This is body's intelligence taking over to heal and recover. (2 points) 2
 - Taste of mouth changes, sensitivity to smell and taste becomes numbed and the body turns to rest mode. 1
 - (d) i. It is a way of cleaning and healing. ii. By taking break from eating. 1
 - (c) both (a) and (b) 1
 - (c) “Take away food from a sick man's stomach and you have begun, not to starve the sick man, but the disease.” – E.H. Diwey M.D. 1
 - (b) 80% 1
 - Immunity 1

8. (b) aesthetic 1
 9. Man has become so addicted to comfort and constant eating, that it has become a tough job to actually gauge our true physical hunger. 1

SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS AND GRAMMAR (20 Marks)

Grammar

III. Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed. 10x1=10

1. (c) had been working 1
 2. are 1

3.

ERROR	CORRECTION
Train	Trains

1

4. He said that I must have misunderstood his point. 1
 5. might 1
 6. c) He asked me if I liked playing football. 1
 7. (c) Most 1
 8. (c) will have completed her degree 1
 9. (d) must 1
 10. has been writing 1
 11. has 1
 12. 1

(b)	students, classes	student, class
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Writing

Note: All details presented in the questions in the writing section are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.

IVA/B Letter : Format-1 Content-2 Organisation of ideas-1 Accuracy-1 5

VA/B Analytical Paragraph: Format-1 Content-2 Organisation of ideas-1 Accuracy-1 5

SECTION C

LITERATURE (40 Marks)

VI. Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two. 5

A. *The Black Aeroplane*

- I. The narrator could not contact Paris Control because his radio had stopped working due to the storm. 1
 II. "I was lost in the storm" conveys that the narrator felt helpless, confused, and unable to see or navigate through the storm. 2
 III. He felt relieved and happy to see another aeroplane. 1
 IV. (b) waved at the narrator 1

OR

B. *The Proposal*

- I. It means "don't delay or avoid the main point, say it directly". 1
 II. He requests the hand of Chubukov's daughter, Natalya Stepanovna, in marriage. 1
 III. Chubukov thought Lomov had come to borrow money and was initially suspicious. 2
 IV. (a) Impatient and direct 1

VII. Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two. 5

A. *Fire and Ice*

- I. (c) i, ii, iv 1
- II. The poet suggests that both desire (fire) and hatred (ice) can lead to destruction, showing that human emotions can be dangerous. 2
- III. "I hold with those who favor fire." 1
- IV. The poet holds with those who favour fire because the lust for material things is increasing quickly. 1

OR

B. *For Anne Gregory*

- I. She can use hair-dye to change her hair colour so that people love her for herself, not her yellow hair. 1
 - II. The speaker believes young men currently love her for her "yellow hair" (her natural appearance) and not for her true self. 1
 - III. She values genuine love over physical beauty and prefers to be appreciated for her personality. Free Response 2
 - IV. (a) Hopeful and reflective 1
- VIII. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words each. 4x3=12**

- I. Mandela means the "extraordinary human disaster" was the apartheid system in South Africa, which caused immense suffering and injustice through racial discrimination. The "glorious human achievement" he speaks of at the end is the establishment of a democratic, non-racial government after the end of apartheid and the country's first multiracial elections. 3
- II. Two main legends explain the origin of tea: one is the Chinese tale of Emperor Shen Nung, who accidentally discovered tea when leaves fell into his boiling water, and the other is the Indian legend of Prince Bodhi-Dharma, who is said to have thrown his eyelids to the ground, where they sprouted into the first tea plants. 3
- III. Valli found the elderly woman absolutely repulsive. She saw that the woman had big holes in her earlobes with ugly earrings in them. She was chewing betel nut and the betel juice was about to spill over her lips. She was too nosy and inquisitive. That is why Valli did not want to make friends with her. 3
- IV. Maxwell calls the air hostess "the very queen of her kind" because she was extremely friendly, empathetic, and helpful, especially after he explained the situation with his injured pet otter, Mijbil. She went beyond the standard rules by suggesting he could keep the otter on his lap instead of in its box, which showed she understood his distress and that of the animal. Maxwell calls the airhostess "the very queen of her kind" because she was kind, understanding, and accommodating. 3
- V. While Belinda, Mustard, Ink and Blink cried for help and tried to hide, Custard the dragon bravely confronted the pirate, pounced on him, and ultimately ate him to save everyone. Custard's reaction was the opposite of the others', who acted fearfully despite their earlier boasts of bravery. 3

IX. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. 2x3=6

- I. Fowler wanted to meet Ausable because he expected a thrilling spy story full of adventure. He was disappointed to see that Ausable was a fat, slow and ordinary-looking man who lived in a modest hotel room—far from the image of a romantic secret agent. 3

II. Apprentice Noodle is the coordinator between Think-Tank and the invasion team. He echoes Think-Tank in every manner. He is a very clever Martian. He knows that Think-Tank being commander-in-chief has to be obeyed. So he keeps on praising Think-Tank and also passing sarcastic remarks. It is only Noodles who thinks practically and differently about the books which were considered as sandwiches to eat. He uses his convincing skills and humility to disarm an arrogant but all-powerful Commander-in-Chief. Overall, clever, wise, subservient, humble, tactful, practical, polite and respectful. 3

III. Dr. Herriot used his medical knowledge and understanding of animals to cure Tricki. He realized the dog's problem was overfeeding, not illness. 3
By keeping Tricki under observation and giving him simple food (for the first two days, Herriot gave Tricki no food at all, only plenty of water) and exercise, he restored his health and vitality.

X. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. 1x6=6

A. Free Response

Both "His First Flight" and "Amanda!" explore the emotional struggles of young individuals as they face the challenges of growing up. The young seagull is afraid to fly and lacks confidence, but with gentle encouragement from his parents, he eventually overcomes his fear and takes flight, symbolizing growth and independence.

In contrast, Amanda feels trapped by constant nagging and escapes into her imagination for freedom. While the seagull receives support, Amanda lacks understanding, which makes her feel isolated. These texts highlight that growing up is not easy, and emotional support is crucial. They teach us that empathy, patience, and encouragement help young people gain confidence and cope with their inner struggles.

OR

B. Free Response

Both texts emphasize acceptance, self-realization, and personal responsibility.

In The Ball Poem, the boy learns to accept loss as part of life, gaining emotional maturity. In Sermon at Benares, Buddha teaches that suffering and death are inevitable, urging awareness and detachment. Both encourage individuals to confront life's truths with courage and understanding, highlighting personal growth as the path to wisdom.

XI. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. 1x6=6

A. "The Making of a Scientist" and "Footprints Without Feet" explore scientific discovery, but the protagonists have very different attitudes towards science. In "The Making of a Scientist", Richard Ebright is curious, hardworking, and uses science to benefit others. His discoveries come from a genuine desire to learn and help, showing a responsible and ethical approach to knowledge. "Footprints Without Feet" tells the story of Griffin, a scientist who uses his discovery of invisibility for selfish and harmful purposes. His misuse of science leads to chaos and fear. These contrasting attitudes highlight that while science can be powerful, it must be guided by ethics and responsibility to truly benefit society.

OR

B. Both characters experience personal transformation through self-realization.

Bholi, once shy and ridiculed, gains confidence through education and courageously rejects an unfair marriage. The Thief reforms after meeting Anil, whose kindness makes him see the value of honesty. Both stories highlight how acceptance, self-worth, and moral awakening lead to respect and redemption.