



COMMON PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION
ENGLISH COMMUNICATIVE–Code No. 101
CLASS-X-(2025-26)



SET: 2

Time allowed: 3 Hrs.

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions very carefully and follow them:

1. This question paper has 12 questions. All questions are compulsory.
 2. The question paper contains four sections:
Section A: Reading Skills
Section B: Writing Skills
Section C: Grammar
Section D: Literature
 3. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
 4. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
 5. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.
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SECTION A: READING SKILLS (22 marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully:

12

- 1 The Earth’s ecological balance is a delicate network of interactions among living organisms and their physical surroundings. When this balance is maintained, ecosystems remain healthy, resilient, and capable of supporting diverse life forms. However, rapid industrialisation, urban expansion, and reckless deforestation have disrupted this equilibrium. “In nature, nothing exists alone”, observed environmentalist Racheal Carson in her book ‘Silent Spring’. This reminds us that every element in an ecosystem is interconnected, and disturbing one part can affect the whole system. When even one link is broken, the entire chain begins to weaken.
2. Forests, oceans, and wetlands serve as the lungs of the planet, absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen. Yet, large-scale deforestation and pollution are reducing their capacity to function effectively. As forest cover declines, soil erosion increases, rainfall patterns alter, and biodiversity suffers. ‘We are removing nature’s shock absorbers,’ warns the World Wildlife Fund’s 2025 report on biodiversity. The disappearance of pollinators, depletion of fertile soil, and contamination of freshwater sources are all signs that our natural systems are under stress.

3. Maintaining ecological balance requires a shift in both policy and personal behaviour. Governments must implement strict laws on industrial waste management, promote renewable energy, and invest in reforestation. But equally important is individual action-reducing plastic use, conserving water, planting trees, and adopting sustainable consumption habits. As Lady Bird Johnson wisely said, “The environment is where we all meet; where all have a mutual interest.” This reminds us that every citizen has a role to play in protecting the health of the planet.
4. Technology, when used wisely, can aid this effort. Artificial intelligence and satellite monitoring now help track deforestation and illegal mining in real time. Sustainable farming methods, such as crop rotation and organic fertilisers, are reducing soil degradation. Yet, technology alone cannot reverse the damage. It must be paired with a change in attitude-from exploitation to coexistence. “We won’t have a society if we destroy the environment.” writes the renowned American anthropologist Margaret Mead.
5. Preserving ecological balance is not just about saving wildlife or forests; it is about ensuring the survival of humankind. A balanced ecosystem purifies air and water, regulates temperature, and sustains agriculture. If we continue to disturb these systems, the consequences will be severe-rising global temperatures, frequent natural disasters, and resource scarcity. The key lies in harmony: a mindful partnership between humans and the environment that sustains both.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- | | | |
|-----|--|---|
| I | Why does the author refer to the Earth’s ecological balance as a ‘delicate network’? (Paragraph 1) | 1 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Because it depends on a few strong species b) Because it can easily be disturbed by human activities c) Because it exists only in forests d) Because it is controlled by climate alone | |
| II | Complete the following with the correct option. | 1 |
| | In the line ‘In nature, nothing exists alone’, the phrase implies that _____. (each species has an important function / humans are superior to other organisms / nature operates in isolation) | |
| III | Mention two consequences of deforestation mentioned in the passage. Answer in 30-40 words. (Paragraph 2) | 2 |
| IV | What does the term ‘nature’s shock absorbers’ (Paragraph 2) refer to? | 1 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Forests and oceans that stabilise the planet’s systems b) Artificial devices that absorb pollution c) Human inventions that protect nature d) Machines used to control deforestation | |

- V Complete the following with the most appropriate option. 1
 Lady Bird Johnson says, “The environment is where we all meet; where all have a mutual interest.” This statement implies that _____ (Paragraph 3)
- a) only experts and scientists can safeguard nature
 b) environmental protection is not important for the society
 c) every individual has a role in conserving the environment
 d) protecting the environment is only the government’s responsibility
- VI Which of the following would be the most suitable title for Paragraph 4? 1
- a) The Rise of Artificial Intelligence
 b) Natural Disasters and Their Causes
 c) Industrialisation and Pollution
 d) Technology and Nature: A Balanced Partnership
- VII Which phrase from Paragraph 4 shows that human attitude must change to protect the environment? 1
- VIII Fill in the blank with the appropriate option and answer the question briefly. 2
- The statement, “We won’t have a society if we destroy the environment.” serves as a _____. (justification / reflection / instruction).
 Explain how this statement reinforces the central idea of the passage. (Paragraph 4)
- IX Why does the author describe preserving ecological balance as ‘ensuring the survival of humankind’? (Paragraph 5). Answer in 30–40 words. 2

2. Read the following. 10

1. The Indian Railways, established during the colonial era, were initially built for administrative control and economic exploitation. Yet, in the post-independence landscape, the network evolved into an unparalleled symbol of national integration and a facilitator of cultural exchange. Spanning over 68,000 route kilometres, the railways connect the northern Himalayas to the southern coasts and the western deserts to the eastern plains, bridging vast geographical and cultural distances.
2. A recent study on passenger travel patterns revealed the railway’s deep social impact:

Region of Origin	Purpose of Travel	Percentage of Passengers	Average Distance Travelled (km)
North	Pilgrimage and Tourism	40%	1,500
South	Education and Employment	35%	2,200
East	Family Visits and Festivals	30%	950
West	Business and Trade	45%	1,100

3. The data confirms the railways' role in facilitating internal migration for economic and personal reasons, with passengers from the South traveling the longest distances (2200 km) primarily for 'Education and Employment'. The carriages themselves serve as dynamic, moving communities. For hours, strangers from different linguistic, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds share berths, food, and stories, subtly dissolving regional barriers.
4. This cultural osmosis is the railways' most profound contribution. Before the railways, large-scale, easy travel was impossible for the common person, severely restricting national identity to local or regional affiliations. Today, the sheer volume of people travelling for 'Pilgrimage and Tourism' (especially from the North at 40%) ensures that citizens experience the diversity of their country firsthand. The Indian Railways, therefore, are more than just infrastructure; they are a continuous, sprawling festival promoting unity in diversity, making it a critical asset for both tourism and integration.

Answer the following questions, based on your reading of the above passage:

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| I | Why can the Indian Railways be considered a symbol of national integration? | 2 |
| II | Complete the following with the correct option:
The Indian Railways connects the northern Himalayas to the _____
a) Western deserts
b) Eastern plains
c) Southern coasts
d) Western Ghats | 1 |
| III | State which of the following is True:

a) The Indian Railways was initially built for economic and administrative purposes.
b) The Indian Railways was built only after independence.
c) The Indian Railways only serve tourists. | 1 |
| IV | What does the writer mean by saying that the carriages themselves serve as "dynamic, moving communities"? | 1 |
| V | What is the most likely reason that passengers from the South travel the longest distances?

a) Pilgrimage and Tourism
b) Business and Trade
c) Family Visits and Festivals
d) Education and Employment | 1 |
| VI | Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option:

The railways help passengers from different regions to _____ (share food and stories/avoid meeting each other) and break regional barriers. | 1 |
| VII | If the railways promote economic travel and migration, what aspect of culture do they simultaneously foster?
a) Regional isolation | 1 |

- b) Cultural exchange and unity
- c) Loss of traditional values
- d) Agricultural development

VIII What might be the most likely reason why rail travel is described as a ‘continuous, sprawling festival’? 2

SECTION B
WRITING SKILLS (22 marks)

3. Write an application, in not more than 50 words, requesting permission to use the school auditorium to organise a session on ‘Road Safety Awareness’ for your club members. You are Saran Kumar of Class XII, Secretary, HSE Club. **1x3=3**
4. Write a factual description of your bicycle in about 100 words, highlighting its main features, daily uses and how you maintain it. **1x4=4**
5. Attempt **any one** of the two, (A) or (B), in 120 words. **1x7=7**
- A. You have read newspaper reports about the environmental hazards caused by e-waste, which includes discarded electronic and electrical items such as TVs, phones, radios, and old refrigerators. Write a letter in about 120 words to the editor of a national daily to raise awareness about the problems caused by e-waste and suggest viable solutions. You may use ideas from the MCB Unit ‘Environment’, along with your own input. You are Urmila/Uday, residing at H.No.45, Sector 3, Station Road, Surat.

OR

- B. With the growing use of UPI, e-wallets, and digital banking, India is steadily moving toward a cashless economy.

As Karan/Kavita, resident of 15/H, 5th Cross, Indiranagar, Bengaluru, write a letter in about 120 words to the editor of a national daily expressing your views on the increasing use of digital currency. Highlight its benefits, such as transparency, convenience, and reduction in corruption, as well as the challenges it poses, including cybersecurity risks and the lack of digital literacy among some sections of society. Suggest practical measures to make digital finance safer, more accessible, and user-friendly for all citizens. Use your own ideas as well as insights from the MCB Unit: Science.

6. Attempt **any one** of the two, (A) or (B), in 150 words. **1x8=8**

- A. Imagine you are Anaya of Class X. Write an article for your school magazine on the topic ‘Digital Detox: A Path to Mental Clarity and Better Health,’ highlighting the importance of limiting screen time, practicing mindfulness, and reconnecting with nature. Explain how these habits support emotional balance and physical well-being, and suggest practical strategies for students to adopt a healthier digital lifestyle. You may use your own ideas along with the given cues and your reading of MCB Unit: Health and Medicine.

Cues: digital overload- effects on mind and body- benefits of unplugging- simple steps to reduce screen time- building tech-free routines

OR

- B. You are Aarav Mehta, the Literary Secretary of your school. Write an article on the topic ‘Artificial Intelligence: Boon for Humanity or a Threat to Jobs?’ highlighting the advantages and challenges of integrating AI into everyday life. Discuss whether AI should be embraced widely, considering its impact on employment, ethical concerns, and human dependency. Conclude with your opinion on whether AI is a revolutionary tool or a risk to human livelihoods. You may use your own ideas along with the given cues and your reading of MCB Unit: Science.

Cues:
 Potential Benefits: automation, efficiency, innovation in healthcare and education.
 Challenges/Concerns: job displacement, ethical dilemmas, over-reliance on machines.

SECTION C
GRAMMAR (10 marks)

7. **Fill in the blanks (i) – (iii) with the appropriate option from those in the brackets.** **3x1=3**
 The new digital learning platform aims at (i) _____ (equip / equipping / equipped) students with 21st-century skills. It (ii) _____ (has revolutionised / revolutionising / revolutionises) how education is delivered and (iii) _____ (is expect / is expected / expects) to improve engagement levels.
8. **In the following paragraph, one word has been omitted in each line. In your answer sheets, remember to write the missing word along with the word that comes before and after it, as shown below. The first one has been done as an example.** **4x1=4**

S.No.	Text	Word Before	Omission	Word After
e.g.	Climate change a global concern.	change	is	a
i	We must take to reduce its impact.			
ii	Governments and citizens work together.			
iii	Awareness and education crucial in this			
iv	effort. Let’s protect planet for our future			
	generations.			

9. Do as directed. 1+ 2=3

I Rearrange the following jumbled words/phrases in the given dialogue to create a meaningful sentence. 1

SARIKA: What do you enjoy most about your hometown?

SANU: (i) is / for / hometown / beauty / famous / scenic / and / peaceful /its /my / atmosphere

II Report the conversation given below by filling in the blanks to complete the following paragraph. 2

Tourist: "Can I get a taxi to the airport tonight?"

Receptionist: "Yes, sir."

Tourist: "Please make sure the taxi arrives on time."

The tourist asked the receptionist (i) _____. The receptionist replied in the affirmative. The tourist (ii) _____.

SECTION D: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (26 MARKS)

10. Read the given extract and answer the questions briefly, for any two extracts, of the three, given. 2x 4=8

A. Remember? This is only the first step on the ladder, my dear better half! Yes -- the first step that would -- God willing - mark the rise to fame and fortune of your beloved husband! 'Counting your chickens again before they're hatched, are you? No wonder you could never make a go of it.' (Patol Babu, Film Star)

I What does the phrase 'first step on the ladder' symbolise in this context? 1

II What does Patol Babu hope to achieve through this role? 1

III Why does Patol Babu's wife say, 'Counting your chickens again before they're hatched, are you?' 1

IV In what ways do Patol Babu and his wife differ in their attitudes? 1

B. When wasteful war shall statues overturn,
And broils root out the work of masonry,
Nor Mars his sword, nor war's quick fire shall burn
The living record of your memory. (Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments)

I Why does Shakespeare describe wars as 'wasteful'? 1

II What does the phrase 'work of masonry' refer to? 1

III According to Shakespeare, what will remain unaffected by wars, and why? 1

IV Explain the line: 'Nor Mars his sword, nor war's quick fire shall burn the living record of your memory.' 1

C. “O, pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth,
That I am meek and gentle with these butchers!
Thou art the ruins of the noblest man
That ever lived in the tide of times.
Woe to the hand that shed this costly blood!
Over thy wounds now do I prophesy, --
Which, like dumb mouths, do ope their ruby lips,
To beg the voice and utterance of my tongue --” (Julius Caesar, Act III, Scene I)

- I What do Antony’s words “dumb mouths do ope their ruby lips” suggest? 1
- II What is Antony implying when he says, “Over thy wounds now do I prophesy” in his speech? 1
- III Who are referred to as ‘butchers’ in Antony’s speech, and why? 1
- IV Why was Antony meek and gentle with the butchers? 1
11. Answer any five of the following questions in about 30-40 words each. 5x2=10
- I How is fickle-mindedness portrayed through the sailors’ behaviour in the poem ‘The Rime of the Ancient Mariner’? 2
- II What was the purpose behind the ghosts organising the ‘Writer’s Inspiration Bureau’? (A Shady Plot) 2
- III “The incidental expenses are so heavy.” Why do you think Mrs. Packletide felt so after killing the tiger? (Mrs. Packletide’s Tiger) 2
- IV What does the poet imply by saying, “ And I have something to expiate”? (The Snake) 2
- V In the poem ‘Ozymandias’, what does the sculptor’s work reveal about his artistic talent? 2
- VI What was Michael’s theory about how Sebastian had entered the games? (Virtually True) 2
12. Answer any one of the following two questions in about 150 words. 1x8= 8
- I How do the protagonists in both ‘A Letter’ and ‘Two Gentlemen of Verona’ demonstrate profound and enduring devotion? What does the nature of their respective sacrifices reveal about the true meaning of family responsibility and love when confronted with adversity? Explain. 8
- OR**
- II In ‘The Frog and the Nightingale’ and ‘The Dear Departed’, how do the characters’ greed lead them to manipulate and exploit others, and what are the consequences of their selfish actions? 8