



COMMON PRE -BOARD EXAMINATION
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE -
Code No. 184



Class-X-(2025-26)

SET:3

Time allowed: 3 Hrs.

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

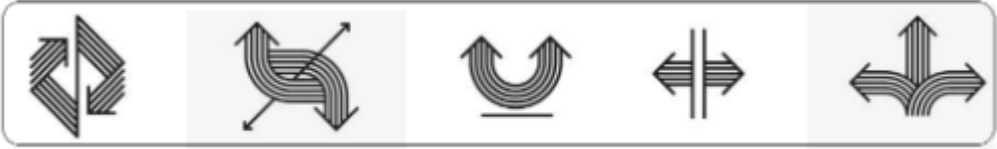
Read the instructions carefully and follow them:

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		
READING SKILLS (20 marks)		
I	Read the text carefully and answer the questions:	10
1	It is rather the self-importance of man that he thinks he owns this world. Theories have developed since the very beginning of cultural and religious development on these lines. There is an Adam and Eve. There is Adam and Hava. There is a Manu having brought life on this planet after Pralaya. All religious preceptors have preached that the world is meant for man. They talk of communion between Man and God. But science has exploded such myths. It was not really so that man owned the beginning. Man developed physically to the form as we find him now, over a period of time, at a very late stage. The planet started with micro life. There is a period of millions of years even between micro life and the huge dinosaur who owned the world and ruled over it.	
2	But nature has been rather cruel to this animal world for whom, actually everything in the world was meant. Nature bestowed man with a developed brain that it did not develop in any other creature. This partiality of nature made him Homo Sapiens. It was only man who could think and plan about his existence and welfare, polluting in the process, the land, the space and the seas that nature had made for all. His own creation may one day go against him. But now he owns the world and is the master of all that he surveys. He feels that all the creatures on the earth and even beyond the earth for him.	
3	The ego of ownership had made man the cruelest animal in the world. He builds palatial buildings and big cities on the abodes of small creatures like ants and other burrow dwellers. They are all meant to die for his facilities.	
4	Nature made vegetation that is meant for all living beings. But man felt that all the animals are meant for him. He liked elephant for its tusks, deer for its horns, a large number of animals for	

	their hide for shoes, decoration and dresses. He killed musk deer to have the musk from its stomach. He kills a large number of animals for his food. His number is increasing in such a way that he will have no fear, even of animals, owning the world again.	
5	Man uses monkeys, rabbits, rats, dogs, cats and other small animals for experiments in laboratories. He tortures and kills thousands and thousands of animals to prepare medicines, nail polish, lipstick, floor polish, etc. Medical world has made its mansions on the blood and torture of these mute creatures whom man thinks his property.	
6	Man justifies his killing of animals by a strange theory “One living being is the food of another living creature.” Who will remind him of the doomsday after which the animal world would claim back from man their due right and man may then become “meant” for animals!	
	Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions that follow:	
i	Man is able to impose his will on other creatures because of his..... A. deceitful nature B. muscular power C. developed brain D. necessities in life	1
ii	Complete the statement appropriately The author debunks the idea that... ..	1
iii	Complete the analogy. (Paragraph 5) bestow: give :: : voiceless	1
iv	Which of these characteristics are apt for the writer? 1. Inhuman 2. lover of man and nature 3. lover of nature 4. anti-man 5. protector of animal world 6. advocate of harmony between human and animal worlds A 2 and 3 B 1 and 5 C 4 and 5 D 2 and 6	1
v	What has made man the cruelest animal? Discuss in 30-40 words	2
vi	Man’s selfishness arises from his... .. A. Pride B. ego of ownership C. self-respect D. brain power	1
vii	What do all religious preceptors talk about? Elaborate in 30-40 words	2
viii	Science has exploded such myths. Which of these myths has NOT been ‘exploded’ by science? A. that there is communion between man and nature B. that there is communion between man and God C. that man can control nature absolutely D. that the world was meant for man	1
2	Read the text carefully and answer the questions	10

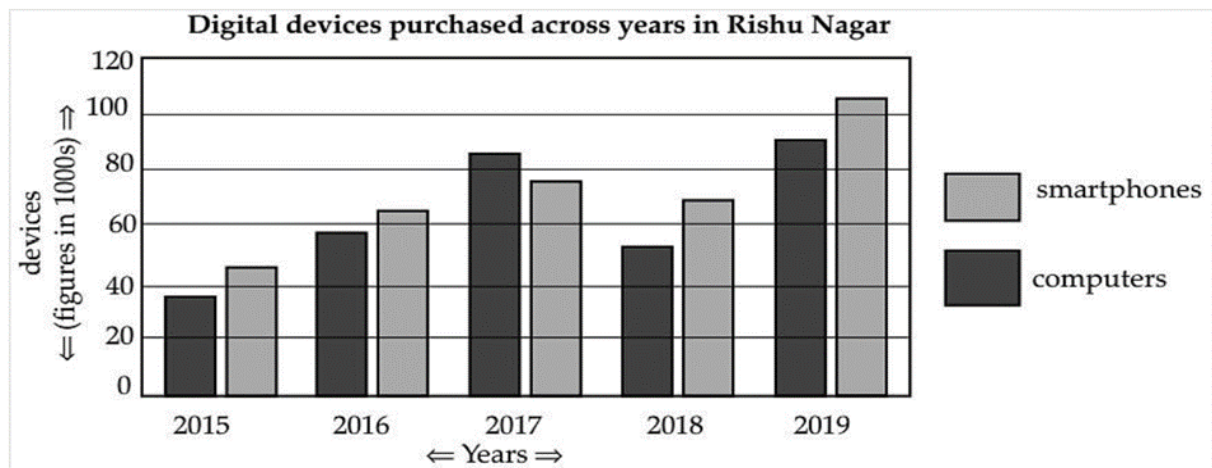
1	Reduction in green areas has caused various environmental problems. People squeezed between concrete structures are looking for various ways to meet their longing for green. One of the ways to do so, is vertical gardens and green walls. Vertical gardening is a unique method of gardening where plants 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																																																																																																																							
<p>Table 1 - Total number of participants : 400</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>No.</th> <th>Survey statements</th> <th>Strongly agree</th> <th>Agree</th> <th>Neutral</th> <th>Disagree</th> <th>Strongly disagree</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="7">Vertical gardens-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>improve quality of life of people in urban areas</td> <td>191</td> <td>138</td> <td>43</td> <td>9</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>reduce noise pollution</td> <td>128</td> <td>164</td> <td>77</td> <td>25</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>increase air quality -indoors and outdoors</td> <td>172</td> <td>147</td> <td>51</td> <td>28</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>reduce energy and water consumption</td> <td>58</td> <td>47</td> <td>125</td> <td>68</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>positively impact global warming</td> <td>114</td> <td>144</td> <td>106</td> <td>30</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>have a relaxing and calming effect</td> <td>161</td> <td>177</td> <td>44</td> <td>7</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>cost too much</td> <td>86</td> <td>107</td> <td>152</td> <td>42</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>make plants look beautiful</td> <td>195</td> <td>139</td> <td>44</td> <td>6</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>add naturalness to the environs</td> <td>135</td> <td>173</td> <td>55</td> <td>25</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>are among the determining factor to visiting a place</td> <td>59</td> <td>133</td> <td>141</td> <td>54</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>are inconvenient indoors</td> <td>9</td> <td>84</td> <td>123</td> <td>126</td> <td>48</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>can be applied in every place</td> <td>71</td> <td>132</td> <td>97</td> <td>77</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>have a functional feature</td> <td>81</td> <td>207</td> <td>100</td> <td>10</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>distract drivers</td> <td>34</td> <td>101</td> <td>106</td> <td>131</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>funds are best used for social issues</td> <td>57</td> <td>72</td> <td>100</td> <td>130</td> <td>41</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		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
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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.																																																																																																																							
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i	Complete the following analogy appropriately, based on your understanding of paragraphs 1 & 2																																																																																																																							

	We can say that the situation of people living in concrete structures is comparable with a fish living in a fishbowl, and the need for vertical gardens to the need for decorations in the fishbowl because _____.	
ii	Fill the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of paragraph 2. The statement that, urban spaces have become more closely connected with the desired natural surroundings through the incorporation of nature and structures in vertical gardens and green walls, is a _____ (fact/ opinion) because it is a _____ (subjective judgement/ objective detail).	1
iii	Justify the following, in about 40 words. While the survey results suggest that vertical gardens may be effective in improving the quality of life in urban areas, further research and evaluation may be necessary to fully understand their effectiveness and potential drawbacks.	2
iv	Based on the survey results, which two concerns should a city government, looking to install vertical gardens, address?	1
v	In Table 1, the 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
vi	Select the option that correctly displays what 'intertwined' signifies. (Reference-Paragraph 2)	1
	 <p>(i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (v)</p> <p>A. (i), (iv) and (v) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iii) D. (ii) and (v)</p>	
vii	Infer one benefit and one drawback of vertical gardening, in comparison to other solutions, such as community gardens or parks	1
viii	Which of the following is the main takeaway from the study mentioned in the passage? 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.	1
ix	Find the antonym of <i>rural</i> from the passage. (paragraph 2)	1
	SECTION B WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20 marks)	
	GRAMMAR	10

3.	Complete any ten of twelve of the following tasks, as directed.					
i	Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter: Subject: Need for _____ (promote) Healthy Eating Routines	1				
ii	Identify the error in the given sentence, from a report from the News for Kids site and supply the correction. As humans have taken over more and more land for cities, roads, and farms, natural areas had disappeared.	1				
	<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50px; text-align: center;">Error</td> <td style="width: 50px; text-align: center;">Correction</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 20px;"></td> <td style="height: 20px;"></td> </tr> </table>	Error	Correction			
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iii	Which option displays the correct change of the following to reported speech? He said, “Ravi, why are you sounding so depressed today?” a. He asked Ravi why did he sound so depressed that day. b. He asked Ravi why he was sounding so depressed that day. c. He told Ravi why he sounded so depressed today. d. He asked Ravi that why he was sounding so depressed that day.	1				
iv	Learning to dance the salsa is a question of going to classes and lots of (practice / practise)	1				
v	The police (wants/ want) to interview two men about the robbery last week	1				
vi	Report the following question. She said to her sister, “Are you joining us for lunch today?”	1				
vii	We have been waiting here for a long time. Identify the tense. a) Past continuous b) b) Present Progressive c) c) Present Perfect Continuous d) d) Past Perfect Continuous	1				
viii	Identify the error on a shop’s hoarding and supply the correction, for the following. Cloth yourself in the best fashion trends of 2025!	1				
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ix	Read the conversation between Raman and Anitha. Complete the sentence by reporting Anitha’s reply correctly. Raman: What’s the matter, Anitha? Anitha: Oh, nothing. You cannot help me. I only want that blue umbrella. Raman asked Anitha what the matter was. She replied that it was nothing and he could not help her as _____ .	1				
x	As my son _____ down by the river, I _____ his room thoroughly. a) fishes / have cleaned b) is fishing / cleaned c) has fished / clean d) was fishing / cleaned	1				

xi	<p>Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line, from a news report.</p> <p>Most of the nation’s policies and programmes for socio-economic development originates at the Central Government, and the responsibility for their successful implementation is entrusted to the states.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Option no.</th> <th>Error</th> <th>Correction</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>a)</td> <td>the nation’s</td> <td>the nations</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b)</td> <td>originates</td> <td>originate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c)</td> <td>at</td> <td>in</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d)</td> <td>is entrusted</td> <td>is to be entrusted</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Option no.	Error	Correction	a)	the nation’s	the nations	b)	originates	originate	c)	at	in	d)	is entrusted	is to be entrusted	1
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xii	<p>Samiksha shared some information with Sameer regarding the annual blood donation camp. Report Sameer’s question: How did you feel when you were donating blood?</p>	1															
WRITING		10															
4	Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below	5															
A	Write a letter to the Editor of ‘The Hindustan Times’, New Delhi about the incidents of violence taking place with the aged living alone at home, drawing the attention of the authorities towards the problem. (120 words)																
OR																	
B	As Nikhil/Neha, a class X student, you ordered some textbooks online from EduMart Store 20 days ago. Despite sending repeated reminders, the books have not been delivered. Write a letter of complaint in about 120 words to the Customer Service Manager of EduMart, expressing your dissatisfaction and requesting immediate action.																
5	Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below	5															
A	<p>The reintroduction of cheetah in India has excited the people because it is a step forward in the strategy to conserve threatened species and restore ecosystem functions.</p> <p>Reasons for extinction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - hunting, poaching, illegal trade - diminishing habitat due to deforestation - Climate change - increase in human population <p>Strategies to conserve wild life:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mapping water bodies - conserving suitable habitat - government support - strict laws <p>Based on the above information write a paragraph in about 100-120 words analysing the status of threatened species in India.</p>																
OR																	

B The chart below displays data about the number of digital devices purchased in Rishu Nagar across the years 2015-2019. Write a paragraph analyzing the given data in about 120 words.



**SECTION C
LITERATURE (40 marks)**

6 Read the given extracts A and B and answer **ANY ONE** of the two **5**

A “However, during the third lesson he’d finally had enough. ‘Anne Frank, as punishment for talking in class, write an essay entitled ‘Quack, Quack, Quack, Said Mistress Chatterbox.’” The class roared. I had to laugh too, though I’d nearly exhausted my ingenuity on the topic of Chatterboxes. It was time to come up with something else, something original. My friend, Sanne, who’s good at poetry, offered to help me write the essay from beginning to end in verse and I jumped for joy. Mr Keesing was trying to play a joke on me with this ridiculous subject, but I’d make sure the joke was on him.” *(From the Diary of Anne Frank)*

- i Why did Mr Keesing, her teacher ask her to write another essay? 1
- ii Why did Anne want to write the essay with the help of her friend Sanne? 2
- iii Find out the word which means ‘deserving or inviting mockery’. 1
- iv The word _____ means the ability to invent things and solve problems in a clever and new way. 1

OR

B “Everyone assumed the spots were just ornamental,” Ebright said. “But Dr. Urquhart didn’t believe it.” To find the answer, Ebright and another excellent science student first had to build a device that showed that the spots were producing a hormone necessary for the butterfly’s full development. This project won Ebright first place in the county fair and entry into the International Science and Engineering Fair. There he won third place for zoology. He also got a chance to work during the summer at the entomology laboratory of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. *(The Making of a Scientist)*

- i State any one inference about Dr Urquhart from the given context:
“Everyone assumed the spots were just ornamental,” Ebright said. “But Dr Urquhart didn’t believe it.” 1
- ii State **TRUE** or **FALSE**
“Everyone assumed the spots were just ornamental.”, This statement is an assumption. 1
- iii Ebright's approach to finding the purpose of the gold spots on a monarch pupa was highly effective. Elaborate in about 40 words, with reference to the extract. 2

iv	Which phrase would correctly substitute 'a chance', in the given sentence from the extract. He also got a chance to work during the summer at the entomology laboratory of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research.	1
7	Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two	5
A	“He should be lurking in shadow, Sliding through long grass Near the water hole Where plump deer pass” <i>(A Tiger in the Zoo)</i>	
i	Trace a word from the extract that means ‘to be hidden as to wait for your prey.’	1
ii	Complete the sentence. The tiger lies in wait near the water hole _____.	1
iii	According to the extract, the poet wishes for the tiger to be ‘sliding’ through the foliage. Why?	2
iv	Which fact DOES NOT connect with the significance of the water hole for the tiger? a. Many tigers chase prey into the water and holds the victim’s head under water until it drowns. b. Prey feed in the water on water-lilies, and often wander into the middle of the water hole, where they are vulnerable and easy for the tiger to kill. c. Prey that has quenched its thirst ensures consumption of hydrated meat for the tiger. d. Chasing the panicked prey from shallow to deep water where the tiger grabs it.	1
OR		
B	“Ink trickled down to the bottom of the household, And little mouse Blink strategically mouseholed. But up jumped Custard, snorting like an engine, Clashed his tail like irons in a dungeon, With a clatter and a clank and a jangling squirm, He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm” <i>(The Tale of Custard the Dragon)</i>	
i	Which option lists the quotes that support the ideas in the extract? 1. Fear makes strangers of people who would be friends. 2. If you’re brave enough to start, you’re strong enough to finish. 3. Courage doesn’t mean you don’t get afraid. Courage means you don’t let fear stop you. 4. You get in life what you have the courage to ask for. 5. Fear has a large shadow, but he himself is strong. A. 1 and 5 B. 2, 3 and 4 C. 2 and 3 D. 1, 3 and 5	1
ii	Describe how Custard’s reaction was different from that of others, on seeing the pirate?	2
iii	<i>Clashed his tail like irons in a dungeon</i> : Identify the literary device in the given line	1
iv	Select the option that fits with the reaction of the characters in the context of the extract. Ink: terrified :: Blink: i) _____ Pirate: ii) _____ ;; Custard: undaunted	1

	A. i) shocked ii) displeased B. i) petrified ii) wondered C. i) upset ii) dazed D. i) petrified ii) shocked	
8	Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words each	4x3=12
i	How did the young seagull's parents teach him the art of flying? <i>(His First Flight)</i>	3
ii	Why does the poet use the term 'noble and wild for the tiger in 'How to Tell Wild Animals'?	3
iii	Without the assistance of the air hostess, the narrator could not have transported Mijbil from Basra to London safely. Comment. <i>(Mijbil the Otter)</i>	3
iv	How many symbols do you find in the poem 'Dust of Snow'? What is the purpose to use those symbols?	3
v	Why does Valli refuse to look out of the window on her way back? <i>(Madam Rides the Bus)</i>	3
9	Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.	2x3=6
i	Ramlal was worried about Bholi as she didn't have good looks. Counter the belief that it's important for a girl to be good looking and give a reason for the same. <i>(Bholi)</i>	3
ii	"Society must be protected from men like you." Comment on the irony of the given quote. <i>(A Question of Trust)</i>	3
iii	Scientists contribute to make the world a better place. Griffin is an antithesis to this statement. Justify. <i>(Footprints without Feet)</i>	3
10	Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.	1x6=6
A	Compare and contrast what Anne from the poem 'For Anne Gregory' would look for in a life partner when compared to Natalya from 'The Proposal'. Justify your answer with examples from each of the texts.	6
	OR	
B	Imagine you were a fellow passenger on the bus that Valli travelled in. You were amazed by her curiosity, courage, and cheerful nature. On the way back, you met her near her home and had an interesting conversation with her. Later, after reaching home, you decide to write a diary entry about your experience. Write this diary entry in about 120 words. <i>(Madam Rides the Bus)</i> You may begin like this: Day: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____ Today, I had a delightful experience while travelling on the bus...	6
11	Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.	1x6=6
A	Hari Singh in 'The Thief's Story' undergoes a remarkable transformation from a thief to an honest and responsible person. How far do you think Anil's selfless friendship influenced this change, and what specific actions or qualities of Anil inspired Hari Singh to become trustworthy? Discuss.	6
	OR	
B	Ausable's employer has been asked to write a recommendation letter for Ausable so that he may be promoted to a higher rank in secret services. As his manager, draft the letter detailing his personality traits with reference to the instance in the chapter as a prime example of Ausable's genius. <i>(The Midnight's Visitor)</i>	6