

Ld. Bentinck School

PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION, SESSION (2023-24)

Sub- ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND
LITERATURE (184)

Marks: 80

Time: 03 Hr, 00 Mins

Student Name:

Class -X

General Instructions:

- 1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, (WRITING SKILLS +GRAMMAR) and LITERATURE.**
- 2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.**

SECTION -A (READING)

1. Read the passage carefully and answer TEN questions out of TWELVE questions. (1×10=10) As the New Year approached, like many others, I found myself making resolutions in my mind. The usual suspects made their appearance: waking up earlier, eating healthier, spending more time with loved ones, tackling household chores, being kinder to those I don't particularly like, driving cautiously, and taking the dog for a daily walk. But this time, I was determined to make my resolutions unique and achievable, learning from past failures.

I realized that one of the reasons why most of us fail in our efforts to self-improve is because our goals are often too ambitious, and we struggle to find time to follow through with them. So, I decided to keep my resolutions to myself, limiting them to just two modest ambitions: exercising every morning and reading more every evening.

The first resolution was to exercise for just eleven minutes every morning before anyone else in my household was awake. The challenge was real, as dragging myself out of bed eleven minutes earlier than usual required significant self-discipline. But for the first two days, I managed to sneak down to the living room and jump around on the carpet without being caught. However, my cover was blown when my exhausted state after the exercise gave me away at the breakfast table. Soon, my family caught on, and my morning exercise routine became a subject of amusement for them. Despite their teasing, I tried to stick to it, but gradually, my enthusiasm waned, and I found myself back to square one by January 10th, giving up on the morning exercise routine.

Undeterred by my failure in the first resolution, I focused on my second resolution to read more every evening. I resisted the allure of television and spent a few evenings with my eyes glued to a book in my room. However, one cold and lonely night, I succumbed to the temptation of television and pretended to read while dozing off in front of the screen. It became a habit again, and I realized I had fallen back into my old ways.

Despite these setbacks, I refused to give up on my resolution to read more. In fact, I took a bold step and bought a book titled 'How To Read A Thousand Words A Minute'. However, the irony was not lost on me that I hadn't found the time to read it yet, showcasing the challenges I faced in keeping up with my resolutions.

i) What were the usual suspects in the author's list of New Year resolutions?

- Waking up earlier, eating healthier, spending more time with loved ones
- Tackling household chores, being kinder to those not liked, driving cautiously
- Taking the dog for a daily walk
- All of the above

ii) Why did the author decide to keep their resolutions to themselves this time?

- Because they didn't want to be teased by their family
- Because they realized that announcing resolutions to others can lead to feeling foolish if they fail
- Because they wanted to surprise their family with their achievements
- Because they wanted to keep their resolutions a secret

iii) What was the author's first resolution for the New Year?

- Exercising every morning for eleven minutes
- Eating healthier
- Reading more every evening
- Spending more time with loved ones

iv) Why did the author's family find their morning exercise routine amusing?

- Because the author was not able to exercise properly
- Because the author looked exhausted after exercising
- Because the author tried to hide their exercise routine from the family

d) Because the author gave up on the routine after two days

v) **What happened to the author's morning exercise routine after January 10th?**

a) The author successfully completed the routine every day

b) The author gave up on the routine

c) The author reduced the time for exercise

d) The author increased the time for exercise

vi) **What did the author do to resist the temptation of television and read more every evening?**

a) Sat in their room with their eyes glued to a book

b) Watched television while pretending to read

c) Ignored television and went for a walk

d) Read during commercial breaks on television

vii) **What did the author do one night when feeling cold and lonely?**

a) Continued reading in their room

b) Went for a walk

c) Watched television and pretended to read

d) Called a friend for company

viii) **What did the author buy to help them with their resolution to read more?**

a) A book titled 'How To Read A Thousand Words A Minute'

b) A new television

c) A subscription to a book club

d) A reading lamp

ix) **Why did the author find it ironic that they bought a book but hadn't read it yet?**

a) Because they didn't have time to read it b) Because the book was too difficult to understand c) Because they lost interest in reading d) Because they forgot they had bought the book

x) **What was the author's approach to making resolutions this year?**

a) Setting ambitious goals

b) Keeping resolutions a secret

c) Not making any resolutions

d) Making unique and achievable resolutions

xi) **Why did the author fail to keep up with their morning exercise routine?**

a) Lack of motivation

b) Teasing from family

c) Exhaustion after exercising

d) All of the above

xii) **What is one of the reasons why most of us fail in our efforts to self-improve?**

a) Lack of motivation

b) Setting unrealistic goals

c) Procrastination

d) Lack of resources

2. Read the passage carefully and answer TEN questions out of ELEVEN questions.

(1×10=10)

In the bustling buses of Delhi, a unique social dynamic emerges as passengers rely on each other for bodily comfort during the chaotic commutes. Northern Indians, known for their difficulty in keeping steady in moving vehicles, often lean against each other or even put their arms around fellow passengers to maintain balance. It is a common sight to see strangers intertwined, using each other as cushions without any ill-natured objections. The concept of personal space takes a backseat as the need for stability takes precedence in these crowded buses.

However, this physical closeness is not limited to mere support. The buses are also filled with lively conversations, ranging from public topics to embarrassingly private ones. Strangers freely engage in discussions, breaking social barriers, and sharing personal anecdotes. It is not uncommon for jokes to be exchanged, even between acquaintances and total strangers alike. One incident involved a fellow-passenger noticing the weight of the narrator's large topee (hat), remarking that it was heavier than their entire body. When the narrator responded in kind, the stranger playfully hoped that offense was not taken at the joke, highlighting the light-hearted banter that often occurs in these close quarters.

The bus rides also present an opportunity for strangers to inquire about each other's well-being. The narrator recalls a time when they experienced an irritation at the back of their neck, causing them to jerk and perk their head like a bird. A curious fellow-passenger, inquiring in English, asked if it was a habit or a disease. The narrator, initially taken aback by the question, sought clarification, leading to a comical exchange as the stranger mimicked their movements. The conversation ended with the stranger concluding that it must be a habit, as habits tend to become second nature.

Despite the lack of personal space and the intimate interactions with strangers, the unwritten social norms of the Delhi buses are accepted with ease. In a city known for its chaotic traffic and overcrowded public transportation, passengers adapt to the circumstances and make the most of their journeys. The buses become a melting pot of diverse individuals, transcending social, cultural, and economic boundaries. It is a unique experience where the common goal of reaching their respective destinations overrides any notions of personal space or privacy.

Furthermore, these interactions in the buses of Delhi reflect the warmth and camaraderie that is inherent in Indian culture. Indians are known for their friendliness, hospitality, and a sense of community, and these qualities are reflected even in the chaos of daily bus rides. It is a testament to the resilience and adaptability of the people, who find solace and connection in unexpected places, even amidst the chaos of a crowded bus.

Read the passage and answer only TEN of the following questions :-

(1×10=10)

i) What social dynamic emerges among passengers in the bustling buses of Delhi?

- A. Strangers avoid each other to maintain personal space
- B. Passengers keep to themselves and do not interact with others
- C. Passengers rely on each other for bodily comfort and support
- D. Passengers compete for limited seating space

ii) What is a common sight in the buses of Delhi when it comes to passengers' physical closeness?

- A. Passengers maintain personal space and avoid physical contact
- B. Passengers hug each other tightly for stability
- C. Passengers hold hands to maintain balance
- D. Passengers lean against each other or even put their arms around each other

iii) What is the concept of personal space like in the buses of Delhi?

- A. It is highly valued and maintained at all costs
- B. It is nonexistent due to the crowded nature of the buses
- C. It is respected by all passengers
- D. It is a topic of constant debate and disagreement among passengers

iv) What kind of conversations can be heard among passengers in the buses of Delhi?

- A. Only public topics are discussed
- B. Only private and personal topics are discussed
- C. Both public and private topics are discussed
- D. No conversations take place due to the crowded nature of the buses

v) How do strangers interact with each other in the buses of Delhi?

- A. They avoid each other and do not engage in any interactions
- B. They exchange jokes and engage in light-hearted banter
- C. They keep to themselves and do not initiate any conversations
- D. They only discuss serious topics and avoid light-hearted conversations

vi) What do strangers in the buses of Delhi often inquire about each other?

- A. Each other's names and professions
- B. Each other's well-being and health
- C. Each other's personal and private information
- D. Each other's travel plans and destinations

vii) How do passengers in the buses of Delhi adapt to the lack of personal space?

- A. They become uncomfortable and avoid all interactions
- B. They complain and express their discomfort
- C. They accept the situation and make the most of their journeys
- D. They demand for more personal space from the authorities

viii) What do the interactions in the buses of Delhi reflect about Indian culture?

- A. Indians value personal space above all else
- B. Indians do not engage in conversations with strangers
- C. Indians are known for their friendliness, hospitality, and sense of community
- D. Indians avoid crowded places and prefer solitude

ix) What is the atmosphere like in the buses of Delhi despite the lack of personal space?

- A. Tense and uncomfortable
- B. Silent and somber
- C. Lively and engaging
- D. Chaotic and aggressive

x) What does the author describe the buses of Delhi as?

- A. Melting pots of diverse individuals
- B. Places of constant conflict and chaos
- C. Hubs of privacy and personal space
- D. Empty and uninteresting

x) **Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a unique social experience offered by buses in Delhi?** A) Passengers relying on each other for bodily comfort B) Engaging in lively conversations C) Sharing personal anecdotes D) Riding in air-conditioned buses

Section -B (Writing Skills and Grammar)

GRAMMAR:-

4. Fill in the following blanks with the most appropriate answer. (1×4=4)

- of votes ____ (d) ____ the Bihar election.
- (a) (i) surprising (ii) surprise (iii) surprised (iv) having surprised
 - (b) (i) of (ii) for (iii) to (iv) by
 - (c) (i) which (ii) whose (iii) whom (iv) who
 - (d) (i) on (ii) in (iii) at (iv) for

3. Read the conversation between a teacher and student and complete the passage that follows (1x2=2)

Biology Teacher: I instructed you to draw the diagram of bacteria. Why did you submit a blank sheet?
 Sameer: Sir, I had drawn the diagram of bacteria, but you can't see it because it is not visible to the naked eye.
 He was ____ (a) ____ at the news ____ (b) ____ the success of a poor candidate ____ (c) ____ got the highest number
 The biology teacher had instructed Sameer to draw the diagram of a bacterial cell and asked him (a) a blank sheet. Sameer respectfully answered that he had drawn the diagram but (b) to the naked eye.

5. Read the following dialogue between Garima and Karan. Complete the paragraph that follows by filling in the gaps appropriately. (1×3=3)

Garima: So, after a decade in the industry, are you truly 'satisfied'?
 Karan: I love the film industry. It has its flaws though.
 Garima: What do you mean by this statement?
 Karan: We are a bunch of competitive, ambitious, sometimes petty people. But the passion cements us together. Garima asked Karan if after a decade in the industry (a) _____. Karan told her (b) _____ although it had its flaws. Garima then enquired (c) _____. Karan explained that they were a bunch of competitive, ambitious, sometimes petty people but the passion cemented them together.

6. He is a MRCP and his brother is a FRCS. (Correct the sentence) (1×1=1)

WRITING SKILLS :-

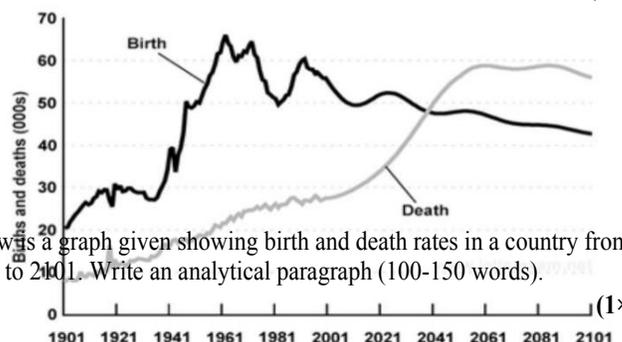
7. You are Apoorva/Arpit. You bought a refrigerator from Ganesh Electronics and Electricals, Gandhi Marg, Nagpur. It does not function properly. Write a letter to the Sales Manager of the shop, complaining about the defect and asking for immediate replacement or repair, as necessary. (1×5=5)

OR

Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper, complaining about the bad condition of water supply in your locality. You are Prabhu Dayal living at 1-1-19 Dayal Bagh Colony, New Delhi. (1×5=5)

Activity%	Age group						
	Teens	20s	30s	40s	50s	60s	70+
Get News	76	73	76	75	71	74	70
Online games	81	54	37	29	25	25	32
Downloads	52	46	27	15	13	8	6
Product research	0	79	80	83	79	74	70
Buying a product	43	68	69	68	67	65	41
Searching for people	5	31	23	23	24	29	27

8. The following table shows details about internet activities for six categories for different age groups. Write an analytical paragraph for the table given in around 100-120 words. (1×5=5)



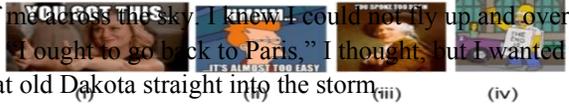
OR
 Below is a graph given showing birth and death rates in a country from 1901 to 2101. Write an analytical paragraph (100-150 words). (1×5=5)

Section -C (Literature)

9. Read the given extracts and answer the following questions.

(1×5=5)

Everything was going well — it was an easy flight. Paris was about 150 kilometres behind me when I saw the clouds. Storm clouds. They were huge. They looked like black mountains standing in front of me across the sky. I knew I could not fly up and over them, and I did not have enough fuel to fly around them to the north or south. I ought to go back to Paris," I thought, but I wanted to get home. I wanted that breakfast. 'I'll take the risk,' I thought and flew that old Dakota straight into the storm.



i) Based on the given extract, choose the option that lists the meme which would be the most appropriate response to "...it was an easy flight"?

- a) Option (i) b) Option (ii) c) Option (iii) d) Option (iv)

ii) How would you describe the "risk" the narrator took?

- a) calculated b) impetuous c) unavoidable d) navigable

iii) In what way might the reference to the Dakota as "old" be relevant?

- a) Its antique value made it expensive and precious to the narrator.
b) It is employed by the narrator as a term of endearment.
c) It did not have enough fuel to fly around the storm clouds.
d) Its ability to negotiate the storm clouds might have been suspect.

iv) Read the statements given below and then select the option that best describes the given statements. Statement

I – The narrator's desire to reach home and see his family made him complacent.

Statement II – The narrator was unaware of the threat that the adversarial storm clouds presented.

Statement III – The narrator's decision making was quick but irresponsible as well as dangerous.

- a) Statement I is False, Statement II is True, Statement III cannot be inferred
b) Statement I and III are True, Statement II cannot be inferred.
c) Statement I cannot be inferred, Statement II is False, Statement III is True.
d) Statement I and II are False, Statement III is True.

v) Select the correct option to fill in the blanks below: risk:

risky :: _____ : _____

- a) danger: dangerously
b) hazard: hazardous
c) peril: imperilled
d) caution : precaution

10. Read the given extracts and answer the following questions .

(1×5=5)

"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) 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

ii) What is the poet's purpose of using the onomatopoeic words given in the extract?

- a) It is to emphasize on the might and boldness of Custard.
- c) It is to impress upon the readers that Custard was ready.

- b) It is to introduce the character Custard to the readers.
- d) It is to make Custard bold enough to face the situation.

iii) Pick an option that best fits the usage of the word 'trickled' as used in the extract.

- a) The water trickled down the tap and filled the trough. b) Students trickled into the classroom as the teacher entered.
c) Tears trickled down her cheeks as she heard the sad news. d) His enthusiasm for the task slowly trickled away.

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

- a) i) shocked ii) displeased b) i) petrified ii) wondered
c) i) upset ii) dazed d) i) petrified ii) shocked

v) 'He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm. Why has this comparison been used here? Just like the robin catches the worm,

- a) Custard attacked the pirate after careful observation.
b) Custard attacked the pirate without delay.
c) Custard attacked the pirate valorously.
d) Custard attacked the pirate stealthily.

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

(4×3=12)

- (i) Justify the opinion that the traditional baker and his bread play a significant role in the cultural and social fabric of Goan society. (Glimpses of India-I)
(ii) How does Leslie Norris use vivid imagery and metaphorical language in A Tiger in the Zoo, to effectively depict the confinement and oppression, experienced by the captive tiger.
(iii) Explain how the description of the devastation caused by the hailstorm reflects the sadness within Lencho, in A Letter to God?

Refer to the given lines, from the text -

Not a leaf remained on the trees. The corn was totally destroyed. The flowers were gone from the plants. Lencho's soul was filled with sadness.

(iv) Kitty was a trusted friend to Anne. Elaborate.

(v) Why was it impossible for a man of Mandela's birth and colour to fulfil the twin obligations?

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

(2×3=6)

- (i) Why did Hari Singh feel bad after stealing the money?
(ii) How does Dr. Herriot treats Tricki?
(iii) Why did Madam Loisel leave the ball in hurry? What does it show about her character?

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

(1×6=6)

A. You have been asked to present an evaluation of the approaches of the mothers of both, the baby seagull and Amanda, towards helping their children. Write this presentation draft including your insights, in about 120 words, comparing the approaches of both parents.

You may begin this way:

One acknowledges that both parents, Amanda's mother and the baby seagull's mother both....however, ...

(Reference -Amanda! & His First Flight)

B. Write down the central idea of the poem 'The Trees'.

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

(1×6=6)

A. Bholi chose a dignified life of service rather than surrendering herself to a greedy old man for the rest of her life. Education provides the required stimulus to overcome one's personal barriers. Explain the role of education in shaping the life of a child with respect to the lesson 'Bholi'.

B. Give a character-sketch of Ausable highlighting his presence of mind and intelligence.
