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INDIAN SCHOOL SALALAH
FIRST TERM EXAMINATION – SEPTEMBER 2025



(ENGLISH LANG & LITERATURE-184)

Class: X

Date: 30/09/2025

Time: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions

- 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
- 3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.**

Reading Skills (20 Marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully:

- Happiness is like the sun; it is often hidden by the clouds of thoughts, worries and desires. We have to scatter and dissolve these clouds to experience happiness. You don't have to create it, all you have to do is calm your mind, because when there is a quiet mind and inner peace, there is happiness. It is not something far away and unattainable and does not depend on circumstances, objects or events. Happiness is an inseparable part of our consciousness, of our essence, but hidden and covered from sight by our thoughts, desires, and worries.
- The mind is always in a constant race from one thought to another, from one worry to another. It constantly moves from one object or task to another. This restlessness hides the happiness that is within you. It is like a choppy sea that hides the bottom. When the sea gets calm, you can see the bottom. In the same way, when the mind gets quiet, you sense the happiness that is within you.
- You cannot see a treasure at the bottom of a stormy and muddy lake although it is there. However, when the wind stops, the water becomes still and the mud sinks, you can see the treasure. The treasure is there, whether you see it or not. So is happiness. It is always here, only hidden by thoughts, desires and worries.
- You can experience more happiness in your life. Only your thoughts stand in your way of experiencing it. Next time you feel happy, stop for a moment and watch the state of your mind. You will be surprised to discover that it is calm, and there are almost no thoughts in your mind. Since the mind is not accustomed to stay in this peaceful state for long, it soon becomes active again, and the sense of happiness disappears.

5. Many people connect happiness to achievement of certain goals. This makes happiness a reward and not an emotion that must be felt. We forget that it is something that comes by looking inward rather than waiting for an external trigger. Once you start looking inwards, you will have to treat yourself as you would treat a valued friend. This will lead to happiness. Take time to appreciate yourself, your work and your accomplishments. Surround yourself with happy people and recall positive memories. It is important to recognize that you have the power to feel happy within you and with practice, it will be felt frequently.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below: (10)

- i. Based on the reading and understanding of the above passage, list 2 points to describe the nature of happiness according to the passage. 1
- ii. Select the option that corresponds to the meaning of the following sentence from para 3:
"You cannot see a treasure at the bottom of a stormy and muddy lake although it is there." 1
(a) The treasure is visible only when the water is clear
(b) The treasure is hidden due to the storm and mud
(c) The treasure is always visible despite the storm and mud
(d) The storm and mud make the treasure unimportant
- iii. Based on your reading of the passage, examine in about 40 words how one can experience more happiness. 2
- iv. What is the tone of the writer in the given line from paragraph 5? Rationalize your response in about 40 words: "Many people connect happiness to achievement of certain goals." 2
- v. The phrase 'hidden by the clouds' in paragraph (1) refers to: 1
(a) The obscuring of happiness by thoughts and worries
(b) The physical obstruction of happiness by objects
(c) The deliberate hiding of happiness by others
(d) The intentional creation of barriers to happiness
- vi. In sets a-e below, identify two sets of synonyms. 1
a. restlessness and calmness
b. treasure and object
c. dissatisfaction and contentment
d. essence and nature
e. trigger and cause
Options:
(a) a and c
(b) b and e
(c) d and e
(d) a and d
- vii. Complete the analogy 1
Positive: Negative :: : punish
- viii. Complete the following sentence: 1
To experience more happiness, one must look _____ rather than waiting for external triggers.

2. Read the following passage carefully:

1. After more than two years of halted travel, India's tourism and hospitality industry is now cautiously hopeful. Tourism constituted almost 3% of India's GDP and generated around 100 million jobs in 2019. But the sector was severely hit in India - like in other countries - in the past two years.
2. Indians are now travelling with a vengeance - 'revenge travel', as the phenomenon is called. And many, experts say, prefer to travel within the country instead of flying to more expensive destinations abroad. The industry is also benefitting from new trends borne of the pandemic such as micro-holidays and workcations.
3. According to a survey, 51 percent of Indian travellers believed that international travel remained an important means of expanding their horizons and connecting with other cultures. Over two years, the survey said, Indian travellers are now dreaming about their next international trip, and more than 70 percent of Indians are excited about being able to travel internationally.
4. There has also been an increase in the number of students going abroad to study. The increasing desire to study overseas is credited to the pent-up demand from the pandemic's two-year duration. This has got further pronounced because of growing aspirations and affordability among the middle-class students from Tier II and Tier III cities.

The table below shows foreign travel by Indians for different purposes from 2019 to 2022.

PURPOSE	2019	2020	2021	2022
Business	14.7 L	2.6 L	1.2 L	4.6 L
Job	25.2 L	7.1 L	8.3 L	21.4 L
Residency	89.5 L	28.9 L	34.6 L	72.5 L
Education	5.8 L	2.6 L	4.4 L	6.5 L
Tourists	63.8 L	13.1 L	12.8 L	30.8 L
Visit	42.1 L	10.1 L	15.1 L	40.9 L
Medical	1,448	390	545	1,253
Pilgrimage	8.8 L	1.1 L	4,139	4.6 L
Others	2.6 L	54,775	58,767	1.6 L
Total	2.5 Crore	66.2 L	77.2 L	1.8 Crore

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

(10)

- i. Complete the following analogy appropriately, based on your understanding of paragraphs 1 and 2.

1

We can say that the situation when people were travelling with a vengeance is comparable to people going out to dine in hordes, because _____.

- ii. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of paragraph 1.

1

The statement that, 'Tourism constituted almost 3% of India's GDP and generated around 100 million jobs in 2019', is a/an _____ (fact/opinion) because it is a/an _____ (subjective judgement/objective detail).

- iii. Justify the following in about 40 words.

2

After being cooped up inside their houses for more than two years, Indians are now excited about being able to travel internationally.

- iv. Based on the given table, for which 'purpose' did Indian foreign travel increase in 2022 as compared to 2019? 1
- v. 'The industry is also benefitting from new trends borne of the pandemic such as micro-holidays and workcations.' Which 'industry' is being talked about here? 1
- vi. Complete the analogy:
Expensive: costly :: ----- : ambitions 1
- vii. Why are students today choosing to go abroad to study? 1
- viii. What are micro-holidays and workcations? 1
- ix. Which of the following is the main takeaway from the study mentioned in the passage? 1
- A. International travel remains an important means of expanding the horizons and connecting with other cultures.
- B. Though travel, both domestic and international, has picked up, it has yet to reach its previous levels.
- C. Indians are excited about being able to travel internationally.
- D. The study needs to include experts from Tourism Department to offer any recommendations for further research.

SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS AND GRAMMAR (20 Marks)

GRAMMAR

3. Complete **ANY TEN** of twelve of the following tasks, as directed (1x10=10)
- i. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter:
Once in a forest, there..... (live) a lion and his lioness
- ii. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line, from a news report:
This exams open doors to higher education, improve employment opportunities and increase options.

Option no.	Error	Correction
A	This	These
B	Open	Opens
C	To	For
D	Options	Option

- iii. "I lost my book yesterday", she said to her teacher.

Reported speech: _____

- a) She said to her teacher that I have lost my book the previous day.
- b) She admitted to her teacher that she had lost her book the previous day.
- c) To her teacher, she admitted that she has lost her book the previous day.
- d) She admitted losing her book to her teacher yesterday.

iv. Report the dialogue between Dolly and Mrs Diaz, by completing the sentence:

Dolly: Have you seen Lee?

Mrs Diaz: No, I haven't seen him since lunchtime.

In response to the question about where Lee was, Mrs Diaz says that _____.

v. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option.

Although she thought she knew _____ (many / much / several) of the subject, when the teacher asked a few details she hardly remembered.

vi. Identify the error in the given sentence, from an e-zine report and supply the correction.

Anxiety is a manifestation of the mind being afraid of venture into the unknown.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

vii. Samar shared some information with Sameer about his recent visit to a wildlife sanctuary.

Report Sameer's question.

“Did you spot a tiger during the safari?”

viii. Complete the given narrative by filling in the blank with the correct option:

It has been two weeks, but the team has still not _____ from its defeat.

- a) got in
- b) got over
- c) got about
- d) got along

ix. Choose the correct option to fill in the blank.

Neither of the teams (was/were) very strong.

x. Fill in the blank with the correct form of verb.

Last week the Annual Function of our school was ----- (celebrate)

xi. Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction.

The orchestra performed on the central theatre in front of a huge audience.

Error	Correction

xii. Read the conversation and complete the sentence by reporting the reply correctly.

Ankit: Where are you going?

Atul: I am going to the airport.

Ankit asked Atul where he was going. Atul replied _____.

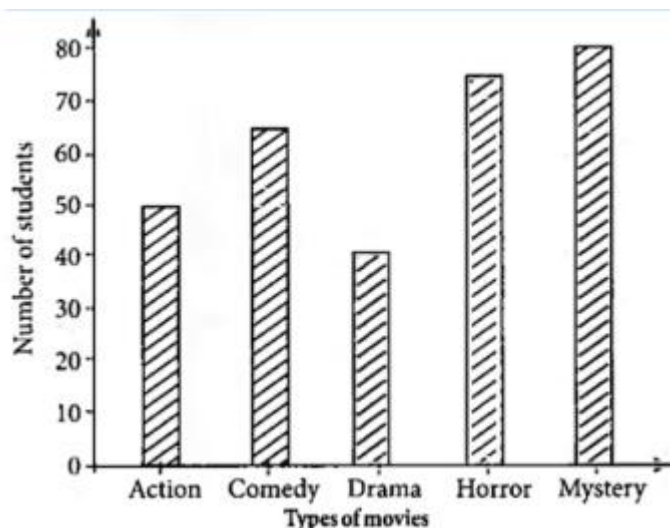
SECTION B CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (10 Marks)

4. A. You have been reading incidents of foreign tourists being duped and cheated of their money and valuables, incidents of inhospitable behaviour and eve-teasing. As a concerned citizen, write a letter to the editor of a national daily expressing your views on the issue and also give suggestions on how to make your city a safer tourist destination. (120 words) 5

OR

- B. You are Ankita/Ankit. You wish to pursue a course on 'Data Science'. Write a letter to the Director, Scaler Data Science, enquiring about the eligibility, duration, fee, scholarship and placement, etc. in about 120 words)

5. A. The given bar graph shows the favourite genre of movies of students in a school. Write an analytical paragraph summarizing the information and making comparisons wherever relevant in about 120 words. 5



OR

- B. The table below gives in percentage the number of office goers who used different modes of transport to go to work in the years 2019 and 2020 as well as their projected figures for the year 2021. Study the data carefully and then summarise it in the form of an analytical paragraph. Make comparisons and draw conclusions wherever appropriate. (120 words)

Year	Walking	Bicycle	Motorcycle/ Scooter	Own Car	Taxi	Bus	Local Trains
2019	2	27	39	10	1	12	9
2020	1	11	31	16	12	16	13

2021	0	7	40	11	6	19	17
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SECTION C-LITERATURE (40 marks)

6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given. (5)

A. Well, it's time I did some real work, I told myself; I'm out of practice. And if I don't take the money, he'll only waste it on his friends. After all, he doesn't even pay me. Anil was asleep. A beam of moonlight stepped over the balcony and fell on the bed. I sat up on the floor, considering the situation. If I took the money, I could catch the 10.30 Express to Lucknow. Slipping out of the blanket, I crept up to the bed. Anil was sleeping peacefully. His face was clear and unlined; even I had more marks on my face, though mine were mostly scars. (*The Thief's Story*)

i. Choose an appropriate option that imitates the literary device as used in, "A beam of moonlight stepped over the balcony". 1

- The beam of the light cannot be tolerated while driving.
- The beam of light danced away to glory as we drove past the forest.
- They sat down with the light in their hands as they did not know the path.
- The lights are on, so there must be somebody at home.

ii. Why did Hari Singh say, "it's time I did some real work"? 1

- Hari was out of touch with cooking.
- Hari decided to save Anil's money.
- Anil never paid Hari.
- Hari decided to rob Anil off

iii. "he'll only waste it on his friends. After all, he doesn't even pay me". What does this mean? 2

iv. Complete the analogy by selecting the suitable word from the extract. 1

frown: smile:: blemishes: _____

OR

B. A few moments later we all lifted our eyes in awe as a spectacular array of South African jets, helicopters and troop carriers roared in perfect formation over the Union Buildings. It was not only a display of pinpoint precision and military force, but a demonstration of the military's loyalty to democracy, to a new government that had been freely and fairly elected. (*Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*)

i. Why did everyone lift their eyes in awe? Elucidate. 1

ii. "A new government that had been freely and fairly elected". What does the author mean by the above statement? 1

iii. The word similar to **precision** in the above extract is: 1

- Accuracy
- Deliberately
- Elaborately

d. Diligently

iv. What did the helicopters and troop carriers demonstrate? Infer and state two reasons. 2

7 Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 5

A *The trees inside are moving out into the forest,
the forest that was empty all these days
where no bird could sit
no insect hide
no sun bury its feet in shadow
the forest that was empty all these nights
will be full of trees by morning (The Trees)*

i. Identify the poetic device in the line 'no sun bury its feet in shadow'. 1

ii. State whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE. The extract uses trees as a symbol for woman. 1

iii. Which three things cannot happen in a treeless forest? 2

iv. Complete the analogy. 1

Full : empty : : reveal : -----

OR

B. *He stalks in his vivid stripes*

The few steps of his cage

On pads of velvet quiet

In his quiet rage. (A Tiger in the Zoo)

i. Why does 'he' walk only a few steps? 2

ii. Complete the sentence appropriately: 1

Metaphor is the poetic device used for *pads of velvet* - because _____. (Clue : explain how metaphor is applied here.)

iii. The above lines express the tiger's _____. 1

a. resignation

b. fear

c. anger

d. acceptance

iv. Why is 'he' in rage? 1

8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words. 4x3= 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) 3

- ii. What does the postmaster's reaction to Lencho's letter reveal about his character? (A Letter to God) 3
- iii. What happened when the dust of snow fell on Robert Frost? 3
- iv. Why does Anne think that paper has more patience than people? 3
- v. What is the message of the poem Fire and Ice? 3

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

- i. Was there any balcony outside the window? What role does it play in the story, 'The Midnight Visitor'? 3
- ii. "The most successful people work smart, not hard." Justify the quote with reference to 'A Question of Trust'. 3
- iii. How did Tricki become an accepted member of the gang and start enjoying the company of other dogs? 3

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

OR

- B. You have been chosen to address a student gathering from the neighbourhood school, to speak on the resilience of human spirit required to transcend discrimination. Prepare the speech draft in not more than 120 words, with reference to the commonality of themes in Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom and The Trees by Adrienne Rich.

You may begin this way:

Good morning, everyone. Today, I'd like to discuss two pieces of literature that offer a powerful insight into the resilience of the human spirit required to transcend discrimination.

You may end this way.

To conclude, I'd like to say that ...

Thank you

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

- A. Imagine that M. Loisel, from The Necklace by Guy de Maupassant, writes a diary entry, exploring the theme of class and social status, and the nature of social mobility, in the context of his own experience. Write this diary entry, as M. Loisel, in about 120 words.

OR

B. “A flawless scientist is a curse to the society.” Discuss with reference to the story ‘Footprints without Feet’.
