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INDIAN SCHOOL SALALAH  
SECOND PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION – JANUARY 2026



ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE – 184

SET 1

Class: X

Date: 5.1.26

Time: 3 HOURS

Maximum Marks: 80

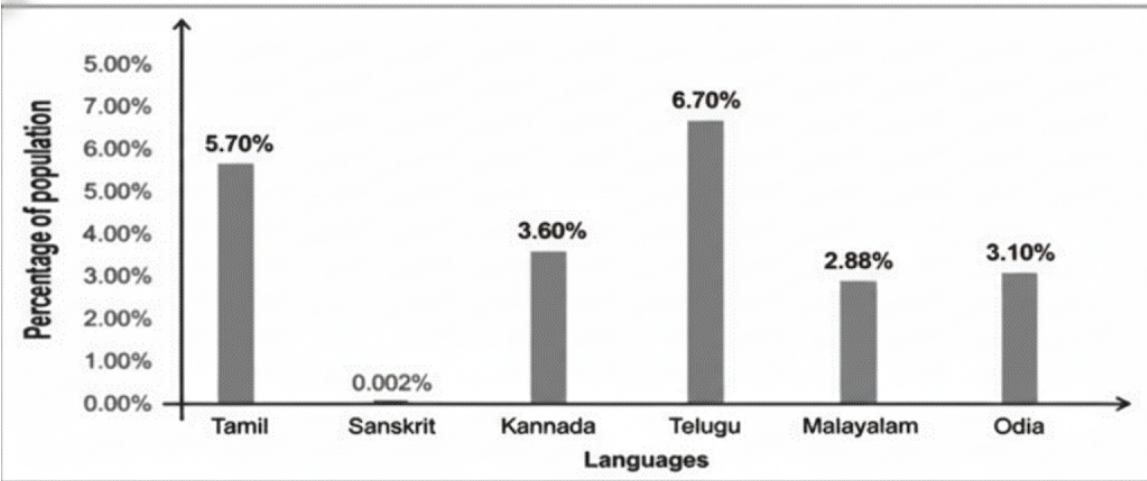
**General Instructions:**

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)		
<b>I</b>	<b>Read the text carefully and answer the questions that follow:</b>	<b>10</b>
1	A black vulture ( <i>Coragyps atratus</i> ) is a carrion feeder that pilots and air traffic specialists have long considered a collision threat, given both its size and flight behaviour. Of Brazil's animal-aircraft incidents in 2020, eight percent involved black vultures. Even discounting the danger, they pose to aircrafts, vultures are widely seen as harbingers of death and decay. Yet, they play an important role in the human built environment.	
2	These carrion-eaters fly in committees and when they are not airborne, camp out on large stands of refuse, packed together like feather-clad beggars. With their sooty plumage and crusty skin, black vultures fit right in with their rank surroundings. Boasting a wingspan of around five feet and the ability to fly at speeds surpassing Usain Bolt in his prime, they are mostly habituated to the many collectors, sifters, and other (bipedal) scavengers who spend quality time at the dump. Gazing, waiting-they will make their move when the time is right.	

3	A trash mound is essentially a rookery and nursery for a bird that evolved to eat the flesh of the dead and dying but now thrives on the abundance of trash. Here, where human-coordinated management is absent, vultures are efficient managers of waste.	
4	For each story of a potential airline collision resulting from the birds, they cycle millions of tons of nutrients and other material through the food web, eating dog faeces and fish bones with equal gusto. The average Brazilian household throws away 353g of trash per day; the average black vulture consumes 140g a day. Not all household waste is edible-although <i>Coragyps atratus</i> does seem to have an affection for gobbling up shreds of plastic grocery bags. Their powerful stomach acid breaks down harmful pathogens of cholera, brucellosis, and anthrax too.	
5	As the planet seems to be roiled in flames and losing biodiversity at a rapid clip, vultures are as opportunistic as ever, with their populations growing in both South and North America which makes continued conflict with humans inevitable.	
6	Solid waste is typically strewn about communities in rural Latin America. The vultures have taken care of everything; the city has no hope of taking care of itself.” In this light, the vultures’ general unsightliness, and perhaps the occasional aircraft collision, is a small price to pay. “They’re the best thing that ever happened to the Amazon town,” says a conservationist.	
	<b>Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.</b>	
i	Why does the writer say that vultures are harbingers of death and decay? (a) They are responsible for animal-aircraft incidents in Brazil. (b) They collide with aircrafts and feed on dead flesh. (c) They are responsible for animal-aircraft incidents everywhere in the world. (d) They are carrion feeders.	1
ii	Which outstanding trait of the black vultures the writer wishes to project, with reference to the following statement? ‘Not all household waste is edible-although ‘ <i>Coragyps atratus</i> ’ does seem to have an affection for gobbling up shreds of plastic grocery bags.’	1
iii	The passage includes some word pairs that denote consecutive stages or actions in a process for example, moulding and baking a bread. From the sets (a)-(e) below, identify two sets of words that do not correspond to this relation. (a) South and North America (b) dead and dying (c) rookery and nursery (d) death and decay (e) pilots and air traffic specialists	1
iv	Complete the sentence appropriately. The writer compares the black vultures with Usain Bolt because.....	1
v	“They’re (the black vultures) the best thing that ever happened to the Amazon town,” says a conservationist in Paragraph 6. The options given below provide enough evidence to substantiate this claim except one. Choose the correct option.	1

	(a) They take care of waste management better than humans. (b) They consume even plastics. (c) They protect humans from the spread of harmful pathogens. (d) They single-handedly keep rural Latin America spick and span.															
vi	Complete the statement. Despite the fact that the growing populations of black vultures in both South and North America have sharpened the conflict with humans, they are a blessing for mankind because they consume even non edible waste like....	1														
vii	Based on your reading of the text, explain why the writer says that Coragyps atratus thrives on the abundance of human-made piles of trash. Rationalise your response in about 40 words.	2														
viii	Based on the reading of the passage, examine, in about 40 words, that the black vultures, despite their general unsightliness, are highly social birds.	2														
<b>2</b>	<b>Read the text carefully and answer the questions that follow:</b>	<b>10</b>														
1	India is a country of many languages. The constitution recognises 22 languages officially, even though over 121 unique languages have been identified in the country.															
2	To preserve and encourage the literary function of language, the government introduced 'classical languages' in 2004. According to the Ministry of Culture, a classical language is the one that is at least 1,500 years old and has ancient, valuable literature recorded in it. Further, such a language is original and not derived from another language. Based on 4 of 13 these guidelines, six languages have been classified as classical languages: Tamil, Sanskrit, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam and Odia.															
3	The following graph shows the percentage of Indian people whose mother tongue is a classical language.  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Language</th> <th>Percentage of population</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Tamil</td> <td>5.70%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sanskrit</td> <td>0.002%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kannada</td> <td>3.60%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Telugu</td> <td>6.70%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Malayalam</td> <td>2.88%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Odia</td> <td>3.10%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <b>This is as per data collected by the census of 2011. The census was not conducted in 2021 due to the pandemic.</b>	Language	Percentage of population	Tamil	5.70%	Sanskrit	0.002%	Kannada	3.60%	Telugu	6.70%	Malayalam	2.88%	Odia	3.10%	
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4	According to the graph, around 6.7% of the Indian population are native speakers of Telugu, whereas Sanskrit has been identified as a mother tongue by only 0.002% of the population, which is around 24,821 people. Malayalam has the second lowest number of native speakers, making up about 2.9% of Indians.	
5	The 2011 census data also noted that a majority of the native speakers reside in the area that their mother tongue originated from. For example, 93% of Kannada speakers live in Karnataka. Similarly, 93% of Malayalam speakers live in Kerala.	
6	Balancing preservation of culture and inclusivity is a delicate equation for a heterogeneous country like India. With growing awareness, concepts like 'classical languages' may help us achieve harmony.	
	<b>Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.</b>	
i	Which of these pieces of information can be confirmed by reading the passage? (I) the number of people in India who speak Tamil (II) where the majority of native Sanskrit speakers live (III) the reason Malayalam is considered a classical language (IV) when the idea of classical languages was introduced in India A. Only (I) B. Only (IV) C. Only (I) and (II) D. Only (III) and (IV)	1
ii	Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets. Based on the passage, the _____ ((functional/historical) value of a language is of utmost importance while _____ (preserving/categorising) it as a classical language.	1
iii	Imagine that a committee was formed to ensure that classical languages have more native speakers by the time the next census is conducted. Answer the following question to help the committee achieve its objective. Which classical language needs its attention most urgently and why?	1
iv	State an example from the passage that shows that India is a 'heterogeneous country'. Answer in one sentence.	1
v	Why has the writer stated the following line in the passage? Give a reason. The census was not conducted in 2021 due to the pandemic.	1
vi	Complete the sentence based on information from the passage. If Tamil originated from Tamil Nadu, we can infer that _____ of the native Tamil speakers would be living in Tamil Nadu.	1
vii	Which among the following sentences uses 'delicate' in the same way as paragraph (6) does? A. She looked beautiful in the dress with the delicate floral pattern.	1

	B. He was frequently admitted to the hospital due to his delicate health. C. This discussion will require careful consideration as it is a delicate matter. D. Please handle these delicate items carefully during transportation as they break																
viii	How many languages have been classified as classical languages?	1															
ix	Which of these hypothetical situations would help India achieve harmony? <b>Justify your answer in about 40 words.</b> A. If the majority of Indians who speak a classical language are settled Abroad. B. If more languages from remote and tribal areas of India are identified as classical languages 6 of 13 C. If the percentage of Indians who are native Telugu speakers increases to more than 10 percent.	2															
<b>SECTION B</b>																	
<b>WRITING SKILLS &amp; GRAMMAR (20 marks)</b>																	
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		<b>10</b>															
<b>3. Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed.</b>																	
i	Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the sentence. The director had come out of the office before I_..... (a) arrived (b) arrive (c) was arrived (d) had arrived	1															
ii	Read the conversation between a father and his son. Complete the sentence by reporting son's reply correctly. Father : How was the examination? Son : It was easy. The father asked his son how the examination had been. The son replied that -----	1															
iii	Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given line. I doubt, if it----- be of any use telephoning them so late. (a) would (b) could (c) should (d) might	1															
iv	Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line : Enjoying the pleasure in being outdoors is fundamental to human happiness.	1															
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Option No.</th> <th>Error</th> <th>Correction</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>(a)</td> <td>Being</td> <td>be</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b)</td> <td>the</td> <td>a</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(c)</td> <td>Is</td> <td>are</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(d)</td> <td>In</td> <td>of</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Option No.	Error	Correction	(a)	Being	be	(b)	the	a	(c)	Is	are	(d)	In	of
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v	Complete the given sentence, by filling in the blank with the correct option: When he died, Ramanujan -----behind 3 notebooks. (a) was leaving (b) had left (c) left (d) leaves	1				
vi	Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket. The furniture in his house-----_(look) impressive, though they are not very expensive.	1				
vii	Report the dialogue between Anita and Seema, by completing the narration. Anita: Do you know how to swim? Seema : Yes I know. I have learnt it during this summer vacation. Anita asked Seema -----, Seema replied in affirmative and also added that she had learnt it during the summer vacation.	1				
viii	Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction. The movie, including all the previews, take about two hours to watch. Use the given format for your response.	1				
<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 30%;">Error</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Correction</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="height: 30px;"></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Error	Correction			
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ix	Transform the following direct speech into reported speech: He said to us, “Why are you sitting around there, doing nothing?”	1				
x	Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction. You may be very hungry after that long walk. Use the given format for your response.	1				
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xi	Select the correct option to complete the narration of the dialogue between electrician and Mohan. Electrician: When did your electricity go? Mohan: It has not been there since evening. The electrician asked Mohan when his electricity had gone. Mohan replied that_.....	1				
xii	Identify the error and supply the correction for the following sentence: The countries near on equator are warmer than the countries farther to the North and the South. Use the given format for your response.	1				
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<b>WRITING</b>		<b>10</b>				

4	<b>Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.</b>	5																												
A	You are Aman/Amita, Blue Bells Public School, Delhi. Write a letter to UK Publishers, Pratap Vihar, Delhi to place an order for English to Hindi, encyclopedia, fiction books etc. for your school library. Request them for a catalogue, discount offered and other necessary details.																													
OR																														
B	You are Ranjan/Rajani of 25, Civil Road, Damoh, Bihar. You feel concerned at the gradual decay of historical monuments in India in general and in Bihar in particular. Write a letter to the Editor of ‘The Times of India’ describing the decay and degeneration that the historical monuments are facing in your state and also suggest some steps to maintain them properly.																													
5	<b>Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.</b>	5																												
A	<p>The pie charts given below contain information related to the opinion of young and old people about their consideration for the most important factor for success. Write an analytical paragraph titled ‘The Most Important Factor for Success’ in 100-120 words after analysing the data ; highlight the main features and make suitable comparisons.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>YOUNGER PEOPLE (%)</b></p> <table border="1"> <caption>Younger People (%)</caption> <tr><th>Factor</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>Hard Work</td><td>44%</td></tr> <tr><td>Talent</td><td>18%</td></tr> <tr><td>Luck</td><td>11%</td></tr> <tr><td>Intelligence</td><td>11%</td></tr> <tr><td>Honesty</td><td>9%</td></tr> <tr><td>Money</td><td>7%</td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>OLDER PEOPLE (%)</b></p> <table border="1"> <caption>Older People (%)</caption> <tr><th>Factor</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>Hard Work</td><td>48%</td></tr> <tr><td>Luck</td><td>14%</td></tr> <tr><td>Honesty</td><td>14%</td></tr> <tr><td>Intelligence</td><td>11%</td></tr> <tr><td>Talent</td><td>9%</td></tr> <tr><td>Money</td><td>4%</td></tr> </table> </div> </div>	Factor	Percentage	Hard Work	44%	Talent	18%	Luck	11%	Intelligence	11%	Honesty	9%	Money	7%	Factor	Percentage	Hard Work	48%	Luck	14%	Honesty	14%	Intelligence	11%	Talent	9%	Money	4%	
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B	<p>Read the following excerpt from an online post of a website on educational practices.</p> <p><i>Kids who appreciate how much effort, time and care goes into growing food will understand how important farmers are, and why it's important to take care of our Earth. In the world of today, gardening needs to be given more importance than sports, music and dance in all schools because it creates environmental stewards and outdoor learning laboratories that help the child and community for years to come.</i></p>																													

	Write a paragraph in about 100-120 words to analyse the given argument with a suitable title. You could think of what alternative explanation might weaken the given conclusion and include rationale/ evidence that would strengthen / counter the given argument.	
	<b>SECTION C</b> <b>LITERATURE (40 marks)</b>	
<b>6</b>	Read the given extracts A and B and answer <b>ANY ONE</b> of the two	<b>5</b>
A	“Richard would always give that extra effort”, Mr. Weiherer said. “What pleased me was, here was this person who put in three or four hours at night doing debate research besides doing all his research with butterflies and his other interests. Richard was competitive,’ Mr. Weiherer continued, ‘but not in a bad sense’. He explained, “Richard wasn’t interested in winning for winning’s sake or winning to get a prize. Rather, he was winning because he wanted to do the best job he could. For the right reasons, he wants to be the best.” ( <i>The Making of a Scientist</i> )	
i	<b>i.</b> Why did Mr. Weiherer consider Richard to be a hard worker?	1
ii	State TRUE or FALSE. Only option (d) correctly corresponds to the extract. (a) A review (b) An interview (c) An analysis (d) A comment	1
iii	Why was Richard trying to win?	1
iv	Why did Mr. Weiherer call Richard a true winner? Answer in about 40 words.	2
	<b>OR</b>	
B	That evening, after I’d finished the rest of my homework, the note about the essay caught my eye. I began thinking about the subject while chewing the tip of my fountain pen. Anyone could ramble on and leave big spaces between the words, but the trick was to come up with convincing arguments to prove the necessity of talking. ( <i>From The Diary of Anne Frank</i> )	
i	According to the passage and the story, Anne was (a) thinking about what to write in the essay (b) angry with Mr Keesing (c) too tired to write the essay (d) unable to write the essay	1
ii	Read the following descriptions (a) to (c) and identify which one correctly corresponds to the extract. (a) A debate is a formal discussion on a particular topic, usually with two or more people presenting different viewpoints and arguments. (b) A soliloquy is a speech given by a character alone on stage, which reveals their innermost thoughts and feelings to the audience.	1

	(c) An aside is a brief comment or remark made by a character directly to the audience, which is not intended to be heard by other characters on stage.	
iii	What is integral to writing her essay according to Anne?	1
iv	What does she (Anne Frank) write in her essay? Answer in about 40 words.	2
<b>7</b>	<b>Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.</b>	<b>5</b>
A	An ultimate shaking grief fixes the boy As he stands rigid, trembling, staring down All his young days into the harbour where His ball went. I would not intrude on him; A dime, another ball, is worthless. Now He senses first responsibility In a world of possessions:( <i>The Ball Poem</i> )	
i	Complete the sentence appropriately. The mood of the boy in the extract is.....	1
ii	Which literary device has been used by the usage of ‘ball’ in the poem?	1
iii	Which ultimate grief has fixed the boy?	1
iv	A ball is an easily available, inexpensive thing. Then, why is the boy so sad to lose it? Answer in about 40 words.	2
OR		
B	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	According to the extract, the poet wishes for the tiger to be ‘sliding’ through the foliage as this would (a) assist in keeping the prey unsuspecting of the predator’s sound. (b) aid in taking a nap before an attack. (c) help the predator pounce on the prey comfortably without getting tired. (d) support the predator’s vision as it eyes its prey.	1
ii	‘Shadow’ here, refers to the shadow of .....	1
iii	Identify the figure of speech used in the last line of the stanza.	1
iv	What would the tiger do in the forest? Answer in about 40 words.	2
<b>8</b>	<b>Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words.</b>	<b>4x3 =12</b>
i	What happened when Maxwell took Mijbil to the bathroom? ( <i>Mijbil The Otter</i> )	3
ii	What is the greatest wealth of a country according to Nelson Mandela? ( <i>Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom</i> )	3
iii	Discuss the importance of proper upbringing with reference to the poem ‘Amanda’ by Robin Klein	3
iv	What did Valli find out about the bus journey? How did she find out these details? ( <i>Madam Rides The Bus</i> )	3

v	Kisa Gautami again goes from house to house after she speaks with the Buddha. What does she ask for? Does she get it? Why not?'. ( <i>The Sermon at Benares</i> )	3
<b>9</b>	<b>Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.</b>	<b>2x3 =6</b>
i	How do Mr. and Madame Loisel replace the necklace? ( <i>The Necklace</i> )	3
ii	What did Griffin, the scientist, do to escape after setting the fire to his landlord's house? ( <i>Footprints Without Feet</i> )	3
iii	Why does the marriage of Bholi not take place? ( <i>Bholi</i> )	3
<b>10</b>	<b>Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.</b>	<b>1x6 =6</b>
A	Rajvir felt too excited on reaching Assam while Pranjol showed least interest in his excitement. What could be the reason behind this? Do you think it is appropriate on Pranjol's part to react like this? Justify your answer with reason. ( <i>Glimpses of India</i> )	6
	OR	
B	Humour is the best medicine for every ailment in life. Is the poem humorous? Give reasons for your answer. ( <i>How to Tell Wild Animals</i> )	6
<b>11</b>	<b>Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.</b>	<b>1x6 =6</b>
A	Looking back at the story, when do you think Ausable thought up his plan for getting rid of Max? Do you think he had worked out his plan in detail right from the beginning? Or did he make up a plan taking advantage of events as they happened? ( <i>The Midnight Visitor</i> )	6
	OR	
B	What was Horace Danby's hobby? How did he manage to fulfill it? ( <i>A Question of Trust</i> )	6