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INDIAN SCHOOL SALALAH

FINAL EXAMINATION, FEBRUARY 2026 (AY 2025-26)



ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (184)

Class: IX

Date: 10.02.26

Time: 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
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (20 marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully:

10

1. The resurgence of interest in traditional board games is a fascinating counter-trend in an increasingly digital world. While video games and online entertainment dominate, more people are rediscovering the tactile joy and social interaction offered by classic tabletop experiences. This growing appeal highlights a desire for tangible connections and unplugged leisure in an era of constant virtual engagement.

2. One of the primary attractions of board games is their ability to foster genuine social interaction. Unlike online gaming, which can often be isolating despite multiplayer features, board games require face-to-face communication, negotiation, and shared laughter. They create opportunities for families and friends to bond, engage in friendly competition, and build lasting memories away from screens. This direct engagement strengthens relationships and enhances communication skills.

3. Furthermore, board games offer significant cognitive benefits. Many games demand strategic thinking, problem-solving, and critical analysis. Players must plan several moves ahead, adapt to changing circumstances, and make decisions under pressure. Games like chess, Settlers of Catan, or even complex cooperative games like Pandemic, stimulate the brain, improve concentration, and enhance logical reasoning abilities across all age groups.

4. In addition to social and cognitive advantages, board games provide a much-needed break from digital overload. The absence of notifications, endless scrolling, and screen glare allows for a more focused and relaxing experience. This 'digital detox' can reduce eye strain, improve sleep quality,

and alleviate the mental fatigue associated with prolonged screen time, contributing positively to overall well-being.

5. The accessibility of modern board games also contributes to their popularity. The market offers a vast array of genres and complexities, catering to diverse interests and skill levels, from simple party games to intricate strategy epics. Online communities and local game stores have also made it easier for enthusiasts to discover new games, connect with fellow players, and participate in organized events.

6. Ultimately, the renewed enthusiasm for board games reflects a collective yearning for simpler, more engaging forms of entertainment that prioritize human connection and mental stimulation. They serve as a refreshing antidote to the digital realm, offering a unique blend of fun, learning, and genuine camaraderie that enriches personal lives and strengthens communities.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:

i. Why is the resurgence of interest in traditional board games described as a ‘fascinating counter-trend’ in paragraph 1? 1?

ii. According to paragraph 1, the growing appeal of board games highlights all of the following EXCEPT a desire for: 1

- A. tangible connections
- B. constant virtual engagement
- C. unplugged leisure
- D. tactile joy

iii. Complete the following by selecting the correct option from those given in the brackets. 1
Board games primarily foster _____ (digital/genuine) social interaction. (Paragraph 2)

iv. Select the option that is True from A-C given for what the phrase, ‘much-needed break’ suggests in paragraph 4. 4. 1

- A. Board games offer continuous digital interaction.
- B. Playing board games requires constant screen time.
- C. Board games provide a necessary escape from excessive digital exposure.

v. Complete the analogy by selecting one of the two correct options A, B 1

chess : strategic thinking :: _____ : _____ (Paragraph 3)

- A. digital overload: improved sleep
- B. Pandemic: problem-solving

vi. Why do board games offer significant cognitive benefits? (Paragraph 3) 2

vii. What are the main ideas of paragraph 2 and paragraph 4? 1

- i Board games provide opportunities for social bonding.
- ii Online gaming is always isolating.
- iii Board games help reduce digital overload.
- iv Digital detox has no impact on well-being.

v Screen glare is a minor issue.

Select the correct option:

Options	Main idea of paragraph 2	Main idea of paragraph 4
A.	iv	ii
B.	i	iii
C.	v	i
D.	iii	v

viii. How does the accessibility of modern board games contribute to their popularity? (Par 5) 2

2. Read the following passage carefully:

10

1. There was a time when human interference was minimum, the number of wild animals was quite high and there was no problem of their protection or conservation.

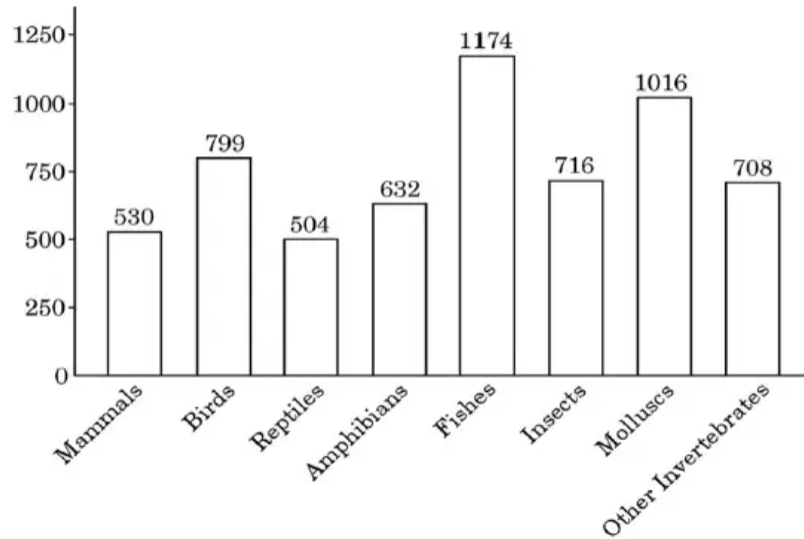
2. Due to the irrational use of natural and biotic resources of the Earth in the past, most of the wildlife has been destroyed beyond retrieval. According to an estimate, in India about 200 species of wild animals and birds have become extinct and another 2500 are on the verge of extinction. Some of them are black buck, chinkara, wolf, swamp deer, nilgai, Indian gazelle, antelope, tiger, rhinoceros, Gir lion, crocodile, flamingo, pelican, bustard, white crane, grey heron, mountain quail, etc.

3. In India, the Government and NGOs are taking keen interest in protection of wildlife. The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, has several provisions for the conservation of wildlife. As many as 165 game sanctuaries and 21 national parks have been deployed to protect the natural habitat and wild animals. Apart from this, Wildlife Conservation Week is also celebrated from 1st to 7th October every year. But still there is a long way to go in this direction.

4. Preservation of wildlife does not mean a blanket protection to all faunal and floral species; rather it implies a proper, judicious control over the multiplication of plants and animals which interact together to provide a proper environment to man whose very existence is in peril today.

5. It is our urgent duty to protect the natural splendour of ecosystems and to evolve a system of coexistence with every living creature upon the Earth.

*based on IUCN Red List data



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

i. Infer one reason for the following, based on the information in the passage. The number of wild animals was quite high and there was no problem of their protection or conservation. 2

ii. Select the appropriate options to fill in the blanks. 1

Most of the wildlife has been _____ beyond _____ due to the irrational use of natural resources on the Earth.

- i. destroyed
- ii. retrieval
- iii. desertion
- iv. build
- v. revived

- A. i and ii
- B. ii and iii
- C. iii and iv
- D. iv and v

iii. Complete the following analogy correctly with a word/phrase from the passage. 1

Flowers: Garden:: _____ : Sanctuaries

iv. Select the correct option to complete the sentence. 1

Judicious control over the multiplication of plants and animals which provide

- A. natural splendour of ecosystem
- B. proper environment to man
- C. blanket protection
- D. happy and comfortable living

v. According to the graph, which is the most vulnerable animal species and the least vulnerable from the graph.

1

- i. Birds
 - ii. Insects
 - iii. Fishes
 - iv. Reptiles
 - v. Insects
 - vi. Mammals
 - vii. Molluses
- A. i and ii
B. iii and iv
C. v and vi D vi and vii

vi. Fill in the blanks by selecting the correct option.

1

The Wildlife Protection Policy has several provisions for _____ of wildlife.

- A. conservation
- B. safety
- C. habitation
- D. well being

vii. Wildlife Conservation Week is celebrated from _____ to _____ every year. 1

viii. List any two examples of Government and NGOs trying to protect the wildlife.

1

ix. List one reason why the Government makes certain recommendations for protection of wild animals.

1

SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20 marks)

GRAMMAR

3. Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed: 10

1. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter:

Dear Madam,

This is with reference to posters _____ (bear) the message of 'crash diet' being posted around our school premises.

2. Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction:

The dog has eaten his food before the trainer arrived.

Use the given format for your response:

Error	Correction

3. Report the dialogue between a grandson and his grandfather by completing the sentence:

Grandson: Grandpa, can you tell me what inspired you to set up a school in the village?

Grandfather: Seeing the lack of adequate facilities and the children's eagerness to learn. In response to the question about his reason for setting up of a village school, the grandfather says that _____ .

4. He said, "Be quiet and listen to my words".

Reported speech: _____

- A. He said you should be quiet and listen to my words.
- B. He said they should be quiet and listen to his words.
- C. He urged them to be quiet and listen to his words.
- D. He urged them and said be quiet and listen to words.

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

Don't think there will be a severe shortage of usable water because there was _____ (a lot of / little / a few) rain fall yesterday.

6. Identify the error in the given sentence that shows grandmother and grandson relation and supply the correction:

My grandmother and I were good friends. He used to wake me up early and get me ready for the school.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

7. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line, from the headline of a news report:

TWO CHILDREN DIES AFTER MASSIVE FIRE BREAKS OUT IN TIRUPATI

Option	Error	Correction
A.	breaks	break
B.	out	off
C.	dies	die
D.	children	child

8. Read the conversation between a tourist and a guide. Complete the sentence by reporting the reply correctly:

Tourist: Where is the exhibit section of the fort?

Guide: In the far corner, on the second floor.

The tourist asked the guide where the exhibit section of the fort was and to which the guide replied _____.

9. The orders were that we _____ the area within hours to prevent further loss of life.

- A. have to evacuate
- B. had to evacuate
- C. had evacuated
- D. will have evacuated

10. Transform the following direct speech into reported speech:

The principal said, "Why didn't you attend the flag hoisting ceremony, Anuj?"

11. Place the correct form of the word in the blank:

A metaphor is a figure of speech that, for _____ (rhetoric) effect, directly refers to one thing by mentioning another.

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

A. J. Cronin was a Scottish novelist and physician whose _____ combining realism with social criticism won a large Anglo-American readership.

- A. has been working
- B. will be working
- C. was working
- D. works

WRITING

4. You recently visited the city of Jaipur, famous for its Hawa Mahal, the palace and forts. Shopping in Jaipur is also exciting as there are many things to buy. Write a description in about 120 words. 5

OR

A free health camp was organised at your school during the winter break. Well-known health specialists were invited on this occasion. Write a description of the event in 100-120 words, mentioning the date, the venue, the number of students and people who benefited from the camp, its purpose, and the chief guest.

5. Complete the story in about 120 words giving a suitable heading and moral.

5

‘It was a rainy day, and I was all alone at home. It was pitch dark outside. Suddenly I heard someone knocking at my door.....’

OR

You are going on a school picnic with your classmates and teachers, and you are very excited. On the night before the trip, you sit down to write your diary. Describe what you have planned for the picnic and how you hope to enjoy yourself there. You are Rohan/Rohini. Write the diary entry in 100–120 words.

SECTION C: LITERATURE (40 Marks)

6. Read the given extracts and answer ANY ONE of the two questions given below: 5

A. “I took a close look at my face in the mirror. I made an important decision — I would shave daily and grow a thin moustache to look more handsome. I was after all a bachelor, and a doctor! I looked into the mirror and smiled. It was an attractive smile. I made another earth-shaking decision. I would always keep that attractive smile on my face ... to look more handsome. I was after all a bachelor, and a doctor too on top of it!

Again came that noise from above.”

i. Which of the following statements is NOT true about the protagonist in the given extract? 1

- A. The protagonist decided to shave daily.
- B. The protagonist wanted to grow a thin moustache.
- C. The protagonist was already married.
- D. The protagonist aimed to maintain an attractive smile

ii. What was the doctor's motivation for growing a thin moustache and maintaining an attractive smile? 2

- iii. How did the doctor decide to enhance his appearance?
1
- iv. "Again came that noise from above." What noise is referred to here?
1

OR

B. "Look here, it seems to me I met you the day before yesterday in Sadovya Street," he said; "but you told me then that you were a student who had been expelled, and not a village schoolteacher. Do you remember?"

"N-no, that can't be so," mumbled the beggar, taken aback. "I am a village schoolteacher, and if you like I can show you my papers."

- i. State one inference about beggar from the given context.
1
- ii. What is Sergei's reaction to the beggar's confession, and what does it reveal about Sergei's character? Elaborate in about 40 words, with reference to the extract.
2

iii. State TRUE or FALSE. (1) None of the options (a)-(d) below, can be applied to the question - What was the beggar's actual occupation?
1

- A. Student
- B. Teacher
- C. Advocate
- D. Singer

iv. Find a word that means the same as 'dismissed' from the passage. 1

7. Read the given extracts and answer ANY ONE of the two questions given below: 5

A. "And he said, "You are far too selfish
To dwell in a human form,
To have both food and shelter,
And fire to keep you warm.
Now, you shall build as the birds do,
And shall get your scanty food
By boring, and boring, and boring..."

- i. What comforts did the woman enjoy?
1
- ii. The poetic device used in the last line is _____ .
1
- iii. Why did Saint Peter curse the woman and what punishment did he give her? 2
- iv. Which of the following best describes the speaker's attitude in the given stanza? 1

- A. Indifferent
- B. Fearful
- C. Enraged
- D. Respectful

OR

B. I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin built there, of clay and wattles made;

Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honey bee,
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

i. State whether the following statement is True or False. Give reason.

2

The poet finds the sounds in nature fascinating.

ii. The poet's liking for a life of _____ comes through clearly from the last line of the extract. 1

iii. Which of the following indicates a desire for a 'small cabin' of clay and wattles? 1

I The poet persona does not run after the luxuries of life.

II The poet cannot afford to build a good modern house.

III The simplicities of life fascinate the poet more than the comforts of life.

IV The poet wants to escape the responsibilities of life.

A. options I and III

B. options II and IV

C. options I and IV

D. options II and III

d. Complete the analogy by selecting a suitable word from the extract. 1

Wattles : twisted :: _____ : open space

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

- Where did Bismillah Khan play the shehnai on August 15, 1947? Why was the event historic?
- Why does the poet call harvests 'peaceful' and war as 'winter'? (No Men Are Foreign)
- What made the atmosphere in and around the Pashupatinath temple full of 'febrile confusion'?
- What is the central theme of the poem 'Rain on the Roof'?
- What sort of information does the intruder want from Gerrard?

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

6

- Why does the lost child lose interest in the things that he had wanted earlier?
- In what way is Iswaran an asset to Mahendra?
- What are the two strange things the guru and his disciple find in the Kingdom of Fools?

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following five questions, in about 100-120 words:

6

A. The lives of Santosh Yadav and Maria Sharapova have much in common to prove that determined and consistent hard work paves the way to success. Identify the points of comparison and contrast in the lives of these two great players.

OR

B. Do you think the qualities of Kalam's father made Kalam what he was? How? What characteristics have you inherited from your parents?

11. Answer ANY ONE of the following five questions, in about 100-120 words:

6

A. In the stories *The Last Leaf* and *The Happy Prince*, the characters Behrman and the Swallow play a key role in demonstrating the themes of sacrifice and friendship. Explain how their actions highlight these themes and contribute to the moral of each story.

OR

B. How did a wonderful woman bring happiness back in the life of the author? Write your answer in the context of the story 'A House is Not a Home'.
