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**INDIAN SCHOOL SALALAH**

**FINAL EXAMINATION, FEBRUARY 2026 (AY 2025-26)**



**ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE (Code 184)**

**Class: IX**

**Date: 10.02.26**

**Time: 3 Hrs**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**Read the instructions very carefully and strictly 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)**

**1) Read the following text.**

**(10 marks)**

1. In the modern world, technology has become an inseparable part of daily life. From the moment we wake up to the moment we sleep, we are surrounded by gadgets that make life easier. Smartphones, computers, and the Internet are central to our social interactions, work, education, and entertainment. We use our smartphones to stay in touch with friends and family, to work remotely, to access news, and to manage our finances. Computers and the Internet have revolutionized industries, making tasks more efficient and allowing people to connect globally. Digital platforms, such as online courses and virtual conferences, have transformed education and professional settings, breaking barriers of distance and time. Entertainment, too, has been redefined with streaming platforms offering access to movies, music, games, and books at the click of a button.
2. However, while these tools have undeniably made many aspects of life more convenient, they have also led to certain challenges. One of the most notable concerns is the impact of technology on human relationships. People are increasingly using digital means of communication, such as social media and messaging apps, instead of face-to-face conversations. This shift has led to a decrease in genuine, personal connections. The convenience of instant messaging often takes the place of meaningful, in-depth discussions,

and social media interactions can sometimes be superficial, leading to a feeling of isolation despite being connected to others online.

3. Furthermore, excessive use of technology can cause addiction, leading to problems such as poor mental health, reduced physical activity, and decreased productivity. People who spend long hours on their devices may experience anxiety, stress, or sleep disorders. Physical inactivity caused by prolonged screen time contributes to an increase in lifestyle diseases such as obesity, heart disease, and poor posture. Additionally, the rise of cyberbullying, online harassment, and the spread of misinformation are other serious consequences of the widespread use of technology. These issues can severely affect an individual's mental well-being, especially among vulnerable groups like teenagers.
4. Despite these challenges, it is clear that technology offers enormous potential for progress. It has revolutionized industries, improved healthcare, and connected people around the world. Medical advancements such as telemedicine and robotic surgeries are helping doctors provide better care to patients. Furthermore, technology has made it easier for individuals to access information, enhancing education and lifelong learning opportunities. The key lies in finding a balance between utilizing technology's advantages and managing its risks.
5. To achieve this balance, individuals must make conscious choices about how and when to engage with technology. Schools and workplaces should educate people about responsible tech usage, promoting healthy habits and digital literacy. Parents and guardians should also play an active role in guiding children on the safe and productive use of technology. If used wisely, technology can continue to enrich lives without taking away from human connection and well being.

**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.**

- i) Write two positive impacts of technology mentioned in the passage. (2)
- ii) How has excessive use of technology negatively affected physical and mental health according to the passage? (1)
- iii) What solutions does the passage propose for managing the risks associated with technology usage? (1)
- iv) **Which of the following statements best summarizes the author's stance on the use of technology?** (1)
  - A. Technology, while offering convenience, has significantly harmed human relationships and should be avoided entirely.
  - B. Although technology brings challenges such as addiction and misinformation, it has the potential to greatly improve human life if used responsibly.
  - C. The rise of social media and digital communication has improved the quality of human relationships and should be embraced fully.

D. Technology's only major negative impact is its contribution to poor physical health, which can be solved by simply reducing screen time.

v) Assertion (A): Technology has revolutionized industries and improved healthcare, bringing significant advancements to various fields.

Reasoning (R): While technology has caused problems such as addiction and misinformation, its positive impacts are far more significant and outweigh the challenges it presents.

**Choose the correct option:** \_\_\_\_\_ (1)

A. Both Assertion (A) and Reasoning (R) are true, and Reasoning (R) is the correct explanation for Assertion (A).

B. Both Assertion (A) and Reasoning (R) are true, but Reasoning (R) is not the correct explanation for Assertion (A).

C. Assertion (A) is true, but Reasoning (R) is false.

D. Assertion (A) is false, but Reasoning (R) is true.

vi) **To achieve a balance between technology's benefits and risks, it is important for individuals to make \_\_\_\_\_ choices about how they use technology.** (1)

A. conscious

B. impulsive

C. unthoughtful

D. random

vii) **State True or False** (1)

a. Technology has only positive effects on human life, improving relationships and mental wellbeing without causing any negative consequences.

viii) **What does the passage suggest as the key to maximizing the benefits of technology while minimizing its risks?** (2)

**2) Read the following text.** (10 marks)

1) A recent study conducted across two age groups—students aged 10–12 and 13–16—explored their preferences for ballpoint and micro-tip pens for various writing activities such as note-taking, examinations, and personal writing. The study aimed to understand trends in writing habits and the factors influencing pen selection among students.

2) The results revealed distinct patterns based on age groups and writing purposes. Among students aged 10–12, 65% preferred ballpoint pens for note-taking, citing ease of use and affordability as key factors. However, 35% opted for micro-tip pens, valuing their precision and smooth writing. For examinations, ballpoint pens were the overwhelming choice, with 78% favouring them for their speed and reliability, while 22% stuck with micro-tip pens, appreciating their fine control.

- 3) In the 13–16 age group, preferences shifted slightly. For note-taking, 60% favoured micro tip pens, highlighting their ability to produce neat, legible notes, while 40% continued to use ballpoint pens. During examinations, however, 70% still relied on ballpoint pens, indicating their consistency under time constraints. When it came to personal writing, such as journalling or creative tasks, 58% in this group chose micro-tip pens, appreciating the aesthetic appeal of finer lines, while 42% stuck with ballpoint pens for their convenience.
- 4) These findings point to the importance of understanding age-specific preferences and task requirements, enabling manufacturers to innovate products. Manufacturers could further explore incorporating hybrid features, such as pens offering the speed of ballpoint pens with the precision of micro-tip pens, to cater to a wider range of student preferences.

**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.**

- i) Why did the study most likely focus on the two specific age groups of 10–12 and 13–16? (Paragraph 1) (1)

This is so because these age groups \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) represent the largest population of growing students.
- B) are when students develop and refine their writing habits.
- C) were the easiest to survey across various schools.
- D) have a natural preference for ballpoint pens.

- ii) Identify the phrase in paragraph 1 that conveys the writer's reference to the patterns or preferences observed in how students use pens for various writing tasks. (1)

- iii) Complete the following by selecting the correct option from those given in the brackets. (Paragraph 2) (1)

Geetha, aged 11, wishes to complete her practical file neatly, ensuring her work is legible and appealing. She is most likely to choose a micro-tip pen for this task because the \_\_\_\_\_ (speed / precision) offered by this type of pen helps produce tidy work.

- iv) What does the writer mean by 'affordability' while citing the high percentage of ball point pen usage? (Paragraph 2) (1)

- v) Complete the following with the correct option. (1)

When the writer says 'distinct patterns' in the line 'The results revealed distinct patterns based on age groups and writing purposes,' of paragraph 3, s/he means that \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) students in both age groups use pens in the same way for all the listed purposes.
- B) the preferences for pens varied according to the students' age and the type of writing task.
- C) only micro-tip pens were popular across all writing tasks in the 13-16 age group.
- D) students of all age groups preferred ballpoint pens for completing creative writing tasks.

vi) Complete the following appropriately.

The one likely reason why more than 40% of students still chose ballpoint pens for creative tasks, even though micro-tip pens are better suited for such activities is \_\_\_\_\_.

(Paragraph 3)

(1)

vii) How are 'aesthetic appeal' and 'finer lines' connected? (Paragraph 3)

(1)

viii) Elaborate how hybrid features in pens would lead to a commercially viable product.

(Paragraph 4)

(2)

ix) Fill in the blank with ONE suitable word. (Paragraph 4)

(1)

Understanding age-specific preferences helps manufacturers design products that cater to the unique needs of different age groups, ensuring their products are both \_\_\_\_\_ as well as appealing.

### **SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20 Marks)**

#### **GRAMMAR**

**(10 Marks)**

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 market research:**

**(1)**

The special subscriptions of newspapers are well \_\_\_\_\_ (illustrate), to make reading interesting for school students.

**ii) Report the dialogue between a mother and her daughter, by completing the sentence:(1)**

Mother: Why are you looking so worried?

Daughter: My exams are approaching.

In response to the question about being worried, the daughter said that \_\_\_\_\_.

**iii) Detect the error and supply the correction for the given sentence:**

She enjoys to read books in the evening, especially novels and poetry.

**(1)**

<b>Error</b>	<b>Correction</b>

**iv) Fill the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the concluding line of an issued circular by an organisation.**

**(1)**

A copy of the plan is enclosed and \_\_\_\_\_ (that/ then/ this) may be communicated to all team leaders for compliance.

**v) Read the given statement.**

**(1)**

They said to the guide, "We'd love to come here again next year."

**Report it correctly by completing the following.**

They told the guide that \_\_\_\_\_.

**vi) Select the correct option to complete the given sentence from a handbook for managers.**

The manager \_\_\_\_\_ consider the proposal before making a decision. (1)

- A. will
- B. should
- C. might
- D. can

**vii) Which of the following is the correct transformation to reported speech? (1)**

Direct: She said, "I will help you tomorrow."

- A. She said that she will help me the next day.
- B. She said that she would help me the next day.
- C. She says that she would help me the next day.
- D. She said that she helps me tomorrow.

**viii) Report the following by completing the sentence correctly. (1)**

"Don't try mending the trousers yourself," she warned him

She warned him \_\_\_\_\_.

**ix) Select the option that identifies the error and supply the correction for the following line:(1)**

The manager decided to meet with the team after all the feedbacks was reviewed.

Option No	Error	Correction
A	feedbacks	feedback
B	was	were
C	meet	meets
D	decided	decide

**x) Complete the given sentence about the reaction of the team, by selecting the correct option:(1)**

The team \_\_\_\_\_ ready to start the project as soon as possible.

- A) are                      B) is                      C) were                      D) has

**xi) Detect the error and supply the correction for the given observation by a child.**

That              needn't              be              Dad's              jacket.              It's              too              small.

(1)

Error	Correction

**xii) Complete the given narrative, by filling the blank with the correct option. (1)**

The experience of nursing an injured bird left me \_\_\_\_\_ grateful for knowing the importance of being kind and compassionate to all creatures.

- A. feeling
- B. having felt
- C. felt
- D. feels

### WRITING SKILLS

(10 marks)

4) A) You are grateful to God for caring mother you have. Describe your mother and her affection towards you. **Write a descriptive paragraph in 100-120 words.** (5)

OR

4) B) **Write a descriptive paragraph in 100 to 120 words.** Describe an incident that taught you an important life lesson. (*Hints: what happened, how you felt, what you learned*)

5) A) " **Write a story in 100-120 words with the help of the following:**

There was a man living in a village. He was very poor. His name was Hari. His life was full of miseries. He always blamed God for.....". (5)

OR

5) B) Imagine you woke up to find that all technology had stopped working. Describe the day. (*Hints: problems faced, emotions, changes in routine*). **Narrate your experience in the form of a 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 marks)**

A) **“Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:**

“He passed by the cathedral tower, where the white marble angels were sculptured. He passed by the palace and heard the sound of dancing. A beautiful girl came out on the balcony with her lover. “I hope my dress will be ready in time for the State ball,” she said. “I have ordered flowers to be embroidered on it, but the seamstresses are so lazy.” He passed over the river, and saw the lanterns hanging on the masts of the ships. At last, he came to the poor woman’s house and looked in. The boy was tossing feverishly on his bed, and the mother had fallen asleep, she was so tired. In he hopped, and laid the great ruby on the table beside the woman’s thimble. Then he flew gently round the bed, fanning the boy’s forehead with his wings. “How cool I feel!” said the boy, “I must be getting better;” and he sank into a delicious slumber.”

i) Which of the following is NOT a detail from the passage? (1)

A) The boy was tossing feverishly on his bed. (B)

The beautiful girl ordered flowers to be embroidered on her dress for the State ball.

C) The lanterns were hanging on the masts of the ships over the river. (D)

The boy's mother had finished sewing the dress for the State ball

ii) State TRUE or FALSE. (1)

None of the options (A) - (D) below, can be applied to the question - Who is the speaker of the lines? - "I hope my dress will be ready in time for the State ball,"

- A) The boy's mother
- B) The swallow
- C) The Happy Prince
- D) The Queen's maids of honour

iii) Is the girl right in considering the seamstresses to be lazy? Give a reason. (2)

iv) Which phrase would correctly substitute slumber, in the given sentence from the extract? (1)  
I must be getting better, and he sank into a delicious slumber.

**OR**

B) "To the little girl he was a figure to be feared and avoided. Every morning before going to work he came into her room and gave her a casual kiss, to which she responded with 'Good Bye Father'. And oh, there was a glad sense of relief when she heard the noise of the carriage growing fainter and fainter down the long road!"

i) What was the daily routine of the father? (1)

ii) When did the daughter feel a sense of relief? (1)

iii) Why did Kezia avoid her father? (2)

(iv) Trace a word from the passage which means "answered". (1)

**7) Read the given extracts and answer the questions for any one of the two, given. (5 marks)**

A) "I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,  
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made:  
Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honeybee,  
And live alone in the bee-loud glade."

i) What is 'Innisfree'? (1)

- A) a snow-clad mountain.
- B) a clean and fresh-water lake.
- C) a quiet and peaceful island.
- D) a simple and modest house.

ii) What kind of home would the poet like to build there? (2)

iii) Quote a phrase from the extract the BEST conveys the poet's eagerness and urgency to go to Innisfree? (1)

iv) It is clear that 'Alliteration' is the poetic device used in the last line because \_\_\_\_\_. (1)

**OR**

B) "A slumber did my spirit seal  
I had no human fears  
She seemed a thing that could not feel.

The touch of earthly years.”

- i) What has sealed the poet's spirit? (1)  
ii) What is the reason for the absence of typical human fears in the poet's mind? Answer in about 40 words. (2)  
iii) How does the poet feel in the given lines? (1)  
A) cheerful                      B) depressed                      C) enraged                      D) petrified  
iv) The rhyming scheme used in the given stanza is \_\_\_\_\_ . (1)

**8) Answer any four of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words. (4x3=12)**

- i) Evelyn supported various causes apart from giving performance. Discuss. (3)  
ii) What do you know about A.P.J. Abdul Kalam’s family after reading the lesson “My childhood”? (3)  
iii) When did a 'thousand dreamy fancies' begin to weave in the poet’s mind? Write your answer in the context of the poem, 'Rain on the Roof'. (3)  
iv) Why did Saint Peter travel around the earth? How did he come to the little woman's cottage? (3)  
v) What does Vikram Seth compare to the quills of a porcupine? Write your answer in the context of the Kathmandu? (3)

**9) Answer any two of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. (2X3=6)**

- i) How does Ishwaran describe the story of the elephant? Does it appear to be possible? (3)  
ii) What kind of friend was Sue to Johnsy? (3)  
iii) How did Sergei come to remember that he had met the beggar before? (3)

**10) Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words (1x6=6)**

i) Santosh decided to fight the system in her own “quiet way”. How did Santosh rebel but quietly?

**OR**

ii) Describe what the poet says about the killing of a tree as given in “**On Killing a Tree**”. What is the irony involved?

**11) Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. (1x6=6)**

i) Describe the hardships faced by the author and his family in the story “**A House is Not a Home**”. Write your answer in the context of A House is Not a Home.

**OR**

ii) Sometimes wisdom lies in being tactful. It was the guru's wisdom and knowledge that led him to become the king of the kingdom. Elaborate with reference to **In the Kingdom of Fools**.

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