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INDIAN SCHOOL SALALAH
FIRST TERM EXAMINATION – SEPTEMBER 2026



ENGLISH-LANGUAGE & LITERATURE (184)

Class: X

DATE: 20/09/2026

Time: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. This question paper contains three sections – A, B and C.
2. Section A – Reading Skills carries 20 marks.
3. Section B – Writing Skills with Grammar carries 20 marks.
4. Section C – Language through Literature carries 40 marks.
5. All questions are compulsory unless an internal choice is provided.
6. Read the questions carefully and follow the prescribed word limits.
7. Marks are indicated against each question.

SECTION A – READING SKILLS (20 Marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. (10Marks)

1. Gone are the days when malnutrition would mean a sickly thin child. Now it covers a spectrum that refers to deficiencies, excesses, or imbalances in a child's intake of energy or nutrients. The new century is a harbinger of new sights and technology. Keeping up with the times is also the changing face of malnutrition in kids. In the 21st Century, malnutrition has taken the form of an ugly three-headed monster - the one that combines undernutrition, poor vitamin and mineral status, and overweight.

2. Undernutrition which includes low weight-for-height or wasting, low height-for-age or stunting and underweight which is low weight-for-age. Undernutrition makes children vulnerable to all kinds of diseases and can even be life-threatening. This is usually treatable and preventable too. Low weight-for-age means the child has recently undergone severe weight loss, either due to diarrhea or any other health condition. Low height-for-age usually means long standing lack of nutritious food. This can be traced back to poor nutrition when the child was in the mother's womb, poor nutrition as a child and frequent illness. Stunting can severely limit a child in terms of its intelligence and physical capabilities. Underweight children can be so either due to stunting or wasting or due to both.

3. Micronutrient malnutrition is deficiency of vitamins and minerals which are collectively called micronutrients and they are required for healthy growth and development. Children who display difficult eating behavior or those who do not consume a variety of foods might not be meeting their vitamin and mineral requirements. Most of the times, absorption could also be an issue. Deficiencies of iodine, vitamin A and iron is a global health problem with many children deficient in them.

4. Gone are the days when a cherubic baby was a sign of a healthy baby. Overweight or obesity means a child is much too heavy for their age. This predicament is because there is an imbalance between consumption of calories and expenditure. Sugar and fat laden drinks and snacks are responsible for this. Excess fat can impair health.

5. The big three faces of malnutrition pose many issues at the individual and at the country level. For starters, all forms of malnutrition can lead to diet- related non-communicable diseases such as heart attacks and stroke, and often linked with high blood pressure. At a country level, lack of productivity from malnourished individuals and increase in healthcare costs pose an economic burden on the country.

6. Nation-wide efforts are needed to tackle this problem of malnutrition. Access to safe, nutritious foods even to the economically disadvantaged societies, providing nutrition education for families to make the correct dietary choice and improving assessment and nutrition monitoring can help weed and rectify malnutrition early.

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage:

(10 Marks)

(i) Select the option that classifies the writer's view on changing definition of emerging causes of malnutrition in the wake of 21st Century. **(1)**

- (a) Poverty and starvation
- (b) Lack of nutrition literacy
- (c) Opulent resources
- (d) Lack of resources

(ii) Pick the option that correctly identifies as a malnourished child: **(1)**

- 1. Wasted
- 2. Obese
- 3. Normal
- 4. Stunted

- (a) 2, 3, 4
- (c) 1, 2, 4

- (b) 1,2, 3
- (d) 1, 3, 4

(iii) Share evidence from the text to support the view that the writer is urging for immediate intervention, detection and prevention of malnutrition. **(1)**

(iv) Match the conditions appropriately: **(1)**

Column I

Column II

1. Stunting

(i) Thinner than normal weight

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 2. Obese | (ii) Shorter than normal height |
| 3. Wasting | (iii) Overweight than normal |
| 4. Underweight | (iv) both thinner and shorter than normal |

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (a) 1-(iv), 2-(iii), 3-(ii), 4-(i) | (b) 1-(i), 2-(ii), 3-(iii), 4-(iv) |
| (c) 1-(ii), 2-(iii), 3-(i), 4-(iv) | (d) 1-(iii), 2-(ii), 3-(iv), 4-(i) |

- (iv) Who among the following child can likely be malnourished despite access to opulent resources? (1)
- (a) A slow eater
 - (b) A picky eater
 - (c) A slum dweller
 - (d) A village kid
- (vi) Who are the ugly three-headed monster that the writer blames for malnutrition? (1)
- (a) Undernutrition, micro nutrient related deficiency and overweight
 - (b) Micronutrient adequacy, obesity and stunting
 - (c) wasting, overweight and vitamin adequacy
 - (d) stunting, excess nutrition and minerals adequacy.
- (vii) Explain, why a cherubic baby is no longer considered a healthy baby. (2)
- (viii) How malnutrition could be a threat to economic growth of a nation? (2)

2. Read the following text carefully. (10)

1. In a recent research study conducted on the footwear preferences and influencing factors among young teens in India, valuable insights were gathered to understand the choices and motivations behind their footwear purchases. Based on the survey conducted with a sample size of 500 students aged 13-16, from various schools across different regions of India, the following data and observations were noted:

2. Footwear Preferences:

- 42% of the respondents indicated a preference for sneakers or sports shoes as their primary choice of footwear.
- 28% expressed a preference for sandals or flip-flops.
- 20% favoured casual shoes or loafers.
- 10% showed a preference for formal shoes or boots.

Influencing Factors:

- Price and affordability were found to be the most significant influencing factors, with 55% of the respondents considering it as a primary factor in their purchase decision.
- Brand reputation and popularity played a role in the decision-making process for 30% of the respondents.
- Comfort and fit were considered important by 10% of the participants.
- Fashion trends and peer influence influenced the purchase decisions of 5% of the respondents.

Regional Variations:

- The research also highlighted regional variations in footwear preferences. For example, in urban

areas, sneakers or sports shoes were more popular (47% of respondents), while in rural areas, sandals or flip-flops were preferred (32% of respondents).

(3) The researchers feel that understanding these insights can aid footwear manufacturers and retailers in catering to the specific needs and preferences of this target demographic, ultimately offering them footwear options that align with their desires and aspirations.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

(10 Marks)

(i) List one merit of using a face-to-face interview as a better way of gathering information for this particular study, as opposed to an online survey. **(1)**

(ii) Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below. **(1)**

Assertion: Most of the young teens in India prefer to wear sports shoes.

Reason: Fashion trends and peer influence influenced the teens to prefer sports shoes.

(a) Both the assertion and reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.

(b) Both the assertion and reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.

(c) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.

(d) The assertion is false, but the reason is true.

(iii) Rationalise, why price and affordability were identified as the most significant influencing factors for young teens, when purchasing footwear. **(1)**

(iv) The impact of fashion trends and peer influence was picked by only 5% of the respondents. Infer what these displays. **(Any ONE point)** **(1)**

(v) Based on the provided data on footwear preferences among teens across the nation, select the **LEAST** likely reason why sports shoes are the most preferred. **(1)**

(a) Sports shoes are deemed more stylish and trendy among teenagers.

(b) Sports shoes offer comfort and flexibility for various activities.

(c) Respondents find sports shoes more affordable than other options.

(d) Sports shoes are associated with a higher social status among teens.

(vi) Study the data on influencing factors, from the table.

Identify which percentage of respondents (30%; 10%; 5%), match with cases I-III, given below.

(ANY TWO) Cases: **(1)**

(1) Rupinder, a practical and active individual, who believes that comfortable shoes are essential for his daily activities and overall well-being.

(2) Raza, a trend-conscious teenager, is heavily influenced by celebrity styles and strives to stay updated with the latest and upcoming product designs.

(3) Revathi, a fashion-forward teen, values the way she dresses and is particular about being acknowledged for her popular national and international expensive choices.

(vii) Fill the blanks appropriately, to complete the sentence. **(1)**

One advantage of including regional variation in the study is that

(viii) State the reason for ANY ONE, from (a) & (b) below, in 30-40 words. **(2)**

(a) NGOs are the most likely to be sponsors for this study.

(b) NGOs are the least likely to be sponsors for this study

(ix) Identify the phrase that replaces the underlined part appropriately: **(1)**

Young teens seek footwear options that not only meet their functional needs but also resonate with their personal style, fashion preferences, and self-expression.

SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS AND GRAMMAR (20 MARKS)

3. Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed. **(10x1=10)**

(i) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket for the given portion of a letter.

Dear Madam/Sir

I am..... (constrain) to express my displeasure and resentment at inferior arrangements made during our tour to Nainital in summer vacations.

(ii) Identify the error and supply the correction in the following sentence.

Many a student try hard to pass her/his entrance exam.

(iii) Report Ankit's question.

Ankit said to Aanya, "Have you ever been to Agra?"

(iv) Choose an appropriate answer to complete the conversation given below.

Kartika: How old are you?

Ron: I am turning twenty in the coming week.

Kartika: for how many years have you been playing the guitar?

Ron:

(a) Next week, when I turn twenty, I have played the guitar for twelve years.

(b) Next week, when I turn twenty, I am going to play the guitar for twelve years.

(c) Next week, when I turn twenty, I will have been playing the guitar for twelve years.

(d) Next week, when I turn twenty, I was going to be playing the guitar for twelve years.

(v) Choose the correct option below to meaningfully complete the conversation.

Sanith: I get tickets for the football match last week.

Sanil: You... told me. I had extra tickets since my sisters backed out at the last minute.

(a) did not, need to have

(b) might not, could have

(c) could not, should have

(d) would not, ought to have

(vi) Identify the error and supply the correction in the following sentence.

Every boy and every girl of class 10 were in the playground.

(vii) Identify the error and supply the correction for the following sentence.

Cultural diversity is a driving force of development, not only with respect to economic growth, but also as a means of leading a many fulfilling intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual life.

(viii) Complete the sentence by reporting the conversation.

Doctor: Do you feel down from time-to-time?

Patient: Yes, I do not stay in a good mood.

The doctor, while trying to figure out his patient's ailment, asked to which the patient replied in a positive and further said that he did not stay in a good mood.

(ix) Fill in the blank with the appropriate form of the verb given in the brackets.

When we found out that the Prussian..... (ask) M. Hamel to leave the school, we were shattered.

(x) Sunil shared some information with Tariq about a holiday at sea. Report Sunil's question.

Sunil: Did you enjoy travelling by sea?

(xi) Choose the correct option to complete the given dialogue.

Pintu: Why do you look so stressed? Is everything alright?

Mintu: No! I just got some bad news. ...

- (a) Aditya is in a car accident.
- (c) Aditya had been in a car accident.
- (b) Aditya has been in a car accident.
- (d) Aditya will have been in a car accident.

(xii) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete an online update.

The climate control comment by an activist on social media yesterday.

- (a) blow up
- (b) blew up
- (c) is blown
- (d) will be blown

CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

4.(a) You are Bela / Baloo of Palanpuri. You recently visited a craft mela. You were delighted to see the diversity of handicrafts, handlooms and cultural fabric of India. However, you were dismayed that not many people were there to encourage the artisans. Write a letter to the editor in 100-120 words, expressing your views on the situation and the need to support indigenous art and craft. **(5)**

OR

(b) You are Sudha/Sudhir, Principal of Vasant School, Agra. Your school has started a music Department. Write a letter to the Manager of Melody House, M.G. Road, Agra, wholesale suppliers of musical instruments, placing a detailed order for a few musical instruments for the school. Ask for discount on the catalogue price. **(5)**

5. (a) Your school's teacher coordinator for co-curricular activities has tasked you, as the Head girl, with reviewing the quotes and description letters of two flower vendors for the decoration of the Annual Day celebrations. She has requested you to share your recommendation, based on analytical inputs. Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words, recommending Vendor B, as opposed to Vendor A, for the event. **(5)**

Vendor A

Dear Madam Co-Ordinator

Our team at Blossom Delight is dedicated to delivering beautiful and vibrant floral arrangements that will enhance the aesthetic appeal of your event. We offer a variety of packages to suit your needs, including elegant bouquets, table centre-pieces, and decorative installations. Our experienced team will work closely with you to understand the theme and colour scheme of the event, ensuring that our floral designs complement the overall atmosphere.

Price Estimate for Basic Package:

- Standard two-flower bouquets: 290 per piece. (Customised-Extra charges)
- Table Centre-pieces: 150 each
- Decorative Installations: 550 per area

We look forward to the opportunity to contribute to the success of your annual day celebrations.

Yours sincerely

[Vendor A]

Vendor B

Dear Madam Co-Ordinator

At Petal Perfect, we take pride in creating unique and personalised floral arrangements that reflect the essence of your school.

Our packages include a diverse range of floral designs, from classic bouquets to intricate installations. We understand the importance of customisation and will tailor our creations to align seamlessly with the theme and spirit of your event.

Price Estimate for Basic Package:

- Bouquets: 310 per piece for two-flower setting (standard or customised)

- Table Centre-pieces: 150 each
- Decorative Installations: 575 per area (One ceremonial flower rangoli FREE.)

As part of our commitment to sustainability, we use locally sourced and eco-friendly materials in our arrangements.

We look forward to the prospect of contributing to the annual day celebrations.

Warm regards

[Vendor B]

OR

(b) The chart below displays details regarding online activity for four age groups in six categories. Write an analytical paragraph for the table provided in about 120 words. **(5)**

ACTIVITY %	AGE	AGE	AGE	AGE
	TEENS	20s	30s	40s
News	76	71	72	78
Downloads	85	55	35	25
Buying a product	44	66	67	69
Online games	88	55	36	28
Searching for a product	0	77	81	85
Searching for people	6	33	22	21

SECTION C: LANGUAGE THROUGH LITERATURE (40 Marks)

6. Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow. **(5x1=5)**

“God,” he wrote, “if you don't help me, my family and I will go hungry this year.”

I. Lencho's statement primarily reveals his: **(1)**

- A. fear of the postman
- B. unquestioning faith in divine intervention
- C. anger towards the government
- D. dependence on his neighbours

II. Why is Lencho's faith both admirable and ironic in the context of the story? **(2)**

III. Assertion (A): Lencho does not lose his faith in God even after receiving less money than he had requested. **(1)**

Reason (R): Lencho believes that God could never deceive him, so he suspects the post-office employees instead.

Choose the correct option:

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C. A is true, but R is false.
- D. A is false, but R is true.

IV. The postmaster's response to Lencho's letter primarily demonstrates: **(1)**

- A. sympathy without practical action
- B. kindness motivated by professional duty
- C. empathy and an attempt to preserve another person's faith
- D. curiosity about supernatural powers

OR

B. "Mijbil had developed certain compulsive habits. One of these was to roll on his back and kick his legs in the air. Another was to splash water in his bowl."

I. The phrase "compulsive habits" suggests that Mijbil: **(1)**

- A. performed these actions unwillingly
- B. repeatedly performed these actions as part of his natural behaviour
- C. was trained by Maxwell to behave in this manner
- D. performed these actions only when he was frightened

II. Why does Maxwell include such seemingly ordinary details about Mijbil's behaviour? **(2)**

- A. To establish that Mijbil was difficult to control
- B. To show the animal's distinctive personality and playful nature
- C. To prove that otters are unsuitable as pets
- D. To explain why Mijbil was afraid of water

III. Assertion (A): Mijbil's unusual habits contribute to the narrator's growing attachment to him.

Reason (R): Maxwell becomes increasingly interested in observing Mijbil's individual personality and behaviour. **(1)**

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C. A is true, but R is false.
- D. A is false, but R is true.

IV. What does Mijbil's interaction with water reveal about his natural instincts? **(1)**

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow. **(5x1=5)**

A. "He stalks in his vivid stripes
And he comes towards the cage."

I. The word "**stalks**" suggests: **(1)**

- A. playful movement
- B. deliberate and controlled movement

- C. fearful movement
- D. accidental movement

II. Identify the poetic device used in “vivid stripes.” (1)

- A. metaphor
- B. alliteration
- C. imagery
- D. oxymoron

III. Assertion (A): The tiger's physical strength contrasts sharply with his actual lack of freedom.

Reason (R): The cage restricts the tiger's natural instincts and movements. (1)

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C. A is true, but R is false.
- D. A is false, but R is true.

IV. What central message about captivity can be inferred from the extract? (2)

OR

B. “The trees inside are moving out into the forest,
the forest that was empty all these days
where no bird could sit
no insect could hide
no sun bury its feet in shadow.”

I. The expression “The trees inside are moving out” is an example of: (1)

- A. metaphor
- B. personification
- C. simile
- D. hyperbole

II. Why does the poet describe the forest as “empty”? (1)

III. Complete the following suitably: (1)

The absence of birds, insects and sunlight in the forest suggests that _____.

IV. How does the poet create a sense of movement and liberation in these lines? Explain with reference to the imagery used. (2)

8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions in 40–50 words each.

(4×3=12)

(First Flight)

- A.** Mandela's definition of freedom changes as he grows older. Explain how his understanding of personal freedom and collective freedom develops.
- B.** Anne says that paper has more patience than people. What does this statement reveal about her emotional needs and her relationship with those around her?
- C.** Both stories involve fear and uncertainty. Compare how the experiences of the young seagull and the pilot help them confront situations they cannot fully control.
- D.** The three sections introduce Goa, Coorg and Assam through food, landscape, people, history and tradition. How does the chapter use ordinary details to construct a larger picture of India's cultural identity?
- E.** Valli's reaction to the dead cow on her return journey is very different from her excitement at the beginning of the trip. What does this change suggest about her developing understanding of life?

Q9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions in 40–50 words each.

(2×3=6)

(Footprints without Feet)

- A.** Mrs Pumphrey genuinely loves Tricki, yet her love contributes to his poor health. What distinction does the story make between love that nurtures and love that indulges?
- B.** Hari Singh's decision to return the stolen money is not caused by fear of punishment. What does this reveal about the transformative power of trust and education?
- C.** Ausable wins against Max without physical strength. Explain how the story reverses the conventional image of a secret agent and creates suspense through intelligence rather than action.

10. Answer ONE of the following in about 100–120 words.

(6 Marks)

- A.** The poems “Fire and Ice,” “The Ball Poem” and “Amanda!” appear to deal with completely different subjects. However, all three explore the consequences of uncontrolled human emotions or desires. Do you agree with this interpretation? Compare the poems and evaluate how desire, loss and the longing for freedom affect the individuals presented in them. Use textual references to support your answer.

OR

- B.** In “The Trees,” “A Tiger in the Zoo” and “How to Tell Wild Animals,” Animals and nature are presented through very different poetic approaches. One poem evokes sympathy, another uses humour and another presents the desire for freedom. Analyse how tone changes the reader's response to nature and animals in these three poems. Do you think humour can communicate a serious ecological message as effectively as a serious tone? Give reasons for your answer.

Q11. Answer ONE of the following in about 100–120 words.

(6 Marks)

A. Consider the following characters:

- Hari Singh – *The Thief's Story*
- Griffin – *Footprints Without Feet*
- Horace Danby – *A Question of Trust*
- Richard Ebright – *The Making of a Scientist*

All four possess intelligence or special abilities, but their lives take very different directions.

Evaluate the statement: “Talent and intelligence do not determine a person's character; the choices made with them do.” Compare any three of the above characters and explain how their choices lead to different consequences.

OR

B. In “The Necklace,” “A Question of Trust” and “The Thief's Story,” deception appears to offer the characters an immediate solution to their problems. Yet deception ultimately exposes deeper weaknesses in their character or circumstances. Critically examine how deception functions differently in these three stories. Do the consequences arise mainly from the characters' actions, their circumstances, or both? Justify your response with textual evidence.
