

— SCHOOL SECTION —

STD : X CBSE

PRE EXAM – I

TIME : 3:00 Hrs

SUB : ENGLISH LL (184)

DATE : 4th December, 2025

MM :80

General Instructions:

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 Text Book
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

Section A - Reading Skills	
1	<p>Read the following passage carefully : (10 Marks)</p> <p>1. Saffron is a spice that's long been revered across the globe, captivating hearts and palates with its deep - red hue and complex flavour. It is one of the most prized spices that you can find on this planet. Just like gold is among the most valuable metals in the world, saffron means the same in the world of spices. Also known as 'kesar' in Hindi, it has a rich history and is often called an ancient spice. Saffron is being used since ages in various foods made for the royals and the elite as it contains medicinal properties.</p> <p>2. Originating from the delicate stigma of the saffron crocus flower, it transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary, infusing dishes with a subtle, earthy sweetness that adds a special taste to the palate. Saffron has a strong exotic aroma and a unique flavour and is used to colour and flavour many Mediterranean and Asian dishes, particularly rice, fish and English, Scandinavian, and Balkan breads.</p> <p>3. Saffron forms the backbone of several iconic dishes from around the world, such as the Spanish rice, seafood dish Paella, the French stew Bouillabaisse, Italian rice dish Risotto Milanese, the Indian ice cream Kesar Kulfi, Pakistani rice dish Biryani, and baked Iranian rice Tachin. Saffron's rich red colour is attributed to crocin; its bitter taste, to picrocrocin; and its distinctive aroma, to safranal.</p>

4. Saffron is cultivated chiefly in Iran but is also grown in Spain, France, Italy, and parts of India. A labour - intensive crop, the three stigmas are handpicked from each flower, spread on trays, and dried over charcoal fires for use as a food flavouring and colouring agent.
5. Most historians speculate it was first domesticated in Iran, but south - western Greek islands remain strong contenders. Traders, conquerors, and world explorers introduced it to China, India and the Middle East. From there, it travelled to Mediterranean Europe.
6. The high retail value of saffron is maintained in world markets because of labour - intensive harvesting methods, which require some 444,000 hand - picked saffron stigmas per kilogram - equivalently, 150,000 crocus flowers per kilogram. Forty hours of labour are needed to pick 150,000 flowers. Almost all saffron grows in a belt from Spain in the west to India in the east. Iran is responsible for around 88% of global production. Afghanistan comes second, and Spain is the third largest producer, while the United Arab Emirates, Greece, the Indian subcontinent and Morocco are among minor producers.
7. Given its high price, adulteration is quite common, unfortunately. Adulterants like beetroot or pomegranate are used to enhance red colour; silk fibres, oil, or wax are used to add bulk, and powdered saffron can be adulterated with turmeric and paprika.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

1. What is the tone of the writer in the given lines? Rationalise your response in about 40 words. **(1 Mark)**

"Saffron is being used since ages in various foods made for the royals and the elite as it contains medicinal properties." (Paragraph 1)
2. Which of the following statements best describes the comparison made in the sentence? **(1 Mark)**

"Just like gold is among the most valuable metals in the world, saffron means the same in the world of spices." (Paragraph 1)

 - (A) Gold and saffron have similar physical properties.
 - (B) Gold and saffron have equal monetary value.
 - (C) Saffron is considered the most valuable spice, similar to how gold is valued among metals.
 - (D) Gold and saffron are both rare commodities in the global market.
3. List any two points why saffron is revered across the globe. **(2 Marks)**

Paragraphs (2) and (3)

4. Fill in the blank from the given options : **(1 Mark)**

In the phrase 'backbone of several iconic dishes', the word 'iconic' refers to _____. (Paragraph 3)

- (A) delicately cooked (B) widely recognized
- (C) peculiar and rare (D) strange and infamous

5. Complete the sentence appropriately : **(2 Marks)**

Saffron has a labour-intensive cultivation process which involves _____. (Paragraph 4)

6. State whether the following statement is True or False : **(1 Mark)**

According to historians, saffron was first used in the kitchens in Iran. (Paragraph 5)

7. Which of the following statements best describes the reason for saffron's high retail value? (Paragraph 6) **(1 Mark)**

- (A) Due to its magical or mystical properties.
- (B) Because it can only be grown in specific regions.
- (C) Due to its labour-intensive cultivation process and its relatively low yield per plant.
- (D) Because traders, conquerors, and world explorers hoard it.

8. Support the writer's view with evidence from the text that saffron is often adulterated. (Paragraph 7) **(1 Mark)**

2	Read the following passage carefully:	[10]
	<p>1. When planning vacations, Indians typically prioritize domestic destinations, as shown by Ministry of Tourism data indicating 1.7 billion domestic tourist visits within India compared to 21 million international departures in 2022. Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka stand out as the top states for domestic tourism. Reasons for domestic tourism are many, some travel because it suits their budget while others love to explore the historical, cultural diversity. The government today is focussing on tourist - friendly infrastructure which is making travel more convenient for the domestic traveller.</p> <p>2. In terms of outbound tourism, a significant proportion of Indian travellers, totalling 5.9 million, visited the United Arab Emirates in 2022, comprising 28 percent of total outbound tourist travel. Other Gulf states such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Kuwait also rank among the top destinations, with 2.4 million, 880,000, and 830,000 Indian visitors, respectively. Additionally, countries like the United States</p>	

and the United Kingdom attract a considerable number of Indian tourists because these countries offer a mix of traditional and contemporary experiences along with enjoying unique cuisines and diverse landscapes.

3. The popularity of Gulf States and the U.S. may be influenced by migration trends. The current issue of the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) World Migration Report highlights significant migration flows from India to the United Arab Emirates, the United States, and Saudi Arabia. For instance, the Emirates hosted approximately 3.6 million Indian migrants as of August 2023. Only via two corridors have more people transferred from one country to another as of 2020 according to the IOM: Mexico to the United States with around 11 million and Syria to Turkey with approximately 4 million. These migration corridors rank among the top ten globally.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

1. What does the use of the phrase 'prioritise domestic destinations' by the writer, in paragraph (1) imply? **(1 Mark)**
 - a. Indian tourists prefer places in the country itself.
 - b. Indian tourists like to stay at home.
 - c. Indian tourists mainly travel on low budgets.
 - d. Indian tourists love to hitch-hike and trek.
2. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of paragraph (2). **(1 Mark)**

The statement that, World Migration Report highlights significant migration flows from India to the United Arab Emirates, the United States, and Saudi Arabia, is a/an _____ (fact/opinion) because it is a/an _____ (subjective judgement/objective detail).

3. Draw a comparative analysis of domestic tourists travelling within India with domestic tourists travelling outside India in 2022. Answer in about 40 words. **(2 Marks)**
4. Complete the following with a suitable reason. **(1 Mark)**

Gulf states rank as popular destinations for Indians _____.

5. Select the option that is true for the Assertion and Reason given below: **(1 Mark)**

Assertion: Indians prioritize Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh for domestic tourism.

Reason: These states are full of historical monuments.

- 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.

6. Complete the sentence appropriately. **(1 Mark)**

The fourthmost visited outbound destination for Indians to the Gulf is _____.

7. Mention any two reasons for domestic tourism becoming popular. **(1 Mark)**

8. What is the writer's view about the tourism industry in the west? Write any two points. **(1 Mark)**

9. Identify the word in paragraph (3) that indicates the 'preference' of people travelling to the Gulf. **(1 Mark)**

SECTION B 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:

I would like to _____ (propose) the idea of implementing 'Wholesome Lunch Month' for all school students.

2. Read the given sentence from a recipe review article. Identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence:

The soup recipe didn't turned out as expected, it was lacking in flavour.

Use the given format for your response:

Error	Correction

3. Read the conversation between two friends Ravi and Reena. Complete the sentence by reporting Reena's reply correctly.

Ravi : "Reena, lend me hundred rupees'.

Reena : "I don't have it right now, but I will arrange it for you".

Ravi asked Reena to lend him hundred rupees, to which Reena replied that _____.

4. The student said, "Let me come in."

Reported speech: _____

- a) The student told that let he be allowed to come in.
- b) The student requested to let him come in.
- c) The student requested that he might be allowed to come in.
- d) The student said that if he is allowed to come in.

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

He is an expert on languages, but he knows _____ (a lot of / little / a few) about mathematics.

6. Identify the error and supply the correction for the following part of an advertisement of a web hosting site:

One of the world's most popular domain name seller provides fantastic web hosting packages as well

Use the given format for your response.

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

Two children died after a massive fire breaks out in a newly constructed hospital building in Andhra Pradesh.

Option no.	Error	Correction
A	children	child
B	a	the
C	breaks	broke
D	in	at

8. These days, people who _____ manual work, often receive far more money than clerks who _____ in offices.

- a) are doing, are working b) do, work
- b) were doing, were working c) have done, have worked

9. Report the dialogue between the receptionist and the customer by completing the sentence:

Receptionist: When would you like to check into the hotel.

Customer: I will send you an email and give the details.

In response to the question regarding when he would like to move in, the customer replied _____.

10. He said to his friend, "please wait for me".

Reported speech: _____

- a) He requested his friend that he should wait for him.
- b) He requested his friend to wait for him.
- c) He told his friend to wait for him.
- d) He said to his friend to wait for him.

11. **Complete the line from a self - awareness song, by filling the blank with the correct option.**

Where the mind is without tear and the head is held high

Where knowledge is free

Where the world _____ not _____ up into fragments

By narrow domestic walls

- a) has been broken b) had been broken
- b) will be broken c) have been broken

12. Identify the error and supply the correction, for the following:

Delhi Government
COVID-19 FAMILY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME
An assistance of ₹2,500/- per month will be given to family residing in Delhi where earning members died due to COVID-19.

Use the given format for your response.

error	correction
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SECTION B CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

4 The recent increase in crimes against people of the North - East, especially in the cities, has highlighted the growing problem faced by the community. Fear of violence continues to worry them. Write a letter to the Editor of Times of India expressing your concern over the recent death of a young student resulting from a racial comment against people from North - East. Suggest what steps the government should take to solve this problem. You are Aanchal/Aryan, a resident of A - 12, East of Kailash, N. Delhi.

[5]

OR

	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 five musical instruments for the school. Ask for a discount on the catalogue price.	
5	Look at the data given below which shows the changes that have occurred between 2010 to 2020 in Jind regarding women's education. Write a paragraph in 100 - 120 words interpreting the data.	[5]
OR		
	<p>Digital/Virtual learning came to the rescue of teachers and students during lockdown. Moreover, it also heralded the transition from old to the new trends in our education system.</p> <p>Write an analytical paragraph on 'Virtual Teaching and Learning' in about 100 - 120 words.</p> <p>You can use the following cues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital age and technology • No access to regular school, technology opened new gateways of learning • Teachers and students interacting on digital platform • Smartphones, laptops, iPads • Virtual teaching - a challenge for both students and teachers 	

SECTION C - LITERATURE

6	<p>Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.</p> <p>1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:</p> <p>Max bit his lip nervously. The knocking was repeated.</p>	[5]
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"What will you do now, Max ?" Ausable asked. "If I do not answer the door, they will enter anyway. The door is unlocked. And they will not hesitate to shoot".

- a. Who is Max?(1)
 - i. a spy ii. a tourist iii. a businessman iv. a waiter
- b. Max was unprepared for his mission. Elaborate with reference to the extract.(2)
- c. Actually the door was knocked at by _____.(1)
- d. Which word in the extract is opposite in meaning to the word 'confidently'?(1)

2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

The house - the only one in the entire valley sat on the crest of a low hill. From this height, one could see the river and the field of ripe corn dotted with the flowers that always promised a good harvest. The only thing the earth needed was a downpour or at least a shower.

Throughout the morning Lench - who knew his fields intimately had done nothing else but see the sky towards the north - east, "Now we're really going to get some water, woman." The woman who was preparing supper, replied, "Yes, God willing"

- a. What is the significance of the location of Lench's house? Answer in about 40 words.(2)
- b. Complete the sentence with the appropriate option. The field belonged to Lench and he had the utmost confidence that the harvest would _____.(1)
 - i. not gain any profit ii. reap some profit
 - iii. give moderate sale iv. reap great profits
- a. Identify the word in the passage that means the same as "heavy fall of rain"(1)
- b. State any one inference about Lench from the given context: Throughout the morning Lench - who knew his fields intimately had done nothing else but see the sky towards the north - east, "Now we're really going to get some water, woman."(1)

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

1. Read the lines given below and answer the questions that follow:
I sit inside, doors open to the verandah

[5]

Writing long letters

In which I scarcely mention the departure
of the forest from the house.

The night is fresh, the whole moon shines
in a sky still open
the smell of leaves and lichen
still reaches like a voice into the rooms.

a. Fill in the blank with one word:(1)

The poet talks about the house as a place of _____.

b. Find the figure of speech used in the lines above.(2)

c. The extract uses 'open' twice, suggesting different meanings. Write the correct meaning with reference to the extract.(1)

d. Choose the option that DOES NOT state the meaning of the underlined word.(1)

'I s carcely mention...'

i. Tactfully ii. Hardly iii. Barely iv. only just

2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Belinda is as brave as a barrel full of bears
And Ink and Blink chase lions down the stairs,
Mustard is as brave as a tiger in a rage,
But Custard keeps crying for a nice safe cage.

a. Pick the option that does not display a simile from the extract.(1)

I. ...as brave as a barrel full of bears
II. ...chase lions down the stairs
III. ...brave as a tiger in a rage
IV. none of the above

b. Fill in the blank with one word. The coward behaviour of _____ animal is described here in these lines.(1)

c. How does the poet describe the pets of Belinda in this extract?(2)

	d. A hyperbole is a poetic device where the poet purposely and obviously exaggerates to an extreme. Comment on the hyperbole from the extract.(1)	
8	<p>Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 50 words each.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the importance of the river Kaveri in the district of Coorg? 2. According to the poem, A Tiger in the Zoo, is it safe to allow tigers to live in their natural habitat these days? 3. Why did Chubukov misunderstand the purpose of Lomov's visit? (The Proposal) 4. Anne said that the only thing missing was the presence of a true friend. <p>Imagine that Anne had access to the internet and had chosen to blog instead of writing a diary.</p> <p>As Anne, write a blog post on the value of a true friend.</p> <p>DearestKittyblogger.com</p> <p>Anne Frank, 25 June, 1942 The Value of a True Friend</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. To say that for destruction ice is also great for the poet, what does ice stand for? How is it sufficient to bring destruction? 	[12]
9	<p>Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40 - 50 words.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What made Mrs. Pumphrey call the veterinary? 2. How did you feel when you read about Bholi being ignored and ill-treated by her parents as a child? 3. Why does Griffin in "Footprints without Feet" flee from the store in London? 	[6]
10	<p>Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100 - 120 words</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read the extracts given below and comment on the difference in the nature of help both the characters, of these two stories, received. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Suddenly I came out of the clouds and saw two straight lines of lights in front of me. It was a runway! An airport! I was safe! I turned 	[6]

to look for my friend in the black aeroplane but the sky was empty. [**The Black Aeroplane**]

b) All through the night Lencho thought only of his one hope: the help of God...The following Sunday, at daybreak he began to write a letter...It was nothing less than a letter to God...The following Sunday Lencho came a bit earlier than usual to ask if there was a letter for him.... Lencho showed not the slightest surprise on seeing the money, such was his confidence. [**A Letter to God**]

2. Most of your classmates, like Frost, feel that man's greed and rage or hate, would lead the world to its destruction.

You feel that the **fire and ice** in Mankind can be addressed to create a harmonious world.

Write a speech, for your classmates, expressing your belief/s with respect to the poem.

11 **Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100 - 120 words.** [6]

1. One of your friends has to attend a class party at his/her school and wants to purchase the most expensive clothes and shows. He/She feels that this would make him/her stand out in the crowd.

You receive a call from your friend seeking advice on this matter. Write down that telephonic conversation between your friend and yourself.

You may begin this way:

Friend: Hey, I want an honest opinion from you. Will you please help me?

You: ...

Friend: So, there's this class party I have to attend. It's a big deal!

You: ...

Answer in the context of the lesson **The Necklace**.

2. Why did the thief make friends with Anil? Why did he steal Anil's money? Why did he come back and put Anil's money back?

....All The Best....