

STD : X CBSE

PRE EXAM – IV

TIME : 3:00 Hrs

SUB : ENGLISH COMM.

DATE : 19th January, 2026

MM :80

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions carefully and follow them:

1. This question paper has 12 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. This question paper contains four sections:
 - Section A: Reading Skills,
 - Section B: Writing Skills
 - Section C: Grammar
 - Section D: Literature.
3. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
4. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
5. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A : READING SKILLS (22 marks)

- | | | |
|---|--|-------------|
| 1 | <p>Read the text carefully and answer the questions: D.1 Koko Village, Nigeria Mr. Sunday Nana, his wife and four small children live in Koko Village, Nigeria. The village is like any other African village - picturesque, colourful and noisy. The Nana family's house, too, is the same as all the other houses in the village, with mud walls and a rusting corrugated iron roof and with children and chickens sharing the compound.</p> <p>There is one difference, however. Outside Mr. Nana's front are three large empty metal drums, the bright red paint now flaking away, but the skull and crossbones symbol clearly visible on each. And in a clearing 200m away from the village, next to a stream that the villagers get their drinking water from, is an enormous pyramid of identical drums, reaching to the sky. Some of them are badly corroded, their slimy contents of various colours - grey, dark green, bright orange, etc. - leaking out, down, on to the baked African earth and into the stream. Some have fallen down and rolled - or been rolled by playful children - into the bush. Some are smoking in the midday heat. Some are swelling, as if their contents are bursting to get out. Some have already burst.</p> | [12] |
|---|--|-------------|

“They came on a Wednesday”, said Sunday, “Many, many big lorries”. They took all day unloading them. No - one told us what was in them. They gave the Chief a brown paper bag - I saw him smiling as the lorries drove away. This was five years ago. Then three months ago, one of the brightest boys in the village - Thomas Agonyo - started university in Lagos. He came home one weekend with a new Chemistry book and spent all day looking at the drums and writing things down and talking to himself and shaking his head. We all thought he had gone mad. Then he called a meeting of the village and told us that the drums contained poisonous chemicals. He said they had come from Italy. But I don’t know where that is. Is it in Europe?

Mr. Sunday Nana stopped, frowning, a troubled look on his face, “In the last five years, 13 people have died in this village, my own elder brother being one of them. They have been in pain, terrible pain. We have never seen deaths like that before. Lots of our children are sick. We have asked the government to take the drums away, but they do nothing. We have written to Italy, but they do nothing. The Chief says we should move our houses to another place. But we have no money to buy land. We have no choice. We have to stay here. And they” ... pointing to the mountain of death in the clearing - “are our neighbours”. **D.2 Ponnimanthuri**

Village, India “I can remember the time.” she said wistfully, “when all the fields around this village were green and the harvests good. Her outstretched arm described a complete circle as she stood in the morning sun. Then they built those monsters, those...”. Her voice spluttered in anger as she shook her fist at a collection of ominous - looking black buildings on the horizon, covered in a low - lying shroud of thick smoke. “They said that factories need leather to make shoes, handbags and clothes. They said our menfolk would get jobs. They said we would all become rich.” We stood silent, each thinking our own thoughts. Yes, they told you all that. But there is so much they didn’t tell you. They didn’t tell you that to change animal skins into leather - which they call tanning - uses as many as 250 different chemicals, including heavy metals such as cadmium, arsenic and chromium. They didn’t tell you that these chemicals are discharged into the environment from those chimney stacks and fall to earth for miles around, polluting the earth below. They didn’t tell you that this would poison your fields, so that nothing will grow.

“They didn’t tell us that the chemicals would be dumped in open fields and into our rivers”, sighed Vijayasama. We had been thinking the same thoughts. “They didn’t tell us that our women would have to walk ten kilometers every day. They didn’t tell us that we would get ulcer and sores on our bodies. They didn’t tell us...” “ Her voice trailed off. There is so much they didn’t tell you, I thought.

“We don’t buy leather shoes or leather handbags or leather clothes”, she said. **(MCB Theme: Environment)**

1. How is Mr. Nana’s village described?
 - a) Vibrant
 - b) Poor
 - c) Picturesque
 - d) Both (a) and (c)
2. Why do you think there are **three large, empty metal drums** outside Mr. Nana’s front door?
3. What were in the drums?
 - a) Some common chemicals
 - b) Poisonous chemicals
 - c) Slimy liquid
 - d) Water
4. How does Vijayasama feel when she says **I can remember the time** ?
 - a) Regretful
 - b) Angry
 - c) Sad
 - d) Nostalgic
5. What are the monsters? Why are they called so by Vijayasama?
6. Substitute the underlined word in the sentence with the word from the passage which means the same.

They had poured the drink in the cup.
7. Where were the chemical used in the leather factories dumped?
8. Complete the sentence appropriately.

Changing animals skins into leather uses _____ different chemicals.
9. Complete the sentence appropriately.

	It was _____ who told everyone in the village that the drums contained poisonous chemical.	
2	<p>Read the text carefully and answer the questions: Read the following telephonic conversation between Nidhi and Ayushi.</p> <p>Nidhi: Hello Ayushi, how're you doing?</p> <p>Ayushi: Hello! I am good. How about you?</p> <p>Nidhi: I'm fine too. How're you coping with Delhi pollution?</p> <p>Ayushi: It's really terrible, especially in winter months. I recently bought a pollution mask to mitigate the effect of pollution, but you can't wear it all the time. But what to do at home?</p> <p>Nidhi: Air purifiers. Don't they work well?</p> <p>Ayushi: They do, but they aren't affordable for everyone. Moreover, would you want to run them for so many hours every day and for so many months?</p> <p>Nidhi: You've got a point. I'm also planning to buy a pollution mask. What would you recommend?</p> <p>Ayushi: I bought an N99 mask which cost me just over INR 2,000/- . I've tried the cheap ones as well - the ones that cost 15 - 20 rupees a piece - but they actually turn out to be more expensive.</p> <p>Nidhi: More expensive? How?</p> <p>Ayushi: The cheap ones can at best be used 2 - 3 times. Whereas, the one I'm using can be used for a few hundred hours. So the cost of cheap ones add up fast. But more importantly, the cheap one's aren't as effective as the N99 I'm using to filter the pollutants. That's critical, right. What's the point of using a mask if it's not filtering the harmful pollutants?</p> <p>Nidhi: Agree. Anything else on pollution masks?</p> <p>Ayushi: Prefer a mask with exhalation valves. Valves help you exhale easily, especially when you're out of breath after walking fast or climbing stairs, and prevent buildup of moisture.</p> <p>Nidhi: We've been breathing the toxic air for the last few years. Do you for see any abatement in pollution levels in the near future, say this winter?</p> <p>Ayushi: I think it'll be marginal at best. Vehicular pollution can be controlled by taking the fuel - efficient, polluting old vehicles off the roads, but how will it happen? Who is going to bell the cat to control</p>	[10]

stubble burning in the neighbouring states? Construction activity is probably the easiest of the three to control.

Nidhi: I agree with your points, but I think citizens too have some role in curbing pollution.

Ayushi: Yes, of course. Citizens can play an important role too. We can stop or report people from burning polythene bags and other hazardous waste in water. We can also report construction activities in our neighbourhood during the period it is banned.

Nidhi: True. What we often don't pay attention is to the fact that pollution, especially in the winter months is not just a Delhi phenomenon. It grips most of North India. In fact, the Air Quality Index (AQI) of smaller cities such as Gwalior, Agra and Lucknow often gets worse than Delhi's, and they don't get the same coverage in the national media as big cities like Delhi do.

Ayushi: You've summed up the state of affairs quite well. Let's hope things improve.

Nidhi: Hope so. Come over to my place for dinner on the weekend.

Ayushi: Sure. I will be there to enjoy your company. Bye, see you soon.

Nidhi: Bye!

1. Ayushi prefers N99 masks over the cheap masks. Give two arguments in favour of her choice.
2. Why are air purifiers not a good option to combat the problem of air pollution?
 - a) They are not safe to use in households
 - b) They are not easily available in Delhi
 - c) They are expensive
 - d) They do not work well
3. Suppose Ayushi is the president of the Residents' Welfare Association of her colony. What two measures would be adopted by her to keep her colony pollution free?
4. Which of the following is easiest to control to combat air pollution in Delhi?
 - a) Stubble burning in neighbouring states

	<p>b) Vehicular pollution</p> <p>c) Construction activity</p> <p>d) Both Vehicular pollution and Stubble burning in neighbouring states</p> <p>5. Complete the following sentence appropriately.</p> <p>Ayushi suggests Nidhi to prefer a mask with exhalation valves because _____.</p> <p>6. What is Ayushi's prediction about pollution levels in the near future?</p> <p>7. Explain briefly who among Ayushi and Nidhi doesn't have a problem - solving approach?</p> <p>8. Which of the following statements cannot be substantiated from the given conversation?</p> <p>a) Air pollution grips most of North India.</p> <p>b) Nidhi is not encouraged by her friend to have an air purifier.</p> <p>c) The Air Quality Index (AQI) of Gwalior and Agra is always better than Delhi's.</p> <p>d) Both of the friends have been concerned about breathing the toxic air for the last few years.</p>	
	SECTION B : WRITING SKILLS (22 marks)	
3	Write an application to the principal of your school for an urgent piece of work. You are Sunidhi / Suresh student of class 7th of SKV public School, Naraina, New Delhi.	[3]
4	Write a descriptive paragraph on your wrist watch.	[4]
5	<p>You are Rajan Sharma living at D - 25, Anand Sector, Hyderabad. Write a letter to the editor of the Daily Times, Hyderabad, regarding the poor living conditions of child Labourers in tailoring units, jewelry making units and restaurants in your city. Give suggestions to improve their conditions and their right to education. You can use the following clues:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Poor living and unhealthy working conditions-long hours-not enough light-childhood become a curse- all work and no play-no basic and compulsory education.</p> </div> <p>OR</p>	[7]

	You are Ankita/Ankit. You wish to pursue a course on 'Data Science'. Write a letter to the Director, Scaler Data Science, enquiring about the eligibility, duration, fee, scholarship and placement, etc.	
6	<p>The return of the cheetahs will help in the restoration of open forests and grassland ecosystems in India. Write an article in expressing your views on how this will help conserve biodiversity, wildlife and soil conservation. You Bela/Bhanu. Use the following cues along with your own ideas to compose your article.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological balance of nature • Helps keep the food chain in place • Maintains ecological stability • Diversity ensures healthier ecosystems • Cultural significance • Good for mental health <p>OR</p> <p>The recent killing of Avni, the tigress which had two 10 - month - old cubs has disturbed you. You realise that human encroachment and the greed of land - grabbing companies are the cause of this. Write an article to be published in The National Times about your concern and the need to take urgent action to stop the decline in the number of tigers in India. You are Amit/Ambika Shukla.</p> <p>Clues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological balance disturbed • Local people suffer • Urgent and effective steps needed • Awareness campaigns • Threat of extinction • Selfishness of human beings 	[8]
	SECTION C : GRAMMAR (10 marks)	
7	Fill in the blanks (a) - (c) with the appropriate option from those in the brackets.	[3]

	Reading a novel or short story (a) _____ (of/in/from) second language could dramatically (b) _____ (reduce/reduces/reduced) physiological responses to emotions such (c)_____ (like/similar to/as) smiling.																										
8	<p>In the following passage, one word has been omitted in each line. Write the missing word along with the words before and after against the</p> <table><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Before</td><td>Missing Word</td><td>After</td></tr><tr><td>I knew that if I trick my mom into believing</td><td>(a)</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr><tr><td>that I was feeling okay surgery, she'd let</td><td>(b)</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr><tr><td>me go to my friend's party. All I to</td><td>(c)</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr><tr><td>do was to find a way prove that I had recovered,</td><td>(d)</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr></table> <p>correct blank number:</p>			Before	Missing Word	After	I knew that if I trick my mom into believing	(a)	_____	_____	_____	that I was feeling okay surgery, she'd let	(b)	_____	_____	_____	me go to my friend's party. All I to	(c)	_____	_____	_____	do was to find a way prove that I had recovered,	(d)	_____	_____	_____	[4]
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9	<p>Do as directed.</p> <p>1. Rearrange the following jumbled words/phrases in the given dialogue to create a meaningful sentence.</p> <p>He was coming back from a fair. He had a large sum of money with him. The merchant as well as his money got wet. dry his/hurry up/he had/home to/to/money</p> <p>2. Read the conversation given below. Based on your reading, fill in the blanks appropriately.</p> <p>Tanmay: How did you spend your vacation?</p> <p>Astha: I visited Kashmir with my parents.</p> <p>Tanmay: Have you been there earlier too?</p> <p>Astha: No, it was my first trip.</p> <p>Tanmay asked Astha how she had spent her vacation. Astha replied that (a) _____. Tanmay further asked her if she had been there earlier too. Astha replied in the negative, saying that (b) _____.</p>	[3]																									
	SECTION D : LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (26 marks)																										
10	<p>Read the given extract and answer the questions briefly, for any two extracts of the three, given.</p> <p>1. Read the extract carefully and answer the questions that follow:</p> <p>And stooped and drank a little more, Being earth - brown, earth - golden</p>	[8]																									

	<p>From the burning bowels of the earth</p> <p>On the day of Sicilian July, with Etna smoking.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What did the snake do then? What was its colour? From where had it come? What has the poet made a reference to in the last line? <p>2. Read the extract carefully and answer the questions:</p> <p>But speak all good you can devise of Caesar, And say you do it by our permission;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the speaker. Who is being granted permission? What is the speaker afraid of? What opinion do you form of the speaker? <p>3. Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions:</p> <p>"What struck one most was their willingness to work. During these summer days, under the hot sun they shined shoes, sold fruit, hawked newspapers, conducted tourists round the town, ran errands."</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Who is their in the above lines? What work did they do? What was striking about them? Under what severe condition did they work? 	
11	<p>Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions in about 30 - 40 words each</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What remained of the shattered statue? What does it indicate? Answer to the context of the poem Ozymandias . Why was Ali impatient when he visited the post office after many days? Why does the ghost appear before the narrator? Answer to the context of the chapter A Shady Plot . 	[10]

	<p>4. How did Patol Babu feel when he was mistaken as Atul Babu by Naresh Dutt?</p> <p>5. What kind of computer fascinated Michael and his dad? Why?</p> <p>6. Explain, I'm amazed at you, Victoria; I really am . Answer to the context of the chapter The Dear Departed .</p>	
12	<p>Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 150 words.</p> <p>1. Ben: Do you think he hasn't paid it? Was it overdue?</p> <p>Mrs. Slater: I should think it was overdue.</p> <p>Mrs. Jordan: Something tells me he's not paid it. I've a warning, I know it; he's not paid it.</p> <p>Ben: The drunken old beggar.</p> <p>Here, we find both the greedy sisters and their irresponsible husbands not showing any respect towards their elder. They have interest only in Grandpa's assets.</p> <p>Now, write an article in about 150 words on the topic Modern Society has Become Insensitive towards Old People .</p> <p>2. The story Mrs. Packletide's Tiger revolves around big time shooting. Though hunting is banned nowadays, animals are still being hunted. Write an article for Earth Today magazine titled Impact of Killing Animals on Environment .</p>	[8]

....All The Best....



CIDCO BRANCH
9168 444 999
 1ST FLOOR, INFRONT OF BALIRAM PATIL SCHOOL
HARSUL-SAWANGI BRANCH
9168 044 999
 1ST FLOOR, INFRONT OF PANAD SUPER MARKET