



Delhi Public School, Howrah

PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION-I (2024-2025)

Class-X

Care must be taken not to write anything on the question paper. All the questions must be attempted in the correct sequence.

SUBJECT: ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (CODE - 184)

Time: - 3 Hours

Maximum Marks. - 80

General instructions:

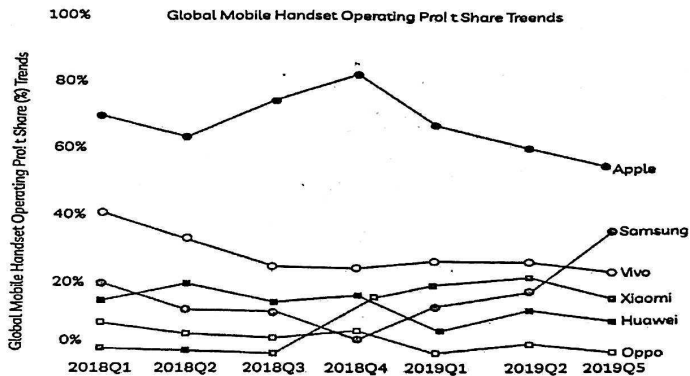
1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.
3. Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions and follow them.
4. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions

Q. No	SECTION A – READING	20
1.	Read the passage given below.	10
i	Nature is our mother, our first teacher. The greatest lesson that she teaches us is to maintain an equilibrium in life. We learn to maintain composure through our joys, sorrows and fears. In fact, there are a thousand lessons that nature can teach us, provided we look for them.	
ii	With time, a sapling grows into a full-grown tree; something so tiny and delicate develops into a strong tree, capable of supporting others. No matter how tall it grows, how much it may flourish, or how many animals and birds it may support, its roots are firmly buried from where it once rose. That's a lesson- to keep ourselves grounded, respect and embrace our roots and give something back to those humble beginnings that nurtures us into who we are.	
iii	Then there is the messages of peaceful co-existence, 'I am because we are'. Nature is the universal provider, every creature or being depends on the existence of the other. The tiger eats the antelope; without the antelope the tigers wouldn't survive. Likewise, without tigers, the overabundance of antelopes would cause them to starve to death.	
iv	I wonder if you have noticed that when birds or squirrels see a predator, they give out an alarm call to their fellow creatures, of the lurking danger. They put themselves in danger to save the lives of others. Many animals, like the salmon, usually die after they spawn, but this doesn't stop them. One life extinguished for betterment of others is a small price pay.	
v	The snow melts in the warmth of spring, to give birth to fresh green leaves. In autumn these leaves age into shades of gold only to be buried in the cold grave of winter. Change is inevitable; the sooner we embrace this, the better it is for us. We must also understand that even in pain, there is growth. If you cut a hole in the tree, it will grow around it. No matter what may come in its way, a river will continue to flow. Similarly, no matter what grief may break your heart, nature teaches us that life goes on.	
vi	Keep in mind life isn't about making lists and trying to be one step ahead of others. Life is to live, so, take a break from being a workaholic, smell the roses, do whatever makes you feel happy and most of all spend some time with nature to pick up invaluable lessons.	

Based on your understanding of the extract, answer the questions below:		
i	<p>What is the author's attitude towards the lessons taught by nature?</p> <p>a. Cynical b. Respectful c. Dismissive d. Uncertain</p>	1
ii	<p>What is the tone of the writer in the given line from Para 5? Rationalise your response in about 40 words.</p>	2
iii	<p>Complete the sentence appropriately. The author's use of imagery in the line, 'the snow melts in the warmth of spring to give birth to fresh green leaves. In autumn, these leaves age into shaded of gold only to be buried in the cold graves of winter', greatly affects the readers because _____.</p>	1
iv	<p>The passage includes some words that are opposites of each other. From the sets (a) to (e), identify two sets of antonyms.</p> <p>a. Pain and evolve b. Joy and sorrow c. Survive and death d. Inevitable and veritable e. Fear and fun</p>	1
v	<p>Complete the sentence appropriately. The author asks the readers to take some time off from their busy schedule and spend time with nature, in order to _____.</p>	1
vi	<p>Based on reading of the passage, examine, in about 40 words, how spending time in nature is analogous to taking a therapy session.</p>	2
vii	<p>What is the message conveyed by the author from the following lines? If you cut a hole in the tree, it will grow around it. No matter what may come in its way, a river will continue to flow.</p> <p>a. Resilience and adaptability in the face of obstacles. b. The inevitability of transformation in death. c. The importance of environmental conservation. d. The fragility of nature and the need for protection.</p>	1
viii	<p>Identify the writing style of the passage and substantiate it with suitable example from the passage.</p>	1
2	<p>Read the passage given below.</p>	10
i.	<p>Overall global handset profits declined 11%, year over year to USD 12 billion in the Q3 of 2019 due to an increased mix of entry into mid-tier products and a fall in revenues for key smart-phones OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers)</p>	
ii	<p>Apple dominates the global handset market by capturing 66% of the industry profits and 52% of the overall handset revenue. The loyal premium user base in the major markets like the USA, EU and Japan is one of the reasons that Apple can still operate at a profit level that its competitors can only wish for. Now with a strong service strategy, Apple's overall ecosystem is strong enough to guarantee it a steady inflow of revenue in the coming years. In the immediate future, we believe that Apple's profit for the holiday season will increase with the new line up of iPhones, gaining good traction.</p>	
iii	<p>Samsung is a distant second, taking 17% of the overall handset industry profits. The increased mix of the Galaxy A series along with the positive start of Galaxy Note 10 series was the key reason for the growth.</p>	
iv	<p>Chinese smart-phone brands operate on low-profit margins, but better than in previous years, even though they are expanding outside China and also penetrating high-tier price brands. Chinese brands offer attractive propositions to mature smart-phone users with new feature-packed flagships at affordable prices. Some of these Chinese brands are also now looking at monetizing their user base by launching services like financial services, lot of</p>	

discounts on bundled purchase and others. However, it is becoming a challenge for Chinese brands to increase their smart-phone ASPs (Average Selling Prices) and margins due to a combination of longer consumer holding period and Apple lowering prices on some key SKUs (Stock Keeping Units), which has limited the headmaster that Chinese vendors have used to increase their ASPs.

v In the coming quarters, the adoption of 5G will drive some upgrades. This will likely lead to revenue growth for OEMs which are already preparing themselves ahead of a complete commercialization.



Based on your understanding of the extract, answer the questions below:

i Complete the following analogy appropriately, based on your understanding of Para i and Para ii.
We can say that Apple's position in the handset industry can be comparable with the lion in jungle because _____

1

ii Fill in the blank with the appropriate option from those given in the bracket, based on your understanding of Para ii.
The statement that Apple has a strong overall ecosystem because of its strong revenue in the near future, is a _____ (fact/opinion) because it is a _____ (subjective judgement/objective details)

1

iii Justify the following in about 40 words.
The adoption of 5G will lead to revenue growth for OEMs and Apple will benefit the most.

2

iv Based on the survey results, mention what could be the possible reason for the decline in the revenue growth of Apple in 2019 Q5 and the increase in the revenue growth of Samsung during the same time.

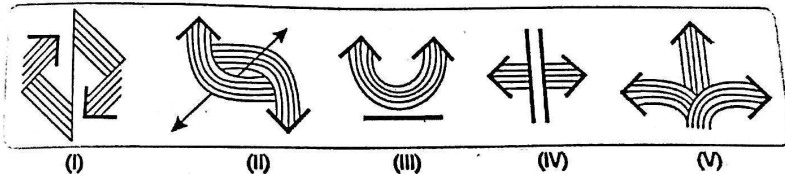
2

v In the given graph, the growth revenue of the Chinese Companies is very less. State any one inference that can be drawn from this.

1

vi Select the option that correctly portrays what the displayed 'mix' signifies. (Refer to Para i)

1



- a. (I), (II) and (III)
b. Only (IV)
c. Only (V)
d. Only (II)

vii	Infer one way how the Chinese Companies are preparing to increase their revenue growth and one way to show why its is hard for them to do so.	1
viii	Which of the following is the main key takeaway from the study mentioned in the passage? a. The global handsets will lead to revenue growth for OEMs in the near future. b. The study needs to have more data to offer any results. c. The global handsets revenue will remain the same. d. The Chinese Companies will take over the other companies in terms of the handset revenue.	1
SECTION B- WRITING & GRAMMAR		20
3.	<p>Attempt ANY ONE.</p> <p>A. Study the concept chart, from the HIS Market Analysis of the number of Americans travelling for the Thanksgiving Holiday in the year 2020 and 2022 and their comparison. Write an analytical paragraph in not more than 120 words analyzing the given information.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>The Air Travel Returns for Second Pandemic Thanksgiving</p> <p>Change in the number of Americans travelling for the Thanksgiving holiday in 2020 and 2022</p> <pre> graph TD Root[Change in the number of Americans travelling for the Thanksgiving holiday in 2020 and 2022] --> 2020[2020] Root --> 2022[2022] 2020 --> O20[Overall - 16%] 2020 --> C20[Car travel - 11%] 2020 --> A20[Air travel - 50%] 2020 --> Oth20[Other travel - 81%] 2022 --> O22[Overall - 5%] 2022 --> C22[Car travel - 3%] 2022 --> A22[Air travel - 9%] 2022 --> Oth22[Other travel - 31%] </pre> </div> <p>B. 'Colorism' is the term describing the preference for lighter skin. Several of the world's biggest advertising firms have come under severe criticism for selling beauty products that promise whiter skin. What is worse is the manner in which these fairness products are being promoted- the parallel between being fair and being successful; the perfect fair heroine showcased in the movies; celebrity endorsements of the fairness products; and matrimonial advertisements, where everyone seeks a fair bride. This type of advertising has created an inferiority complex among darker skinned women, as reflected in the rising sales of fairness cosmetics. This form of biased advertising has come under harsh criticism. Are we as a society encouraging and supporting 'colorism'? Write an analysis in 100-120 words, on the given argument.</p>	5
4	<p>Attempt ANY ONE.</p> <p>A. You are Ajeet / Anika, living at D-424 Island Avenue, Ernakulam. You have seen an advertisement, about a diploma course in French, to be organised by Maxwell Institute of Languages, Fort Road, Kochi. Write a letter in about 120 words, to the advertiser, seeking all relevant information like admission, procedure, fee structure, duration of the course, timing of he classes, transport facilities, etc.</p>	5

B. You are Mohan/ Mitika, the Sports Secretary of KPS, New Delhi. You have received a parcel of sports articles ordered by you but some of the articles in the parcel are defective and used. Write a letter of complaint to Khanna Sports Ltd., New Delhi, the supplier of these sport articles.

5. Attempt any ten of the following.

10X1=10

i. Read the conversation given below and complete the passage that follows.
 Lucky: My earphones always get tangled up.
 Sherin: Why don't you switch to wireless ones.
 To Lucky's complaint that his earphones always get tangled up, Shirley suggested _____.

ii. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the closing line from a historical report.
 In conclusion, the Industrial Revolution brought significant changes in manufacturing transportation and communication during the 18th Century.

Option	Error	Correction
a.	brought	bought
b.	in	to
c.	transportation	transport
d.	during	in

iii. Complete the given narrative by filling in the blank with the correct option.
 The experience of volunteering at a local shelter during the holidays left me _____ for the less fortunate in our community.
 a. feeling b. having felt c. felt d. feels

iv. Complete the given sentence with suitable form of the verb given in bracket.
 The subscription to this start-up new-media house _____ in the past one year. (Double)

v. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in bracket, for the given portion of a letter.
 Dear Sir,
 I am writing to express my gratitude for the committee's letter of recommendation that _____ (acknowledge) my efforts and contributions of our team members during the recent project.

vi. Abhilash and Neha had a conversation about the inauguration of Neha's Dance Academy. Report Abilash's question.
Is your best friend helping you in this venture?

vii. Identify the error in the following sentence and supply the correction
Our product aims in providing innovative solutions for modern homes.

Error	Correction

viii. Fill in the blank with suitable verb, to complete the cautionary declaration, given below.
The traffic police _____ penalize the law breakers strictly.

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

Savoring Delight

This delightful recipe must keep your hunger pangs at bay with its balanced spices and oriental flavour.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

x Read the conversation between a doctor and his patient. Complete the sentence by reporting the patient's reply correctly,
 Doctor: Do you still have any pain in your lower back?
 Patient: No, there is no pain the lower back but I feel a numbing sensation in my left leg.
 The doctor asked the patient if he still had any pain in his lower back. The patient answered in the negative and explained that.....

xi Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the sentence.
 We have exciting news to share! Our school _____ the first place in the regional science fair.
 a. Awarded b. was awarded c. had awarded d. has been awarded

xii Complete Mandela's quote by filling in the suitable form of the verb given in bracket.
 "The greatest glory in living _____ (lay) not in never failing, but in rising every time we fall."

SECTION C – LITERATURE

40

6. Attempt any one of the following questions

A. Read the following extract and answer the questions accordingly.
 "But my dearie, I thought it would make you happy. You never go out, and this is an occasion, and a fine one! Everybody wishes one and it is very select; not many are given to employees. You will see the whole official world there." She looked at him with an irritated eye and declared impatiently, "What do you suppose I have to wear to such a thing as that?"

- i. Select the option that correctly captures the usage of the word 'out' from the extract.
 - a. The jam and jellies quickly went out of stock at the harvest festival.
 - b. Their team had only one good batsman who got out after a while.
 - c. We missed our teacher at the picnic as she could not go out with us.
 - d. You missed out the opportunity of scoring good marks by not studying.
- ii. Complete the following analogy by selecting the suitable word from the extract.
 Sad:happy :: Calm: _____
- iii. Select the option that displays the reason why the ball was a fine occasion for both of them.
 - a. The whole world would be there.
 - b. The ball required fancy clothes and jewels.
 - c. The invitation was only for a few selected.
 - d. This was their rare chance to go out.
- iv. The story emphasises on the ungrateful nature of Matilda Loisel. List ways in which the mess in the end of the story could have been avoided at this stage (the quoted extract) itself.

1

1

1

2

OR

B. Read the following extract and answer the questions accordingly.
 "Tell me another!" scoffed Pranjol. "We have an Indian legend too. Bodhidharma, an ancient Buddhist ascetic, cut off his eyelids because he felt sleepy during meditations. Ten tea plants grew out of his eyelids. The leaves of these plants when put in hot water and drunk, banished sleep." "Tea was first drunk in China," Rajvir added, "as far back as 2700

B.C.! In fact, words such as tea, chai and chini are from the Chinese. Tea came to Europe only in the 16th Century and was drunk more as medicine than beverage."

i. The main idea of the extract is:

- a. Tea is a popular beverage in Europe and how it spread.
- b. Origin of tea in India and why it became popular in Europe.
- c. Importance of India in popularising tea and influencing Europe.
- d. Indian legend on tea and how it travelled from China to Europe.

1

ii. Why do you think Pranjol scoffed?

1

iii. State the Indian legend regarding the discovery of tea.

2

iv. Based on the inference from the extract, which of these is NOT TRUE about tea drinking in the 16th century Europe? (Consider the fictional character Dr. Smith, as a doctor of 16th century Europe.)

1

- a. Dr. Smith encouraged drinking of green tea whenever available to reduce chances of tooth loss.
- b. Dr. Smith prescribed regular tea drinking to all his patients with a weak heart.
- c. Dr. Smith always served tea as a refreshment when he had guests, as they all enjoyed this beverage.
- d. Dr. Smith usually recommended black tea to reduce inflammation in the body.

7

Attempt any one of the following questions

A. Read the following extract and answer the questions accordingly.

"I heard an old religious man
But yesternight declare
That he had found a text to prove
That only God, my dear,
Could only love you for yourself alone
And not your yellow hair."

i. A compound word from the extract is _____.

1

ii. How is God's love different from the love of young lovers?

2

iii. State the significance of 'yellow hair'.

1

iv. Select the option that applies the same rhyme scheme as the lines of the given extract.

1

- a. The morning sun begins to rise,
As dew drops shimmer on the lawn,
Its warmth spreads slowly through the skies,
The day awakens with a yawn.
The world comes alive in soft surprise,
Embracing all that's just begun.
- b. The forest paths are dark and deep,
Where shadows dance in silent grace,
A moonbeam's touch makes night less steep,
And stars appear in a starry chase,
Among the trees, the secret sleep,
A dream unfolds in this sacred space.
- c. The gentle waves caress the shore,
With whispers soft and sweet delight,
The ocean's song forevermore,
Beneath the stars that shine so bright,
The sea reveals its endless lore,
In twilight's calm and tranquil light.
- d. The autumn wind begins to sigh,
Through golden leaves that swirl and twirl,
The branches bend as if to cry,
A fleeting dance in a fleeting world,
Beneath the sky's vast, open eye,
The season's colors gently unfurl.

OR

B. Read the following extract and answer the questions accordingly.

“Some say the world will end in fire,
Some say in ice.
From what I’ve tasted of desire
I hold with those who favour fire.
But if it had to perish twice,
I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction ice
Is also great
And would suffice.”

- i. Choose the CORRECT statement about the given poem.
- a. Fire and ice are images- they help the readers visualise the power of nature over man.
 - b. Fire and ice are symbols- not of natural disasters, but of humanity’s ability to create disaster of its own.
 - c. Fire and ice are elements- not of nature but man-made and possess the ability to create havoc for mankind.
 - d. Fire and ice are agents- they change the thinking of mankind from negative to positive and bring harmony.
- ii. State the option that correctly classifies the connotations for fire and ice, as suggested in the poem.
1. Rage 2. violence 3. Indifference 4. Hate 5. Greed
- a. Fire-3, 4; Ice-1,2,5
 - b. Fire- 2,5; Ice- 1,3,4
 - c. Fire-1,3,5; Ice- 2,4
 - d. Fire- 1,2,4; Ice- 3,5
- iii. The poem is a _____, put across by the poet.
- iv. What do the word ‘Fire’ and ‘Ice’ stand for? Name the poetic devices used in Line 1 and 2 of the quoted extract.

1
1
1
2

8. Answer any four of the following in about 40-50 words each.

- i. ‘We have, at last, achieved our political emancipation.’ Explain the significance of this statement.
- ii. What does the line, “never let down my bright hair” tell us about Amanda?
- iii. Describe the shopping street that Valli saw as the bus entered the thoroughfare.
- iv. Comment on the visual imagery found in the poem ‘Fog’.
- v. Explain how hunger is nature’s strongest motivator in the story ‘His First Flight’.

3X4=12

9. Answer any two of the following in 40-50 words each.

- i. How does Think Tank compare the Earth and Earthlings with Mars and the Martians?
- ii. Why was Mrs. Hall prepared to excuse Griffin’s strange habits and irritable temper?
- iii. Validate the importance of small, fun learning tasks towards successful careers, in the context of Richard Ebright in “The Making of a Scientist”.

3X2=6

Answer any two of the following questions (Question 10 and 11) in about 100-120 words.

10. A. “Neither from weeping not from grieving will anyone obtain peace of mind.” If you had to use the message of the given quote from the Buddha’s sermon (The Sermon at Benares) to help the boy cope with the loss of his ball (The Ball Poem) and what it signifies, what would you include in your advice? Also, evaluate why it might be difficult for him to understand the notion.

6X1=6

OR

B. Though the play, ‘The Proposal’ revolves around three people, the Russian Society emerges as an important character through the ongoings of the play and the thoughts and interactions of its characters. Imagine yourself to be a historian who has been invited to speak about 19th Century upper class Russian Society. Based on your reading of the play, how might you decide

it. Support your evaluation with instance from the text.

11

A. Did Griffin from 'Footprints without Feet' follow the saying 'with great power comes great responsibility'? Justify your answer with reference to the short story.

6x1=6

OR

B. Duping a professional thief, like Danby was not an easy task, imagine yourself in the position of that lady who duped Danby, pen down a diary entry, putting down your thoughts, fear and hope about the probable robbery, based on the story "Question of Trust".