

Delhi Public School, Howrah

PERIODIC ASSESSMENT II (2025-2026)

Class- IX

Time – 3 hours

Subject: - English Language and Literature (Code-184)

F.M- 80

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

General instructions:

1. 15 minutes time has been allotted to read this question paper.
2. The Question Paper contains THREE sections- Section A (Reading), Section B (Grammar and Writing) and Section C (Literature).
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number in your answer sheet to indicate the option/s being attempted.
4. Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions and follow them.

Section A: READING SKILLS

(20 MARKS)

I. Read the passage given below:

(10)

1. Failure can sometimes become a beautiful experience. This is because it provides us with an opportunity to develop confidence and courage. Failures are the stepping stones to success. The beauty lies not in falling but in rising after every fall. One needs to continually rise after being knocked down repeatedly. When we were infants and were learning to walk, we would just get up after each fall.

2. Our parents encouraged us and brought out the courage that naturally resided in us. Then why do so many of us change? As we grow and experience the jeers instead of cheers of our friends and peers, the courage somehow gets pushed into the corner and we begin to accept failure as an inherent part of our lives. But then, do we have to fear failing and accept it for the rest of our lives? How will we get success if we do not try?

3. The best way to begin is to realise that failure is an event, not a person. It is quite natural to encounter defeat on the way. But one should not get disheartened because the human spirit never dies, when it is defeated. It dies when it surrenders. We are not defeated until we admit it. Only those people never fail who never try. We must motivate ourselves to try again and again. 'By perseverance, the snail reached the ark' is another famous proverb. Success requires persistence, determination and never- say-die approach. Our level of persistence needs to be so high that it does not allow our enthusiasm to be dampened by discouragement. The greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is to try one more time.

4. Thomas Edison is a good example of success through repeated failures. After 10,000 unsuccessful attempts to develop his electric light bulb, he said, "I have not failed. I have just found 10,000 ways that do not work." Edison realised that men do not fail, they give up trying. Edison used discouragement as a stepping stone to achievement.

5. Failure is also a lesson. When we learn about mistakes, we can avoid committing them again. It reminds us that we must take corrective action before we can reach our real goal. Each failure brings us closer to success. Failure is a learning tool. Thomas Edison failed a thousand times before he developed the first practical and commercially viable incandescent light bulb in 1879, which he patented in 1880. We must tell ourselves that great work is performed not by man of strength, but by man of perseverance.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below-

(1x10=10)

- i. The proverb "By perseverance, the snail reached the ark" teaches that: (para 3)
- A. Only the strong can succeed.
 - B. Snails can survive floods.
 - C. Success depends on luck.
 - D. Slow and steady effort leads to success.
- ii. Why does the author compare 'learning to walk as an infant' with facing failure in life?
- A. to show that walking is harder than other skills
 - B. to remind us that we naturally had persistence from a young age
 - C. to explain why most people dislike falling
 - D. to prove that parents are always supportive
- iii. Select the option that correctly states the meaning of 'jeers' in para 2.
- A. loud applause and encouragement
 - B. whispered suggestions
 - C. friendly greetings
 - D. mocking and insulting remarks
- iv. The author includes Thomas Edison's story-
- A. to illustrate that perseverance leads to achievement despite repeated failures
 - B. to show that science is full of mistakes
 - C. to prove that invention is easy for determined people
 - D. to encourage people to become scientists
- v. What can be inferred about the author's view on 'giving up'?
- 1) it is a wise decision when facing repeated defeats
 - 2) it is the true form of defeat
 - 3) it is natural and should be accepted
 - 4) it is better than wasting time in trying
- A. (2) and (4)
 - B. (1) and (3)
 - C. only (2)
 - D. (4) and (3)
- vi. The statement 'Only those who never try, never fail' implies _____.
- vii. In the given passage, how did Edison view his unsuccessful attempts?
- viii. If the passage were to be summarized in one phrase, it would be-
- A. Resilience in the face of defeat
 - B. The weakness of the human spirit
 - C. Learning from childhood mistakes
 - D. The life story of Edison
- ix. According to the author, when are we defeated?

x. Read the given Assertion (A) and Reason (R) and choose the correct option carefully.

Assertion (A): Failure should be considered an event, not a permanent state.

Reason (R): Failure defines a person's character.

- 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.

II. Read the passage given below:

(10)

1. Like bad news and common cold, allergies can pop up when least expected. I suddenly developed an allergy to crocin (paracetamol) some years ago after having it all my life to treat everything, from headache to fever to toothache.

2. A stuffed or drippy nose, frequent sneezing, an itchy throat, rashes, sinus, ear pain, difficulty in breathing, stomach cramps, itchiness, red or watery eyes are some of the common symptoms of an allergic reaction. Pollen, dust, polluted outdoor air, and indoor pollutants, such as dust mites, animal dander, cigarette smoke, and mold are among the common environmental pollutants, while other triggers include medicines, paint, and chemicals in cleaners and cosmetics, such as hair colour and skin creams. Among foods, eight allergens account for almost 90% of food allergies: milk, soy, wheat, egg, peanut, tree nuts, fish, and shellfish.

3. Most of us wrongly believe that people with allergies are either born with them or develop them in early childhood. An allergy can develop at any time in your life and its prevalence among adults is rising. While most people who develop allergies as adults have experienced some allergic reaction—either to the same or an unrelated trigger before—a few have no history of sensitivity.

4. In an acute immune reaction, the allergy trigger may be one, but the symptom is usually caused by a combination of factors. Stress, a sterile environment that prevents the body from developing immunity and lifestyle-induced changes in the body's hormonal balance are thought to be some triggers. This has been borne out by clinical evidence that women are more likely to develop allergies at puberty, after pregnancy, and at menopause, all pointing to hormonal causes.

5. Avoiding the allergy trigger and taking anti-allergy medication as soon as you can, after exposure to an allergen is the best possible protection. Since pollen levels generally peak in the morning, people with airway sensitivity and asthma should postpone outdoor exercises to later in the day or stick to exercising indoors, as deeper, and more rapid breathing induced by aerobic exercise causes inhalation of pollen and dust, which can wreck your airways and lungs. Since air pollutants tend to cling to clothes and hair, changing your clothes when you come home or washing your hair before going to bed, lowers exposure.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below-

(1x10=10)

i. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a common environmental allergen?

- A. pollen
- B. animal dander
- C. cigarette smoke
- D. plastic bags

ii. What is a recommended precaution for those with airway sensitivity?

- A. early morning outdoor exercises
- B. avoiding exercise completely
- C. exercising indoors or later in the day
- D. wearing heavy woollen clothes while exercising

iii. Read the given Assertion (A) and Reason (R) and choose the correct option carefully.

Assertion (A): Women are more likely to develop allergies at puberty, after pregnancy, and at menopause.

Reason (R): Hormonal changes can influence the development of allergies.

- 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, R is false.
- D. A is false, R is true.

iv. Why does the author suggest washing hair before going to bed?

- A. It helps you sleep better.
- B. It removes air pollutants clinging to hair.
- C. It prevents hair loss.
- D. It keeps hair shiny.

v. Find a word from the passage which means the same as 'activate' (para 4).

- A. inhale
- B. prevalence
- C. trigger
- D. wreck

vi. Complete the following analogy

indoor pollutants : dust mites :: outdoor pollutants : _____

vii. Choose the most suitable title for the passage.

- A. How to cure allergies permanently?
- B. Allergies: Causes, Symptoms and Prevention
- C. Hormones and Health issues in Women
- D. Air Pollution- Causes and Prevention

viii. Select the option that makes the correct use of the form of 'wreck', as used in para 5.

- A. The constant exposure to salty sea air can wreck the paint on the ship.
- B. After the long journey, we finally spotted the wreck of an old pirate ship half-buried in the sand.
- C. After working 16 hours straight, she felt like a complete wreck.
- D. The dinner party turned into a wreck when the oven stopped working.

ix. Mention any one life-style factor that can trigger allergy.

- x. What is the best possible protection against an allergy after the exposure?
- A. indoor exercises
 - B. taking anti-allergy medication immediately
 - C. avoiding all kinds of food allergens
 - D. drinking plenty of water

SECTION B- GRAMMAR

(1x10=10)

III) Attempt ANY TEN of the following questions:

1. Choose the grammatically correct sentence.

- A. By the time we reached the theatre, the movie had started.
- B. By the time we had reached the theatre, the movie started.

2. Fill in the blanks with appropriate modal verb.

Students _____ submit their projects by Friday to avoid penalty.

- A. can
- B. may
- C. could
- D. must

3. Identify the error in the heading of a newspaper article and supply the correction.

“News about the recent flood have shocked the nation.”

Error	Correction

4. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following sentence.

The committee have decided to postpone its meeting until next week.

Option	Error	Correction
A.	postpone	postponed
B.	have	has
C.	until	for
D.	its	it's

5. She has read _____ (each/ every) of the Harry Potter books.

6. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following sentence.

On reaching his room, he entirely broke down and become a prey to the most violent agitation.

Option	Error	Correction
A.	entirely	entire
B.	broke	breaking
C.	become	became
D.	to	for

7. Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction.

My elder brother always wears an golden bangle around the wrist.

Error	Correction

8. Neither of the answers _____ correct according to the marking scheme.

- A. are
- B. were
- C. is
- D. will

9. Report the dialogue between a teacher and her student by completing the sentence.

The teacher said to the student, "Have you completed your homework?"

The student said, "Yes, I did."

The teacher asked_____.

10. Identify the Principal Clause and the Subordinate Clause from the following sentence.

When the bell rang, the students left the classroom.

11. Report the dialogue between two friends by completing the sentence.

I said to her, "When will you visit Delhi?"

She said, "Soon."

I asked her _____

12. Complete the given sentences by choosing the correct option.

I think you _____ see a doctor for the persistent cough.

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

IV)

SECTION C- CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

(10)

All the names and addresses used in the questions are fictitious. Resemblance, if any, is purely coincidental.

1. Attempt any ONE (from A and B given below)

(5)

A. Write an original story in about 100-120 words with the given title- 'The Mysterious Call at Midnight.'

OR

B. Study the picture given below. Write an original story in about 100-120 words on what it suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it, however, there must be clear connection between the picture and your story.



2. Attempt any ONE (from A and B given below)

(5)

A. You recently watched the Wimbledon Men's Singles Final between Carlos Alcaraz and Novak Djokovic. Write a descriptive paragraph in about 100-120 words about the tennis match. Mention the players, the atmosphere, key moments, and the final result.

OR

B. Imagine you recently met an old mountain climber who had scaled some of the world's highest and most dangerous peaks. He shared with you the thrilling story of his most dangerous climb, describing the effects of icy winds, narrow ridges and the life-threatening challenges he faced. Listening to him left you awestruck and deeply inspired. Write a diary entry in about 100-120 words, expressing your feelings about meeting him, recounting the most thrilling part of his adventure and explaining how the meeting impacted you.

SECTION C- LITERATURE

(40)

V. Reference to the context

(10)

1. Attempt ANY ONE of the two given extracts:

(5)

A. And he said, "You are far too selfish
To dwell in a human form,
To have both food and shelter,
And fire to keep you warm."

i. Who has been called "far too selfish" in the given extract? Why?

(2)

ii. What does the speaker imply will happen to that person because of his/her selfishness?

(2)

iii. An antonym for the word 'selfish' is-

(1)

- A. greedy
- B. egocentric
- C. shrewd
- D. benevolent

OR

B. "Then took the other, just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same."

i. What does 'the other' refer to? Why did he take 'the other'?

(2)

ii. The poem from which the above extract has been taken, symbolises-

(1)

- A. a journey through the forest
- B. an adventurous trip
- C. the difficulty in making life choices
- D. the beauty of nature and forest

iii. What literary device has been used in the 3rd line of the given extract?

(1)

iv. Find a word from the above extract which is a synonym of 'just'.

(1)

2. Attempt ANY ONE of the given extracts:

(5)

A. "Please listen to me before you give your orders. It's true I built this wall and it was no good. But that was because my mind was not on it. I remember very well a dancing girl who was going up and down that street all day with her anklets jingling, and I couldn't keep my eyes or my mind on the wall I was building. You must get that dancing girl. I know where she lives."

i. The speaker of the above extract is

(1)

- A. merchant
- B. goldsmith
- C. bricklayer
- D. disciple

ii. Which 'wall' is the speaker referring to?

(1)

iii. What was the king's response after hearing the plea of the speaker?

(1)

iv. What can you infer about the king's way of handling accusation?

(2)

OR

B. "One day, he invited me to his home for a meal. His wife was horrified at the idea of a Muslim boy being invited to dine in her ritually pure kitchen. She refused to serve me in her kitchen. Sivasubramania Iyer was not perturbed, nor did he get angry with his wife, but instead, served me with his own hands and sat down beside me to eat his meal. His wife watched us from behind the kitchen door."

i. Who is the narrator of the above lines?

(1)

- ii. 'Sivasubramania Iyer was not perturbed, nor did he get angry with his wife. . .' (1)
What does Iyer's reaction reveal about his personality?
A. He was short-tempered and impulsive.
B. He was indifferent to social discrimination.
C. He strictly followed traditional customs.
D. He was patient, progressive and committed to break social barriers without confrontation.
- iii. Find a word from the passage that means 'disturbed or worried'. (1)
- iv. What did Kalam wonder right after the given extract? (2)

VI) Answer ANY FOUR of the following questions, in about 40-50 words each. (4x3=12)

1. With reference to the story 'The Adventures of Toto', how did Toto create a scene at the dining table one day?
2. Einstein's exceptional intelligence was not visible in his early years of childhood. Comment.
3. With reference to the story 'The Fun They Had', how were Margie and Tommy assessed in their subjects? How did the children feel about the mode of assessment?
4. What is the significance of river Ganga in Bismillah Khan's life?
5. With reference to the poem 'Rain on the Roof', what effect does the patter of rain has on the poet as he lies in his bed?

VII) Answer ANY TWO of the following questions, in about 40-50 words each. (2x3=6)

1. Why was the last leaf so significant for Johnsy?
2. How did Kezia's perception of her father change by the end of the story?
3. Why did Abdul Kalam want to leave Rameswaram? What did his father say to this?

VIII) Answer ANY ONE of the following questions, in about 100-120 words. (1x6=6)

1. 'The mirror reflects the vanity of the narrator and, at the same time, becomes a source of irony when it distracts the snake.' In view of this statement, discuss the role of the mirror in the story 'The Snake and the Mirror'.

OR

2. 'Einstein's achievements in science were matched by his commitment to peace and equality.' Justify in the light of the lesson 'A Truly Beautiful Mind'.

IX) Answer ANY ONE of the following questions, in about 100-120 words. (1x6=6)

1. 'The little woman in the poem 'A Legend of the Northland' symbolises selfishness and greed.' Discuss her character with reference to this statement.

OR

2. "Subramania Bharati's 'Wind' is more than a description of nature, it is an allegory of life." Discuss.