



Delhi Public School, Howrah

PERIODIC ASSESSMENT II (2025-2026)

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:

Read the instructions carefully and 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 Textbook

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

Section A: READING SKILLS (20 MARKS)

I. Read the passage given below.

[10]

1. The invention of the safety bicycle in the late nineteenth century transformed the world of cycling. While early versions of bicycles had been used in Europe since the seventeenth century, it was the safety bicycle with its lightweight hollow steel frame and equal-sized wheels that revolutionised the cycling experience.
2. This resulted in enhanced mobility for both men and women, allowing them to explore the countryside freely and travel between towns. Bicycles symbolised freedom, particularly for women, granting them self-reliable transportation and the ability to participate in recreational activities, like bicycle racing. The rise of bicycles also brought a shift in fashion, with more functional and relaxed clothing tailored specifically for cycling.
3. Bicyclists also became a political force. They played a significant role in the development of road maps, guiding riders along the best routes. They campaigned for better infrastructure to enhance their riding experiences.
4. Today, advances in technology, wearables and complex data analysis have transformed sports science, particularly in endurance sports, like cycling. Cyclists can now gather vast amounts of data simply by using mobile apps to track their activities. This data not only encompasses exercise details, like its volume or intensity, but also external factors like the impact of weather on the physiological response of the athlete. Furthermore, technology has made it very easy to monitor performance-influencing data outside of training, such as heart rate or sleep quality, through various wearables and cost-effective mobile apps.
5. However, just because we are able to monitor so much information does not mean that it is useful for improving the sports performance of our athletes. In this sense, we believe that we must be critical while adopting any new technologies or trends in training. The first thing we should know is whether there is scientific support for the use of that new gadget or wearable. For example, core temperature is of great importance in the mechanisms that produce fatigue and exhaustion in endurance sports. A few years ago, a device came on the market that estimated this measurement in a non-invasive way and we saw many top cyclists and runners wearing it. However, a study later showed it is an invalid device for measuring one's temperature.

6. Innovation in cycling has evolved from the invention of safety bicycles to technological advancements in sports science. Maximizing the potential benefits of these developments requires critical thinking to enhance the training and performance of modern cyclists.

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

- (i). What is the passage mainly about? [1]
A. How did the advancement of sports science impact the fashion industry?
B. What were the primary societal changes brought about by the rise of bicycles?
C. How did the invention of the safety bicycle contribute to the development of wearable technology?
D. In what ways did early versions of bicycles differ from the safety bicycle in the late nineteenth century?
- (ii). In which sentence does the author express uncertainty about the use of new technologies in training? [1]
A. "...advances in technology have transformed sports science." (paragraph 4)
B. "This data not only encompasses exercise details but also external factors like weather." (paragraph 4)
C. "...just because we can monitor so much information does not mean it is useful." (paragraph 5)
D. "Maximizing the potential benefits of these developments requires critical thinking." (paragraph 6)
- (iii). Give two valid reasons to support the statement: "The world of cycling has undergone massive changes over time." [2]
- (iv). Which of these is opposite to 'invalid' as used in paragraph 5? [1]
A. ethical
B. accurate
C. authentic
D. trustworthy
- (v). Using information solely from the passage, provide two distinct reasons to complete the sentence appropriately. [1]
Bicycles can be seen as a symbol of empowerment because _____.
- (vi). Imagine you are a sports scientist tasked with developing a new technological tool to aid cyclists in their training. Provide a brief description, within 40 words, of its specific features and why you chose to include them. [2]
- (vii). Select the option that shows the correct relationship between statement (1) and statement (2). [1]
(1) Cyclists were able to improve the accuracy of maps.
(2) Cyclists became influential and campaigned for better infrastructure.
A. (2) is a contradiction of (1)
B. (2) is independent of (1)
C. (2) is an example of (1)
D. (2) is the cause of (1)
- (viii). Below are statements from cyclists. Identify two statements that could be said by a cyclist in the late nineteenth century. [1]
1. "I like having a personal coach on my wrist. It just told me how many calories I have burned so far!"
2. "It's quite a struggle riding up these steep hills on my heavy steel framed bicycle."
3. "I feel so liberated whenever I hop on my bicycle. I didn't have freedom like this before!"
4. "Ugh, there is so much traffic ahead. And I feel so pressured to meet my performance targets every time I hop on a bike."
A. 2 and 3
B. 1 and 3
C. 1 and 2
D. 3 and 4

II. Read the passage given below.**[10]**

1. Rotation of crops is a universal phenomenon which is practised by most of the farmers of the tropical and temperate countries. The main objective of rotation of crops is to obtain higher agricultural returns on the one hand, and to maintain the soil fertility on the other.

2. In other words, the rotation of crops helps in making agriculture more sustainable. The importance of crop rotation is more in the areas where farmers grow two, or more than two crops in the same field in a year. Irrigation facilities have also been appreciably developed in the country during the last three decades. The availability of water to the arable land has helped in the intensification of agriculture.

3. In the areas such as Punjab and Haryana, where the Green Revolution is a big success, one soil exhaustive crop (rice) is followed by another soil exhaustive crop (wheat). Subsequently, the field vacated by wheat is devoted to either rice or maize or cotton. Thus, in one year, the farmers are harvesting three soil exhaustive crops from the same field. Such a rotation of crops may fetch more income to the farmers but depletes the soil fertility at a faster pace.

4. A number of field studies were conducted to assess the traditional crop rotation pattern. One such field study about the changes in the rotation of crops was conducted in the village Banhera (Tanda), Haridwar district. The main rotation of crops of the village is shown in the table below.

<i>Traditional Rotation of Crops (1960-65) in Banhera (Tanda)</i>				
<i>Year</i>	<i>Kharif (mid-June to mid-October)</i>	<i>Rabi (mid-October to mid-April)</i>	<i>Zaid (April to June)</i>	<i>No. of days land left fallow</i>
1960	Millet/fodder/rice	Gram	Fallow	90
1961	Fallow	Wheat	Fallow	210
1962	Millet/fodder/rice	Gram	Fallow	90
1963	Fallow	Wheat	Fallow	210
1964	Millet mixed with urad/fodder/rice	Gram	Fallow	90
1965	Fallow	Wheat	Fallow	210

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

(i). Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of para 2. [1]

One of the reasons that there has been an intensification of agriculture in the country is the development of irrigation facilities is a/an _____ (fact/opinion) because it is a/an _____ (subjective judgement/objective detail).

(ii). Based on your understanding of paras 1 and 2, state whether the following statement is true or false. [1]

If proper irrigation facility is provided, higher agricultural returns can be obtained by making crop rotation more sustainable.

(iii). Justify the following in about 40 words. [2]

Crop rotation may fetch more income to the farmers but depletes the soil fertility at a faster pace.

(iv). Based on the table, mention the years when the land was left fallow for maximum number of days. [1]

(v). The study conducted in village Banhera (Tanda) reflects that during the years 1960 to 1965, from April to June, the land was left fallow or uncultivated throughout. State any one inference that can be drawn from this. [1]

(vi). Select the option that correctly states the significance of crop rotation as given below: [1]

(1) Crop rotation is done to obtain higher agricultural returns.

(2) Higher agricultural returns can be obtained by harvesting soil exhaustive crops.

(3) Crop rotation demands that land should be left fallow for a few months to increase the fertility of soil.

(4) Better irrigation facility to the arable land has helped in the intensification of agriculture.

(5) If crops to be harvested are chosen wisely, crop rotation can help in maintaining fertility of soil.

Options:

(A) (1), (2) and (4)

(B) (1) only

(C) (3) and (5)

(D) (1) and (5)

(vii). Crop rotation is helping in making agriculture more sustainable. Mention one benefit and one drawback of crop rotation. (Answer in about 40 words) [2]

(viii). Which of the following is the main takeaway from the study mentioned in the passage? [1]

(A) The study needs to include more valid data to support the practice of crop rotation.

(B) Crop rotation is a sustainable practice that can transform the agricultural sector.

(C) The impact of crop rotation on farmers' upliftment has been thoroughly explained.

(D) Crop rotation is independent of the type of crops harvested and availability of water for irrigation.

SECTION B – GRAMMAR (10 MARKS)

III. Attempt **ANY TEN** of the following questions. [1×10=10]

(i). Two friends, Aarav and Ananya, are discussing their upcoming trip. How would Aarav report Ananya's dialogue?

Aarav: "I have already booked the hotel for our trip tomorrow."

Ananya: "Are you sure? Don't forget to confirm the reservation."

Ananya asked Aarav _____

(ii). Fill in the blanks with the correct option.

The coach shouted, "_____ the ball!" Later, he _____ onto the ball in order to dictate the game's pace.

A. pass; commanded them to hold

B. passed; command them to held

C. passes; commands them to hold

D. passing; commanded them to held

- (iii). Read the given dialogue carefully. Identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence.
 Sanya exclaims, "Look! My keys are in the refrigerator. I will have absent-mindedly put them here while putting away the groceries."

ERROR	CORRECTION

- (iv). Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket.
 In the depths of the enchanted forest, where time _____ (stand) still and mythical creatures roamed freely, a young adventurer embarked on a quest.
- (v). Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the sentence below.
 Shazia stared at the mountain range before her. From a distance, _____ (this/that/these/those) towering peaks seemed to touch the sky, creating a breathtaking sight.

- (vi). Report Sana's instructions to Manisha.
 Sana said, "First, you heat the sugar and water in a saucepan."
 Manisha: Sana said that _____ and water in a saucepan.
 A. we first heat the sugar
 B. Manisha, heat the sugar
 C. first, you heat the sugar
 D. I should first heat the sugar

- (vii). Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the given line, from a survey.
 Everyone is expected to submit their feedback to our customer service representative on the event.

OPTION NO.	ERROR	CORRECTION
A	on	at
B	their	your
C	feedback	feedbacks
D	the	a

- (viii). Fill in the blank with the correct option.
 When one gazes at the sky, the glimmer of stars _____ the vastness above.
 A. fill
 B. fills
 C. to fill
 D. is filling
- (ix). Identify the error and supply the correction for the following statement.
 The national team could adhere to a strict code of conduct, refraining from cheating and unethical behaviour, or else they will be disqualified.

ERROR	CORRECTION

- (x). Fill in the blank with the correct option.
 Dad: "Ramya, I heard your school made some changes recently. What is going on?"
 Ramya: "Yes, dad. The school administration _____ a revised attendance policy to ensure academic success."
 A. will implement
 B. is implementing
 C. has implemented
 D. was implementing

- (xi). Complete Nelson Mandela's quote by filling in the blank with the correct option.
 "The greatest glory in living _____ not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." - Nelson Mandela
 A. lie
 B. lies
 C. lays
 D. laying
- (xii). Identify the error and supply the correction for the given historical fact.
 Chess is believed to have originated in ancient India during the Gupta Empire, around the 6th century, evolving intricately from a captivated game known as "Chaturanga".

ERROR	CORRECTION

SECTION B – CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (10 MARKS)

NOTE: All details presented in the questions in writing section are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.

- IV.** Attempt **ANY ONE** from A and B given below. [5]
- A. You are deeply concerned about the growing influence of social media influencers and YouTubers on children and teenagers, often leading to unhealthy trends, unrealistic expectations, and risky behaviour. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily expressing your concern, citing examples, and suggesting ways to create awareness among parents, schools, and content creators.
- OR**
- B. You recently noticed that most food deliveries from popular apps come with multiple layers of plastic packaging and unnecessary plastic cutlery, even when not requested. This is contributing to environmental pollution and plastic waste. Write a letter to the Manager of a leading food delivery app expressing your concern and suggesting eco-friendly alternatives.
- V.** Attempt **ANY ONE** from A and B given below. [5]
- A. Read the product details on a label for a school bag:
ECO-FRIENDLY SCHOOL BAG
 1. Made from recycled materials
 2. Ergonomic design with padded shoulder straps and breathable mesh back panel
 3. Spacious main compartment with multiple pockets and organisers
 4. Reflective strips for visibility and safety
 5. Water-resistant fabric
 6. Available in various vibrant colours and patterns
- Now, analyze why this school bag would be a beneficial purchase. Write an analytical paragraph in 120 words, considering factors such as its eco friendliness, comfort features, functionality, safety aspects and design options.
- OR**
- B. Tsering, of class X, is contesting for the post of Junior School Captain, in the upcoming student council elections. Given below is her character traits' graphic, shared in the public domain, by the school counsellor, for the awareness of student voters, at school.



All Tsering's peers have been asked to write a paragraph in about 120 words, analyzing these traits, to either support or oppose her candidature. As one of her peers, write this analytical paragraph, by selecting some of the traits that support your analysis.

SECTION C- LITERATURE (40 MARKS)

VI. Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two.

[5]

A. Writing in a diary is a really strange experience for someone like me. Not only because I've never written anything before, but also because it seems to me that later on neither I nor anyone else will be interested in the musings of a thirteen-year-old schoolgirl. Oh well, it doesn't matter. I feel like writing, and I have an even greater need to get all kinds of things off my chest. 'Paper has more patience than people.' I thought of this saying on one of those days when I was feeling a little depressed and was sitting at home with my chin in my hands, bored and listless, wondering whether to stay in or go out. I finally stayed where I was, brooding: Yes, paper does have more patience, and since I'm not planning to let anyone else read this stiff-backed notebook grandly referred to as a 'diary', unless I should ever find a real friend, it probably won't make a bit of difference.

- (i). In her description of her notebook, why does Anne use quotes around the word 'diary'? [1]
- (ii). Based on the extract, describe why writing is an effective way to express emotions. Answer in 40 words. [2]
- (iii). Provide a line/phrase from the extract that justifies why the following statement is FALSE. [1]
Anne was able to confide in a lot of people.
- (iv). Mention one word that can correctly replace 'musings' in the below sentence from the extract. ...neither I nor anyone else will be interested in the musings of a thirteen-year-old schoolgirl. [1]

OR

B. Ausable did not fit any description of a secret agent Fowler had ever read. Following him down the musty corridor of the gloomy French hotel where Ausable had a room, Fowler felt let down. It was a small room, on the sixth and top floor, and scarcely a setting for a romantic adventure. Ausable was, for one thing, fat. Very fat. And then there was his accent. Though he spoke French and German passably, he had never altogether lost the American accent he had brought to Paris from Boston twenty years ago. "You are disappointed," Ausable said wheezily over his shoulder. "You were told that I was a secret agent, a spy, dealing in espionage and danger. You wished to meet me because you are a writer, young and romantic. You envisioned mysterious figures in the night, the crack of pistols, drugs in the wine."

- (i). Which of these describes how Fowler felt at the beginning of the extract? [1]
 A. His heart sank.
 B. He was shaken up.
 C. His stomach was in knots.
 D. He was at the end of his rope.
- (ii). State one observation about Ausable based on the way he handled Fowler's disappointment with him. [1]
- (iii). How did the atmosphere of the French hotel influence Fowler's mood? Answer in 40 words. [2]
- (iv). Which of these means the same as 'romantic' in the line below? [1]
It was a small room, on the sixth and top floor, and scarcely a setting for a romantic adventure.
 A. great
 B. exciting
 C. idealistic
 D. passionate

VII. Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two. [5]

A.

He should be snarling around houses
 At the jungle's edge,
 Baring his white fangs, his claws,
 Terrorising the village!

But he's locked in a concrete cell,
 His strength behind bars,
 Stalking the length of his cage,
 Ignoring visitors.

- (i). Fill in the blank with one word. [1]
 The speaker describes the tiger as 'stalking' up and down his cage to show how _____ the tiger felt.
- (ii). What could be a reason the speaker mentions the behaviour of the tiger at the jungle's 'edge' and not at its centre? Answer in about 40 words. [2]
- (iii). Which of these explains the meaning of the phrase 'His strength behind bars'? [1]
 A. The tiger's strength is in its ability to break free from the cage it is in.
 B. The tiger's strength is shown when he pushes against the bars of the cage.
 C. The tiger's strength is in his resilience and ability to adapt to a new environment.
 D. The tiger's strength is confined within the bars of the cage and this makes him less threatening.
- (iv). Why does the tiger ignore the visitors? [1]

B.

Merrily over — there it is in the water!
 No use to say 'O there are other balls':
 An ultimate shaking grief fixes the boy
 As he stands rigid, trembling, staring down
 All his young days into the harbour where
 His ball went. I would not intrude on him;
 A dime, another ball, is worthless. Now
 He senses first responsibility
 In a world of possessions. People will take
 Balls, balls will be lost always, little boy.
 And no one buys a ball back. Money is external.

(i). Complete the conversation with what the boy would most likely say. Answer in one sentence. [1]

John: Oh don't worry, there are plenty of other balls to play with.

Boy: _____

(ii). Which line first indicates that the ball is a metaphor for something else? [1]

- A. Merrily over — there it is in the water!
- B. An ultimate shaking grief fixes the boy
- C. All his young days into the harbour where
- D. I would not intrude on him;

(iii). Which literary device does the poet employ to depict the boy's sorrow and why? [2]

(iv). According to the extract, what gives true value to a possession? [1]

VIII. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 50 words each. [4×3=12]

(i). How does the repeated use of the name 'Amanda' influence the overall tone of the poem? [3]

(ii). How did the Buddha respond to Kisa Gotami's plea and what does this response reveal about his way of imparting wisdom? [3]

(iii). How does the metaphor of fog as a cat enhance the beauty and meaning of the poem? [3]

(iv). In his speech, Mandela draws a parallel between the oppressor and the oppressed. Critically analyse how both are deprived of their humanity and freedom and explain why Mandela considers them bound in a tragic relationship. [3]

(v). Explain how hunger is nature's strongest motivator in the story 'His First Flight'. [3]

IX. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. [2×3=6]

(i). How important is curiosity to scientific exploration and discovery? Justify your answer with examples from the text 'The Making of a Scientist'. [3]

(ii). In the story 'A Triumph of Surgery', the inability to say 'no' leads to serious consequences for Tricki. Critically examine how the narrative highlights the dangers of indulgence and the importance of setting boundaries in relationships. [3]

(iii). How does education play a transformative role in Bholi's life? [3]

X. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. [1×6=6]

(i). Compare how the sky in 'The Black Aeroplane' and the road in 'Madam Rides the Bus' serve as metaphors for life's journey. How do both texts suggest that growth comes from stepping into the unknown? [6]

OR

(ii). Suppose *Glimpses of India* was being turned into a travel documentary. Which of the following poems—*The Trees*, *The Tale of Custard the Dragon* or *How to Tell Wild Animals*—would best suit the background voiceover to show India's diversity and why? [6]

XI. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. [1×6=6]

(i). Did Griffin from 'Footprints without Feet' follow the saying '*with great power comes great responsibility*'? Justify your answer in 120 words. [6]

OR

(ii). If Anil had reported the theft to the police, how would the ending of the story have changed? Write an alternative ending and explain how it affects the motif of the story. [6]