Delhi Public School, Howrah

PERIODIC ASSESSMENT III (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 allowed: - 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)

1. Read the following passage. **10**

1. The issue of street dogs in India has long been a subject of public debate, often highlighting the conflict between human safety and animal welfare. In a recent and significant verdict, the Supreme Court of India addressed this sensitive matter by emphasizing the need for a balanced, humane, and lawful approach. The Court categorically stated that street dogs have a right to live and cannot be subjected to cruelty or arbitrary removal, while also acknowledging the responsibility of civic authorities to ensure public safety.

2. The verdict reaffirmed that the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023, provide the legal framework for managing the street dog population. According to the Court, mass killing or forced relocation of dogs is illegal and unethical. Instead, the only permissible method is scientific animal birth control, which includes sterilisation and vaccination. This approach, the Court observed, is not only humane but also the most effective long-term solution to control the population of street dogs and prevent the spread of rabies.

3. At the same time, the Supreme Court did not ignore the concerns of citizens who face dog bites or feel unsafe in public spaces. It clearly directed municipal bodies and local authorities to act responsibly by implementing ABC programmes efficiently. The Court stressed that negligence on the part of civic authorities cannot be justified by blaming animals or animal lovers. Proper waste management, awareness drives, and timely medical intervention were highlighted as essential supporting measures.

4. Another important aspect of the verdict was its strong stand against vigilantism and cruelty. The Court warned that harming street dogs in the name of self-defence or public interest is unacceptable and punishable by law. Compassion, the judges noted, is a constitutional value that reflects the moral progress of society.

5. In conclusion, the Supreme Court verdict on the street dogs issue promotes coexistence rather than conflict. By combining compassion with responsibility, the judgment seeks to protect both human lives and animal rights, reinforcing the idea that a civilized society must care for its most vulnerable—whether human or animal.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

I. The Supreme Court's rejection of mass culling primarily indicates that public policy must be shaped by: 1

A. Popular opinion during crises
B. Administrative convenience
C. Legal ethics and long-term consequences
D. Immediate reduction of public fear

II. The Court's insistence on Animal Birth Control programmes reflects a preference for policies that are: 1

A. Emotionally appealing to animal lovers
B. Cost-effective and rapidly implemented
C. Preventive, evidence-based, and humane
D. Dependent on voluntary participation

III. In what way does the verdict apply the principle of constitutional morality beyond human society? 2

IV. Complete the following appropriately: 1

The Court's emphasis on sterilisation reflects its belief in _____ solutions over short-term, reactionary actions.

V. Which conclusion can be logically drawn from the Court's emphasis on compassion as a constitutional value? 1

A. Animal rights override human rights
B. Compassion is optional during emergencies
C. Constitutional morality extends to treatment of animals
D. Only courts can protect animals

VI. Which assumption is implicitly rejected by the Court while disallowing mass relocation of street dogs? 1

A. Street dogs adapt easily to new environments
B. Citizens feel unsafe around animals
C. Municipal bodies lack infrastructure
D. Animal welfare laws delay action

VII. What broader social lesson does the judgment convey about coexistence in urban spaces? 2

VIII. Complete the following appropriately: 1

The judgment views coexistence not as an emotional choice but as a _____ responsibility of the State.

2. Read the following passage. **10**

1. The "gig economy" refers to a system of short-term contracts or freelance work rather than permanent jobs. With rapid digitalization, India has seen a sharp rise in gig workers — people delivering food, driving cabs, designing websites, or tutoring online.

2. A NITI Aayog 2024 report estimates that India has about 2.5 crore gig workers, a number expected to reach 4.5 crore by 2030. Gig platforms such as Swiggy, Ola, Urban Company, and Freelancer.com have provided flexible earning opportunities, especially for youth. However, gig work also raises concerns over income security, social benefits, and job stability.

3. A survey among 5,000 gig workers across cities revealed the following:

Parameter	% Respondents Agreeing
Flexible work hours help work-life balance	**72%**
Earnings fluctuate each month	**68%**
Lack of medical or insurance benefits	**75%**
Would prefer permanent job if available	**59%**

4. The data shows that while gig work offers flexibility, it lacks stability and welfare benefits. The government has proposed the Code on Social Security (2020), which brings gig and platform workers under social welfare schemes, including health insurance and retirement benefits.

5. Experts suggest that to make the gig economy sustainable, India needs a legal framework, skill training, and financial inclusion for workers. Digital platforms are also being urged to create safety nets, minimum wage guarantees, and transparent payment systems.

6. In the long term, the gig economy can complement traditional employment by promoting entrepreneurship, self-reliance, and digital literacy — key goals of India's growing digital ecosystem.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

I. Which of the following best captures the central dilemma of India's gig workforce? 1

A. High earnings with low flexibility
B. Flexibility with income insecurity
C. Government dependence versus private growth
D. Growth without employment

II. What does the survey data suggest about worker satisfaction? 1

III. The gig economy is often described as a "double-edged sword." Using evidence from the passage and data, justify this description. 2

IV. What relationship can you infer between digitalization and employment patterns in India, based on this passage? 2

V. The passage implies that government involvement in the gig economy is— 1

A. Minimal and discouraging innovation
B. Emerging but crucial for sustainability
C. Unnecessary since platforms are self-regulated
D. Replacing private entrepreneurship

VI. Which assumption can be made about the future labour market from the projected gig worker growth (2.5 crore → 4.5 crore)? 1

A. Digital platforms will dominate future employment models.
B. Traditional sectors will outgrow digital jobs.
C. Employment opportunities will become less technology-driven.
D. Workers will return to agriculture for security.

VII. Examine the data table and explain the relationship between flexibility and financial insecurity in gig work. 2

SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20 marks)

GRAMMAR 10

3. Complete **any ten** of twelve of the following tasks, as directed.

I. Identify the error and supply the correction for the following statement. 1
He insisted to accompanying me to the station.

ERROR	CORRECTION

II. The rain had stopped when the rainbow appeared. Rewrite the sentence beginning with - *Hardly…..* 1

III. He worked hard so that he might win the prize. Rewrite the sentence by using – *to win*. 1

IV. People believe that the scientist discovered the cure accidentally. Rewrite the sentence ending with – ……by the scientist. 1

V. Identify the error and supply the correction for the following statement. 1
The teacher explained the lesson with great detail.

ERROR	CORRECTION

VI. He joined the office in 2010. He is still working there. Combine the sentences using correct tense. 1

VII. Choose the correct tense form for the following sentence: 1
The Prime Minister _____ before the ceremony begins.
A. will arrive
B. will be arriving
C. will have arrived
D. had arrived

VIII. Choose the correct option to identify the underlined clause of the following sentence: 1
She sings better <u>than I do</u>.
A. Prepositional clause
B. Adverb clause
C. Noun clause
D. Adjective clause

IX. Choose the correct option to change the narration of the following sentence: 1
The teacher said, “Don’t make noise in the class.”
A. The teacher said not to make noise in the class.
B. The teacher forbade them to make noise in the class.
C. The teacher told them that they must not make noise.
D. The teacher ordered them to not make noise in class.

X. Choose the correct option to fill in the blank: 1

Each boy and each girl _____ (has/have) a notebook.

XI. Choose the correct option to fill in the blank: 1

Only _____ people in the crowd understood what was being said.

A. a little
B. few
C. a few
D. little

XII. You _____ have called me earlier instead of coming so late. Fill in the blank with an appropriate modal verb. 1

WRITING

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

4A You recently came across a street-side poster that read: 5

"Silence Speaks Loudest Against Injustice."

You were deeply moved by the message and feel that such issues need more public awareness and community support. Write a Letter to the Editor of a national daily expressing your views on civic awareness and moral courage. (120–150 words)

OR

4B Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper about the fading importance of handwriting in the digital era. 5

5A Read the following excerpt from an online post of a website on educational practices: 5

Kids who appreciate how much effort, time and care goes into growing food will understand how important farmers are, and why it's important to take care of our Earth. In today's world, gardening needs to be given more importance than sports, music and dance in all schools because it creates environmental stewards and outdoor learning laboratories that help the child and community for years to come.

Write a paragraph in 100-120 words to analyze the given argument.

You could think about what alternative explanations might weaken the given conclusion and include rationale/evidence that would strengthen/counter the given argument.

OR

5B Gurmeet Kaur is an aspiring candidate for a public- funded engineering college in the suburbs. She belongs to a nearby village, has minimal technological skills and exposure, has the required cut-off percentage and is looking for a complete or partial scholarship. Write a paragraph in about 100-120 words analyzing her SWOT notes to support your stand on whether she should /not join the college. 5

STRENGTH	WEAKNESS
▪ Strong Curriculum ▪ Quality faculty ▪ Vibrant Activity Clubs ▪ Green location ▪ Close proximity to residential areas	▪ Lack of diversity ▪ Students' behavioural problems ▪ No hostel facility ▪ Slow repair and maintenance work ▪ Underutilization of IT Services ▪ Lack of targeted advertisements to out-state students
OPPORTUNITIES	**THREAT**
▪ Practice based research ▪ Partnership with professional organisations ▪ Strong alumni ▪ Acclaimed Student Exchange Programme with European countries	▪ Lack of publicity in areas of excellence ▪ Public perception towards funded colleges ▪ Declining students' interest towards technical subjects ▪ Low employee morale due to budget cuts

SECTION C

LITERATURE TEXTBOOK **(40 marks)**

6. Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two. **5**

A. "The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree"

I. Why is the crow chosen instead of a more pleasant bird? 1

A. To symbolise the harshness of winter
B. To contrast darkness with the poet's joy
C. To emphasize the unexpected source of positivity
D. Both B and C

II. If the crow had not shaken the snow, what would most likely have happened? 1

A. The poet's mood would still improve gradually
B. The poet would remain stuck in negativity
C. The poet would find another natural event to cheer him
D. The poem's theme would remain unchanged

III. How would the poem's theme change if the bird was a dove? 2

IV. Frost deliberately uses a symbol of 'hemlock' (death and poison) to show that _____. 1

OR

B. "Just notice if he eats you.
This simple rule may help you learn
The Bengal Tiger to discern."

I. The humour in "just notice if he eats you" comes from— 1

A. The poet's sympathy
B. Casual tone used for a deadly event
C. Praise of tigers
D. Scientific explanation

II. The extract parodies— 1
A. A nature documentary
B. A travel brochure
C. A how-to guide or rulebook
D. A historical account

III. The figure of speech in "The Bengal Tiger to discern" is _____ 1

IV. Explain how this extract highlights the absurdity of identifying animals in the wild. 2

7. Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two. 5

A. He would greet the lady of the house with 'Good morning' and then place his basket on the vertical bamboo…… Monthly accounts used to be recorded on some wall in pencil.
I. The baker's act of recording accounts MOST strongly indicates— 1
A. The prevalence of strict profit-making motives among Goan bakers
B. A structured system of household-level credit economy
C. The reluctance of Goan families to pay upfront
D. That baking was declining as a livelihood

II. The "vertical bamboo" symbolizes _____ 1

III. Why is the baker referred to as a 'friend, companion and guide' of Goan households? 2

IV. Which pair shows a correct theme-to-chapter match? 1
A. "Cultural decline" – Coorg
B. "Colonial influence on food" – A Baker from Goa
C. "Military technology" – Tea from Assam
D. "Mysticism and fear" – Baker from Goa

OR

B. She was the prettiest of all—elegant, gracious, smiling and full of joy.
I. The line shows Mathilde experiencing _____ 1

II. The description "elegant, gracious, smiling" creates an image of— 1
A. superficial transformation
B. lasting emotional fulfilment
C. social acceptance that she earns
D. her natural personality

III. Why is this moment symbolically important? 1

IV. Comment on the use of imagery in the line. 2

8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 50 words each. 4×3=12
I. How does the dialogue form in the poem FOR ANNE GREGORY help in presenting contrasting perspectives? 3

II. In what ways does Mijbil's fascination with objects demonstrate intelligence and problem-solving abilities? 3

III. How does Mandela's transformation from a fearful young boy to a courageous leader reflect the theme of 'courage is not absence of fear'? 3

IV. What does the shift in Mr. Keesing's reaction—from strictness to laughter—suggest about Anne's impact on people? 3

V. Why does Lomov consider marriage a necessity rather than a romantic choice? 3

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

I. What does the story THE MIDNIGHT VISITOR suggest about the dangers of relying solely on weapons for control? 3

II. Analyse how the play THE BOOK THAT SAVED THE EARTH portrays technology and intelligence as not always related. 3

III. How does Horace's belief that he is a "good and honest" thief expose moral contradiction in human thinking? 3

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

A. Both FIRE AND ICE and THE BALL POEM explore loss—one at a global, destructive level and the other at a personal, emotional one—while THE TREES portrays a silent struggle for freedom and renewal. In all three texts, the protagonists confront forces beyond their control. Analyse how these works present human helplessness in the face of natural or emotional catastrophes yet also suggest subtle forms of resilience. How do these texts collectively imply that destruction, loss and liberation can coexist in shaping human understanding? 6

OR

B. Bravery appears unexpectedly in these works—Custard's hidden courage, the young pilot's last-minute decision in a storm, and Valli's solitary bus adventure. Compare how each protagonist challenges stereotypes about age, ability, or appearance. How do the texts together argue that courage is not loud or dramatic, but often emerges from fear, necessity, or quiet determination? Discuss how each character discovers confidence only after confronting real danger. 6

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

A. Lencho's misplaced trust, Mrs. Pumphrey's emotional excess, and Griffin's exploitation of others all show how human behaviour can be shaped by naive faith or selfish motives. Analyse how these texts portray the tension between belief and deception. What do they collectively reveal about the vulnerability of individuals who trust too easily and the moral collapse of those who misuse that trust? How do the outcomes suggest that honesty, moderation, and awareness are essential for social harmony? 6

OR

B. Amanda's shifting fantasies, the fog's cat-like unpredictability, and Ebright's structured scientific reasoning present three different approaches to dealing with uncertainty. Analyse how these texts explore the human tendency either to escape from difficulties, observe them quietly, or resolve them logically. How do they suggest that emotional, natural, and intellectual responses each have strengths and limitations? Discuss how the texts collectively argue that balance—imagination, patience, and inquiry—is essential to navigate life's challenges. 6