Series P/PB2/1

SET 1

CLASS X PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION – 2025-26

Q.P. Code: 184/2/1

Roll No. | | | | | | | | |

Candidate must write the Q.P. Code on the title page of the answer-book.

- Please check that this question paper contains **13** printed pages.
- Please check that this question paper contains **11** questions.
- Q.P. Code given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer-book by the candidate.
- **Please write down the serial number of the question in the answer-book before attempting it.**
- 15 minute time has been allotted to read this question paper. The students will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.

ENGLISH
(Language and Literature)

Time allowed : 3 hours *Maximum Marks : 80*

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them :

(i) *This question paper comprises 11 questions. All questions are compulsory.*

(ii) *The question paper contains THREE sections*

Section-A: Reading Skills

Section-B: Grammar and Creative Writing Skills

Section-C: Literature Text Book

(iii) *Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.*

SECTION A : READING SKILLS (20 marks)

1. **Read the following text.** 10 marks

a) The growing preference for indigenous craft items is a welcome trend in today's globalised world, where mass-produced goods often dominate markets. These handcrafted products, rooted in the cultural and artistic traditions of their regions, offer more than just aesthetic appeal. They symbolise sustainability, support local economies, and preserve the heritage of diverse communities.

(2) One of the primary reasons for choosing indigenous crafts in their eco-friendliness. Unlike factory-made products, most traditional crafts are created using natural, locally sourced materials. Artisans often employ time-tested methods that minimise waste and avoid harmful industrial processes. For example, pottery made from local clay, handwoven textiles using organic dyes, and bamboo-based crafts all have a much lower environmental footprint compared to their machine-made counterparts. By opting for these items, consumers indirectly contribute to reducing pollution and promoting sustainable practices.

(3) Supporting indigenous crafts also strengthens local economies. Many artisans depend solely on their craft for livelihood, often working in small communities where opportunities for other forms of employment are limited. When people purchase their products, it provides a direct income to these artisans, empowering them and encouraging their craftsmanship. Initiatives like fair trade further ensure that artisans receive fair wages, fostering economic stability within their communities.

(4) Moreover, indigenous craft items help preserve cultural heritage. Every handcrafted product carries a story-a glimpse into the traditions, beliefs, and skills passed down through generations. In India, whether it's paintings, terracotta jewellery, sculptures, athangudi tiles, mud work frames or many others, each item reflects the unique identity of its region. By choosing these crafts, people not only appreciate the artistry but also help keep these traditions alive in an era where cultural homogenisation threatens diversity

(5) In addition to their economic and cultural value, indigenous crafts add a personal touch to homes and wardrobes. Unlike mass-produced items, which often lack individuality, handcrafted products are unique. Each piece bears the imprint of the artisan's effort, creativity, and dedication, making it special for the buyer

(6) However, the preference for indigenous crafts requires sustained efforts to thrive. Governments, organisations, and consumers all have roles to play. Policies that promote local craftsmanship, provide training to artisans, and create global platforms for showcasing their work can boost the visibility and demand for these products. Consumers, too, must actively seek out and invest in handmade crafts rather than opting for cheaper, factory-made alternatives. Choosing indigenous craft items is a meaningful step toward a more sustainable and culturally enriched world.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

I. Why is the growing preference for indigenous craft items described as a 'welcome trend' in paragraph 1? 1

II. According to paragraph 1, the indigenous craft items have all of the following qualities EXCEPT being: 1

(a) handcrafted products (b) rooted in artistic traditions
(c) aesthetic in appeal (d) easily accessible

III. Complete the following by selecting the correct option from those given in the brackets.
The usage of locally sourced materials makes the indigenous crafts--------(traditional/eco-friendly) (Paragraph 2) 1

IV. Select the option that is True from (a)-(c) given for what the phrase, 'time-tested methods' suggests in paragraph 2. 1

(a) Artisans use traditional techniques that have been refined and proven effective over generations
(b) Artisans use outdated practices that are no longer relevant in today's commercial markets.
(c) Artisans follow techniques that prioritise speed and mass production over craftsmanship.

V. Complete the analogy by selecting one of the two correct options (a) or (b):

fair trade: fair wages: ------: ------ (Paragraph 3) 1
(a) employment job: security (b) mass production: reduced prices

VI. Why is supporting indigenous crafts considered an effective way to improve the economic conditions small communities? 2

VII. What are the main ideas of paragraph 4 and paragraph 5? 1

(i) Choosing indigenous crafts helps preserve cultural heritage.
(ii) Handcrafted products lack individuality
(iii) Indigenous crafts reflect the artisan's creativity.
(iv) Indigenous crafts promote uniformity by erasing regional differences in artistic traditions.
(v) Cultural homogenisation encourages people to choose indigenous crafts over mass-produced goods.

Select the correct option.

Options	Main idea of paragraph 4	Main idea of paragraph 5
a	ii	iv
b	v	ii
c	i	iii
d	iv	ii

VIII. Why is it important for consumers to take an active role alongside government and organisations in sustaining indigenous crafts? 2

2. Read the following text. **10marks**

The Influence of Cell Phones on Teenagers

Cell phones have become an essential part of teenagers' daily routines, influencing their social interactions, academic performance, and mental health. A study by the Youth Digital Behaviour Institute surveyed 1,000 teenagers aged 13-18 to explore how cell phone use impacts their lives (Source: Youth Digital Behaviour Institute, 2023).

Social Interaction

About 70% of teenagers spend more than 3 hours daily on social media, with 42% admitting that they feel anxious when they are not actively checking their phones. This constant connection creates a risk of digital dependence, with 28% reporting social isolation despite being virtually connected (Source: Pew Research Center, 2023).

Academic Impact

The study found that 55% of teens use their phones during school hours, and 33% believe it negatively affects their academic performance. Notifications and messaging apps were identified as key distractions, lowering concentration levels in class (Source: Common Sense Media, 2023).

Mental Health

Excessive phone use has also been linked to mental health issues. Around 30% of teens reported experiencing stress and anxiety due to overuse, while 22% felt depressed after prolonged social media exposure, leading to concerns about the emotional effects of constant comparison and cyber bullying.

(Source: American Psychological Association, 2022).

Statistics on Teenagers' Cell Phone Use

Category	Percentage
Social media use (>3 hrs daily)	70%
Phone use during school hours	55%
Negative academic impact	33%
Feeling depressed post-us	22%
Anxiety due to phone use	30%

These statistics provide a snapshot of how cell phones impact teenagers today and how their usage patterns are linked to both positive and negative effects.

Based on the understanding of the passage above answer the following questions given below:

i) What does the use of the phrase 'an essential part of teenagers' daily routines" in paragraph 1 tell us about the writer's view of cell phones? 1

A. The writer believes cell phones are unnecessary for teenagers.

B. The writer acknowledges cell phones as a significant part of teenagers' lives.

C. The writer is critical of how much teenagers use their phones.

D. The writer is indifferent to the role of cell phones in teenagers' lives.

ii) Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below. 1

Assertion (A): Teenagers experience social isolation despite being connected through their phones.

Reason (R): Prolonged use of social media creates dependency and anxiety among teenagers.

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.

iii) Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of paragraph 2 1

The statement that teenagers feel anxious when they are not checking their phones is a _____ (fact/opinion) because it is a /an _____ (subjective judgement/objective) detail.

iv) Justify the concern regarding teenagers' academic performance linked to cell phone usage as highlighted in the passage. 2

v) Read the given prompt and select the correct option in the brackets to fill in the blank.
In the study on teenagers' cell phone usage, the percentage of those who reported feeling anxious when separated from their phones is _____. (40% / 30% / 22 %) 1

vi) What does the statistic that 70% of teenagers spend more than 3 hours daily on social media suggest about their social habits and priorities in today's digital age? 1

vii) Which of the following is the main takeaway from the study mentioned in the passage? 1

A. Cell phones enhance teenagers' academic performance.
B. Excessive cell phone use harms teens' mental health and social lives
C. Social media use is the sole reason for anxiety among teenagers.
D. Teenagers prefer face-to-face communication over digital interaction.

viii) Complete the following with a suitable reason based on the passage: 1
Teenagers often feel anxious when separated from their phones because _____.

ix) Identify the word in the sentence that indicates <u>a reliance</u> on digital devices. 1
This constant connection creates a risk of digital dependence, with 28% reporting social isolation despite being virtually connected.

Section – B Grammar and Creative Writing Skills 20marks

GRAMMAR

3. Attempt <u>ANY TEN</u> of the following questions: 10 x 1 = 10

i) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option: 1
The technician will _____ the machine for maintenance this afternoon.
(a) shut out (b) shut off (c) shut away (d) shut in

ii) Read the conversation between the teacher and the student. 1
Complete the sentence by reporting the reply correctly:
Teacher: You need to submit your project by Friday.
Student: I understand, and I will make sure it's done on time.
The teacher informed the student that he needed to submit his project by Friday, to which the student replied _____.

iii) Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given line from a newspaper report. The report read, “There _____ a delay in the train schedule due to the heavy rain.” 1

(a) cannot be (b) should be (c) must be (d) will be

iv) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line from the health report: 1

"The number of patients suffering from diabetes are increasing every year."

Option	Error	Correction
a	number	numbers
b	are	is
c	suffering	suffers
d	Diabetes	diabetics

v) Complete the given narrative by filling in the blank with the correct option: 1

The manager _____the staff to ensure that all tasks were completed on time.

(a) kept an eye on (b) kept informed (c) kept up with (d) kept in touch with

vi) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket for the given portion of the letter: 1

Subject – Request for Leave.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to inform you that I _____ (be) unable to attend work due to a family emergency.

vii) Report the dialogue between two friends by completing the sentence. 1

Aanya: Rohan, what was your favourite part of the concert?

Rohan: The energy of the crowd and the music.

In response to the question about his favourite part of the concert, Rohan says_____ .

viii) Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction: 1

The increase in participation of students in extracurricular activities are encouraging for their overall development.

Use the given format for your response:

Error	Correction

ix) Maria shared some information with Mathew about her experience at the art exhibition. Report Mathew's question. 1

Did you enjoy the paintings at the exhibition?

x) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the advertisement on a travel website. 1

LOOKING FOR YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE? YOU _____ DISCOVER EXCITING DESTINATIONS HERE.

(a) can (b) shall (c) may (d) should

xi)Select the correct option to complete the narration of a dialogue between Riya and her brother: 1

Riya: I am going to the market tomorrow.

Brother: I will join you.

Riya mentioned to her brother that she was going to the market the next day. The brother added that _____.

(a) he would join her (b) he will join her (c) he can join her (d) he could join her

xii) Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given sentence:

The committee members, along with the chairperson, _____ reached a consensus on the proposal. 1

(a) has (b) have (c) were (d) is

CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

4. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below: 5

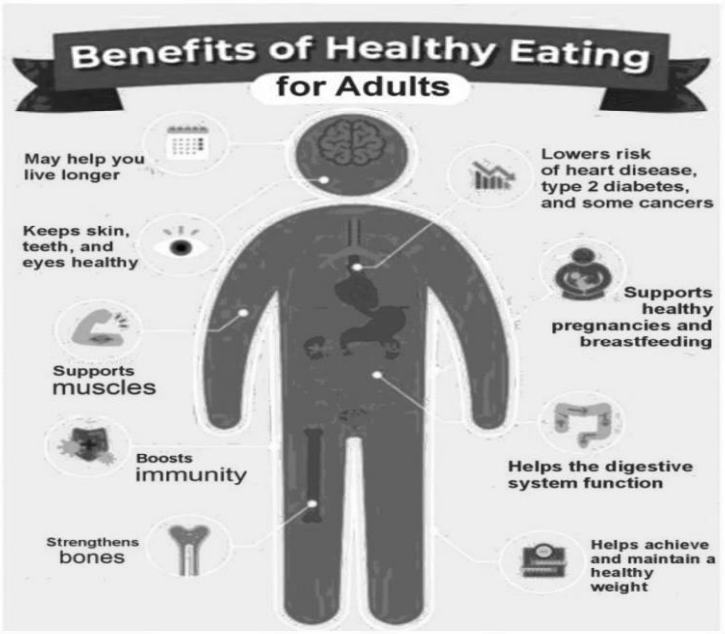
(A) There have been numerous instances of pollution and waste accumulation in our local environment, leading to health hazards. Write a letter to the Mayor of your city in about 120 words suggesting the need to implement stricter regulations on waste disposal. Recommend the establishment of community clean-up drives to promote awareness about maintaining a clean environment. You are Aarav / Priya, living at 45 Green Lane, Sunshine City.

OR

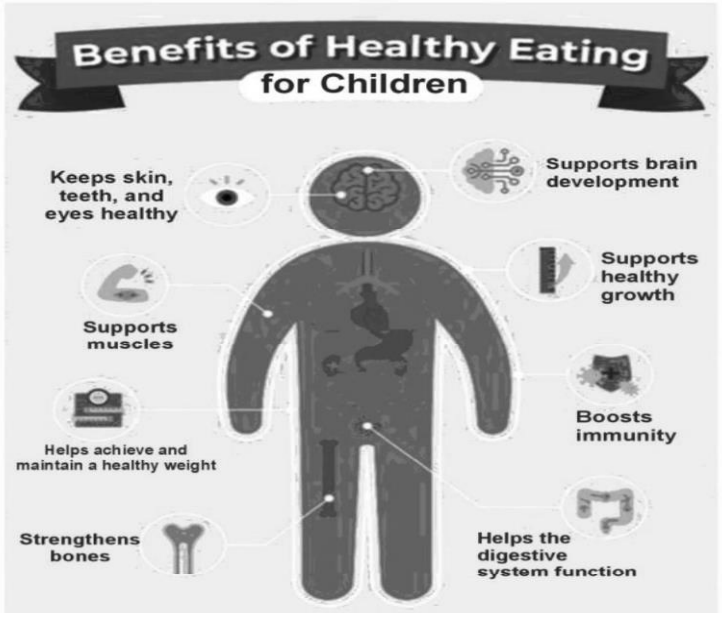
(B) A prominent health organization, "Health First," is organizing a community wellness fair in your city to promote healthy living and raise awareness about various health issues. You are Ananya/Ashish, the president of the local youth club in New Delhi. You are leading a group of fifty volunteers from your club to assist in the event. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily highlighting the importance of youth involvement in health initiatives as part of community service. Emphasize the advantages of participating in such events for personal development and community well-being.

5. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below: 5

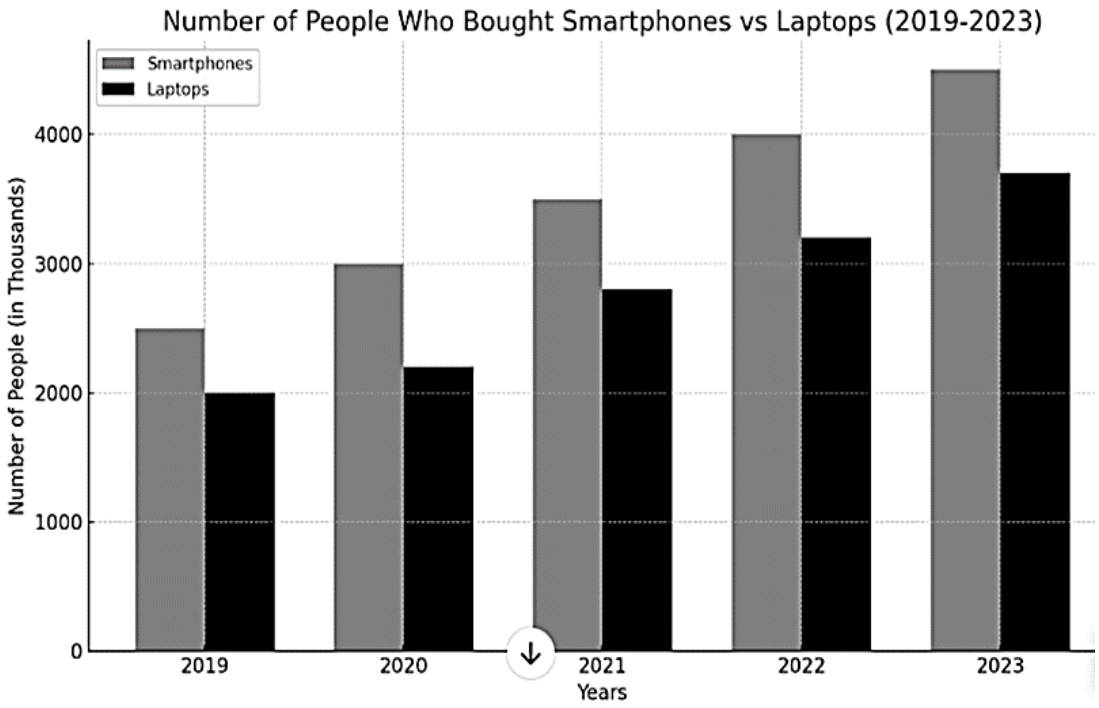
(A) There are many benefits of healthy eating for adults as well as children. The following charts reflect the same. Based on the information given in the charts, write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words, assessing the importance of healthy eating for adults as well as children.



OR



(B) Here is the bar diagram showing the number of people (in thousands) who bought smartphones versus laptops over the past five years (2019-2023). The smartphones represented in grey and laptops in black. Write a paragraph analysing the given data in about 120 words.



SECTION C

LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (40 marks)

6 A. Read the given extracts and answer any one of the two questions given below: **5**

So, in order not to shake the writer's faith in God, the postmaster came up with an idea:
answer the letter. But when he opened it, it was evident that to answer it he needed something more than goodwill, ink and paper. But he stuck to his resolution: he asked for money from his employees, he himself gave part of his salary, and several friends of his were obliged to Give something 'for an act of charity'. It was impossible for him to gather together the hundred pesos, so he was able to send the farmer only a little more than half. He put the money in an envelope addressed to Lencho and with it a letter containing only a single word as a signature: God.

i) What motivated the postmaster to collect funds and send them to Lencho, as detailed in the passage? 1

A) To exhibit his own magnanimity

B) To evaluate his colleagues' inclination towards charity

C) To uphold Lencho's unwavering faith in divine intervention

D) To express empathy for Lencho's predicament.

ii) Elaborate on the statement: "He put the money in an envelope addressed to Lencho and with it a letter containing only a single word as a signature: God." 2

iii) Which word would correctly substitute “evident” in the given sentence from the extract.
But when he opened it, it was evident that to answer it he needed something more than goodwill, ink and paper 1

iv) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket.
The postmaster’s willingness to contribute his own salary demonstrates a sense of _____ (selflessness / reluctance) in the extract. 1

OR

6 B. Read the given extracts and answer any one of the two questions given below

Mme Loisel now knew the horrible life of necessity. She did her part, however, completely, heroically. It was necessary to pay this frightful debt. She would pay it. They sent away the maid, they changed their lodgings; they rented some rooms in an attic.

i) What does Mme Loisel’s acceptance of a life of hardship after losing the necklace primarily demonstrate about her? 1

Options:

A) Her indifference to luxury
B) Her sense of accountability
C) Her love for material wealth
D) Her unwillingness to face reality

ii) What does Mme Loisel's choice to accept a life of hardship reveal about her character? 2

iii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket. 1
Mme Loisel’s decision to repay the debt after losing the necklace shows her ------(perseverance / indifference).

iv) Which word would correctly substitute "frightful" in the sentence from the extract: 1
"It was necessary to pay this *frightful* debt"?

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for any one of the two, given. 5

(A) 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) Which word from the extract is closest in meaning to "perish"? 1

A) Succeed B) Endure C) cease to exist D) Thrive

ii) Why does the speaker consider ice to be a significant force of destruction? 2

iii) What is the tone of the speaker in the extract when discussing the potential destruction caused by ice? 1

iv) Fill the blank with one word. 1

When the speaker says that ice could also bring about the end of the world, he refers to _____, as the means for destruction.

OR

(B) Don't eat that chocolate, Amanda!
Remember your acne, Amanda!
Will you please look at me when I'm speaking to you,
Amanda!
(I am Rapunzel, I have not a care;
life in a tower is tranquil and rare;
I'll certainly never let down my bright hair!)

i) Which word from the extract is closest in meaning to "tranquil"? 1

A) Chaotic B) Calm C) Disturbing D) Busy

ii) Why does Amanda choose to identify as Rapunzel? 2

iii) What tone does Amanda's mother convey while using the word 'don't'? 1

iv) Fill the blank with one word. 1

Amanda's words through these lines "I'll certainly never let down my bright hair!" expresses her_____ not to let her hair down to escape from the tower.

8. Answer any <u>four</u> of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words. 4x3=12

i) Maxwell decides to keep an otter as a pet. Elucidate with reference to the fact that owning a pet is a life of commitment. (Mijbil the Otter)

ii) Describe the methods used by the seagull family to help the young seagull overcome his fear and fly. (His First Flight)

iii) 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' is a humorous ballad. How does Ogden Nash create humour and entertainment in the poem?

iv) In what manner did Lord Buddha transform the woman's perspective on life? (The Sermon at Benaras)

v) Justify the title of the play, 'The Proposal' with reference to the characters and plot.

9 Answer any two of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. 2x3=6

i) What circumstances led Mrs. Pumphrey to seek the intervention of a veterinarian in the story "A Triumph of Surgery," and how did Tricki's condition reflect the consequences of her indulgent care?

ii) Though Horace planned everything very meticulously, he was betrayed during the robbery. In light of this, mention the ironic twists that bring out his vulnerability as a seasoned thief in 'A Question of Trust'.

iii) Ausable was always one step ahead of everyone. Highlight any two instances from the 'The Midnight Visitor' to hold this statement as a fact.

10 Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words 6

A. How do the geographical position, inhabitants, and natural characteristics of Coorg contribute to India's rich diversity and India's favourite tourist destination? (Glimpses of India – Coorg)

B. "To save a penny is to earn it." Justify this statement with reference to Valli's sacrifices of various recreations and pleasures in order to accomplish her dream. (Madam Rides the Bus)

11. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. 6

A. 'Pride has a fall'. Justify this statement giving relevant points from how Think -Tank reacted to the readings from Mother Goose. (The Book that saved the Earth)

B. Parents play a crucial role in the upbringing of their children. Critically examine the parents of Bholi and Ebright, highlighting their impact on their children's lives.

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