Series P/PB1/2

SET 2

CLASS X PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION – 2025-26

Q.P. Code: 101/1/2

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

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

- Please check that this question paper contains **10** printed pages.
- Please check that this question paper contains **12** 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 COMMUNICATIVE

Time allowed : 3 hours *Maximum Marks : 80*

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions carefully and follow them:

(i) This question paper has 12 questions. All questions are compulsory.

(ii) This question paper contains three sections:

Section A - Reading Skills

Section B - Writing Skills

Section C - Grammar

Section D - Literature Textbook

(iii) Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.

(iv) Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.

(v) Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (22 MARKS)

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions based on the passage: 12 marks

1. Friendships have always played a vital role in human societies, but their significance has grown considerably in modern times. Today, many of us find ourselves living and working far from where we were born or raised, often separated by vast distances from our original families. This geographical separation can create a sense of longing and emotional discomfort, as being away from family can lead to feelings of loneliness and disconnection from our roots. In such scenarios, friends become our chosen family, providing the emotional support and connection that we might otherwise lack. The happiness and well-being of individuals are closely intertwined with the quality of their friendships.

2**.** Friendships form a necessary human connection, acting as a buffer against stress and a source of joy and fulfilment. It is entirely normal to need and want friends, as they bring intimacy and richness to our lives. Studies have shown that those without close friends are more prone to depression and anxiety. Often, friends share similar values, which can differ from the values instilled in us during our upbringing. These shared values are typically those we have developed and embraced in our adult lives, reflecting our personal growth and experiences.

3. Friendships are built on consideration and mutual respect, which bring into play various communication skills. These include active listening, where we fully concentrate on what our friend is saying, and questioning skills, which help clarify understanding. Negotiation skills are important as well, allowing friends to resolve conflicts and differences amicably. Different perspectives on friendship highlight its multifaceted nature. Some view friendships as crucial for emotional support and mental health, acting as a buffer against life's challenges. Others emphasize the role of friendships in personal growth and identity formation, providing a space where one can explore and redefine oneself.

4. In a world where globalization often brings people from varied backgrounds together, friendships can enhance cultural competence and lead to richer, more inclusive experiences. By interacting with friends from different cultures, individuals can learn to appreciate different ways of life, traditions, and perspectives, which can broaden their worldview and increase their empathy towards others.

5. For some, friendships are seen as a reflection of personal values and choices, distinct from those inherited from family. This perspective highlights the autonomy and agency individuals have in crafting their social circles, allowing them to surround themselves with people who share their beliefs and passions. On the other hand, some might view friendships as transient, evolving with life's circumstances and personal changes, and see value in both deep, enduring connections and more casual, situational friendships. In conclusion, friendships are a cornerstone of human experience, enriched by effective communication and empathy. They provide emotional support, facilitate personal growth, and enhance our understanding of the world.

Answer the following questions: -

(i) In modern times, friendships have become increasingly significant due to the _____ (social / geographical/ economic) separation from family members as people relocate for work or personal reasons, creating a need for emotional support and connection. 1

(ii) Which skill is NOT mentioned as important for maintaining friendships? 1

A. Active listening C. Public Speaking

B. Negotiation D. Questioning

(iii) Which of the following best captures the multifaceted role of friendships as described in the passage? 1

A. Friendships mainly serve as a substitute for family, providing emotional support for those who live far from home.

B. Friendships primarily exist to offer social capital and networking opportunities that benefit professional growth.

C. Friendships act as a source of emotional support, facilitate personal growth, foster cultural understanding, and contribute to social capital.

D. Friendships are essential for individuals who do not have strong family ties, allowing them to form lasting relationships with people who share similar backgrounds.

(iv) From the options given below, select the word which can replace 'buffer' in the sentence given below: 1

Friendships form a necessary human connection, acting as a ***buffer*** against stress and a source of joy and fulfilment.

A. resolve B. shield C. inclusive D. enhance

(v) An absence of friends can lead to:

A. Richness and joy

B. Sadness and apprehension

C. Cheer and abundance

D. Stress and growth 1

(vi) Negotiation skills are important in friendships as they help to resolve _____(personal growth/ conflicts/ understanding) 1

(vii) In what ways does friendship contribute to cultural competence? 2

(viii) Give two valid justifications to prove that friendships reflect personal values and choices. 2

(ix) Why do friends play a more significant role today than ever before? 2

2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: 10 marks

1. Jogging is a classic choice for exercise, but what if there was a way to challenge your body and potentially reap even greater benefits? Enter backwards walking – a simple yet surprisingly effective way to elevate your fitness routine.

2. Dr Surender Pal Singh, HOD Physiotherapy Department at CK Birla Hospital, Delhi, said walking backwards offers a surprising array of advantages for your body. Here's how it elevates your workout:

3. Strengthening Your Core and Glutes: Backward walking significantly engages your core and gluteal muscles. These muscles are crucial for maintaining good posture, enhancing stability, and reducing lower back pain. By walking backwards, you provide them with a targeted workout, leading to better overall support for your body, according to Dr Singh.

4. Boosting Neuromuscular Control: This unique movement challenges your nervous system in a way that forward walking doesn't. It improves proprioception, also known as body awareness, which allows you to have greater control over your movements. This translates to better coordination throughout your entire body, leading to more efficient and controlled movements in all your activities.

5. Backwards walking vs jogging: A different kind of challenge

While jogging is a fantastic exercise option, backwards walking offers distinct advantages, said Dr Singh:

6. Reduced Knee Strain: For individuals experiencing knee pain, backward walking presents a gentler alternative. The impact on your knee joints is significantly minimised compared to jogging, making it a more suitable choice for those seeking a low-impact workout.

7. Enhanced Metabolic Rate: Backward walking can actually improve your resting metabolic heart rate, which is the number of calories your body burns at rest. This can ultimately enhance your overall exercise capacity as your body becomes more efficient at burning calories.

Who should avoid walking backwards?

8. While backward walking boasts numerous benefits, it's not for everyone. Dr Singh cautions that individuals with neuromuscular disorders impacting balance and control, such as difficulties with cough perception or sensory integration loss, should not attempt backward walking. This is because this exercise relies heavily on good coordination and proprioception (kinesthesia) which can be compromised in these conditions.

9. Walking backwards might seem like a quirky exercise choice, but the science behind its benefits is compelling. From strengthening your core and improving balance to potentially enhancing your metabolism, it offers a unique challenge that can elevate your fitness routine. However, it's crucial to listen to your body and avoid it if you have any concerns about your balance or coordination. Consult with your doctor or a physiotherapist before incorporating backward walking into your exercise plan, especially if you have any pre-existing health conditions.

-**The Indian Express**

1. Substitute the underlined word in the following sentence with another suitable word. 1
   Consult with your doctor or a physiotherapist before <u>incorporating</u> backward walking into your exercise plan.

2. "Walking backwards offers a surprising array of advantages for your body"
Which of the following sentences expresses the meaning of array as expressed by the writer in the above sentence. 1

(i) There was a splendid array of food on the table.
(ii) I'd like seats on the front array of the seats.
(iii) He arrayed his room with pictures.
(iv) The senator has been in the array recently.

3. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1

While backward walking boasts of numerous benefits, it's not advisable for ……

4. Which of the following is NOT the advantage of backward walking? 1

(i) Boosting Neuromuscular Control
(ii) Reduced Knee Strain
(iii) Enhanced Metabolic Rate
(iv) Improved academic performance

5. What is resting metabolic heart rate? What is its benefit? 2

6. Gluteal muscles are important for _____ 1

(a)maintaining good posture (b) enhancing stability
(c) losing sensory integration (d)reducing lower back pain

(i) (c), (d) (ii) (a), (b), (c) (iii) (a), (b), (d) (iv) (a), (b)

7. Complete the following:
Backwards walking is gentler alternative to jogging for .....as 2

8. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE. 1

Walking backwards is more advantageous than jogging.

SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS (22 MARKS)

3. You are Amrita, the Head Girl of DPS International School, Noida. The girls in your school are interested in learning self defence mechanism and have come to you with a request of getting a coach arranged for training in school. Write an application --in not more than 50 words- to the Principal of your school requesting that self-defence classes be organised for the girls of classes 5th to 10th during school hours. 3

4. Write a factual description of the new laptop that you purchased recently. (100 words**)** 4

5. Attempt any one of the two, in 120 words 7

A. You recently read an article on the alternative sources of energy that can be used to conserve electricity. You were quite impressed by the innovative suggestions in the article. You decide to write a **letter to the Editor** of a national daily **creating awareness among the public about alternative sources of energy.** In your letter discuss the various alternative energy sources available and the impact their use will have on preserving the environment. Use your own ideas along with the ideas in the Unit Science of your MCB. You are Rohan, a resident of 203, Mantri Elite, Bilekahalli, Bangalore.

OR

B. You recently visited a popular tourist destination and were shocked to see the negative effects of careless tourism — littered surroundings, noise pollution, and harm to local ecosystems. As a concerned citizen, write a **Letter to the Editor** of a national newspaper **highlighting the need for**

sustainable tourism and **suggesting practical steps** to balance development with environmental preservation. You may take ideas from the visual below along with your own ideas and ideas from the Unit 5 of the MCB- Travel and Tourism to draft the letter. You are Anubhav/ Anvitha of NCL Sindhu, Kompally, Secunderabad.

"Tourism Booms — But at What Cost to Nature?"



6. Attempt any one of the two given below, in 150 words **8**

A. You read the interview of Ms. Wangari Mathai in the Unit IV Environment of the MCB. You were quite impressed with the dedication and determination of the woman who helped plant many trees and contributed to sustainable living. You decide to write an article for the school magazine on the importance of conserving the environment and saving forests for the future generations. You may use ideas from the Unit on Environment along with your own ideas and the points given in the box below to draft your article. You are Rahul, a student of class X. Write the article in not more than 150 words.

-Wangari Mathai- started the Green Belt Movement, helped pant many tress - Need of the hour to conserve natural resources -Peace closely related to need for natural resources -Must plant trees- afforestation need of the hour- deforestation disturbs ecological balance and leads to extinction of species and change in weather patterns.

B. On the occasion of Women's Day, your school Literary Club is organizing an article writing Competition on the topic - "Empowering the Girl Child is the Best Way to Empower the Nation". Based on the input given along with your own ideas and those you may have gathered from Unit 2: Education, create this article. You are Ritika of class X, Model High School, Noida.

-many discriminatory practices against the girl child

- lack of proper facilities for the education of the girl child

-need to educate the girl child- if one woman is educated a family is educated

-educating the girl child- priority for the government- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan

SECTION C: GRAMMAR (10 MARKS)

7. Fill the blanks (I) -(III) with the appropriate option from those in the brackets. 3x1=3

When I emerged (a) _____ (over/from/in) the anteroom, the waiting patients (b) _____ (looked/looking/looks) relieved. Outside (c) _____ (the/a/an) street I hesitated for a moment and turned my feet homeward.

8. In the following paragraph, one word has been omitted in each line. In your answer sheets, remember to write the missing word along with the word that comes before and after it, as shown below. The first one has been done as an example. 4X1=4

Science making rapid strides these days	**e.g.**	Science	is	making
Hundreds of new products appearing in the	**(i)**	……	……	……
market daily. These products made man's life	**(ii)**	……	……	……
quite comfortable. Polythene is such product	**(iii)**	……	……	……
which found a wide application in modern use.	**(iv)**	……	……	……

9. Report the dialogues to complete the paragraph that follows 3x1=3



I asked daddy (A)……. a cell phone. He didn't agree to buy one and asked me why a ten-year-old (B)……. He said that the furthest I went by myself (C)……. down the street. I asked him if I could have a thousand feet of fishing line instead!!

SECTION D: LITERATURE (26 marks)

10.Read the given extract and answer the questions briefly, of any **two** out of **three** extracts, given below . **(2X4=8)**

A. I shook my head. A real message from the real Sebastian Shultz. We both knew that by reliving the accident, something wonderful had happened but then again, now that there are two advanced intelligences on earth, who can say what is and what isn't possible**?**

(i) Who is 'I' here?

(ii) Who sent the real message to the narrator?

(iii) Explain who the two advanced intelligences on Earth are.

(iv) What emotion does the narrator express by shaking his head

B. Now the nightingale inspired,
Flushed with confidence,
and fired with both art and adoration,
Sang – and was a huge sensation.
Animals for miles around
Flocked towards the magic sound,
And the frog with great precision ,
Counted heads and charged admission.

(i) What made the nightingale become a huge sensation?

(ii) What does the phrase, "Flushed with confidence" mean?

(iii) State one quality of the frog as evident in this extract.

(iv) Identify the poetic device in the second line of the stanza.

C. "Aye, you both say that because of what I've told you about leaving my money. Well, since you don't want me, I'll go to someone that does."

(i) Name the speaker of these words.

(ii) Who are referred to as **both** in the above extract?

(iii) Discuss why the speaker insists on going somewhere.

(iv) What does the decision of the speaker say about him?

11. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions in about 30- 40 words each (2x5=10)

(i) Analyse why the Ancient Mariner not let the guest go and attend the wedding.

(ii) 'They were childish enough and, in many ways, quite artless.' Discuss the statement in connection to the character traits displayed by Nicola and Jacopo.

(iii) Why does Lavinia feel that the Ouija Board would help her husband?

(iv) What idea did Patol Babu have while rehearsing? Did the director approve of the idea?

(v) What kind of computers fascinated Michael and his dad? Why?

(vi) Evaluate how *The Letter* by Dhumaketu portrays the impact of separation on human emotions.

12. Answer any one of the following two questions in about 150 words. (1X8=8)

A. How do the poet in "The Snake" and Marcus Brutus in "Julius Caesar" struggle with inner conflict, and how does this influence the decisions they make? Discuss with reference to the themes of fear, societal pressure, and guilt 'Ozymandias' and 'Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monument' are based on the theme of Time. Compare the two geographical separation sonnets in terms of the manner in which Time is treated by the poets.

OR

B. Both 'A Shady Plot' and 'Patol Babu, Filmstar' highlight the conflict between material gain and inner satisfaction. While John Hallock in "A Shady Plot" struggles with honesty and responsibility, Patol Babu shows dedication to art over money. What values do you learn from these stories about the true meaning of success and fulfilment in life? Illustrate with examples from both texts