

JB ACADEMY, AYODHYA
HALFYEARLY EXAMINATION
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (184)
CLASS - X

Time : 3 Hrs.

Max. Marks: 80

General Instructions:

(i) This question paper comprises II 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 Textbook

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (20 MARKS)

I. Read the following text.

(10)

1. Summer vacation offers families dilemmas and opportunities. For too many kids it becomes a period of intellectual passivity and stalled personal growth. For others — and their parents— it's a time of overload and frantic scheduling.

2. "Summer is a great time for parents to build a relationship with their children," says a renowned child psychologist. And it's an opportunity both for the kids to learn and for the family to grow together. To make this a reality educators and psychologists point to several simple strategies that parents can start planning before summer gets under way.

3. "Summer's a perfect time for kids to take skills they've learned in a classroom and use them in new ways," notes a well-known educator. Comparing prices in a grocery shop can sharpen children's mental maths skills. Taking measurements to build a new tree house or design a simple plaything teaches geometry. Car trips provide opportunities to study maps and learn geography.

4. Sometimes kids will need a small push in the right direction. Victoria encouraged her seven-year-old son, Philip, to take part in their local library's summer reading club. For every book report a child wrote, he received a raffle ticket. At the end of the summer sports prizes were raffled off. Philip, who'd painstakingly produced seven book reports, won an autographed picture of a hockey star and had his name in one of his reports printed in the local newspaper. (If that's not possible, encourage children to write letters to editors on current affairs, or about school-related issues.) "Philip moaned and groaned about writing the reports, but in the end, he was happy he put the effort in," notes his mother. "And his ability to express himself really improved."

5. "It's the daily practice of stimulation—intellectual, creative, esteem-building—that parents can give their children that have the greatest impact," says an eminent researcher. In an informal study conducted in 1998 other researchers surveyed successful college students about how they spent their free time from ages five to 12, then compared their activities with those of troubled youngsters. They found that the successful ones were more likely to play spontaneous games, more involved in household chores and more likely to engage in playful activities with their Parents.

6. Truly successful kids, say educators are those who've learnt to budget time to help others—whether it's helping an invalid neighbour or preparing their own family's meals a couple of nights a week. Where parents fail, say, experts, is in the way such responsibilities are presented.

7. For most parents of school-age kids, the largest block of time they'll have with their children is in the summer. With a little advance preparation, parents can use the summer to help develop their youngsters into smarter, more creative, more caring human beings.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

(10)

a) What is the objective of the writer when he says that 'the kids need a small push in the right Direction'?

(1)

(b) Why does the writer say that 'Summer vacation offers families dilemmas and opportunities'. Mention two points to support the statement.

(2)

(c) Why are experts of the opinion that advanced planning of the summer vacation can offer Immense benefits to both children and parents?

(1)

(d) How can parents make the greatest impact on the lives of their kids?

(1)

(e) Say whether the given statement is **True** or **False**.

(1)

How children spend their free time from ages five to twelve greatly determines whether they will turn into troubled teenagers or responsible youngsters.

(f) The author talks about children "learning to budget time to help other. Which of the following substantiates the author's concept of budget?

(1)

(i) To plan carefully how much money to spend on something.

(ii) The availability of something quite cheap and with a heavy discount.

(iii) The money a government plans to spend and collect in the coming year.

(iv) The careful planning and prioritizing of free hours to extract the maximum benefit.

(g) The author clearly expresses his views about failed parents and successful children. Write the essence of his remarks in two points.

(2)

(h) In the phrase 'block of time' the word 'block' refers to.....

(1)

(i) It is a large, heavy piece of something, usually with flat sides.

(ii) It is a quantity or an amount of something that is considered a single unit.

(iii) It is a group of villages that form an administrative unit.

(iv) It is a group of buildings in a town that has streets on all four sides.

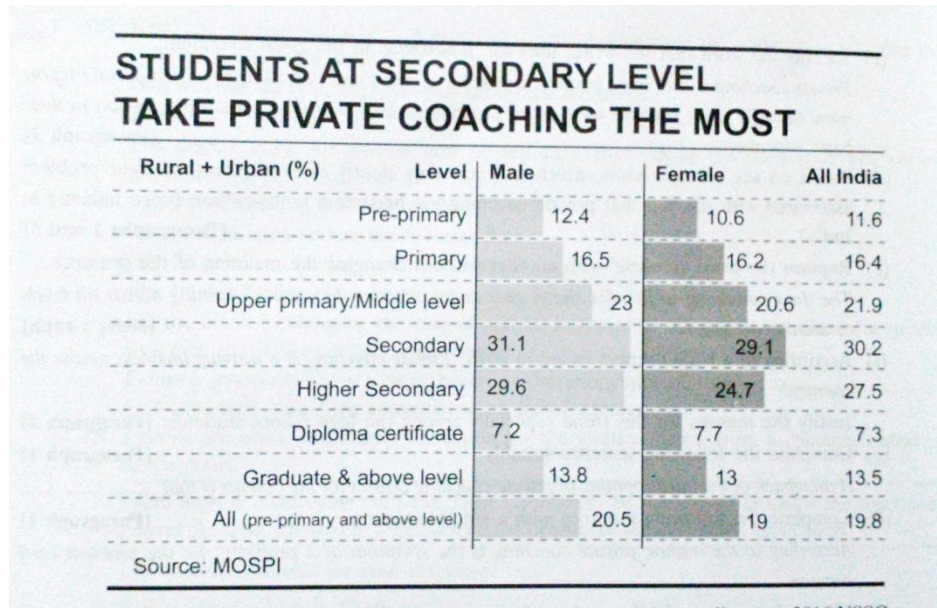
2. Read the following text.

(10)

1. Times view: Private coaching is a multi-million rupee industry in India. But it is the symptom Of a problem, not the problem it self. Coaching centres merely fill the gap caused by lack of Quality teaching especially in government school, more so in small towns and villages. Only a sincere and sustained effort to improve education in such schools will alter the picture and prevent this huge drain on the resources of the families desperately seeking to give their children decent education.

2. Secondary level students topped the number of students taking private coaching with 31% Males and 29% female students taking recourse to the method, a recent NSSO survey has shown. The report also showed

that nearly 20% students attending pre-primary and above level (21% of males and 19% of females) were taking private coaching.



3. Private coaching is a thriving business across the country and according to a 2016 NSSO report more than 7.1 crore students were taking private coaching or tuition classes in addition to their basic education.

4. Experts attributed the trend of a larger share of students at the secondary level taking recourse to Private coaching to the entrance exams for professional courses such as engineering and medicines.

5. Anil Swarup, former Secretary school education in the ministry of human resource development, explained the increase of students taking private coaching to the different competitive

Examinations and said this was a result of the dichotomy between learning and understanding.

(Courtesy : The Times of India)

2. Answer the following questions, based on the passage above. (10)

(a) Below are given the main takeaways from the NSSO report mentioned in the passage about the effect of private coaching on professional courses on secondary-level students. Which of these is NOT mentioned explicitly in the report? (1)

- (i) They need coaching to qualify for engineering and medical entrance exams.
- (ii) The lack of good teachers is most felt at the secondary level.
- (iii) There is a dichotomy between learning and understanding.
- (iv) 27.5 % of the students depend on private coaching at this level.

(b) Select the option that is **true** for the assertion and reason given below. (1)

Assertion: The graph shows the compilation of data for both genders in rural and urban areas.

Reason: A good thing is that even in the rural areas parents are supporting girls in taking private coaching if needed.

(i) Both the assertion and reason are true and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.

(ii) Both the assertion and reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.

(iii) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.

(iv) The assertion is false, but the reason is true.

(c) Identify the word that the writer uses for flourishing in the given statement. (1)

Private coaching is a thriving business across the country and according to a 2016 NSSO report more than 7.1 crore students were taking private coaching or tuition classes in addition to their Basic education.

(d) Based on the survey results, which two concerns clearly demonstrate the larger problem associated with the fact that private coaching has become a multi million rupee industry in India? (2)

(e) Replace the word 'recourse' with another without changing the meaning of the sentence. (1)

The data pertaining to females shows girls taking recourse to private coaching across all levels as seen in the graph.

(f) According to a NSSO report issued in 2016, Private coaching is a thriving business across the country: Justify the reasons for this trend especially among the high school students. (1)

(g) A drawback of the mushrooming of private coaching centres for the parents is that (1)

(h) Complete the following sentence with a suitable reason: (1)

According to the author, private coaching is the symptom of a problem, not the problem itself because.....

(i) What inferences can be drawn from the fact that 11.6% of pre-primary and 16.4 % of primary students need private coaching too? (1)

Section B : Grammar (10 Marks)

Q.3 Attempt ANY TEN of the following questions. (1X10)

(a) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the sentence

In fact, such is the energy and sense of satisfaction and contentment that hefrom his writing that heto survive many upheavals in life.

(i) Have, had managed (ii) has, will manage (iii) get, manages (iv) draws, has managed

(b) Read the conversation between a father and a son. Complete the sentence by reporting the dialogue.

b) Father. I feel a burning sensation in my chest.

Son: Let me rush you to a doctor immediately.

When a father complained of a burning sensation in his chest, the son

(c) Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given line, from a health magazine.

If you.....an unsustainable life and need to make some changes in your outlook and lifestyle do it now.

(i) Were living (ii) are living (iii) had been living (iv) lived

(d) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line, from a news report.

By developing the parallel line, other than that of your job, and following it like crazy, you energise your life. It will keep you going even when all other activities have stopped.

Option no.	Error	Correction
(i)	the	a
(ii)	of	in
(iii)	like	as
(i)	energise	had energised

(e) Complete the given narrative, by filling in the blank with the correct option.

Shedried and ironed all the laundry by the time we are ready to pack for our
Long journey.

- (i) could have washed (ii) had washed
(iii) will have washed (iv) has washed

(f) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter. Please ensure that the items(package) in a sound condition to avoid breakages during the delivery process.

Yours faithfully

(g) Report the dialogue between a brother and sister, by completing the sentence.

Brother: Why do you ask me to keep quiet whenever I say something?

Sister: Have you ever said anything sensible?

In response to her brother's question about why he was asked to keep quiet whenever he said something. The sister asked

(h) Identify the error in the given sentence, from a school magazine report and supply the correction.

The good news is that less volunteers drop out this year than the last two.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

(i) A director told a journalist that shooting in real-time in crowded areas is more challenging than in a studio. Report the question asked by the journalist.

(j) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the teacher's instruction

Youconsult the Thesaurus if you need groups of synonyms for those words.

- (i) need to (ii) used to (iii) might (iv) have to

(k) Select the correct option to complete the narration of the dialogue between two marketing professionals.

Charanjeet: Everything these days is a promotion!

Vaibhav: Sometimes, I think that one day we will find out that some big business chain is financing even Santa Claus.

Charanjeet exclaimed that everything these days is a promotion. Vaibhav agreed and wondered if one day they would find out that even Santa Clausby some big business chain.

- (i) was being financed (ii) is being financed
(iii) has been financed (iv) had been financed

(l) Identify the error on a restaurant's hoarding and supply the correction, for the following.

To hot to cook? Let us cook for you!

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

Section B : Creative Writing Skills (10 Marks)

Q.4. Attempt any one from (A) and (B) given below: (5)

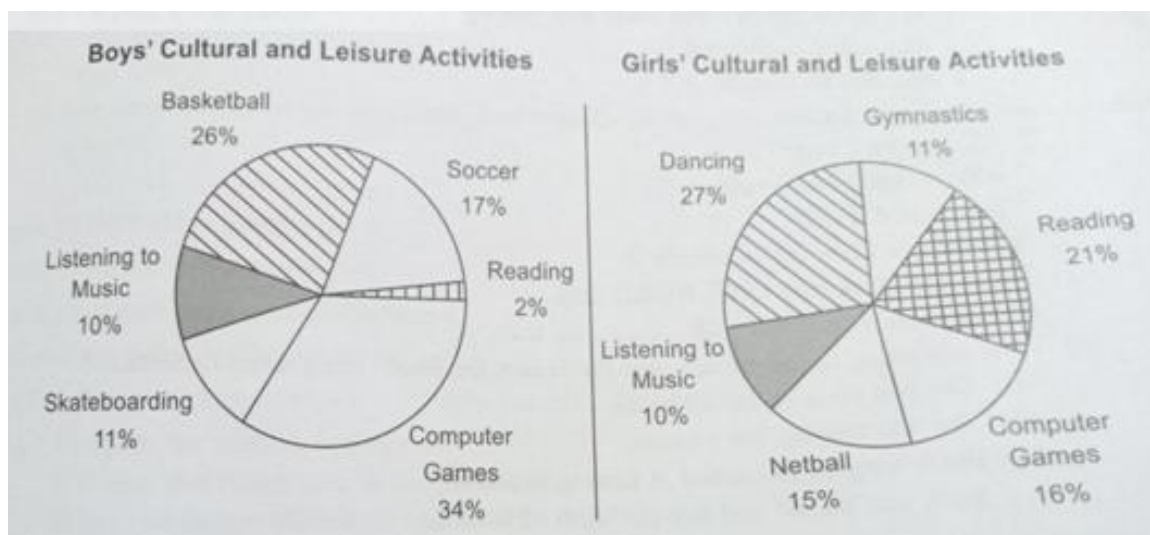
(A) You are Armaan/Anjali of C-63, Panvel. You recently read a magazine article which highlighted the condition of underage children working in hazardous conditions. Instead of going to school, they are working in dimly lit factories, tea stalls, in garages, etc. to supplement family incomes. Write a letter to the editor of 'The Times of India' in about 100-120 words, drawing attention to this national problem and suggesting solutions.

OR

(B) You are Rohit/Riya of Hauz Khas, New Delhi. You bought a pair of shoes from M/s.Shoe Factory, GK-II, New Delhi. On unpacking them, you found to your amazement that both the shoes are meant for your left foot. Write a letter of complaint to the Manager of M/s. ShoE Factory asking for replacement at their cost. (Word limit : 100-120 words)

Q.5. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below. (5)

(n) Given below is an info graphic related to the cultural and leisure activities that boys and girls engage in. Look at the pie charts and extract information to write an analytical paragraph in about 100-120 words. Interpret, analyse and explain the information.



(B) Read the given details of a community park designed for your neighbourhood:

·A jogging track surrounded by greenery, inspired by Indian garden aesthetics.

A meditation and yoga pavilion designed with traditional Indian motifs.

Separate play areas for toddlers, featuring soft surfaces and age-appropriate equipment.

- Outdoor gym equipment for fitness enthusiasts.
- A small amphitheater for cultural performances or gatherings.

Well-lit walking paths with solar-powered lamps and benches.

Analyse the details and write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words about the suitability of this community park. Focus on factors such as health and wellness, inclusivity, recreational value, safety and its overall appeal to different age groups.

SECTION-C

(Literature Textbook and Supplementary Reading Text 40 Marks)

Q.6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. (5)

(A) "It's really getting bad now," exclaimed the man. "I hope it passes quickly." It did not pass quickly. For an hour the hail rained on the house, the garden, the hillside, the cornfield, on the whole valley. The field was white, as if covered with salt. Not a leaf remained on the trees. The corn was totally destroyed. The flowers were gone from the plants. Lencho's soul was filled with sadness. When the storm had passed, he stood in the middle of the field and said to his sons, "A plague of locusts would have left more than this." (A Letter to God)

I. What effect does the experience, as described in the lines below, have on Lencho?

"For an hour the hail rained on the house, the garden, the hillside... Not a leaf remained on the trees."

Choose the most suitable option: [1]

- (A) Devastates (B) Inspires (C) Amazes (D) Strengthens

II. How does the author's use of descriptive language enhance the narrative technique in the paragraph? [2]

III. Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket:

The use of the word 'rained' adds to a sense of (relentlessness/calm) in the extract.

IV. How do Lencho's feelings towards the end of the extract contrast with his initial feelings during the storm? [1]

OR

6(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 very disappointed," Ausable said wheezily over his shoulder. (The Midnight Visitor)

I. What is the tone Ausable is UNLIKELY to have used in the line, "You are disappointed," Ausable said wheezily over his shoulder? [1]

(A) Humorous (B) Apologetic (C) Sarcastic (D) Confident

II. How does the author's use of Fowler's perspective help build the narrative in the extract? [2]

III. Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket:

The word 'wheezily' in the line, "You are disappointed," Ausable said wheezily, indicates that Ausable spoke (laboriously/irritably). [1]

IV. How does Ausable's calm demeanor contrast with Fowler's feelings as described in the extract?

[1]

Q.7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. (5)

(A) 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.

(1)

(a) Identify the symbolism used in the given lines of the poem.

(b) What is the significance of the use of the words 'All his young days into the harbour' to describe the loss of the ball in the poem and how does this word choice contribute to the overall mood and tone of the poem?

(1)

(c) Complete the statement with correct facts: "I will not intrude on the boy because

(1)

(i) he won't like the intrusion. (ii) 'T' wants him to face the situation.

(iii) another ball can be given to him. (iv) the boy is stubborn.

(d) Comment on the poet's use of language in these lines.

(2)

OR

(B) (I am an orphan, roaming the street

I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet,

The silence is golden, the freedom is sweet.)

Don't eat that chocolate, Amanda!

Remember your acne, Amanda!

(a) Fill the blank with suitable words as you deem fit.

The tone of the speaker in the above stanza is

(1)

(b) What is the significance of the use of two different rhyme schemes 'aaba' and 'aaa' in The poem? How do the different rhyming schemes and the use of parentheses contribute to the Overall mood and tone of the poem? (2)

(c) Complete this following statement. (1)

The golden silence that the young girl yearns for is contrasted with the

- (i) Chaos of the home and Amanda's desire to daydream
- (ii) Constant instructions received and the emotional chaos
- (iii) Sweetness of freedom but Amanda being chained
- (iv) (iv) hushed, bare feet

(d) Identify the use of metaphors in the given lines of the poem. (1)

Q.8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words. (3x4=12)

(a) How did Anne turn the tables on Mr. Keesing?

(b) How does the poet use imagery to contrast the Tiger's confinement with his natural habitat in 'A Tiger in the Zoo'?

(c) What were Mandela 's opinions about the first and last decades of the twentieth century? Why does he say on the day of the inauguration that he was overwhelmed with a sense of history?

(d) Why does the poet use the image of a hemlock tree?

(e) How does the poet suggest that you identify the lion and the tiger? When can you do so according to him?

Q.9 Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions,in about 40-50 words. (3x2=6)

(a) What does Hari Singh say about the reactions of different types of people when they were robbed ? How did he think Anil would react when he discovered the theft?

(b) Why did Mrs. Pumphrey suffer in the absence of Tricky?

(c) Why did Ausable ask Fowler to cheer up?

Q.10 Attempt ANY ONE out of the following in about 120-150 words. (6)

(A) Our attitude towards a circumstance evokes different responses- either positive or negative. With reference to the poem Dust of Snow bring out the importance of the right attitude in life. How did the pilot of The Black Aeroplane respond to the changing circumstances in his flight. Analyse with reference to the poem Dust of Snow and the story The Black Aeroplane.

OR

(B) Robert Frost's poem Fire and Ice is a strong symbolic poem where fire is used as the emotion of desire and ice that of hatred. How does the poet justify the role of these elements in the structure of human mind, heart and consequently mankind. Compare it with Mandela's words 'No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin or his background or his religion.'

Q.11. Attempt ANY ONE out of the following in about 120-150 words. (6)

(A) 'Crime can never be justified. The one who causes harm to anyone gets caught later or Sooner.' Examine 'A Question of Trust' as a story woven around this code.

OR

(B) Discoveries of science can be used for welfare as well as for destruction. How is this applicable to Griffin's scientific discovery?

***** Best of Luck *****