

English Language and Literature -Code No. 184
MARKING SCHEME
CLASS-X- (2025-26)

General Instructions: -

1. *The Marking Scheme carries only suggested value points for the answers / sample answers. The value points are in the nature of Guidelines only and do not constitute the complete answer. The students can have their own expression and if the expression is correct, then due marks should be awarded accordingly.*
2. *If a student has attempted an extra question, answer of the question deserving more marks should be retained and the other answer scored out with a note "Extra Question".*
3. *If more than one option is mentioned in the answer of multiple choice questions, then no marks to be awarded.*

A: READING (20 marks)		
Discursive Passage		
1.	Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.	10
I	because it counters the dominance of mass-produced goods, supports sustainability, and helps preserve cultural and artistic traditions.	1
II	D. easily accessible	1
III	eco-friendly	1
IV	(a) Artisans use traditional techniques that have been refined and proven effective over generations	1
V	(a) employment : job security [(a) is correct. Just as fair trade ensures fair wages, employment aims to provide job security and both relationships focus on fairness and stability. Mass production often prioritises efficiency and cost reduction, sometimes at the expense of fairness, environmental responsibility, or the well-being of workers. Thus, (b) does not match the context of the analogy.]	1
VI	Supporting indigenous crafts improves the economic conditions of small communities by providing artisans with a stable source of income. This empowers them to sustain their livelihoods and encourages the continuation of their craftsmanship. Additionally, it reduces economic challenges in areas where other employment opportunities are limited, creating a positive cycle of growth within these communities.	2

VII	C. i -iii [Paragraph 4 emphasises the preservation of cultural heritage (i), while paragraph 5 highlights the uniqueness and creativity reflected in indigenous crafts (iii).]	1
VIII	While governments and organisations can create supportive policies and platforms, consumers play a crucial role in driving demand for indigenous crafts. Without consumer interest and investment, these efforts may fail to translate into tangible benefits for artisans. Consumers' choices directly impact the visibility and survival of handmade crafts, making their active participation essential for creating a sustainable market and preserving cultural heritage.	2
Case-based Passage		
2.	Answer the following questions, based on the passage above	10
I	B. are when students develop and refine their writing habits. [Option B is the most likely because the study aims to explore writing preferences, which are likely to evolve during these developmental stages.]	1
II	'trends in writing habits'	1
III	precision	1
IV	By 'affordability,' the writer refers to the lower cost of ballpoint pens compared to micro-tip pens, making them accessible and budget-friendly for students.	1
V	B. The preferences for pens varied according to the students' age and the type of writing task.	1
VI	Ballpoints do not dry out quickly unlike micro-tips / Ballpoints work on a variety of surfaces unlike microtips / Ballpoints are less likely to smudge unlike microtips/ Ballpoints pens are usually more affordable	1
VII	The 'aesthetic appeal' is closely connected to 'finer lines' because finer lines create neat, elegant, and visually pleasing writing.	1
VIII	Hybrid features in pens, such as combining the speed and reliability of ballpoint pens with the precision and aesthetic appeal of micro-tip pens, would likely result in a commercially viable product as such pens would cater to a broader demographic, meeting the needs of students across different age groups and writing tasks. This would capitalise on the growing demand for versatile and functional writing tools. Which would enhance its commercial success.	2
IX	functional / useful	1

SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20 marks)					
GRAMMAR (10 marks)					
3.	Complete any ten of twelve of the following tasks, as directed.				10x1=10
I	illustrated				1
II	Error – the ; Correction - a				1
III	have grown				1
IV	...they would love to go there again the following year				1
V	D. regarding				1
VI	...not to try mending the trousers himself				1
VII	B. feeling				1
VIII	A. Error -Which ; Correction - What				1
IX	She asked her sister if she was joining them for lunch that day.				1
X	may				1
XI	C. Every				1
XII	A. little				1
WRITING SKILLS (10 marks)					
4	Format-1	Content-2	Organisation of ideas-1	Accuracy-1	1X5=5
A.	(The response may be created from the following content points)				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Significance of Ecological Awareness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → the role of ecological awareness in protecting natural resources. → how it can foster responsible environmental behaviour in students from an early age. → the need for collective action to address pressing environmental issues such as deforestation, pollution, and loss of biodiversity. ▪ Proposal to Start Eco-Clubs in Rural Schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → establishing Eco-Clubs in rural schools to engage students in practical environmental activities. 				

	<p>→ how these clubs can organise tree plantations, cleanliness drives, and awareness campaigns.</p> <p>→ the educational benefits of Eco-Clubs in building future environmentally conscious citizens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support and Resources Needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Request support from the Education Department in the form of resources, funding, and guidance to set up and run the Eco-Clubs. → Propose collaborations with NGOs or environmental organizations to support these initiatives.
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OR

B.	<p>(The response may be created from the following content points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Challenges Posed by Cyber Threats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → the risks of identity theft, financial fraud, and data breaches. → the vulnerability of children, the elderly, and untrained individuals to phishing scams, malware, and online predators. → how ignorance about digital security increases the impact of these threats. ▪ Urgent Need for Digital Security Awareness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → the importance of educating people about safe online practices and promoting digital hygiene. → the role of schools, workplaces, and community organisations in spreading awareness. ▪ Proposed Practical Solutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → digital literacy programmes for all age groups. → organising workshops, webinars, and public awareness campaigns on topics like strong password creation, recognising scams, and safe browsing habits. → the implementation of stricter cybersecurity policies by authorities. ▪ Call to Action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → use of the platform of the national daily to raise awareness about digital security. → the need for collaborative efforts between individuals, organisations, and the government to tackle this issue effectively.
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5	Content - 2	Organisation of ideas - 2	Accuracy - 1	1X5=5
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<p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No title • Analytical writing doesn't require a 'correct' answer. All perspectives are valid as long as the reasoning is strong and evidence is used effectively. • The writer must address the strengths of their chosen candidate and contrast them with the other candidate/s' qualities to highlight why their choice is better, in order for it to be considered an analysis. • A recommended approach would be to know the specific needs of the event/audience and match them with the strengths of the candidate/s, ensuring a logical / audience-focused approach. 				
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A

Option 1:

Based on the letters from Mr. Rajan Sharma and Ms. Meera Kapoor, Ms. Kapoor emerges as the better choice for the guest speaker at the school's debate competition. While both candidates are experienced and skilled, Ms. Kapoor's international accolades and ability to connect debating with real-world scenarios give her a distinct edge. Her focus on making debates relevant to global and social issues aligns well with the interests of high school students, offering them a broader perspective. Although Mr. Sharma has significant experience as a coach and speaker, his approach appears more focused on techniques rather than engaging students with relevant and inspiring real-world examples. Moreover, Ms. Kapoor's emphasis on personal growth through debating resonates with the developmental needs of students. Her global exposure and relatability make her the ideal speaker to inspire and connect with the audience effectively.

Option 2:

Based on the letters from Mr. Rajan Sharma and Ms. Meera Kapoor, Mr. Rajan emerges as the better choice for the guest speaker at the school's debate competition. With over 10 years of experience as a debate coach and public speaker, Mr. Sharma brings unmatched expertise in nurturing critical thinking and fostering a passion for debating among students. His track record of guiding students to success in national-level competitions demonstrates his ability to deliver practical insights and techniques that directly contribute to debate performance. While Ms. Kapoor's global exposure and focus on real-world relevance are commendable, Mr. Sharma's hands-on experience in coaching students and making them competition-ready seems more aligned with the goals of the Debate Society. Additionally, his experience with school and university-level events ensures that he understands the aspects of connecting with high school audiences.

OR**B**

Option 1:

Sunaina emerges as the most appropriate partner for Jaspreet in the art-integrated project presentation as her qualities balance those of Jaspreet's. Jaspreet's creativity and communication skills make her an excellent presenter and idea generator, but her struggles with time management require a partner who can complement her weaknesses. Sunaina's strong organisational skills and discipline ensure that tasks are completed on time and deadlines are met, which is crucial for the success of the project. Although Sunaina is slightly reserved, her preference for structure and predictability aligns well with Jaspreet's collaborative working style, as Jaspreet can take the lead in brainstorming and presenting ideas while Sunaina ensures everything stays on track. While Tabassum is highly creative and spontaneous, her difficulty in staying focused may amplify Jaspreet's challenges with time management, making her less suitable. Alice, on the other hand, excels in polished presentations, but her tendency to dominate and prioritise control may conflict with Jaspreet's collaborative preferences.

Option 2:

Tabassum would be the best partner for Jaspreet in the art-integrated project presentation as her qualities balance those of Jaspreet's. Jaspreet thrives on creativity and collaboration, and

Tabassum's enthusiastic and spontaneous personality would complement Jaspreet's innovative thinking. As an excellent artist, Tabassum brings a unique skill set to the project, particularly in the visual and design aspects, which are crucial for an art-integrated presentation. Together, their combined creativity would result in an engaging and visually appealing final product. Although Tabassum occasionally struggles with focus and timely completion of tasks, this can be mitigated by Jaspreet's strong communication skills and preference for teamwork, allowing them to motivate and support each other effectively. In contrast, Sunaina's overly structured and predictable working style may stifle Jaspreet's free-flowing creativity. Similarly, Alice's tendency to take control might conflict with Jaspreet's collaborative approach.

Option 3:

Alice would be the most suitable partner for Jaspreet in the art-integrated project presentation as her qualities balance those of Jaspreet's. While Jaspreet excels in creativity and collaboration, her struggles with time management can be addressed by Alice's confidence, detail-oriented approach, and ability to deliver polished presentations. Alice's strength in ensuring a high-quality final product complements Jaspreet's talent for generating unique ideas, creating a balance between creative input and execution. Her confidence in public speaking would enhance the presentation aspect of the project, allowing Jaspreet to focus on her creative contributions. Although Sunaina is highly disciplined, her reserved nature may limit the dynamic engagement needed for such a collaborative and artistic endeavour. Tabassum, while creative and spontaneous, might worsen Jaspreet's challenges with time management.

SECTION D: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (40 marks)

6	Read the given extracts and answer the questions for any one of the two, given	1x5=5
A	Prose	
I	The young seagull did not celebrate his maiden flight alone. His mother and father encouraged him by flying past him and prompting him. Additionally, his siblings, were flying around him, further motivating him. The collective presence of his family made the victory a shared experience rather than a solitary one.	2
II	b) The young seagull gradually gained confidence and joined his family in the air. [wasn't immediate as he felt dizzy initially]	1
III	The young seagull feels a sense of accomplishment and excitement, as he forgets that he was once afraid to fly and embraces the thrill of soaring and diving with his family.	1
IV	C. ii, v (sound) i, iii, iv (movement)	1
OR		
B	Prose	
I	B. Only ii [the pause creates an expectation for the audience, setting the stage for a revelation and keeping them intrigued]	1

II	The stage directions, like turning on the projector and dimming the spotlight, help create a shift in focus and set the tone for the scene. The projector signals a transition from narration to visual storytelling, while the fading spotlight on the Historian reveals the movement toward the next key action or character, heightening the suspense and anticipation of the forthcoming revelation. These technical elements guide the audience's attention and contribute to the play's overall pacing and dramatic effect.	2
III	b) stress the surprising and unexpected nature of the book that stopped the invasion.	1
IV	disappointment / disapproval	1
7	Read the given extracts and answer the questions for any one of the two, given.	1x5=5
A.	Poetry	
I	B. i, iv, v ['anger' and 'frustration' are less appropriate because the focus is on emotional confusion, helplessness, and the acceptance of loss, rather than a reaction of resistance or blockage. The boy's emotional state is about grappling with a deeper understanding of life's impermanence, rather than lashing out at the loss or the situation.]	1
II	The phrase 'how to stand up' suggests that the boy is learning to confront and cope with the emotional impact of loss. It signifies his emotional growth, as he begins to understand that facing grief is an essential part of life. This realisation helps to teach him to recover from hardship and accept the inevitability of loss.	2
III	'most know'	1
IV	the inevitable hardships / the hardships / the first encounter with grief / the harsh realities / the fleeting nature of joy / the transient nature of material possessions	1
	OR	
B.	Poetry	
I	A. The tiger is majestic and dignified despite its ferocity.	1
II	...the background colour of the tiger's coat, which is yellow	1
III	The poet uses humour to present the Bengal Tiger's dangerous nature in a light-hearted way. By describing it as 'noble' but humorously suggesting identification through being eaten, the poet softens the fear associated with the tiger and makes its ferocity entertaining. The playful tone and the ironic contradiction between calling the tiger 'noble' and focusing on its ferocity create a humorous effect, making the tiger's dangerous nature seem amusing rather than frightening.	1
IV	'This simple rule may help you learn'	1

	[This is advisory in nature as it offers a guideline / a playful instruction]	
8	Answer any four of the following five questions, in about 50 words.	4x3=12
	Content – 2 Expression – 1 Accuracy – Deduct up to 1 mark from overall	
I	(Any two) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Love for movement in water - Otters cannot tolerate static water. Mijbil overturned bowls, sat in them, or splashed water until it overflowed, ensuring water was always in motion. ▪ Curiosity - Mijbil explored his surroundings keenly, investigating objects and trying to interact with his environment, such as fumbling with taps to turn them on. ▪ Juggling skills - Mijbil could juggle marbles on his belly while lying on his back, displaying dexterity and coordination. 	3
II	The repetition highlights the speaker's constant expectations, reinforcing Amanda's lack of freedom and autonomy. The repeated commands like 'Don't bite your nails' highlight the pressure placed on Amanda. In contrast, Amanda's imaginative escapes, which are not repetitive, reflect her desire for independence and freedom, showcasing the tension between external control and her longing for self-expression.	3
III	This vision can be applied in modern societies by fostering dialogue, understanding, and reconciliation between different groups. Addressing inequality requires not only empowering marginalised communities but also educating and transforming the mindsets of those who perpetuate discrimination, breaking the cycle of hatred and prejudice. This dual approach ensures lasting peace and equality.	3
IV	The line symbolises the fleeting and impermanent nature of the fog, paralleling the transient moments in life. Just as the fog quietly arrives, lingers briefly, and disappears, so too do many moments in life that come and go without warning, often leaving a lasting impression or a sense of reflection. This imagery reinforces the poem's theme that, like fog, many experiences are temporary, quietly arriving and departing without notice, leaving behind a sense of mystery and contemplation.	3
V	Chubukov's reaction to Lomov's marriage proposal reflects his opportunistic and materialistic priorities. He enthusiastically embraces the proposal, showing relief and joy, not because of Lomov's love for Natalya but due to the potential benefits of securing a marriage for his daughter with a neighbouring landowner. His exaggerated affection for Lomov, calling him 'my dear fellow,' contrasts sharply with his prior suspicions. This reveals Chubukov's value for a status in society and economic security over genuine emotional connections.	3
9	Answer any two of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.	2x3=6
	Content – 2 Expression – 1 Accuracy – Deduct up to 1 mark from overall	

I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Matilda’s decision to replace the necklace without telling her friend the truth leads to a decade of suffering – how dishonesty can result in unforeseen consequences that affect one’s well-being. ▪ The act of lying causes unnecessary stress and anxiety - Matilda and her husband live in constant fear of being found out, which affects their physical and emotional health. ▪ If Matilda had admitted her mistake, the outcome could have been very different - honesty fosters peace of mind. 	3
II	The statement ‘Values are caught, not taught’ is evident in the story, particularly in the incident when Hari Singh steals Anil’s money but later decides to return it. Anil’s silent trust and kindness, such as forgiving Hari Singh’s failed attempt at cooking and teaching him to read and write, deeply impact the thief. These actions, rather than words, teach Hari Singh the value of trust and honesty, prompting him to choose integrity over theft.	3
III	Griffin’s fleeting moments of comfort, such as finding warmth and food, momentarily restore his sense of normalcy but quickly highlight his isolation. These experiences deepen his frustration and longing for connection, influencing his actions. His desperation for survival leads him to steal, disguise himself, and ultimately resort to violence, revealing the emotional toll and the erosion of his identity as he becomes increasingly detached from society.	3
10.	Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words	1x6=6

Content – 3

Expression – 2

Accuracy – 1

A.	<p>Introduction It plays a significant role in promoting tourism by showcasing the unique cultural, historical, and natural elements of these regions. Each narrative vividly describes local traditions, landscapes, and lifestyles, sparking interest in these destinations among readers.</p> <p>Body response points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ‘The Baker from Goa’ highlights the enduring Goan tradition of baking, the cultural significance of the baker’s role, and the idyllic charm of the region. By focusing on the local customs and the nostalgia of childhood memories, it attracts visitors eager to experience Goa’s rich heritage, culinary delights, and laid-back atmosphere. ▪ ‘Coorg’ introduces readers to the region’s beautiful landscapes, rich history, and distinct culture. It entices tourists by describing the Coorgi people’s martial traditions, hospitality, and connection to nature. ▪ ‘Tea from Assam’ presents Assam as a tea haven, talking about its tea gardens, picturesque landscapes, and cultural significance. The story highlights the importance of tea in Assam’s history, making it an attractive destination for travellers keen on exploring the tea estates, learning about tea cultivation, and experiencing the region’s serene beauty. <p>Conclusion The detailed depictions of these regions, make them effective tools for promoting tourism by encouraging people to visit and experience these unique places firsthand.</p>	
	OR	
B.	(Response to be created largely from the first point combined with either the second or third point)	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The trees are metaphorically trapped within the house, with their roots disengaging from the cracks in the veranda. Their movement toward the forest represents a yearning for freedom and a return to their natural state. The tiger is physically confined to a cage in the zoo, symbolising the desire to break free from captivity and return to the wild. The tiger’s restlessness in the cage mirrors the internal struggle for freedom. ▪ The trees symbolise natural growth and freedom. Their release from the house signifies nature's tolerance and the need for unrestricted growth, much like the human desire to escape limitations that are either physical or the society’s. The tiger represents the power of nature and wildness that is stifled by human confinement. The metaphorical connection to freedom is portrayed through the tiger’s yearning for the freedom to roam freely in its natural habitat. ▪ The movement of the trees towards the forest symbolises liberation from human-made boundaries, stressing how freedom brings renewal and natural growth. The zoo represents oppression, where the tiger’s desire for freedom is unmet. The contrast between the freedom of the wild and the limitations of captivity is stark, showcasing the tiger's struggle. 	
11.	Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words	1x6=6
Content – 3 Expression – 2 Accuracy – 1		
A.	<p>The author uses the narrative technique of misdirection masterfully in ‘The Midnight Visitor’ to enhance suspense and deliver an unexpected ending.</p> <p>From the beginning, the reader is led to believe in the existence of a balcony through Ausable’s fabricated story. By confidently describing how the balcony has been used for intrusions in the past, Ausable creates a believable scenario. This misdirection not only deceives Max but also builds tension as the reader anticipates how the balcony might play a role in the unfolding events.</p> <p>The suspense peaks when Max, in a desperate attempt to avoid the ‘police,’ decides to escape through the balcony—only to realise too late that it doesn’t exist. This clever twist destabilises expectations and highlights Ausable’s wit and resourcefulness.</p> <p>The use of misdirection keeps the reader engaged and ensures a surprising and satisfying conclusion to the story.</p>	
OR		
B.	<p>The role of the Surgery in the story is pivotal, both as a place of physical recovery and as a catalyst for Tricki’s transformation. Critically, the Surgery represents a contrast to the overindulgent environment at Mrs. Pumphrey’s home. While Mrs. Pumphrey’s pampering and excessive feeding led to Tricki’s ill health, the Surgery offers a more balanced, structured environment where Tricki receives proper care, including a strict diet, exercise, and, importantly, social interaction with other dogs, all of which contribute significantly to his recovery.</p> <p>The Surgery symbolises not just medical intervention but a shift toward responsible pet care, bringing up the important aspect of a pet’s well-being which requires more than affection and indulgence.</p> <p>Through Tricki’s recovery at the Surgery, the writer critiques overindulgence and highlights the importance of holistic, responsible care for pets, both physically and emotionally.</p>	