

# AIRPORT SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

## TERMINAL EXAMINATION - 1 2023-24

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Class: X

Marks : 80

Time : 3 hrs

---

**Instructions:**

- (i) The question paper is divided into three sections.

Section A - Reading Skills	20 marks
Section B - Writing Skills with Grammar	20 marks
Section C - Literature	40 marks
  - (ii) All questions are compulsory.
  - (iii) You may attempt any one section at a time.
  - (iv) All questions of a particular section must be attempted in the correct order.
- 

#### SECTION - A READING SKILLS (20 Marks)

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: (10M)

1. Children in India live in diverse circumstances and have diverse needs and rights. Along with their need to be educated, they have rights to adequate nutrition, to live in a safe and supportive environment, have opportunities to reach their optimal potential and generally lead healthy, joyful and fulfilling lives so that they can be productive and well adjusted citizens of tomorrow.

2. Children in our country face many challenges. Many of them are first generation learners and face myriad problems throughout their schooling. They, due to the socio-economic and cultural determinants may be vulnerable in many ways. Peer pressure and lack of positive role models may prompt them to make unsafe and unhealthy choices. Anxiety and depression amongst the students have been a cause of concern in the recent past.

3. Girls are more vulnerable and face discrimination at many levels from being unwelcome since birth to being pulled out of school for a variety of reasons. Dropping out of school, low motivation for academics and general disinterest in sports and physical activities too are some of the problems that need to be addressed. Child malnutrition is rampant in most parts of the country. This has an adverse bearing on their cognitive capacities, learning performance and physical capacity.



**Q2.** Read the following passage carefully. (10M)

High-altitude climbing is still a very dangerous task despite the availability of oxygen masks and other protective equipment which modern climbers take with them. These, of course, are indispensable accessories of climbing, but more important than these is the stamina of the climber which ultimately determines the success of his attempt. Throughout his journey, death is his constant companion which he can keep at a distance only with his superb presence of mind. He has to tread every inch of the ground with the utmost care, for a false step may not only strike him a fatal blow but also bring disaster to the whole expedition. That is why all expeditions invariably take with them local guides who are experienced climbers and who have a thorough knowledge of the nature of the terrain. Moreover, a huge amount of capital is needed for financing these expeditions, and this is generally provided by governments or rich private organisations.

The primary objective of a mountaineering expedition is to get to the top of a high mountain, which, in the past has withstood all attempts to conquer it. But it should not be presumed that the expedition is a complete failure if it does not reach its destination. Sometimes operations are temporarily suspended because of bad weather, loss of some valuable equipment, or the sudden death of a very important member of the party.

Every big expedition takes with it men who are interested in botany, geology; various other branches of science, and these men carry with them equipment for recording their observations concerning the weather, the terrain and different forms of life in higher altitudes. Other scientists, explorers and expeditionists utilize the fruits of their observations. Thus, every unsuccessful expedition contributes to the success of later expeditions. The British Expedition led by Colonel Hunt would have found their way to Everest much more difficult had not earlier expeditions armed them with useful knowledge about the death-dealing weather which they had to encounter in the vicinity of the summit.

To ordinary people, mountaineering need not be a fearful journey in the land of snowstorms, where the brave adventurer is always face to face with death. They can scale less ambitious heights, rest their weary limbs under a quiet shelter and feast their eyes on the distant landscape. In the company of friends, they can enjoy an outing near a waterfall or cross into the next valley with haversacks full of provisions dangling from their shoulders. All those who can afford to go to a hill station should seek this innocent pleasure, for it can be had without any risk to life or limb.

2.1. Based on your understanding of the passage answer the questions given below :

- i. What is the important factor that determines the success of the climber? (1)
  - a. Availability of protective equipment
  - b. Height and weight of the climber
  - c. Availability of oxygen masks
  - d. The stamina of the climber
  
- ii. What precaution should the climbers take during their journey? (1)

- a. Have a subtle presence of mind
- b. Avoid causing a disaster
- c. Have a good sponsor
- d. Take local guides along

iii. In what way does a mountaineering expedition contribute to the wealth of Knowledge? (1)

- a. Even a failed expedition contributes to the success of later expeditions
- b. Mountaineers carry equipment to record observations about weather and terrain
- c. You learn to conquer the biggest hurdles of life
- d. People interested in different branches of science accompany climbers.

iv. How is an ordinary mountaineer's experience different from that of a regular expedition? (1)

- a. They don't have to worry much about finances
- b. They don't have to be face to face with death
- c. They can savour the landscape from a distance
- d. All of these

v. How does a local guide help an expedition? (1)

- a. They help clean the environment on the way
- b. They can help in case of fatalities
- c. They know the local language
- d. They know about the place they live in

vi. Complete the following statement.  
The primary objective of a mountaineering expedition is..... (1)

vii. Find the synonym of 'neighbourhood' in paragraph 3. (1)

a. terrain      b. altitude      3. vicinity      4. summit

viii. If an expedition does not reach its destination, it should not be : (1)

- a. suspended                                      c. financed
- b. observed                                         d. presumed as failure

2.2. Why was it easy to find the way to Everest for the British expedition led by Colonel Hunt? (2)

### Section – B Creative Writing & Grammar (20 marks)

**Q3. a)** Write a letter to LG Sports, SM Street, Calicut, placing an order for sports articles (minimum 4) to be supplied to your school. Sign as Atul/Atulya, Sports Secretary.

**OR** (5 marks)

**b)** You are Reena/Rohit from Janak Puri, New Delhi. You are extremely disturbed on reading about attacks on old people living alone. Write a letter to the Editor of "The New Indian Express" sensitizing people and drawing attention to this problem.

**Q4.** a) A survey of students' favourite after-school activities was conducted at a school. The table given below shows the results of this survey. Analyse the given data and write a paragraph in 120 words. (5 marks)

**OR**

b) The pie chart drawn below shows the spending of young population in India on various sports equipment during the year 2020. Analyse the given data and write a paragraph in 120 words.

**Q.5** Attempt any ten of the following questions: (1 x 10 =10M)

(a) Fill in the following blanks given below choosing the most appropriate options.

Each of the four army soldiers .....for the mission.

- 1) were ready    2) are ready    3) was ready    4) have been ready

(b) Choose the correct sentence.

- 1) When I woke up, he has already gone out.
- 2) When I woke up, he had already gone out.
- 3) When I had woken up, he had already gone out.
- 4) When I had woken up, he has already gone out.

(c) Choose the correct option to fill in the blanks.

Neither the principal nor the teachers \_\_\_\_\_ convinced.  
A. are      B. is      C. were      D. have

(d) Pick out the correct verb to fill in the blanks.

Drivers \_\_\_\_\_ wear the seat belt while driving.  
A. will      B. ought to      C. dare to      D. might

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

Drinking water in hundreds of districts in India has a high fluoride content, as a result, millions had suffered from fluorosis.

Use the given format for your response.

Error : .....      Correction : .....

(f) Fill in the blank using the correct form of the verb given in the bracket.

“Monica \_\_\_\_\_ her trip to Goa since last week.” (plan)

- A. did plan      C. has been planning
- B. have been planning      D. was planning

(g). Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter:

Dear Sir,

I read an article in yesterday’s newspaper regarding the large-scale cutting of trees near Calicut University and I ..... (write) this letter to express my horror at this decision.

(h) Rearrange the jumbled words/phrases to make a meaningful sentence.  
and space/ conquered/ air, time/ we have/ help of/ with the/ scientific inventions.

(i) Read the following conversation and complete the passage that follows:

Neena : I'm really looking forward to the alumni meet.

Namita: Yes, after a long time we will be meeting our friends and teachers.

Neena told Namita that she was looking forward to the alumni meet. Namita agreed that after a long time \_\_\_\_\_ friends and teachers.

**j)** Select the correct option to complete the dialogue between a couple.

Wife : What are you doing?

Husband : Just watching TV.

On being asked by his wife what he was doing, the husband told her that ..... TV.

- (i) he were just watching                      (iii) he was just watching  
(ii) he had been just watching              (iv) he has been watching

**k)** Complete the given narrative, by filling in the blank with the correct option :

Junk foods are a major health hazard , they ..... no nutritional value.

- (i) are possessing                      (iii) possessed  
(ii) possess                              (iv) can possess

**l)** Read the conversation between two friends. Complete the question asked by Sushant based on Prateek's reply.

Sushant : Hello Prateek, .....Bengaluru?

Prateek : I arrived yesterday.

### **Section – C: Literature (40 marks)**

**Q6.** Read the extracts given below and answer the question that follows: (Attempt any one set)

I. The young seagull was alone on his ledge. His two brothers and his sister had already flown away the day before. He had been afraid to fly with them. Somehow when he had taken a little run forward to the brink of the ledge and attempted to flap his wings, he became afraid. The great expanse of sea stretched down beneath and it was such a long way down miles down.

a) Choose the correct options to complete the following statement. (1)

The young seagull was alone on the ledge because .....

1. his two brothers and a sister had learned to fly and had flown away.
2. he was afraid to fly like his brothers and sister.
3. he was waiting for his mother to come.
4. his family had abandoned him

- (i) 1 and 3                      (iii) 1 and 2  
(ii) 3 and 4                      (iv) 2 and 4

b) In the given statement , replace the underlined word with a suitable word or a phrase from the extract given above.

I looked down at the stretch of dunes below me, their proportions and distances distorted by the harsh sun. (1M)

- c) Why was the entire seagull family ignoring their youngest one? (1M)  
d) The young seagull did make an effort to fly but failed. What was his mental state? (2M)

**OR**

II. I finished my poem, and it was beautiful! It was about a mother duck and a father swan with three baby ducklings who were bitten to death by the father because they quacked too much. Luckily, Mr. Keesing took the joke the right way. He read the poem to the class, adding his own comments, and to several other classes as well. Since then I've been allowed to talk and haven't been assigned any extra homework. On the contrary, Mr. Keesing's always making jokes these days.

i. What was the poem about? (1M)

- a. A father swan who killed its baby ducklings
- b. A swan who died while trying to save its baby ducklings
- c. A mother duck who killed her baby ducklings
- d. A father swan and a mother duck who loved their baby ducklings unconditionally

ii. What was the impact of the poem? (1M)

- a. Mr. Keesing scolded Anne
- b. Mr. Keesing laughed uncontrollably
- c. Mr. Keesing understood Anne's feelings and allowed her to talk
- d. Mr. Keesing asked Anne to leave the class

iii. What does the poem highlight about Anne's nature? (1M)

iv. How did Anne ensure that the joke was on Mr. Keesing and not on her? (2M)





d) Comment on the poet's use of figurative language in these lines. (40 words) (2M)

**Q8.** Answer any four of the following questions in not more than 50 words : (3x4=12M)

- a) What does the poet say about the Asian lion in the poem 'How to Tell Wild Animals'?
- b) What message does the poet want to convey through the poem 'Amanda'?
- c) What did Nelson Mandela remember on the day of the inaugural ceremony?
- d) What impression do you form about the postmaster after reading the story 'A letter To God'?
- e) Why could the woman in the control room not help the pilot of Dakota?

**Q9.** Answer the following questions in not more than 50 words: (3x2= 6M)

- a) How did Ausable get rid of Max?
- b) What did Mrs.Pumphrey think her dog suffer from? How did she try to help him?

**Q10.** Answer any one of the following questions in 120-150 words. (6M)

- a) Freedom is not only important for us but also for the animals as emphasized in the poem 'A Tiger in the Zoo'. Describe the value of freedom for human beings and how it is important for the growth of civilization and humanism as described in the lesson 'Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom'.

**OR**

- b) Anne wanted to write convincing arguments to prove the necessity of talking. What does this tell you about her? Did she possess a sense of freedom? Explain.

**Q11.** Answer any one of the following questions in 120-150 words. (6M)

- a) Horace Danby represents such people who adopt the wrong ways to fulfil their wishes. What values would you like such people to imbibe to reform themselves?

**OR**

- b) Anil plays a major role in the transformation of Hari Singh. Comment on the statement by highlighting the values possessed by Anil which touched Hari's heart and made him return to his honest ways of earning his livelihood.

\*\*\*\*\*