

**Pre-Board Examination (2020-21)**  
**English Language and Literature (Code 184)**  
**Class- X**

Max Marks: 80  
Time: 3 hours

**General Instructions:**

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

Section A: Objective Questions	Reading: Literature: Grammar:	20 Marks 10 Marks 10 Marks
Section B: Subjective Questions	Writing: Literature:	10 Marks 30 marks
		80 Marks

- (ii) All questions are compulsory.  
(iii) You may attempt any section at a time.  
(iv) All questions of that particular section must be attempted in the correct order.

**Part A (40 marks)**

**READING (20 marks)**

1. Read the passage given below carefully.
1. Have you ever gone to a mall not intending to buy anything, only to return with an armful of shopping that you were powerless to resist? The fault lies not with you. Clever marketing strategies were at work to catch your eye, hold your attention and make you give in. The trap is set long before you set out to the mall. Advertisers use everything, from product placement in films and TV shows, to bold and colourful advertisements that ‘soften’ you up with their subtle messages.
  2. Once you arrive at the mall the pitch for your money begins in earnest. Products are placed in prominent corners or set in confused layouts that force you to browse a little longer. Aromas that make you relax and clothes that simply beg to be touched or tried on, are other games that play on your senses. Thus, the odds of you leaving the mall without buying anything are slim.
  3. In case of clothing stores as well, items are placed strategically. You could have entered the store with the intent of buying a shirt for an occasion and once you have decided on it, on the way to the billing station you pass a shoe display. You decide that one pair of shoes can’t hurt and continue on only to encounter the bag section. This is just an example of how cleverly the layout of each store is planned.
  4. Many food companies with products high in sugar, fats and preservatives, target their advertising by building youth –friendly brands and offering loyalty rewards. They promote product placement in areas frequented by children, including school environments, or on television programmes for young audiences. Studies have shown that children exposed to these advertisements are more likely to choose products seen there than children who are not. In fact, advertising targeted at children influences their value system and even strains the parent-child relationship.
  5. At the end of the 1950s, author Vance Packard asked a question that resonates ominously today: “By encouraging people constantly to pursue the emblems of success and by causing them to equate possessions with status, what are we doing to their emotions and their sense of values?” I

would call it psychological warfare that spares nobody. All of us are caught in the crosshairs. And the only way against being manipulated is to get wise to it.

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**On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the twelve that follow. (1x10=10)**

- i. According to the passage it is hard for anyone to enter a mall and come out without buying anything because
  - a. he/she is weak willed.
  - b. clever marketing strategies affect you subtly
  - c. he/she is powerless
  - d. they offer you attractive bargains
  
- ii. According to the first paragraph which of the following is not true of marketing strategies?
  - a. they are attractive and catch your attention.
  - b. The bold and colourful advertisements affect you with their subtle messages.
  - c. The advertisers use bold and colourful advertisements.
  - d. These strategies affect you only after you enter the hall
  
- iii. What can be inferred from the statement 'Once you enter the mall, the pitch for your money begins in earnest?'
  - a. The aromas in the mall will make you relax and keep you from buying anything.
  - b. Each clothing item is lovelier than the next, making it impossible for you to choose
  - c. Their powerful marketing strategies will tempt you into buying a lot of things you didn't intend to buy.
  - d. You will browse around but will leave without purchasing anything
  
- iv. The layout of each store is
  - a. cleverly planned
  - b. never planned
  - c. just a random arrangement
  - d. never given any importance.
  
- v. The writer uses an example of \_\_\_\_\_ store to explain how the layout of a store affects you.
  - a. an aroma
  - b. a game
  - c. a clothing
  - d. a shoe
  
- vi. The word 'slim' (paragraph 2) as used in the passage means
  - a. lean
  - b. svelte
  - c. very small
  - d. thin
  
- vii. Food companies persuade children to buy unhealthy products by

1. advertising them on television programmes that young children watch
  2. advertising them on television programmes that their parents watch
  3. promoting them in school environments and by building youth friendly brands.
  4. promoting and passing these products off as healthy
- a) 1 and 2
  - b) 2 and 3
  - c) 1 and 4
  - d) 1 and 3
- viii. The word 'there' in the sentence 'Studies have shown that children exposed to these advertisements are more likely to choose products seen *there* than children who are not.' refers to
- a) television programmes
  - b) school cafeterias
  - c) a clothing store
  - d) products high in sugar and fat
- ix. In what ways are advertisements that target children harmful?
- a) They become obsessed with loyalty rewards.
  - b) it influences their value system and causes friction in the parent child relationship.
  - c) it causes them to frequent those areas inside school.
  - d) it exposes them to adult content
- x. The phrase 'psychological warfare' refers to marketing tactics that
- a) cleverly persuade you to buy things you don't need.
  - b) help you to buy the things that you do need.
  - c) help the youth of today to choose products that are healthy.
  - d) help make school environments a safer place.
- xi. Which of the following statements best expresses what the following statement says, 'And the only way against being manipulated is to get wise to it.'
- a) The best way to tackle this is to go with the flow.
  - b) The best way to tackle this is to stop watching advertisements.
  - c) The best way we can stop being influenced by these strategies is by being alert and aware of them.
  - d) The best way we can stop being influenced by these strategies is to use these strategies ourselves.
- xii. The writer's intention of writing this is
- a) to offer advice to the readers
  - b) to make the readers aware of how clever marketing strategies influence all of us.
  - c) to threaten advertisers by making the reader aware of what they are doing.
  - d) to encourage the reader to equate possessions with status.

2. Read the passage given below:

A Planet Poisoned by Plastic by Simon Reeve

1. From Hawaiian beaches to the coast of Britain, we're paying a lethal price for our throwaway society says TV adventurer Simon Reeve. The beautiful tropical islands of Hawaii have been used as a setting for countless TV series and films ranging from *Lost* to *Jurassic Park*. Isolated in the middle of the vast Pacific Ocean, distance alone should protect Hawaii's spectacular landscapes and turquoise sea from environmental problems facing the rest of the planet.

2. However, the beaches are covered in plastic rubbish washed up from around the world. Pristine sand is covered with old plastic toothbrushes, combs, shoes, and belts. Clearing the beaches becomes almost impossible because as soon as it is cleared, the waves dump another mountain of rubbish.

3. The larger pieces of waste can be collected by hand but the surface of the beach is covered with millions of small plastic pellets known as 'nurdles.' These are the raw material that factories use to form the infinite number of plastic products that fill our lives. These are dumped out of factories into the sea in their trillions. Because tiny fragments of plastic in our oceans are so small and look like food, they are being gobbled up by small fish, which in turn are eaten by larger fish-which in turn are eaten by us.

4. Plastic doesn't biodegrade. Instead it breaks down into even smaller pieces. Among the grains of sand were billions of tiny plastic flecks, which the pounding of the sea was reducing in size. From the beaches of Hawaii to the seas around Britain, we are soiling our own nest.

5. Since 1994, plastic litter has increased by an extraordinary 121 percent. The plastic we see on our beaches is just a fraction of the plastic waste that is clogging our oceans. Incredibly all the plastic ever created-totaling hundreds of millions of tonnes- is still out there in the environment in some form.

6. So plastic is ruining our beaches, choking the oceans and poisoning our food chain. We need to spurn and reject the main culprits: plastic bags, packaging and single-use water bottles, a wasteful obscenity. These make up the bulk of plastic usage. At stake is the future of beaches, our seas and the food chain. It is nothing short of an environmental emergency.

The following facts are the findings based on a case study.



- This year over nine million tonnes of plastic will enter our oceans
- Plastic doesn't decompose, it just gets smaller. Over time a single bottle can break up into over 10,000 pieces of micro plastic which is 1million times more toxic than the water around it
- 96% of all bio diversity ingests plastics- 52% of turtles, 100% of coral reefs and ninety percent of all sea-birds.
- The animal most vulnerable to plastic poisoning are at the very top of the food chain-US!
- The following four steps will eliminate almost 70% of plastic pollution
  - introduce a container deposit system to eliminate beverage rubbish
  - ban all single use plastic bags
  - remove microbeads from personal care and laundry products.
  - Ensure plastic producers and recyclers capture micro plastics on their premises

**On the basis of your understanding of the passage attempt ANY TEN questions from the twelve that follow. (1x10=10)**

- i. In paragraph 1 the phrase 'our throwaway society' refers to a society that
  - a) makes things that are sustainable and meant to last a long time.
  - b) makes things that are meant to last for generations
  - c) makes things that are produced cheaply and can be used over and over again
  - d) makes things that are convenient to use and meant to be thrown away after single use.
  
- ii. What should have protected Hawaii from the problems the rest of the world is facing?
  - a) Distance and its scenic beauty
  - b) Distance and isolation
  - c) The fact that it's a popular TV and film setting.
  - d) Its spectacular landscape and turquoise seas.
  
- iii. Clearing the beaches of plastic becomes an impossible task because
  1. it is hard to collect the larger pieces.
  2. the waves keep dumping mountains of rubbish.
  3. it is impossible to collect nurdles because of their size and number.
  4. plastic doesn't biodegrade.
  - a) 1 and 2
  - b) 1 and 3
  - c) 2 and 3
  - d) 2 and 4

iv. From the line ‘...to discover beaches covered in plastic rubbish washed up from around the world.’ We can infer that

- a) plastic pollution affects only Hawaii
- b) plastic pollution affects the world
- c) plastic pollution isn’t such a pressing concern
- d) tourists are responsible for plastic pollution.

v. Nurdles are the raw materials that are used to

- a) make plastic products
- b) make fish food
- c) build factories
- d) make artificial landscapes

vi) The pounding of the waves reduce the plastic flecks that are mixed with the sand into

- a) even tinier pieces
- b) nurdles
- c) plastic pellets
- d) mouldings

vii. Based on your understanding of the passage choose the option that best explains how plastic ends up harming human beings.

- a) all our natural landscapes will become plastic
- b) man ends up eating the fish that have fed on nurdles
- c) the pounding waves keep reducing the size of the plastic
- d) Factories spoil the aesthetic beauty of the landscape

viii. The word ‘soiling’ in ‘we are soiling our own nest’ here refers to

- a) putting soil in
- b) polluting
- c) washing
- d) purifying

ix. Of the total plastic produced, plastic packaging accounts for

- a) 1.2%
- b) 13%
- c) 35.8%
- d) 15.9%

x. Based on the given passage which of the following statements is false?

- a) Plastic doesn’t biodegrade.
- b) The tiny pieces of micro plastic are very toxic.
- c) The plastic we see on our beaches represents the total plastic waste that is choking our oceans.
- d) Tiny fragments of plastic are eaten by fish because it looks like food.

xi. We can cut down plastic pollution drastically by

- a) not discarding plastic waste on beaches.
- b) by disposing plastic waste in landfills.
- c) but not using plastic bags, packaging and single use plastic water bottles.
- d) recycling the plastic waste found on beaches.

- xii. That plastic pollution is a threat to all species is evident from the fact that \_\_\_\_ of them ingest it.
- a) 52%
  - b) 100%
  - c) 90%
  - d) 96%

**LITERATURE (10marks)**

3. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE, by answering the questions that follow. **(5x1=5marks)**
- (A) Lencho showed not the slightest surprise on seeing the money; such was his confidence- but he became angry when he counted the money. God could not have made a mistake, nor could he have denied Lencho what he had requested. Immediately, Lencho went up to the window to ask for paper and ink. On the public writing-table, he started to write, with much wrinkling of his brow, caused by the effort, he had to make to express his ideas.
- i. The fact that Lencho showed not the slightest surprise on seeing the money is an indication of his \_\_\_\_\_
- a) deep faith in God
  - b) deep shock at receiving the letter
  - c) apprehension at being denied what he had asked God for
  - d) underlying stress
- ii. Lencho had requested God to\_\_\_\_\_
- a) send him a lot of money and blessings.
  - b) bless the next year's crops
  - c) send him a hundred pesos to help him tide over the destruction caused by the hailstorm
  - d) acknowledge his fears and bless him
- iii. Lencho was furious because the letter had\_\_\_\_\_
- a) only a hundred pesos
  - b) only seventy pesos
  - c) only half the amount that he had asked
  - d) only a fraction of the amount that he had asked.
- iv. The 'ideas' that Lencho expresses in his letter convey\_\_\_\_\_
- a) his sadness and anger at not receiving the money
  - b) his anger and frustration at being denied the help he needed
  - c) his anger and belief that the post office employees had stolen the thirty pesos.
  - d) his anger and acceptance of the amount that God had sent him.

v. Identify the word that is the antonym of 'denied':

- a) refused
- b) turned down
- c) granted
- d) rejected

**OR**

(B) Struck dumb with wonder, Valli gaped at everything. Then the bus stopped and everyone got off except Valli.

"Hey, lady," said the conductor, "Aren't you ready to get off? This is as far as your thirty paise takes you."

"No," Valli said, "I am going back on this same bus." She took another thirty paise from her pocket and handed the coins to the conductor.

"Why, is something the matter?"

"Don't you want to have a look at the sights, now that you're here?"

"All by myself? Oh, I'd be much too afraid."

Greatly amused by the girl's way of speaking, the conductor said, "But you weren't afraid to come in the bus."

"Nothing to be afraid about that," she answered.

i. Which word does 'gape' not correspond to

- a) stare open –mouthed
- b) stare in wonder
- c) ignore
- d) gaze

ii. Valli was 'struck dumb with wonder' by

- a) her first view of the well laid out street and the bright looking shops of the crowded town.
- b) the sight of the train as it rushed passed the crossing gate.
- c) the sight of the tiny hamlet and odd way side shop
- d) the canal, the palm trees, the grassland and the distant mountains.

iii. Choose the option that lists the set of statements that are 'Not True' according to the given extract.

1. Valli was eager to get off the bus.
2. Valli only had one –way bus fare
3. Valli was very sensible
4. The conductor ordered Valli to get off the bus.
5. Valli had been afraid during the whole bus journey.

6. Valli was very mature for her age and very careful too.

7. Valli only wanted a bus ride

- a) 1,5,7
- b) 3,6,7
- c) 2,3,5
- d) 34,7

iv. How had Valli managed to save money for the bus fare?

- a) her parents had given it to her
- b) she had saved money by being thrifty and making sacrifices
- c) she saved money by refusing to go to the village fair
- d) she saved the money that her aunt would give her as pocket money every month.

v. Her bus ride to the town was

- a) known to everybody
- b) her secret
- c) was undertaken with her mother's permission
- d) considered safe because the conductor was from her village.

4. Read the extracts given below and attempt **ANY ONE**, by answering the questions that follow. (5x1=5marks)

(A) *Don't bite your nails Amanda!*  
*Don't hunch your shoulders Amanda!*  
*Stop that slouching and sit up straight,*  
*Amanda!*

*(There is a languid, emerald sea,  
Where the sole inhabitant is me-  
a mermaid drifting blissfully.)*

i. The exclamation mark used and the repetition of Amanda's name tell us that her mother is

- a) cross and exasperated with her
- b) gentle and patient with her
- c) supportive and understanding
- d) instructing her kindly

ii) Amanda is being reprimanded by her mother

- a) for dreaming
- b) for not cutting her nails
- c) for her bad posture and for biting her nails
- d) being rude to her

iii. The poetic device in the third line is

- a) alliteration
- b) simile
- c) metaphor
- d) repetition.

iv. Amanda \_\_\_\_\_ to get away from the constant nagging.

- a) leaves the room
- b) enters her imaginary world
- c) goes to the seaside
- d) does her homework

v. The words in parenthesis capture Amanda's

- a) longing for freedom from the constant nagging
- b) desire to be a dutiful daughter
- c) sadness at being unable to meet her mother's expectations.
- d) love of the ocean and mermaids

**OR**

(B)

*He stalks in his vivid stripes  
The few steps of his cage,  
On pads of velvet quiet,  
In his quiet rage.*

*He should be lurking in shadow,  
Sliding through long grass  
Near the water hole  
Where plump deer pass.*

i. The second line of the stanza tells us that the tiger's cage is

- a) very small
- b) roomy
- c) big
- d) comfortable

ii. The poetic device used in 'quiet rage' is

- a) simile
- b) metaphor
- c) oxymoron
- d) transferred epithet

iii. The rhyme scheme of the given stanzas is

- a) abcb; abcb
- b) abcd; abab
- c) abcd: abcd
- d) abca: abcb

iv. Which word does not mean 'lurking'

- i. hiding
- ii. prowling
- iii. emerge
- iv. sneak upon

- v. The words 'should be' presents the poet's view that
- i. tigers are better off in zoos.
  - ii. tigers belong in their natural habitat
  - iii. tigers should hunt for their prey.
  - iv. the wild is no longer a safe place for the tiger.

**GRAMMAR (10marks)**

5. Choose the correct options to fill in the blanks to complete the note about the dangers posed by mobile phones. (3x1=3marks)

Think about it. Every time you use a mobile phone, - (i) – head to electromagnetic emissions. Manufacturers - (ii) - to prove there is no risk. Some evidence, so far suggests that mobile phone emissions are harmful to human health. These health scares - (iii) - press reports.

- i.
  - a) you expose your
  - b) he exposes his
  - c) one exposes his
  - d) one exposes one's
  
- ii.
  - a) needed
  - b) are needed
  - c) have needed
  - d) need
  
- iii.
  - a) is based on
  - b) have been based on
  - c) are based on
  - d) are being based on

6. Choose the correct options to complete the narration. (3x1=3 marks)



Seeta asked her mother - (i) - Her mother was surprised and wanted to know why. - (ii) - . She replied that she had decided to go for morning walks regularly. The mother was pleased and told her - (iii) -. Seeta told her mother that she was very serious about it.

- i. a) if she can wake her up early tomorrow morning.  
 b) if she could wake her up early the next day morning.  
 c) if she would wake her up early in the morning.  
 d) whether she can wake her up early tomorrow morning.
- ii. a) It was a holiday the next day and she liked to sleep late  
 b) It is a holiday tomorrow and she likes to sleep late  
 c) It was a holiday tomorrow and she liked to sleep late  
 d) It is a holiday the next day and she likes to sleep late
- iii) a) to not give it up like she has in the past.  
 b) not to give it up like she has in the past.  
 c) not to give it up like she had in the past.  
 d) to not give it up like she had in the past.

7. Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct options for **ANY FOUR** of the six sentences. (4x1=4marks)
- (i) He is \_\_\_\_ Indian citizen and he is \_\_\_\_ university student. (4x1=4marks)  
 a) a;an  
 b) an; the  
 c) the; a  
 d) an; a
- (ii) Jenny \_\_\_\_\_ leave the hospital only six hours after the baby was born.  
 a) was able to  
 b) can  
 c) could  
 d) is able to
- iii) Mr Sinha \_\_\_\_\_ a blue coloured sports car.  
 a) have  
 b) has  
 c) is having  
 d) was having
- iv. "Give me \_\_\_\_\_ more chicken, mother!" said the boy.  
 a) a few  
 b) few  
 c) some  
 d) little
- v. I \_\_\_\_\_ go to the meeting because I am not a member.  
 a) can  
 b) can't  
 c) ought to  
 d) might
- vi. It must be \_\_\_\_\_! Look carefully  
 a) anywhere  
 b) somewhere

- c) nowhere
- d) everywhere

**SECTION B**  
**WRITING (10marks)**

8. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the following in 100-120 words (5marks)

(A) Injuries, deaths and accidents are taking place due to underage driving, lack of following traffic rules and rash driving. Write a letter to the Commissioner of Traffic Police asking him to be very strict in such cases and also take necessary measures to stop this practice. You are Chetana/Chetan Gupta of B-86, sector 5, Vasundhara Enclave, Ghaziabad.

**OR**

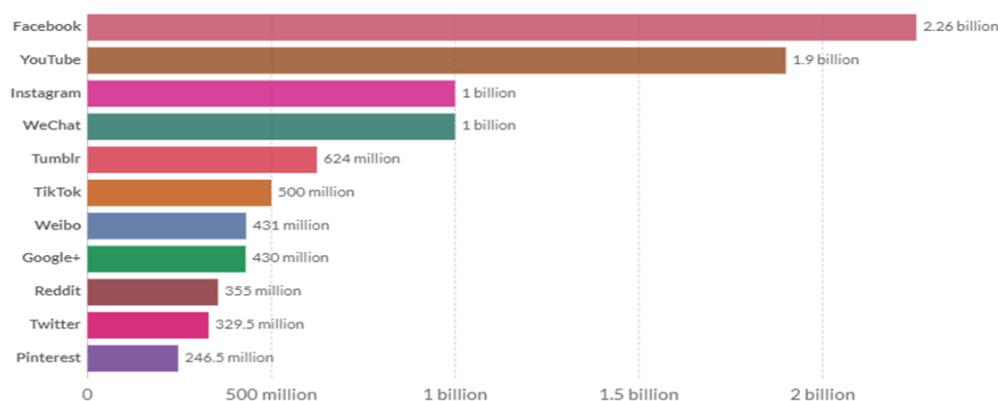
(B) You are Prem/Premi Prakash of 65, New Mandi, Hapur. Your town is thickly populated but the rapidly developing town has no proper parks for children. Write a letter to the Secretary of the Municipal Committee, State Bank Road, Hapur, requesting him to provide a children's park in the town.

9. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the following in 100-120 words (5marks)

(A) The chart below displays the percentage of people using networking sites in 2018. Write a paragraph analysing the given data.

**Number of people using social media platforms, 2018**

Estimates correspond to monthly active users (MAUs). Facebook, for example, measures MAUs as users that have logged in during the past 30 days. See source for more details.



**OR**

Read the following paragraph that appeared in a newspaper article.

(B) *Scientific advances often come at the expense of animals. Animals suffer for the sake of science and medicine. Scientists who support animal testing point to the fact that for more than a hundred years, virtually every medical breakthrough has been the direct result of using animals. It has also helped to develop many animal vaccines to fight diseases afflicting dogs and cats and so it should be continued. The debate rages on*  
 Write a paragraph to analyse the given argument.  
 You could think of what alternative explanations might weaken the given conclusion and include evidence that would strengthen/counter the argument

**LITERATURE (30marks)**

10. Answer **ANY TWO** questions in 20-30 words each, from (A) and (B) respectively. (2x4=8)
- (A) **(any two) (2x2=4)**
- i. How does Mandela describe the ‘extraordinary human disaster’? What is the ‘glorious human achievement’ that he speaks of at the end?
  - ii. What are the ‘tokens’ that the poet says he may have dropped long ago and which animals have kept for him?
  - iii. What does Kisa Gotami understand the second time that she had failed to understand the first time? What did the Buddha get her to realise?
- (B) **(any two) (2x2=4)**
- i. What instructions had Mr. Herriot given Mrs. Pumphrey with regard to Tricki? Why does she fail to follow them?
  - ii. How did Griffin end up invisible and without clothes for the second time in London?
  - iii. How did a book become a turning point in Richard Ebright’s life?
11. Answer **ANY TWO** questions in 40-50 words each, from (A) and (B) respectively. (3x2=6)
- (A)
- i. Why did Lomov leave Chubukov’s house without proposing to Natalya?
  - ii. What did Maddie think about the game that Peggy had invented? What prevents her from speaking up for Wanda?
  - iii. Why does Anne feel the need for a diary? Why does she say ‘Paper has more patience than people.’?
- (B)
- i. Why did the young lawyer in ‘The Hack Driver’ hate his new job?
  - ii. Bholi’s first day at school was filled with new experiences. Elaborate
  - iii. Give examples from the text which show that Mr. Loisel was a simple man and loved his wife.
12. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following in 100-120 words. (5x1=5)
- (A) Fear and lack of confidence are hurdles to achieving one’s goals. Family plays an important role in helping one overcome these. Justify with reference to the lesson, ‘First Flight.’
- OR
- (B) Describe how extreme behaviour can hasten the end of the world with respect to ‘Fire and Ice.’
13. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following in 100-120 words. (5x1=5)
- (A) What social attitudes are presented in the story, ‘Bholi’? What role does Bholi’s teacher play in helping her overcome these barriers?
- OR
- (B) ‘Trust and compassion can reform a person.’ Justify this statement in the light of the lesson, ‘The Thief’s Story’

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