

BHARTIYA SHIKSHA BOARD

Sample Question Paper

Class IX (2026-27)

Roll No.

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Code No. 025

Candidates must write the Code on the title-page of the answer book.

ENGLISH (Language and Literature)

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them.

Time allowed: 3 hours

Maximum marks : 80

Note :

- (i) Please check that this question paper contains 9 printed pages.
- (ii) Code number given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title-page of the answer-book by the candidate.
- (iii) Please check that this question paper contains 11 questions.
- (iv) **Please write down the Serial Number of the question in the answer-book before attempting it.**
- (v) 15 Minutes time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed at 10.15 a.m., from 10.15 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., the students will read the question paper only and will not write any answer in the answer-book during this period.
- (vi) This Question paper comprises **three sections – Section-A, Section-B, and Section-C.**

Section-A – Reading Skills	-	20 marks
Section-B – Grammar and Creative Writing Skills	-	20 marks
Section-C – Literature	-	40 marks
- (vii) **All questions are compulsory.**
- (viii) There is no overall choice in the question paper. However, an internal choice has been provided in Section B and Section C. Make your choices correctly.
- (ix) In addition to this, separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary.
- (x) Answers should be brief and to the point. The prescribed word limit should be adhered to, as far as possible, while answering the questions.

SECTION A: READING SKILLS

1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

(10)

The Joy of Reading

- (1) Reading is one of the most rewarding habits a person can develop. Books introduce us to new ideas, cultures, and experiences that we may never encounter in our daily lives. Whether it is a novel, a biography, a newspaper, or a science magazine, every type of reading enriches our knowledge and broadens our understanding of the world.
- (2) In today's digital age, many young people spend several hours scrolling through social media or watching videos. While technology has made information easily available, it has also reduced the time people devote to reading books. Unlike short online posts, books require patience and concentration. They encourage readers to think deeply, imagine situations, and connect ideas. This process develops critical thinking and improves language skills.
- (3) Reading also has emotional benefits. Stories allow readers to experience the feelings of different characters. As a result, they become more empathetic and understanding towards others. A student reading about a child facing challenges in another country may begin to appreciate the privileges they enjoy and become more sensitive to the problems faced by others.
- (4) Scientific studies have shown that regular reading improves memory and concentration. When people read, they exercise their brains by remembering characters, events, and ideas. This mental activity strengthens cognitive abilities and keeps the mind active. Reading before bedtime has also been found to reduce stress and improve sleep quality.
- (5) However, developing a reading habit requires effort. It is not necessary to read for several hours every day. Even reading for twenty minutes daily can make a significant difference over time. Parents and teachers can encourage children by providing interesting books and discussing stories with them. Libraries and book clubs also play an important role in creating a culture of reading.
- (6) Ultimately, reading is not merely an academic activity; it is a lifelong companion. It entertains, informs, inspires, and empowers individuals. A person who reads regularly gains knowledge, confidence, and a broader perspective on life.

Answer the following questions carefully.

- (i). How do books mainly help readers, according to the passage? (1)
 - a. improving handwriting
 - b. broadening their understanding of the world
 - c. increasing physical fitness
 - d. reducing homework
- (ii) The phrase "**digital age**" refers to (1)
 - a. the age of printed books
 - b. a time when technology is widely used
 - c. the age of libraries
 - d. the Stone Age
- (iii) Which of the following statements is TRUE according to the passage? (1)
 - a. Reading before bedtime increases stress.
 - b. Technology has completely replaced books.
 - c. Reading regularly improves memory.
 - d. Reading requires several hours every day.

(iv) The word '**empowers**' means

- a. weakens
- b. discourages
- c. enables
- d. entertains

(1)

(v) Complete the following with the correct option.

(1)

Reading books is considered more beneficial than reading short online posts because _____.
(Paragraph 2)

- a. they encourage deeper thinking, imagination, and concentration.
- b. they provide information more quickly and require less attention.

(vi). Select the option that best reflects the idea of empathy developed through reading. (Paragraph 3).

(1)

- a. Reading helps people memorise facts and dates more effectively.
- b. Reading enables people to understand and share the feelings of others by experiencing the emotions of different characters.

(vii). Answer the following questions briefly.

a. List **any two** benefits of reading mentioned in the passage. (Paragraphs 4 and 6)

(2)

b. Why are libraries and book clubs important in developing a reading culture?

(2)

2. Read the following case-based factual passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

10

Healthy Eating Habits among Teenagers

A school conducted a survey among **300 students** of Classes IX and X to understand their eating habits and awareness about healthy food choices. The survey revealed that although most students were aware of the importance of a balanced diet, many preferred packaged snacks and sugary drinks over fresh fruits and homemade meals. Nutritionists believe that unhealthy eating habits during adolescence may affect physical growth, concentration, and overall well-being.

The survey also found that students who consumed fruits and vegetables regularly were generally more energetic and participated actively in sports and classroom activities. In contrast, students who frequently skipped breakfast often complained of tiredness and difficulty concentrating during lessons. Based on these findings, the school organised nutrition awareness programmes, healthy cooking demonstrations, and a '**Healthy Tiffin Week**' to encourage students to make better food choices.

The survey data are presented below.

Food Item	Percentage of Students
Homemade meals	38%
Packaged snacks	26%
Fruits	18%
Fast food	12%
Sugary drinks	6%

Breakfast Habits

Habit	Percentage of Students
Eat breakfast daily	62%
Skip breakfast sometimes	28%
Rarely eat breakfast	10%

The school concluded that creating awareness among students and parents could help improve eating habits and promote a healthier lifestyle.

Answer the following questions carefully.

- (i). According to the survey, which food item was preferred by the highest percentage of students? (1)
- Fruits
 - Packaged Snacks
 - Homemade Meals
 - Fast Food
- (ii). The word '**concentration**' in the passage means: (1)
- confusion
 - the ability to focus attention
 - physical strength
 - entertainment
- (iii). Which initiative was introduced by the school to encourage healthy eating habits? (1)
- Sports Week
 - Healthy Tiffin Week
 - Reading Week
 - Science Exhibition
- (iv). The word '**aware**' in the passage is closest in meaning to: (1)
- ignorant
 - informed
 - careless
 - confused
- (v). What does the survey data reveal about the breakfast habits of most students? (1)
- (vi). Students who frequently skipped breakfast often complained of _____ and difficulty concentrating during lessons. (1)
- (vii). Mention any **two** programmes organised by the school to encourage healthy eating habits. (2)
- (viii). Why did the school organise nutrition awareness programmes? Support your answer with evidence from the passage. (2)

SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS AND GRAMMAR (20 MARKS)
GRAMMAR (10 MARKS)

3. Complete ANY TEN of the TWELVE following tasks, as directed.

(10×1=10)

(i) Choose the correct option to complete the sentence.

(1)

The new library is _____ than the old one in terms of seating capacity.

- a. spacious
- b. more spacious
- c. most spacious
- d. much spacious

(ii) Choose the correct option to complete the following dialogue appropriately.

(1)

Dad: "Ramya, I heard your school made some changes recently. What is going on?"

Ramya: "Yes, Dad. The school administration _____ a revised attendance policy to ensure academic success."

- a. initiated
- b. rejected
- c. ignored
- d. opposed

(iii) Fill in the blank with the correct form of the verb given in the bracket to complete the sentence.

(1)

Several people _____ (be) currently reported to be missing following the car accident in Pune.

(iv) Fill in the blank with the correct form of the verb given in the bracket to complete the sentence.

(1)

The friends _____ (plan) their trip to the mountains for next weekend.

(v) Fill in the blank with the correct form of the verb given in the bracket to complete the opening line of a formal letter.

(1)

Dear Ms Sharma,

We would like to remind you that the deadline for submitting your application _____ (approach).

(vi) Identify the error and supply the correction for the following statement.

(1)

The national team could adhere to a strict code of conduct, refraining from cheating and unethical behaviour, or else they will be disqualified.

Error	correction

(vii) Identify the error and supply the correction.

(1)

The collection of rare books was displayed in the exhibition.

Error	correction

(viii) Identify the incorrect word and rewrite the sentence correctly.

(1)

Of the two brothers, Rahul is the most intelligent.

Error	correction

(ix) Identify the incorrect determiner in the sentence and rewrite it correctly.

(1)

There are much students in the classroom today.

(x) Choose the correct option to report the following statement.

(1)

Riya said, "I have finished my project and will submit it tomorrow."

- a. Riya said that I had finished my project and would submit it tomorrow.
- b. Riya said that she had finished her project and would submit it the next day.
- c. Riya told that she has finished her project and will submit it tomorrow.
- d. Riya said that she finished her project and will submit it the next day.

(xi) Complete the following transformation as directed.

(1)

Sana said, "First, you heat the sugar and water in a saucepan."

Manisha: Sana instructed that _____ and water in a saucepan.

- a. we first heat the sugar
- b. Manisha, heat the sugar
- c. first, you heat the sugar
- d. I should first heat the sugar

(xii) Rearrange the following words/phrases to form meaningful sentences.

(1)

the museum / visitors / were / by / fascinated / the ancient sculptures / in

WRITING SKILLS (10 MARKS)

4. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the following.

(5)

A. You are Aman/Ananya, the Sports Captain of Green Valley School, Lucknow. Your school is organising Football Team Selection Trials for students of Classes IX and X. Draft **a notice** inviting interested students to participate. Mention the date, time, venue, and eligibility criteria. (Word limit: 50–60 words)

OR

B. Write **an email** to the Principal expressing your gratitude for organising the workshop. Mention how it helped you and your classmates gain clarity about future career choices. Express your appreciation for the efforts made by the school, and request that similar workshops be organised regularly for students. (Word limit: 80–100 words)

5. Attempt **any one of the following**.

(5)

A. You have noticed that many students spend excessive time on mobile phones and social media. Write an article of about **120 words** for your school magazine on the topic:

"Smart Use of Technology: A Key to Student Success"

Discuss both the advantages and the need for responsible use of technology.

OR

B. You are Rajesh Gupta, a concerned citizen of Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. **Write a letter** in about 120 words to the Chief Engineer of the Varanasi Water Supply Department. Detail the problem of inadequate water supply in your locality and request the installation of additional water tanks to ensure all residents have access to clean drinking water.

(5)

SECTION C: LITERATURE (40 MARKS)

6. Answer **ANY ONE** of the **TWO** reference to context questions.

A. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow.

"The doctor said, 'She's safe. You have done it. Food and care now—that's all.'

Sue said, 'Mr. Behrman died of pneumonia today... His shoes and his clothes were wet and as cold as ice... Then they found his paints... Look out the window... It is Behrman's great masterpiece—he painted it there the night that the last leaf fell.'"

(i) The expression "as cold as ice" is an example of: (1)

- a. Simile
- b. Metaphor
- c. Personification
- d. Hyperbole

(ii) The phrase "the last leaf" symbolises: (1)

- a. the arrival of winter.
- b. hope, courage and the will to live.
- c. the end of autumn.
- d. the beauty of nature.

(iii) The word "masterpiece" means: (1)

- a. an excellent work of art
- b. a rough sketch
- c. an unfinished painting
- d. a copied picture

(iv) According to the doctor, what helped Johnsy recover from her illness? (1)

(v) What did Sue reveal about the last leaf? (1)

OR

B. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow.

"The eyes of the Happy Prince were filled with tears, and tears were running down his golden cheeks...

'When I was alive and had a human heart,' answered the statue, 'I did not know what tears were... And now that I am dead... I can see all the ugliness and all the misery of my city... Though my heart is made of lead, I weep.'"

(i) The Happy Prince's statement, *"When I was alive... I did not know what tears were,"* suggests that he: (1)

- a. lived a life untouched by the suffering of others.
- b. disliked meeting the people of his city.
- c. was too young to understand emotions.
- d. had never seen poverty in his kingdom.

(ii) The phrase *"my heart is made of lead"* symbolically suggests that the Prince: (1)

- a. is a statue but still feels compassion for others.
- b. has become selfish after his death.
- c. is physically very strong.
- d. cannot understand human emotions.

(iii) Which of the following best describes the irony in the extract? (1)

- a. The Prince is admired for his golden appearance.
- b. Although the prince is a lifeless statue with a heart of lead, he shows deep compassion for the people.
- c. The Prince regrets becoming a statue.
- d. The people of the city are unaware of the statue.

(iv) Why are tears running down the Happy Prince's golden cheeks?

(1)

(v) What condition of the city deeply affected the Happy Prince?

(1)

7. Answer **ANY ONE** of the **TWO** references to context.

A. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow.

*" And sweetest – in the Gale – is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird.
That kept so many warm –"*

(i) What does the expression "kept so many warm" imply?

(1)

- a. The bird provides physical warmth.
- b. Hope provides comfort and strength.
- c. The weather becomes warmer.
- d. The bird builds nests.

(ii) The "little Bird" in the poem symbolises _____.

(1)

- a. nature
- b. freedom
- c. hope
- d. happiness

(iii) Identify and name the literary device used in the following line.
"Hope" is the thing with feathers.

(1)

(iv) Explain what the poet means by the following line in 20-30 words:
"That could abash the little Bird"

(2)

OR

B. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow.

*"...who pelt after the school bus
their mother's breakfasts still heaving in their gut,
who still believe
there'll be exams one day
they'll be ready for,
Those with orange lunch boxes.
I speak for them."*

(i). What does the expression "their mother's breakfasts still heaving in their gut" suggest about the children?

(1)

- a. They are excited to begin their school day.
- b. They are rushing to catch the school bus after having breakfast.
- c. They do not enjoy the breakfast prepared by their mothers.
- d. They leave home without eating breakfast.

(ii) The lines "there'll be exams one day / they'll be ready for" reflect the children's _____.

(1)

- a. confidence in their present academic achievements
- b. hope and belief in a better future
- c. dislike of school examinations
- d. tendency to avoid their studies

(iii) Identify and name the literary device used in the following expression. (1)

"Those with orange lunch boxes."

(iv) Explain what the poet means by the following lines in 20- 30 words: (2)

"who still believe
there'll be exams one day
they'll be ready for"

8. Answer any **FOUR** out of the **FIVE** questions in about 40–50 words each. (4×3=12)

- (i) What simple methods does Raman suggest for beginners to observe and appreciate the night sky?
- (ii) Why was the cherry tree so special to Rakesh and his grandfather in *The Cherry Tree*, despite there being many other trees?
- (iii) What does the ending of *Vanka* reveal about Vanka's innocence and hope?
- (iv) In *Ashtavakra*, why did Ashtavakra challenge Vandin to a debate?
- (v) "Nature is the greatest classroom." Discuss this statement with reference to Raman's ideas in *Why the Sky is Blue*.

9. Answer **ANY TWO** out of the **THREE** questions in about 40–50 words each. (2×3=6)

- (i) What message about the role of teachers does *Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan: A Story for Young Minds* convey?
- (ii) In *The Lost Child*, why did the child refuse all the things he had earlier wished for after being separated from his parents?
- (iii) In *An Astrologer's Day*, why did the astrologer choose to earn his living by pretending to predict people's futures?

10. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following questions in about 100–120 words. (6)

- A. "Leonardo's legacy proves that art and science complement each other." Discuss with reference to the chapter.
- OR**
- B. 'True leadership inspires others to rise above challenges.' Discuss this statement with reference to Rani Velu Nachhiyar and her companions.

11. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following questions in about 100–120 words. (6)

- A. "Our choices shape our destiny." Discuss this statement with reference to the events in *The Necklace*.
- OR**
- B. How does *Bharata Becomes Raama's Deputy* highlight the values of duty (*dharma*), selflessness, and devotion? Support your answer with suitable examples from the chapter.

Handwritten signature: Chaitan

