

CHINMAYA VIDYALAYA, NEW DELHI
PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION (SESSION 2023-24)

CLASS: X

SUBJECT: ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS

MAXIMUM MARKS: 80

General Instructions:

- (i) This paper is divided into four sections: A, B, C, and D. All sections are compulsory.
- (ii) Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.
- (iii) Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.
- (iv) Question paper comprises of 11 questions and 10 printed sides.

SECTION A – READING

✓ Q1. Read the passage given below.

1. Despite plenty of nay-sayers, the textbook is dead. It just doesn't know it yet and continues on walking about as though alive. I even have one, A Text-Book of Physics, on my bookshelf beside me that was printed in 1891. It has some line drawings and no colour. Today, textbooks have lots of colourful images and engaging questions sprinkled about them. They also have tons of advice for teachers on how to use them effectively.

2. The word "textbook" originated in the 1720s, almost 300 years ago. It had a good run and is ready to retire. Those who argue that you cannot learn well without a textbook ignore the centuries prior to 1720 when lots of people learned and learned well with no textbooks anywhere. You can learn without textbooks. That's certain. But why should we bother to change something that's worked for 300 years? Many deliver the verdict in a single word: *technology*. That's way too simplistic.

3. We've seen film loops, overhead projectors, motion picture projectors, machine scoring of tests and a myriad of other technological innovations in classrooms, but the textbook remains. No, technology alone will not end the reign of the textbook. It takes something more, and that became available in the 1940s — the programmable electronic computer. But here we are, 70 years later, with plenty of textbooks visible. The computer was not sufficient by itself.

4. The next big change began with ARPANET in the 1960s. This foundation led to the Internet, and its growth has been phenomenal. But a widespread communication medium alone is not sufficient to dislocate textbooks either. Inexpensive computers, easy-to-use interfaces (GUIs) and ready access to the Internet all contribute.

5. "Fine," say many. "But the textbook publishers are putting their books online. They are creating e-textbooks. So, textbooks live!"

6. This argument misses the essential difference between education technology in the earlier times and education technology in the present, other than mere cost. Computer software can be interactive. Previous education technology was, like textbooks, rather passive. Active learning is far superior to passive learning, so much so that it's not a step, not a leap, but a rocket-propelled launch past old-fashioned learning.

7. It's the mental engagement with something that determines whether you learn and how well. The really big change will come when students can jump into online situations that are more

like real life and are able to use a variety of devices to reach the web and become part of the learning community. They will be guided by a combination of human mentors and machines. Furthermore, diagnostic analysis of their work will tell mentors when students are ready for certain learning and, more importantly, when they're not.

8. Textbooks do not tap into our brains to realise this learning potential. Hence, today, the textbook is a zombie. It's just waiting for that wooden stake or silver bullet to put it to a well-deserved rest.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions: 1X10=10M

i) In the passage, the author talks about a well-deserved rest for the textbooks. Which of these describes the author's attitude towards textbooks?

- a. He criticizes the value added by textbooks in society.
- b. He recommends that textbooks are the sole medium for effective learning.
- c. He thinks that textbooks are far more superior than other mediums of knowledge.
- d. He is concerned about the continued use of textbooks as a primary source of learning.

ii) Based on the passage, the following developments took place in the education field.

- I The process of learning took place without the use of textbooks.
- II The invention of computers and digital books reduced the dependency on physical books.
- III The creation of adaptive and interactive learning tools contributed to the way learning took place.
- IV The introduction and circulation of textbooks turned them into a commonly used medium of learning.

Which of these arranges the developments in the order of their occurrence?

- a. I-II-III-IV
- b. I-IV-II-III
- c. II-I-III-IV
- d. III-I-II-IV

iii) Select the option that can weaken the author's case for a complete shift to computer learning in paragraph VI.

- a. a sharp increase in the creation of e-textbooks
- b. a rising dependency on using technology as a medium of learning
- c. scholarly articles comparing the effectiveness of online learning with that of textbooks
- d. the development of e-textbooks with activities that require active participation from readers

iv) Which of this best conveys the meaning of 'diagnostic analysis' as used in paragraph VII?

- a. a depiction of the learners' interests
- b. a display of the learners' achievements
- c. an evaluation of the learners' capabilities
- d. an appreciation of the learners' initiatives

v) Which of these sentences CORRECTLY uses the phrase 'rocket-propelled' as used in paragraph VI?

- a. Sean is lucky to have a friend who talks to him in a rocket-propelled way.
- b. Anika screamed out of fear and ran out of her house in a rocket-propelled manner.

- c. Regular practice and a good coach gave the batsman a rocket-propelled rise in his career.
- d. The TV was buzzing with the news of severe damage caused by a rocket-propelled explosion.

vii) Select the option that BEST describes the passage.

- a. Harry Keller's piece gives an account of the origin of textbooks.
- b. Harry Keller's essay provides a boost to the field of education technology.
- c. Harry Keller's commentary on the popularity of computers is a must-read.
- d. Harry Keller's observations on the changes in learning patterns are brilliant.

viii) Select the option from the passage that does NOT qualify as a fact.

- a. Today, textbooks have lots of colorful images and engaging questions sprinkled about. (Paragraph I)
- b. The word "textbook" originated in the 1720s, almost 300 years ago. (paragraph II)
- c. But here we are, 70 years later, with plenty of textbooks visible. (paragraph III)
- d. The really big change will come when students can jump into online situations that are more like real life... (paragraph VII)

ix) Suppose the students have to learn about the water cycle. According to the author, a student will BEST learn about the water cycle while _____.

- a. creating a miniature model of it
- b. listening to a teacher explains it in detail
- c. reading about it through colourful textbooks
- d. watching an informative video about it on the internet

x) Based on the text given, we can say that the author is _____.

- a. documenting the history of learning tools
- b. suggesting ways to limit the use of technology
- c. proposing an argument and making a case for it
- d. highlighting the cause of a problem and its effects

xi) We've seen film loops, overhead projectors...and a myriad of other technological innovations in classrooms... In other words, we can say that the author has seen film loops, projectors and _____ technological innovations in classrooms.

- a. various
- b. definite
- c. distinct
- d. complex

Q2. Read the passage given below.

1. Following is the progress report on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (2000-2017): Special focus on inequalities is the most recent publication by the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme, which tracks global progress in achieving the water and sanitation portion of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 17 SDGs seek to "end poverty in all its forms everywhere" by 2030. Goal 6 calls for universal access to safe and adequate access to drinking water and sanitation services.

2. According to the new report, progress has been made since 2000, yet billions of people are still underserved. The report delineates between access to basic services, which has greatly improved, and access to "safely managed" services, which is inadequate in many parts of the world. Only about 45 percent of the global population has access to safely-managed sanitation services. In 2017, an estimated 673 million people continued to openly defecate, most of them

in countries where the practice remained common among more than 5 percent of the population.

Service Level	Description
Improved	Drinking water from an improved water source that is located on premises, protected when needed and has low turbidity and priority chlorine disinfection.
Limited	Drinking water from an improved source, provided collection time is not more than 30 minutes for a round trip, including queuing.
Unimproved	Drinking water from an improved source for which collection time exceeds 30 minutes for a round trip, including queuing.
Surface Water	Drinking water from an unprotected dug well or unprotected spring.
Surface Water	Drinking water directly from a river, lake, pond, stream, canal or irrigation canal.

Note: Improved sources include piped water, boreholes or tubewells, protected dug wells, protected springs, and packaged or delivered water.

Service Level	Description
Improved	Use of improved facilities in or on the premises with other households and where access is not directly through a public or community latrine.
Limited	Use of improved facilities that are not shared with other households.
Unimproved	Use of improved facilities shared between two or more households.
Open Defecation	Use of pit latrines without a slab or platform, hanging latrines or bucket latrines.
Open Defecation	Use of other facilities in public, private, outdoor, open areas of water, including other open spaces, or with other waste.

Note: Improved facilities include flush/pour flush or pour point latrines, pour points or pit latrines, ventilated improved pit latrines, hanging latrines or pit latrines with slabs.

3. To qualify as being "safely managed", drinking water must meet three criteria: be accessible on the premises, be available for at least 12 hours per day, and be free from E. coli, arsenic, or fluoride contamination. Sanitation is considered safely managed when facilities are not shared with other households, and waste is safely treated on-site or at an off-site facility. In 2017, an estimated 5.3 billion people had access to safely-managed drinking water. Of that number, 1.4 billion used basic services, 206 million used limited services, 435 used unimproved sources, and the remaining 144 million relied on untreated surface water.

4. Poor and rural populations are at the greatest risk of being left behind. In 2017, urban access to basic drinking water services was at 97 percent, while rural coverage was at 81 percent. In terms of sanitation, an estimated 2.1 billion people gained access to basic services between 2000 and 2017, but 2 billion remain without access.

5. The report also focuses on improvements in eliminating open defecation as inadequate sanitation adversely affects the health of people. Without it, better level of well-being for the general population cannot be achieved. Between 2000 and 2017, the global rate of open defecation fell from 21 percent to 9 percent.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below. 1x10=10M

- Infer one target that has been set by UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) programme.
- Select the appropriate option to fill in the blank.
From paragraph 2, we can infer that the percentage of population which has access to sanitation services is less than _____.
a. 50% b. 22% c. 15% d. 75%
- Complete the following analogy correctly with a word from paragraph
bow : obeisance :: objective : _____ (Clue: Just like a bow is a synonym for an obeisance, similarly an objective is a synonym for...)
- The given passage focuses on:
a. sanitation b. drinking water c. hygiene d. All of these
- List any 2 criteria for water to qualify as being 'safely managed' drinking water.

✓ Fill in the blank by selecting the correct option.

The given report shows that urban people have _____ access to basic drinking water as compared to rural areas.

- a. irregular b. limited c. surprising d. better

✓ vii. Substitute the word 'eliminating' with ONE WORD similar in meaning, in the following sentence from paragraph 5.

The report also focuses on improvements in eliminating open defecation.

viii. Sanitation is considered safely managed when:

- a. facilities are shared with other households
b. waste is dumped on-site or at an off-site facility
c. waste is safely treated on-site or at an off-site facility
d. facilities are accessible on the premises

✓ ix. Select the option that titles paragraphs 4-5 appropriately, with reference to the information in the text.

- a. similarity between rural and urban areas, open defecation
b. open defecation, status of urban population
c. privilege of urban areas, worsening condition of open defecation
d. contrast between rural and urban areas, open defecation

✓ x. Supply one point for the following question:

What happens when adequate sanitation is not maintained?

SECTION B- GRAMMAR

Q3. Attempt ANY TEN of the following:

1X10=10M

✓ Choose the correct options to fill in the blanks to complete the passage:

The three men opened the iron almirah and took out the cash and jewellery and put them into the bag that they with them. Then they took a few more things like clothes, sarees, etc. and got ready to go.

- a) has carry b) have carried c) had carried d) was carry

✓ Fill in the blank by choosing the correct options.

At the clinic, the doctor asked the patient what with him.

- a) was the problem b) were the matter
c) does the problem d) is the matter

✓ iii. I said to her, "Could you please help me?"

- a) I requested her to help me. b) I asked her to help me.
c) I told her if she could help me. d) I asked her if she could help me.

✓ iv. Some of the rice _____ left.

- a) is b) are c) has d) have

✓ Report the conversation between Gautham and Ramesh:

Gautham: It's quite some time since we met.

Ramesh: Yes, I had been abroad.

At a party Gautham met his friend Ramesh and said

✓ The deadline has approached! We _____ finish the project by tomorrow.

- (a) must
(b) might
(c) shall
(d) can

vi. Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction.
 Animal cruelty can take different form.

Error	correction

vii. Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction.
 He always dominates in the class. His father is a MLA Use the given format for your response.

Error	correction

viii. Cats _____ wonderful pets and _____ quite affectionate.
 a) made, is b) make, are c) makes, is d) made, are

ix. A pair of shoes _____ been stolen
 a) is b) are c) has d) have

xi. The police was investigating a customer about a theft at a restaurant. Write the policeman's question in reported speech.

Were you the only person in the restaurant?

SECTION C- CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

Q4. Attempt ANY ONE of the following in 100-120 words. 5M

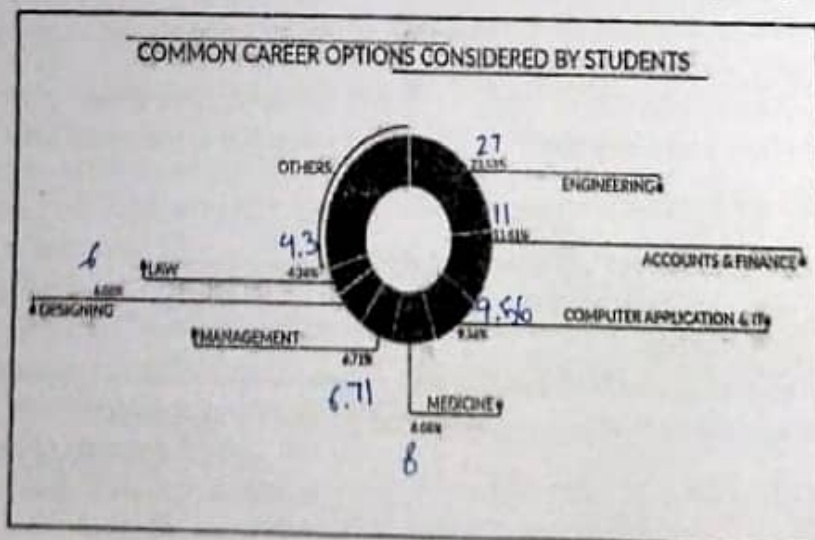
A. You want to replenish your school's sports supplies. Place an order with M/s Bats and Beyond Pvt Ltd. for five complete cricket sets, four basketballs, twenty hockey sticks and three volleyballs. You are Sukra/Sameeksha, Sports President of Kendriya Vidyalaya.

OR

B. Poor reading habits in the students is a concern. There are multiple reasons for this disinterest in the students. As a concerned parent write a letter to the editor in about 120-150 words, expressing your concern. Suggest innovative ways in which children can be brought back to books. You are Sahil/Sushila.

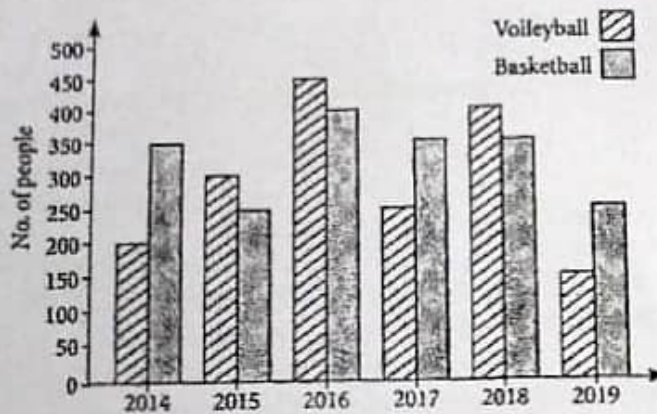
Q5. Attempt ANY ONE of the following in 100-120 words. 5M

A. Write an analytical paragraph in about 100-120 words summarizing the given illustration.



OR

~~B~~ The given double bar graph shows the preferences of children in a school in playing different games over the span of six years. Write an analytical paragraph about the given information.



SECTION D-LITERATURE

~~Q~~6. Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.

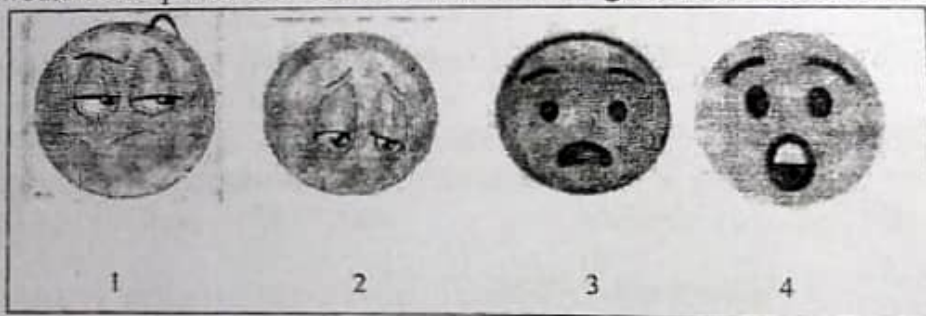
5M

~~A~~ Day after day she watched the bus, and gradually a tiny wish crept into her head and grew there: she wanted to ride on that bus, even if just once. This wish became stronger and stronger, until it was an overwhelming desire. Valli would stare wistfully at the people who got on or off the bus when it stopped at the street corner. Their faces would kindle in her longings, dreams and hopes. If one of her friends happened to ride the bus and tried to describe the sights of the town to her, Valli would be too jealous to listen and would shout, in English: "Proud! Proud!" Neither she nor her friends really understood the meaning of the word, but they used it often as a slang expression of disapproval.

i. What wish crept into her head?

- a) Going to the town b) Getting a horse ride
c) Getting a ride on the bus d) Going to the railway track.

ii. What would be the probable emotion of Valli on hearing her friends describe the town?

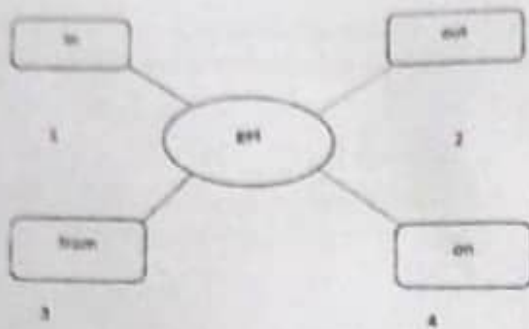


- a) Image 1 (Jealousy) b) Image 2 (Unamused)
c) Image 3 (Fearful) d) Image 4 (Shocked)

iii. Pick out the meaning of the word 'wistfully'.

- a) longingly b) peacefully c) challengingly d) decisively

iv. Find out the one which is NOT a phrasal verb



- a) Option 1 b) Option 2 c) Option 3 d) Option 4

v. Pick out the statement which uses the word 'kindle' in the same sense as in the text.

- a) Mary was kindle to the old lady on the street
 b) It was a day of kindle.
 c) A love of art was kindled in me.
 d) There was a garden full of kindled flowers.

OR

B. I think he knew I made a little money this way but he did not seem to mind. Anil made money by fits and starts. He would borrow one week, lend the next. He kept worrying about his next cheque, but as soon as it arrived, he would go out and celebrate. It seems he wrote for magazines - a queer way to make a living! (The Thief's Story)

i. Select the option that INCORRECTLY captures the application of the word 'queer' as used in the extract.

- a) They wore blue uniforms and queer little caps.
 b) The sky was a queer shade of red.
 c) His imagination played round that queer idea.
 d) The word queer holds, in its history, both pain and empowerment.
- ii. The information in the extract suggests that Anil could be a _____.
- a) salaried professional b) freelancer
 c) businessman d) volunteer
- iii. Complete the following analogy correctly with a word/phrase from the extract:
 lose : find :: lend : _____
- iv. The reference to making a little money 'this way' refers to a way that is viewed by most people as:
- a) sensible b) inappropriate c) charitable d) aggressive
- v. Based on your understanding of Anil in the extract, list any two reasons why he did not seem to mind Hari making a little money.
- i) _____ ii) _____

Q7. Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.

5M

A. *The fog comes
 on little cat feet.
 It sits looking
 over harbour and city*

*on silent haunches
and then moves on.*

i. What are the qualities of the cat that Carl Sandburg applies to the fog?

1. hushed 2. gliding 3. threatening 4. inquisitive
a) 1, 3 b) 2, 4 c) 1, 2 d) 3, 4

ii. Complete the analogy by selecting the suitable word from the text.

manacle: hands:: fetter : _____

iii. Complete the sentence appropriately.

It is clear that Personification is the poetic device used in 'The fog comes on little cat feet' because _____. (Clue: explain how personification applies here)

iv. Identify the symbolism used in the above poem.

- a) Fog is like difficulties in life which come unannounced and then go away.
b) Fog is like an animal which comes and scares the people.
c) Fog is like pollution which engulfs the city.
d) Fog is like a blanket which covers harbour and city.

v. Select the option in which the word 'moves on' is used in the similar manner as line 6 of the extract.

- a) We'd better get a move on before it rains.
b) The situation, however, was saved by a false move on the part of Austria.
c) I don't want to carry on feeling stuck; I want to move on with my friend.
d) Now, let's move on to the political factors that will cause war to cease.

OR

~~X~~ B. *All night the roots work
to disengage themselves from the cracks
in the veranda floor.*

i. The poet uses the term 'roots' as a symbol of

- a) Bondage of freedom b) Bounds of freedom
c) Bonding of freedom d) Bonds of freedom

ii. The poet says that the roots are working all night

- a) To free themselves from the crests b) To free themselves from the cracks
c) To free themselves from crazes d) To free themselves from crass

iii. The word 'disengage' in this context means

- a) Distend b) Disentangle c) Desert d) Descent

iv. The line 'in the veranda floor' suggests that the action is taking place in.....

- a) In a forest b) In a women's gathering c) In a house d) In the outdoors

v. The words that indicate that the action is taking place without a break is

- a) Night and day b) At night c) All night d) Only at night

~~Q8~~ Answer ANY FOUR of the following in about 40-50 words each. 4x3=12M

~~i.~~ 'Man Proposes, God Disposes'. Trace the linkage of this quote in connection with Lencho and Postmaster's side of story.

~~ii.~~ Which of the poems out of 'The Tale of Curtard the Dragon' and 'How to Tell Wild Animals' outweighs in terms of humour? How?

~~iii.~~ Do you think it was wise on the part of Maxwell to keep an otter as a pet, thousands of miles away from its natural habitat?

✓ iv. Substantiate the given statement with reference to Buddha's message to Kisa Gotami. 'It takes strength to make your way through grief, to grab hold of life and let it pull you forward.'

✓ v. Mention any one mythological creature of Robert Klein's poem, Amamda. Why does the poem's central character want to be that creature?

✓ Q9. Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 40-50 words each. 2x3=6M

✓ i. Who is Fowler and what is his first authentic thrill of the day?

✓ ii. What was the cause of Matilda's ruin?

✓ iii. An accomplishment is just the tip of an iceberg of experiences and challenges underneath. Elucidate with examples from Ebright's life.

✓ Q10. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 100-120 words. 6M

✓ i. Valli and the boy in 'The Ball Poem' learn a significantly crucial life lesson at a very early age. They get an understanding of the inevitable truths of life- death and loss. Assume they both meet each other in the school and have a conversation about their learning experience. Write this conversation as per your understanding of 'Madam Rides the Bus' and 'The Ball Poem'. You may begin like this:

Valli: Hello! You seem to be lost in your thoughts. What are you thinking about?

Boy: Hi! I was thinking about a recent incident that happened with me.

OR

✓ ii. "Just living is not enough...one must have sunshine and freedom." After reading the poems 'The Trees' and 'A Tiger in the Zoo', you realize that nature doesn't need people, people need nature. Imagine you are a tree in a forest. Discuss with the tiger what values would you like the humans to learn from nature.

✓ Q11. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 100-120 words. 6M

✓ i. Assimilate your thoughts pertaining to the given quote in connection with the Tricky from 'A Triumph of Surgery'. Write your opinion with textual examples.

Musonius Rufus

Others have been in poor health from overindulgence and high living, before exile has provided strength, forcing them to live a more vigorous life.

OR

✓ ii. "Science is a magnificent force, but it is not a teacher of morals." Examine 'Footprints Without Feet' as a story woven around this quote.