

BLUEBELLS SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL

PREBOARD – I

Satya Chugh
8-D

CLASS- X

16TH December 2023

Duration – 3 Hours

SUBJECT- English

Max. Marks- 80

SYLLABUS – Reading Comprehension, Integrated Grammar, Formal Letter Writing, Analytical Paragraph Writing, Literature - Letter to God, Nelson Mandela - Long Walk to Freedom, Two Stories About Flying, From the Diary of Anne Frank, Glimpses of India, Mijbil the Otter, Madam Rides the Bus, The Sermon at Benares, The Proposal (Play), Dust of Snow, Fire and Ice, A Tiger in the Zoo, How to Tell Wild Animals, The Ball Poem, Amanda, The Trees, Fog, The Tale of Custard the Dragon, For Anne Gregory, A Triumph of Surgery, The Thief's Story, The Midnight Visitor, A Question of Trust, Footprints Without Feet, The Necklace, The Making of a Scientist, Bholi and The Book that Saved the Earth

INSTRUCTIONS-

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, GRAMMAR & WRITING and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION – A (Reading 20 Marks)

Read the following passages and answer the questions that follow -

Q1 In the annals of human history, few stories are as captivating and bewildering as the enigma of the Voynich Manuscript. Discovered in 1912 by rare book dealer Wilfrid Voynich, this cryptic book has defied the efforts of linguists, cryptographers, and scholars for over a century.

The Voynich Manuscript is a handwritten book, carbon-dated to the 15th century, featuring elaborate illustrations of botanical, biological, and astronomical subjects. Its most remarkable feature is its text, a dense, script-like writing system that has stymied linguistic experts. The script consists of approximately 170,000 characters, meticulously penned across 240 pages, with no discernible punctuation.

The manuscript's content is equally puzzling. It appears to be divided into several sections, with themes ranging from herbal medicine to astronomy and possibly astrology. Detailed renderings of plants, some of which remain unidentified to this day, accompany the herbal text. The astronomical section includes complex charts and diagrams, and the manuscript even contains images of naked women bathing in pools and interconnected tubes conveying fluid from one vessel to another.

Researchers and code-breakers have tirelessly grappled with the Voynich Manuscript's riddle. It has defied all attempts at decipherment, leading some to label it as a deliberate hoax. Yet, closer scrutiny reveals a level of complexity that defies the simplicity of forgery. The script's structure, statistical analysis of character frequency, and the consistency of

patterns present in the manuscript suggest that it is not a mere gibberish creation but a genuine attempt at communication, albeit in an unknown script.

One theory posits that the manuscript is a written record of an obscure language or a cipher of a known language. But efforts to link it to any known language or code have been futile. Additionally, the script's lack of linguistic or syntactic markers adds to the confusion, making it difficult to determine the fundamental structure of the text. Some scholars have even questioned whether it is a language at all, as it defies all established linguistic conventions.

The illustrations in the manuscript have also perplexed researchers. While they offer potential clues about the manuscript's purpose, their relevance remains elusive. The herbal drawings appear to depict real and fantastical plants, some of which seem to have properties unknown to science. The astronomical charts are similarly inscrutable, with no apparent correlation to any celestial observations known to early astronomers.

The Voynich Manuscript has been a subject of fascination for scholars and amateur cryptographers alike. Several prominent figures, such as Alan Turing, have attempted to crack its code, but none have succeeded. Despite countless attempts, the Voynich Manuscript retains its mystique and stands as a testament to human ingenuity and enigma.

1. What makes the Voynich Manuscript unique among historical texts?

1

- a) Its age
- b) Its author
- c) The complexity of its script
- d) Its small number of pages

2. What is the Voynich Manuscript's script like?

1

- a) It is written in Latin
- b) It uses a known script like Cyrillic
- c) It is densely written with an unknown script
- d) It contains no text, only illustrations

3. What is the primary theory regarding the content of the manuscript's text?

1

- a) It is a cipher of a known language
- b) It is written in a known language

e) It is a hoax with no real content

d) It is written in an entirely new language

4. Who attempted to decode the Voynich Manuscript, as mentioned in the passage? 1

a) Wilfrid Voynich

b) Alan Turing

c) Early astronomers

d) Linguists and cryptographers

5. Describe the physical characteristics of the Voynich Manuscript. 1

6. What challenges have researchers faced in deciphering the manuscript's script? 1

7. How have the manuscript's illustrations added to the mystery? 2

8. Why do some scholars consider the Voynich Manuscript a deliberate hoax? 2

Q2. Comparative Analysis of Renewable Energy Sources

As the world grapples with the increasing demand for energy and the detrimental effects of fossil fuels on the environment, renewable energy sources have gained prominence. This passage provides a detailed comparative analysis of various renewable energy sources and their associated advantages and disadvantages. The accompanying complex table summarizes the key information.

Comparative Analysis of Renewable Energy Sources

Energy Source	Advantages	Disadvantages
Solar Power	Abundant and inexhaustible, low operating costs, minimal environmental impact, decentralized energy production	Intermittent energy supply, high installation costs, dependence on sunlight, land use concerns
Wind Power	Clean and abundant, low operating costs, minimal greenhouse gas emissions, adaptable to various locations	Intermittent energy supply, visual and noise disturbances, avian wildlife impacts, land use concerns
Hydropower	Reliable and consistent energy production, low operating costs, minimal greenhouse gas emissions	Limited suitable locations, environmental impact on aquatic ecosystems, dam construction challenges

Geothermal Energy	Renewable and reliable, minimal environmental impact, low greenhouse gas emissions, constant energy supply	Limited to geothermal-rich regions, high initial installation costs, resource depletion concerns
Biomass Energy	Utilizes organic waste, reduced landfill waste, potentially carbon-neutral, consistent energy supply	Carbon emissions from burning, competition with food crops, land use concerns, resource availability

Solar power harnesses energy from the sun and is considered a clean and abundant source of renewable energy. It has minimal environmental impact, but its intermittent energy supply and high initial installation costs can be limiting factors.

Wind power, generated by wind turbines, is another clean and abundant energy source. It adapts well to various locations, but it also faces challenges like intermittent energy production, visual and noise disturbances, and impacts on avian wildlife.

Hydropower, derived from flowing water, provides consistent energy production. Its environmental impact on aquatic ecosystems and the challenges associated with dam construction limit its widespread use.

Geothermal energy utilizes heat from the Earth's core and is considered renewable and reliable. However, it is limited to geothermal-rich regions, and high installation costs can be prohibitive.

Biomass energy is generated from organic waste and is potentially carbon-neutral. It reduces landfill waste, but carbon emissions from burning and competition with food crops are disadvantages to consider.

In conclusion, renewable energy sources offer promising alternatives to fossil fuels. However, each source has its own set of advantages and disadvantages, making it crucial to carefully evaluate the best options for specific energy needs and environmental considerations.

1. What is the primary environmental impact associated with wind power? 1
 - a) Carbon emissions from burning
 - b) Visual and noise disturbances
 - c) Land use concerns
 - d) Dam construction challenges

2. Which renewable energy source is considered inexhaustible? 1
 - a) Solar Power
 - b) Wind Power
 - c) Hydropower
 - d) Biomass Energy

3. What is a common disadvantage of biomass energy? 1
 - a) Minimal environmental impact

- b) Reduced landfill waste
 - c) Carbon emissions from burning
 - d) Low operating costs
4. Geothermal energy is primarily limited to: 1
- a) Regions with strong winds
 - b) Areas with abundant sunlight
 - c) Geothermal-rich regions
 - d) Coastal areas
5. What is a significant challenge associated with hydropower? 1
- a) Limited suitable locations
 - b) Minimal greenhouse gas emissions
 - c) High initial installation costs
 - d) Visual and noise disturbances
6. Which renewable energy source relies on the Earth's core for heat and is known for its reliability? 1
7. What are some specific examples of environmental impacts on aquatic ecosystems that can result from hydropower projects, as mentioned in the passage? 2
8. Which renewable energy source mentioned in the passage has the potential to be both carbon-neutral and reduce landfill waste and why? 2

SECTION B : WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20 marks)

Q3

GRAMMAR

Complete ANY TEN of the following tasks, as directed.

10x1=10

1. Choose the correct options to fill in the blanks to complete the note about the Wangala Festival of Meghalaya.

1. The Wangala (i) _____ festival for the Garo in Meghalaya, Assam and Nagaland. It is a postharvest festival (ii) _____ the end of the agricultural year.

(i) a) is important b) are an important c) was the important d) is an important

(ii) a) being celebrated for marking b) celebrated to mark c) celebrate to mark d) being celebrated for mark

2. Located 80 km north of Udaipur Forest, Kumbhalgarh Fort (i) _____ fort in Rajasthan after Chittorgarh Fort. The fort wall spans a length of 36 kilometers and is therefore known as "The Great Wall of India". Kumbhalgarh Fort (ii) _____ Aravalli range is the birthplace of Maharana Pratap, the famous king of Mewar.

(i) (a) was the second largest (b) is the second larger (c) is a second largest (d) is the second largest

(ii) (a) spreads in the (b) spread in the (c) spreading in the (d) spread on the

3. Complete the following by filling in the blanks with the help of given options.

There (a) _____ a general belief among students that (b) _____ who write long answers get more marks, but it is a misconception.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------|---------------|-----------|---------------|
| (a) | (i) was | (ii) has been | (iii) is | (iv) had been |
| (b) | (i) they | (ii) those | (iii) all | (iv) them |

4. Fill in the blank with the correct word to complete the following sentence:

"In the staff meeting, the manager discussed the upcoming project, and we were all excited about _____. (that/it/them)

5. Identify the error and supply correction for the given sentence :

The neem tree is native to India. For centuries it been known as a medicinal plant.

6. Complete the given narrative, by filling the blank with the correct option.

The experience of nursing an injured bird left me _____ grateful for knowing the importance of being kind and compassionate to all creatures.

- A. feeling
- B. having felt
- C. felt
- D. feels

7. Report the dialogue between a vendor and his customer, by completing the sentence:

Vendor: It is nice to see you, Sir!

Customer: Yes, indeed! Unlike last month, I have been away for quite some time this month.

The vendor greeted his customer respectfully and mentioned that he was pleased to see him. The customer answered in the affirmative and explained that _____

8. Rearrange the following words/phrases to form meaningful sentences.

- (i) work and play/things/different/parents see/as two
(ii) is a/of time/they/waste/think/that playing

9. Complete the line from a self-awareness song, by filling the blank with the correct option.

The river runs through your veins
The trees and mountains _____ your name
The moon and stars watch over
You're guiding your way back home
To dream the night away.

- A. will call
B. call
C. had called
D. calls

10. Identify the error and supply correction for the given sentence

Vegetarianism promotes its natural way of life.

11. **Global warming occurs when carbon dioxide and other air pollutants and greenhouse gases (i) _____ absorb sunlight and solar radiation that has (ii) _____ surface.**

(i) (a) collected in the atmosphere (b) collects in the atmosphere (c) collect into the atmosphere (d) collect in the atmosphere

(ii) (a) bounced off the earth's (b) bouncing off the earth's (c) bounced of the earth's (d) bounce off the earth's

WRITING

Q4a You are Sujal/Sujata of Pragya Public School, Nangal, Punjab who arranged for a trip for fifty students to Nainital during summer vacations for ten days with, 'Mount Travels and Tourism.' The arrangements done by the agency were far below the standard. The accommodation and food facilities were inferior in quality. Write a letter of complaint to the director of the agency to stop duping tourists with false promises as it tarnishes the image of the local people. (100-120 words)

5

OR

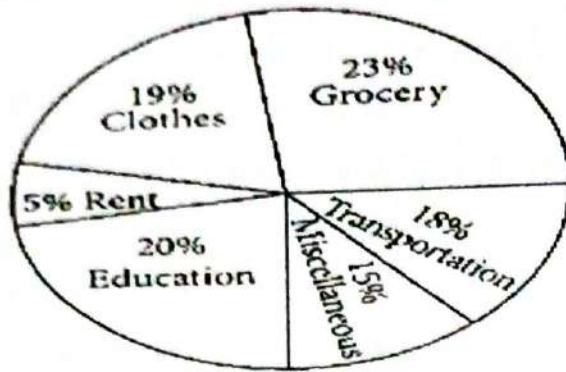
Q4b As Rahul Grover of 15, Azad Apartments, Rajpur Road, Delhi, you believe that forming Ecology clubs and appointing Eco-minders in your city can aid in the preservation and conservation of nature. Write a letter to the MLA of your city area, in about 120 words, suggesting the need to form such clubs. Share their importance and implications. Recommend the involvement of resident volunteers for implementation of eco-club

activities that nurture and protect the local ecosystem.

5

Q5a The given statistics display the spendings of the income of an average household in the UK. Display the important points in an analytical paragraph in about 120 words.

5



OR

Q5b The following table shows details about the internet activities for six categories for different age groups. Write an analytical paragraph for the table given in around 120 words.

5

Internet Activities by Age Group

Activity%	Age group						
	Teens	20s	30s	40s	50s	60s	70+
Get News	76	73	76	75	71	74	70
Online games	81	54	37	29	25	25	32
Downloads	52	46	27	15	13	8	6
Product research	0	79	80	83	79	74	70
Buying a product	43	68	69	68	67	65	41
Searching for people	5	31	23	23	24	29	27

SECTION D : LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT(40 marks)

Q6a "But, my dearie, I thought it would make you happy. You never go out, and this is an occasion, and a fine one! Everybody wishes one, and it is very select; not many are given to employees. You will see the whole official world there." She looked at him with an irritated

eye and declared impatiently, "What do you suppose I have to wear to such a thing as that?" He had not thought of that; he stammered, "Why, the dress you wear when we go to the theatre. It seems very pretty to me..." He was silent, stupefied, in dismay, at the sight of his wife weeping. He stammered, "What is the matter? What is the matter?" By a violent effort, she had controlled her vexation and responded in a calm voice, wiping her moist cheeks, "Nothing. Only I have no dress and consequently I cannot go to this affair. Give your card to some colleague whose wife is better fitted out than I."

- i State any one inference about Matilda from the given context: 1
But, my dearie, I thought it would make you happy. You never go out, and this is an occasion, and a fine one!
- ii she had controlled her vexation 1
What word can be used to replace the word vexation in the above line
- iii What was the solution that the couple found for the problem Matilda faced in the above paragraph? 2
- iv Identify one character trait of Matilda's husband from the above conversation. 1

OR

Q6b LOMOV : It's cold... I'm trembling all over, just as if I'd got an examination before me. The great thing is, I must have my mind made up. If I give myself time to think, to hesitate, to talk a lot, to look for an ideal, or for real love, then I'll never get married. Brr...It's cold! Natalya Stepanovna is an excellent housekeeper, not bad-looking, well-educated. What more do I want? But I'm getting a noise in my ears from excitement. (Drinks) And it's impossible for me not to marry. In the first place, I'm already 35— a critical age, so to speak. In the second place, I ought to lead a quiet and regular life. I suffer from palpitations, I'm excitable and always getting awfully upset; at this very moment my lips are trembling, and there's a twitch in my right eyebrow.

- i Which of the following is NOT a reason why Lomov thinks he must marry? 1
A. He is already 35 years old.
B. He suffers from palpitations.
C. He is excitable and easily upset.
D. He is in love with Natalya.
- ii Why is it fair to say that Lomov's tone, when he says "What more do I want?", is uncertain and questioning? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- iii Read the following descriptions (a)-(c) and identify which one correctly corresponds to the extract. 1
(a) A debate is a formal discussion on a particular topic, usually with two or more people presenting different viewpoints and arguments
(b) A soliloquy is a speech given by a character alone on stage, which reveals their innermost thoughts and feelings to the audience.

(c) An aside is a brief comment or remark made by a character directly to the audience, which is not intended to be heard by other characters on stage.

iv If an actor were to enact this extract, what would he be required to focus on, while modulating his voice?

1

Q7a *I am an orphan, roaming the street.*

5x1=5

I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet.

The silence is golden, the freedom is sweet.

i **The tone of the given lines is**

a) analytical.

b) despairing.

c) peaceful.

d) nervous.

ii **Read statements A and B given below, and choose the option that correctly evaluates these statements.**

Statement A – The figure ‘I’ imagines a less-than-realistic view of being an orphan.

Statement B – The figure ‘I’ does not like the speaker.

a) A is true, B is false, according to the extract

b) A is true, and B cannot be clearly inferred from the extract.

c) A cannot be clearly inferred from the extract, and B is false.

d) A is true and can be inferred from the poem, and B is true too.

iii **The golden silence is contrasted with the _____.**

a) chaos of the street

b) constant instructions received

c) sweetness of freedom

d) hushed, bare feet

iv The rhyme scheme 'aaa' in the above extract is followed in all other stanzas of the poem that are written in parenthesis, i.e., (). Why?

Read the reasons given below, and choose the option that lists the most accurate reasoning:

- (i) It shows the simplicity of the child's thoughts.
- (ii) It reflects the harmony and rhythm of the child's inner world.
- (iii) It mirrors a child's expression.
- (iv) It highlights the poet's aesthetic sensibility.

a) (i) and (iv)

b) (i) and (ii)

c) (ii) and (iii)

d) (iii) and (iv)

v Pick the option that lists the usage of the word 'pattern', as in the extract above.

- a) That is a lovely pattern for the wallpaper.
- b) He decided to wear a patterned shirt to the party.
- c) Poetry is a form of pattern-making.
- d) She patterned her hair after her favourite celebrity.

OR

7 *Though to distinguish beasts of prey*

5x1=5

b

A novice might nonplus,

The Crocodile you always may

Tell from the Hyena thus:

Hyenas come with merry smiles;

But if they weep they're Crocodiles.

i Choose the option that DOES NOT describe a 'novice'.

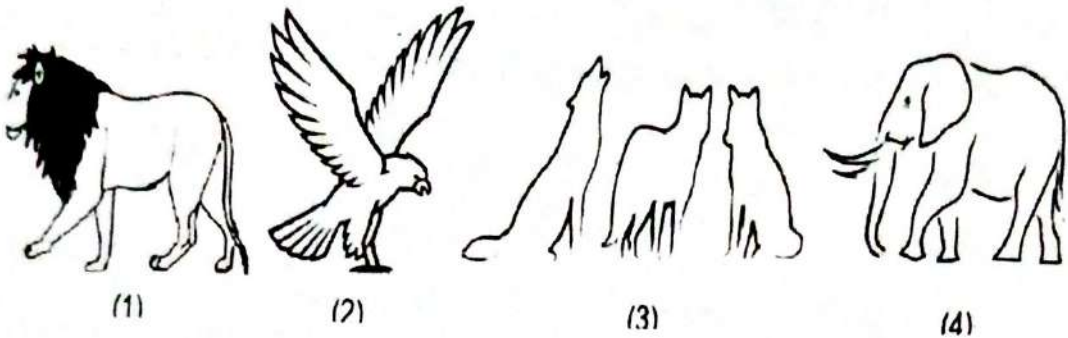
- a) Lakshman has played cricket for the first time today.

b) Samiksha has been teaching for the last ten years.

c) Srishti went to her first French class yesterday.

d) Gautam baked a second cake to improve his skills.

ii Which option lists the image that DOES NOT indicate what the poet means by 'beasts of prey'?



a) Option 1

b) Option 2

c) Option 3

d) Option 4

iii What, according to the extract, would cause bewilderment?

a) Discovering the similarity between the different preys of beasts

b) Analysing habits of beasts that prey on hyenas.

c) Knowing the difference between several beasts of prey

d) Drawing the similarities between crocodiles and hyenas

iv Choose the line from the given stanza that the poet takes liberty with to fit the rhyme scheme.

a) Though to distinguish beasts of prey

b) A novice might nonplus

c) The Crocodile you always may

d) Hyenas come with merry smiles

v Choose the crocodile fact that is related to the given extract.

a) They have webbed feet which, though not used to propel them through the water, allow them to make fast turns and sudden moves in the water or initiate swimming.

b) Absence of sweat glands, and so release heat through their mouths, making them often sleep with their mouths open.

c) 99% of crocodiles are eaten in the first year of their life by large fish, hyenas, monitor lizards and larger crocodiles.

d) While eating, they swallow too much air, which gets in touch with lachrymal glands and causes them to weep.

8 Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words $3 \times 4 = 12$

i How do Coorg's location, people and natural features add to the diversity of India?

ii How does Leslie Norris use vivid imagery and metaphorical language in *A Tiger in the Zoo*, to effectively depict the confinement and oppression, experienced by the captive tiger.

iii At the beginning of his speech, Mandela mentions "an extraordinary human disaster". What does he mean by this? What is the "glorious ... human achievement" he speaks of at the end?

iv In the name of rules and regulations, basic values are ignored but people like the airhostess in 'Mijbil the Otter' are a ray of hope. What virtues do we find in the airhostess?

v What message does the poet Ogden Nash give to the readers in the poem, "The Tale of Custard the Dragon"?

9 Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. $3 \times 2 = 6$

i How does Ausable manage to make Max believe that there is a balcony attached to his room?

ii What impression do you form of Griffin after reading the lesson, "Footprint, without Feet"?

iii How did a dusty old book of nursery rhymes save the world from a Martians invasion?

10 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. 6

i "How do Anne Frank's experiences as portrayed in her diary and the themes explored in Adrienne Rich's poem 'Trees' reflect the importance of resilience and the power of human

spirit in the face of adversity, and how do they differ in their approach to conveying these ideas?"

OR

- ii You have been asked to present an evaluation of the approaches of the mothers of both, the baby seagull and Amanda, towards helping their children. Write this presentation draft including your insights, in about 120 words, comparing the approaches of both parents.
- 11 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words 6
- i Anil plays a major role in the transformation of Hari Singh. Comment on this statement by highlighting the values possessed by Anil which touched Hari Singh's heart and made him return to his honest ways of earning his livelihood?

OR

- ii Both Horace Danby and Griffin were law breakers but very different from each other. How do you see them as similar personalities yet very different from each other?