

**GYAN BHARATI SCHOOL**  
Pre-Board Examination (2023-24)  
Class S2  
Subject: English Language and Literature (184)  
(Set B)



Time: 3 Hrs.

Marks: 80

**General Instructions:**

- i. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, GRAMMAR & WRITING and LITERATURE.
- ii. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.
- iii. Strictly adhere to the prescribed word limit.
- iv. This paper has 9 printed sides.

**SECTION A- READING SKILLS**

(20 marks)

1. Read the passage given below. (10)

1. The trip to the tiny island of Sriharikota in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday to cover the launch of Chandrayaan-1 revived memories of my visit to India's spaceport more than two decades ago as a cub science reporter. It was my first trip ever to cover a satellite launch, way back in 1987.

2. On March 24, the first flight of the Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV) was scheduled for lift-off. A small contingent of correspondents—mostly from Chennai and Bangalore—was taken by ISRO to cover the event, supposed to take India a step ahead from its first generation launch vehicle, the SLV. Everybody was seated in a small conference room, which had a moderate size screen on which images from mission control were being shown.

3. The countdown was perfect and the rocket lifted off. All of us rushed outside to see it rise with naked eyes. But as soon as the launch vehicle lifted, it crashed along with the 136 kg satellite of the Rohini series it was carrying. We could see the rocket burn up into pieces and go down within seconds in the Bay of Bengal, leaving a trail of thick smoke in the sky.

4. The launch was crucial for ISRO as the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had himself come down to witness it. When we rushed back to the conference room, the screen was blank and the transmission had been stopped. However, ISRO went ahead with the press briefing, which was attended by Gandhi as well.

5. He tried to console ISRO chief, U.R. Rao, by saying that failures are part of development and necessary for success. Rajiv Gandhi was the first prime minister to be present during a satellite launch. Since then, only one prime minister, I.K. Gujral, witnessed a launch. That was the first operational flight of the PSLV in 1997.

6. The second flight of ASLV was planned within a year. I was once again deputed to cover the event on July 13, 1988. This time it was a low-key affair and no dignitaries were present. The same drill was followed. To my horror, the second flight of ASLV also ended in a disaster. Once again, we were witness to the disintegration of the rocket soon after it was launched. The third flight of ASLV in 1992 was successful, but I could not cover it as I had already moved to Delhi.

7. After one more flight, ISRO abandoned ASLV and moved on to the Polar Space Launch Vehicle (PSLV). Though the PSLV's first development flight in 1993 also ended in failure, it has since become ISRO's workhorse vehicle.

8. Watching the countdown in the Brahma Prakash Hall on Wednesday, in the presence of hundreds of media persons, I realized that ISRO had indeed come a long way and put its failures behind it.

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

i. Evaluate the INAPPROPRIATE reason for the writer calling himself a 'cub science reporter'?

- (a) Because Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh is a tiny island
- (b) Because it was his first visit to India's spaceport
- (c) Because he was covering cover a satellite launch for the first time
- (d) Because he was inexperienced

ii. Complete the following with a word/ phrase from para 2

OPINION	REASON
_____	Greater than before or more intense

iii. Select the option that corresponds to the following relation below:  
Sriharikota in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh is a 'spaceport' \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Because it is also an airport.
- (b) Because it is used for teleporting.
- (c) It is used by ships as a port for trade and by rockets for space passengers.
- (d) It is a launch pad for satellites and rockets much like an airport is for airplanes.

iv. Select the option that displays what the writer projects, with reference to the following. However, ISRO went ahead with the press briefing, which was attended by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi as well. (Para 4)

- (a) conviction
- (b) professionalism
- (c) dedication
- (d) courage

v. Based on your reading of the text, list two reasons why the writer says that 'The launch of the ASLV was crucial for ISRO'?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

vi. What connect did the Prime Minister draw between the rocket burning up into pieces and success?

vii. The writer says, "The second flight of ASLV was planned within a year. I was once again deputed to cover the event on July 13, 1988. This time it was a low-key affair and no dignitaries were present". (Para 6) 1  
Sum up this contrasting attitude or approach.

- (a) directive                      (b) wary                      (c) superstition                      (d) protocol

viii. Supply 1 point to justify the following:  
The first flight of the ASLV had failed but the failure had not dented ISRO's never-say-die attitude. 1

ix. Pick out a word from Para 6 which means the same as 'breakdown'. 1

x. Why does the writer say that ISRO had indeed come a long way and put its failures behind it? 1

- (a) ISRO has lots of successful launches to its credit now.  
(b) ISRO owes its success to PSLV.  
(c) Both ASLV and PSLV added to ISRO's experience.  
(d) ISRO has the support of the government.

II. Read the passage given below.

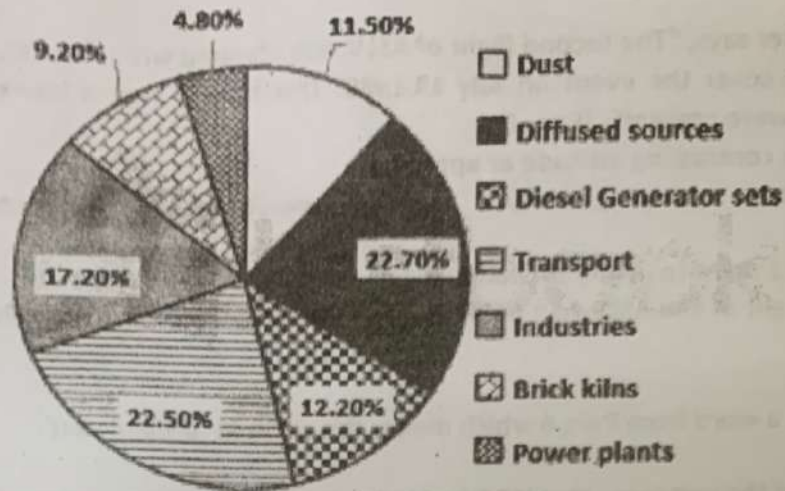
(10 marks)

1. Air pollution affects health seriously. Of the most polluted 30 cities in the world, 21 were in India in 2019. As per a 2016 study, at least 140 million Indians breathe air that is 10 times or more over the WHO safe limit and 13 of the world's 20 cities with the highest annual levels of air pollution are in India.

2. Air pollution kills 2 million Indians prematurely every year. Emissions come from vehicles and industry, whereas in rural areas, much of the pollution stems from biomass burning for cooking and keeping warm. In autumn and winter months, large scale crop residue burning in farms — a cheaper alternative to mechanical tilling — is a major source of smoke, smog and particulate pollution.

3. India has a low per capita emissions of greenhouse gases but the country as a whole is the third largest greenhouse gas producer after China and the United States. A 2013 study on non-smokers has found that Indians have weaker lung function than Europeans.

4. The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 has failed to reduce or regulate pollution because of poor enforcement of the rules.



5. In 2015, GOI, together with IIT Kanpur launched the National Air Quality Index. In 2019, India launched 'The National Clean Air Programme' with tentative national target of 20%-30% reduction in PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations by 2024, considering 2017 as the base year for comparison. It will be rolled out in 102 cities that are considered to have air quality worse than the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

6. There are other initiatives such as a 1,600 kilometre-long and 5 kilometre-wide The Great Green Wall of Aravalli — an ecological corridor along Aravalli range from Gujarat to Shivalik Hills with the planting of 1.35 billion native trees over 10 years to combat the pollution.

7. In 2019, IIT Bombay, in partnership with the McKelvey School of Engineering (USA), launched the Aerosol and Air Quality Research Facility to study air pollution in India.

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

i. Infer one reason for the following, based on information in paragraph 2. 1  
Indians are exposed to a worrisome level of air pollution.

ii. Select the appropriate option to fill in the blanks. 1  
Mechanical tilling is an \_\_\_\_\_ method to remove stubs from the fields with the farmers preferring to get rid of the agricultural residue by \_\_\_\_\_.

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| (a) insensitive, tilling | (b) inconsiderate, firing |
| (c) unpopular, burning   | (d) extensive, winnowing  |

iii. Complete the following analogy correctly with a word/ phrase from paragraph 2. 1  
The \_\_\_\_\_ the alternative to mechanical tilling, the \_\_\_\_\_ are smoke, smog, and particulate pollution.

- (a) cheaper, more  
 (b) cheapest, most  
 (c) worse, more dangerous  
 (d) worst, most dangerous

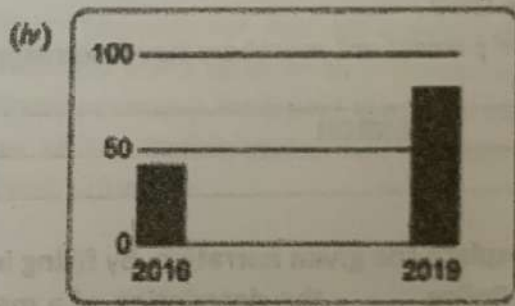
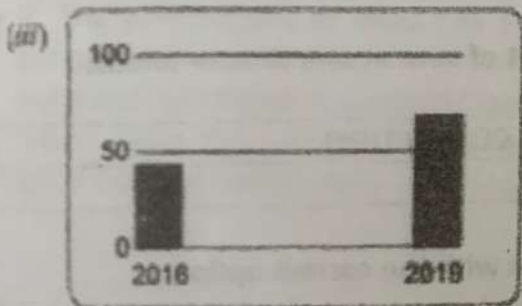
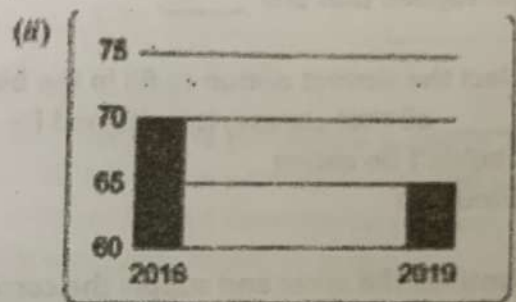
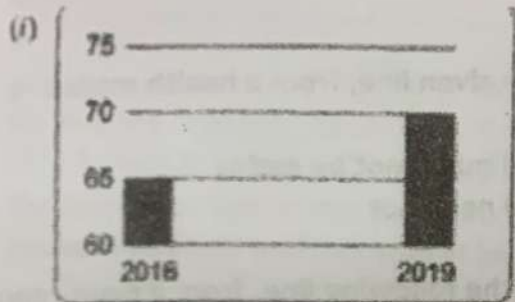
iv. Select the correct option to complete the following sentence.

The ambitious objectives that the National Clean Air Programme plans to achieve by 2024 are \_\_\_\_\_. 1

1. 20%-30% reduction in PM 2.5
2. study air pollution in 102 cities that are worst affected
3. 20%-30% reduction in PM 10
4. take 2017 as the base year

- (a) 1 and 2                                      (b) 2 and 3                                      (c) 1 and 3                                      (d) 2 and 4

v. Select the chart that appropriately represents the deteriorating health of air in the cities from 2016 to 2019. 1



vi. Complete the following statement appropriately: 1

The ecological corridor from Gujarat to the foothills of the Himalayas has good chances of succeeding because of its emphasis on \_\_\_\_\_.

vii. Substitute the word from paragraph 2 in the blank below whose meaning in the passage is 'originate.' 1

A lot of medicines \_\_\_\_\_ from tropical plants.

viii. According to the information shared in the pie chart which factor contributes the maximum to air pollution. 1

ix. Pick out a word from Para 5 which means the same as 'depletion'. 1

x. List one reason why the earlier laws and recommendations were not effective enough. 1

SECTION B- GRAMMAR

(10 marks)

III. Attempt the following questions. 10

i. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the beginning of an article in a blog post on adolescence. 1

The importance of physical exercise as well as mental health \_\_\_\_\_ by the modern teenager.

- (a) are well understood (b) is well understood  
(c) is being understood well (d) will be well understood

ii. Read the conversation between a mother and daughter. Complete the sentence by reporting the daughter's reply correctly. 1

Mother enquired, "Aren't you feeling well? You look pale."

Saumya said, "I have a terrible headache making me giddy."

Mother, wondering about her daughter looking pale asked about her well-being to which, the girl replied that she \_\_\_\_\_.

iii. Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given line, from a health magazine. 1

You \_\_\_\_\_ all that cheese; it isn't good for you.

- (a) shouldn't be eating (b) ought not be eating  
(c) cannot eat (d) need not

iv. Identifies the error and supply the correction for the following line, from a news report on the UNO. 1

All five permanent members have expressed the right of veto at one time or another.

ERROR	CORRECTION

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

Delhi Police \_\_\_\_\_ the description of a man who was last seen at the Kwality Restaurant which is on the Parliament Street. 1

- (a) is issued (b) have issued (c) issues (d) are issuing

vi. Fill in the blank by using the correct word from the options available to you, for the given portion of a letter: 1

Subject: Enquiry regarding the online course in choreography

Refer to your advertisement regarding the online courses in choreography offered by your \_\_\_\_\_ Institute, I want \_\_\_\_\_ that I am currently in XII class and preparing for my final exams.

- (a) esteemable; to say (b) reputed; to suggest (c) esteem; to tell (d) reputable; to state

vii. Identify the error in the given sentence from a newspaper article and supply the correction. 1

Mobile phones are being used both in urban and rural areas but the importance of mobile phones between students has been increasing day by day.

Use the given format for your response.

ERROR	CORRECTION

viii. Report the following sentence;  
Sheetal said to me, 'What were you purchasing from the salesman at the market?' 1

ix. Insert an appropriate modal in the following sentence:  
My younger brother \_\_\_\_\_ climb a tree easily before gout affected him adversely. 1

x. Identify the error on a shop's hoarding and supply the correction. 1  
Top barbarians under one roof in your city! Get the latest haircuts and styles @ 15% discount.

Use the given format for your response.

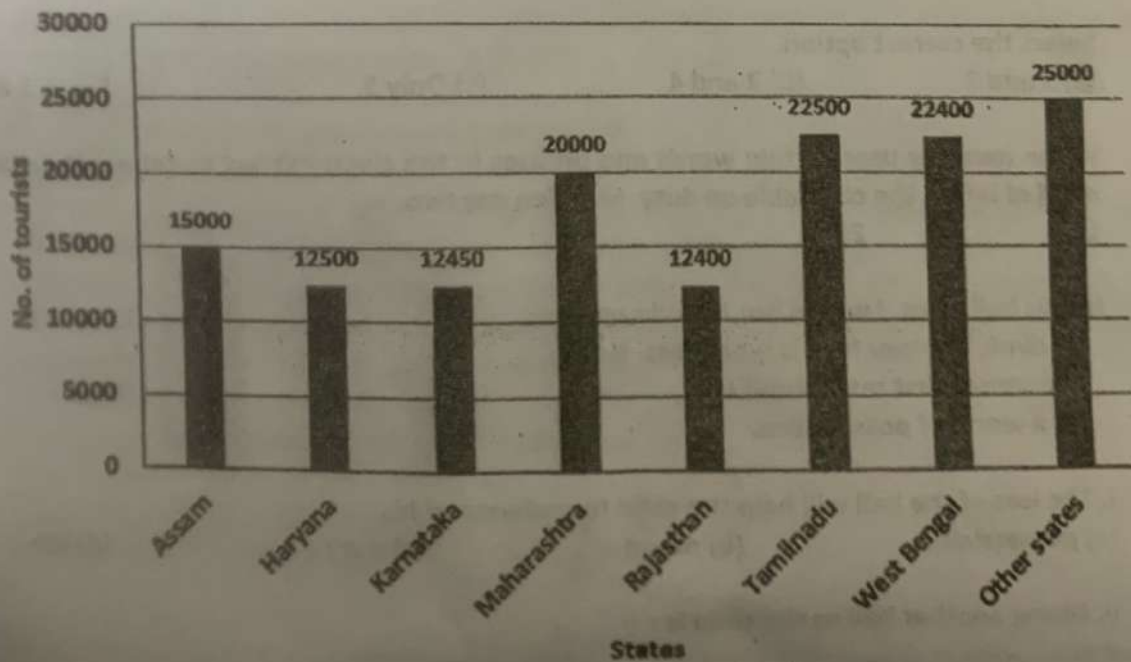
ERROR	CORRECTION

### SECTION B- CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

(10 marks)

IV. You are Alex/Ronny of 182, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi. You purchased a colour TV from M/S Rahul Electronics, Ring Road, Lajpat Nagar, Delhi. Write a letter in 100-120 words to the Sales Manager complaining about an LED TV which is not functioning properly. Invent necessary details and mention at least two or three defects found by you. 5

V. The government of India has started a drive 'Tourism for All.' Its objectives are to generate more and more employment opportunities from tourism in different states in India and thus boost its contribution to the national economy. Interpret the given bar graph representing the number of tourists coming to various Indian states and use the figures given below, draft an analytical paragraph in about 120 words. 5



## VI. Reference to the Context

10

(a) Suddenly he threw off bandages, whiskers, spectacles, and even nose. It took him only a minute to do this. The horrified people in the bar found themselves staring at a headless man! Mr Jaffers, the constable, now arrived, and was quite surprised to find that he had to arrest a man without a head. But Jaffers was not easily prevented from doing his duty. If a magistrate's warrant ordered a person's arrest, then that person had to be arrested, with or without his head.

i. Give a synonym of 'suddenly'.

1

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

Dismay : gladden :: Encouraged : \_\_\_\_\_

1

iii. Select the option that displays the reason why Jaffers was dismayed with the situation.1

- (a) Griffin had thrown his bandages away.
- (b) Griffin was not allowing anyone to come near him.
- (c) Griffin was headless and difficult to arrest.
- (d) Magistrate had ordered immediate arrest.

iv. According to the extract, what put Griffin in a win-win situation? 1

- 1. His bandages entangled Jaffers.
- 2. He threw his nose at the magistrate.
- 3. He was headless and not easily visible.
- 4. Jaffers was ordered to arrest Griffin but he was out of reach.
- 5. People were horrified and there was a commotion.

Select the correct option.

(a) 1 and 3

(b) 3 and 4

(c) Only 3

(iv) 2, 3 and 5

v. The narrator uses certain words and phrases in the given extract to reflect the state of mind of Jaffer, the constable on duty. Mention any two. 1

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

(b) His ball went. I would not intrude on him;  
A dime, another ball, is worthless. Now  
He senses first responsibility  
In a world of possessions.

i. The loss of the ball will help the child to understand his :

(a) possessions

(b) mood

(c) duty

(d) life

1

ii. Giving another ball to the child is :

1



- (a) intruding on him
- (c) of little use

- (b) going to make him upset
- (d) going to make him happy

iii. The boy is sad because \_\_\_\_\_.

1

iv. What do the following lines suggest about the boy?

1

"Now he senses first responsibility  
In a world of possessions".

- (a) It suggests that he is thinking of getting another ball.
- (b) It suggests that he now hates life.
- (c) It suggests that he wishes to evolve as a person.
- (d) It suggests that the boy is nothing now that his ball is gone.

v. Write down the meaning of 'intrude on'.

1

VII. Answer the following in about 40-50 words each.

(4x3=12)

- a. Chubukov says to Lomov, "And I've always loved you, my angel, as if you were my own son." Is he sincere in saying so? Cite two evidences.
- b. Which traits of Custard, the Dragon make it the most admirable figure in the poem?
- c. How, according to Lord Buddha, one may attain peace of mind after experiencing the loss of a dear one?
- d. The poet employs the dual imagery of the fog and the cat in his poem 'Fog'. Elucidate.

VIII. Answer the following in about 40-50 words each.

(2x3=6)

- a. Noodle avoids offending Think-Tank but at the same time he corrects his mistakes. How does he manage to do that?
- b. Why did Ebright lose interest in tagging butterflies though he had been pursuing this research so passionately since his childhood?

IX. Answer the following in about 100-120 words.

6

"Human beings, without God's strength, can't look beyond outward appearances and physical beauty." If you had to use the message of the given quote based on 'To Anne Gregory' to understand the inner strength of Valli, as she made efforts to fulfil her wish despite her age in 'Madam Rides the Bus', how will you elaborate it? Also, comment how it would have been difficult for Valli not to consider her age as an impediment.

X. Answer the following in about 100-120 words.

6

"A man's vanity is more fragile than you might think." Analyse in detail with reference to the character of Matilda in the story 'The Necklace'.