

Pre-board 2 Examination (23-24)
Class X
Subject – English

Roll No. 17331

Time Allowed: 3 hours
Max Marks 80

Section A: Reading Skills (20 marks)

I. Read the text carefully and answer the questions: (10m)

1. Crows are incredibly aware of their surroundings and have a way of observing humans. Corvids—a family of birds including crows, magpies, and ravens develop relationship with human beings. Once corvids accept the friendship, it is expressed by bringing gifts for their human friends. This, crow lovers say, is a possibility but not a given. Some people feed crows as a meditative practice.
2. Crow behaviour varies from family to family and region to region. There are about 50 species of corvids around the world, and they behave differently from each other. They're not the only intelligent birds around, but in general, corvids are smart in a way that resonates deeply with humans, because they're good at some of the things that we are good at. Crows can think about their own thoughts. Crows can recognize individual human faces, associate them with friendliness or danger, and pass that knowledge along to their pals.
3. Their social system is the most like the Western human civilization of any animal that we know of. American crows have a family and a space that they defend, but they also have a neighborhood that they pay attention to. And crows will interact with larger groups of crows that they don't know as well, sort of the way how humans will engage with their communities beyond their closest relationships.
4. But they're also cautious. Crows have been paying attention to individual people more than perhaps any other bird. PET scans reveal that when crows viewed human faces that they associated with threat or care, the birds had increased activity in the amygdala, thalamus and brain stem—areas related to emotional processing and fear learning. In response to threatening faces, areas that regulate perception, attention and fleeing also lit up. Similarities to the human brain in this case are most striking.
5. They do have preferences in food. If you put out a pile of different foods, like a little buffet for the crows, they're all going to kind of home in on something. All one needs are patience and routine. Crows need to learn you're not a threat, that the food is safe, and that it will be there every day.
6. Crows go viral for bringing their human friend gifts. But the reality of being a friend to corvids reflects a deeper responsibility.
6. Crow lovers have been encouraging humans to feed crows for decades. But there are ways for this practice to go wrong and make them a nuisance. Leaving out too much food can lead crows to mob your neighbourhood constantly. Just as the crows talk to each other, human crow friends need to be aware of how their habits affect their human neighbours.

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

i. The writer asserts in paragraph 3 that crows are socially responsible birds much like human beings. Which of the following statements agrees with this assertion? (1m)

1. All 50 species of crows behave differently in different social settings.
2. Crows can be friendly with humans.
3. They pay attention to their neighbourhood.
4. They interact with larger groups of crows from other areas.
5. American crows have a family and a space that they defend.

- (a) 1 and 4 (b) 2 and 5
(c) 3 and 4 (d) 4 and 5

ii. What makes the writer compare 'the social system of the crows is closest to the Western human civilization of any animal known to humans' in the given lines from paragraph 3?

Rationalise your response in about 40 words.

(2m)

iii. Complete the sentence appropriately.

(1m)

The author's observation that crows have been paying attention to individual people more than perhaps any other bird is backed by _____.

iv. The passage includes some words that are either opposites of or similar to each other.

From the sets (a)-(e) below, identify two sets that belong neither to antonyms or synonyms.

(1m)

- (a) neighbourhood and family space
(b) patience and routine
(c) threat or care
(d) communities and closest relationships
(e) emotional processing and fear learning

v. The writer says in paragraph 2 that corvids are good at detecting friendship as well as danger - some of the things that we, humans are also good at but _____.

(1m)

vi. Based on the reading of the passage, examine, in about 40 words, how does the author emphasise the most fascinating traits of crows.

(2m)

vii. Evaluate the options below and pick out the one that is incorrect from the set and does not correspond to crow behaviour.

(1m)

- (a) They can handle vast quantities of food.
(b) Crows are territorial.
(c) They process different emotions just like humans.
(d) Crows are independent thinkers.

viii. Mention two points to remember while feeding the crows.

(1m)

II. Read the passage given below.

(10m)

1. Access to primary education is a basic right of every child. An effective primary education can build a solid foundation and open avenues for future success. With its profound implications on both the individual and society, primary education plays a crucial role in reducing extreme poverty and promoting social changes. The Sustainable Development Agenda acknowledges the importance of primary education in Goal 4 which stipulates that by 2030, the world should ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, including a target on universal access to primary education. Though there are varying standards, primary education is typically designed for children 6 to 11 years of age.

2. Significant progress has been made toward achieving universal primary education. Globally, the adjusted net attendance rate reached 87 percent in 2019 and about four out of five children attending primary education completed it. Additionally, over the past two decades, the number of out-of-school children was reduced by over 40 percent. However, there is still a long way to go: 58 million children of primary school age remain out of school, with the majority of them coming from marginalised groups. In addition, recent Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) results show that many children do not have foundational reading and numeracy skills, highlighting the massive challenge to achieving inclusive and equitable quality education for all.

3. Globally, a lower proportion of children from the poorest families attend primary education compared with their wealthier peers. While almost all children from the top wealth quintile attend primary education, only 75 percent of children from the bottom wealth quintile do.

4. Across different regions, household wealth impacts primary school completion rates differently. West and Central Africa has the largest gap of 58 percentage points in primary school completion rates between the richest and poorest quintiles. In contrast, in East Asia and the Pacific and Latin

America and the Caribbean, children from the top and bottom wealth quintiles complete primary school at more similar rates, with a gap of just 13 percentage points
5. In the past 20 years, the number of out-of-school children of primary education age fell by more than 40 per cent, from 99 million in 2000 to 58 million in 2019. However, 54 per cent of these out-of-school children were girls. Despite this tremendous progress, the world must accelerate the pace at which the number of out-of-school children is reduced, as the total has remained stagnant since 2007

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

i. Complete the following sentence appropriately. (1m)

_____ have the highest rates of primary education completion in the rich quintile.

ii. Fill the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of the passage: (1m)

There was a decline of _____ (from 99 million in 2000 to 58 million in 2019/ from 99 million in 2000 to 68 million in 2019) in the number of out-of-school children of primary education age is seen in the past two decades.

iii. How is primary education critical to both an individual and a society? (2m)

iv. State one target related to primary education. (1m)

v. How much decline in the number of out-of-school children of primary education age is seen in the past two decades? (1m)

vi. Which word can substitute the word 'Foundational' in the following, sentence from paragraph 2. (1m)

In addition, recent Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) results show that many children do not have foundational reading and numeracy skills, highlighting the massive challenge to achieving inclusive and equitable quality education for all.

- (a) Essential
- (b) Fundamental
- (c) Required
- (d) Primary

vii. How does the Sustainable Development Goals give importance to primary education? (2m)

viii. In 2019, about four out of five children attending primary education completed it suggests that (1m)

- (a) almost 100% children completed primary education
- (b) about 80% children completed the primary education
- (c) more than 80% children completed primary education
- (d) less than 80% children completed primary education

Section B: Grammar & Writing Skills (20 marks)

Grammar (10 m)

iii. Complete ANY TEN of the following questions. (10m)

i. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the sentence.

Yesterday, when I _____ home late at night, I _____ to find my house unlocked.

- (a) had returned, was shocked
- (b) returned, was shocked
- (c) was returned, got shocked
- (d) had to return, were shocked

ii. Read the conversation between two friends. Complete the sentence by reporting the conversation.

Ankit : May I drop you there in my car at the airport?

Atul : Thanks a lot. It will be a great help to me.

When Ankit asked Atul _____ at the airport in his car, Atul thanked him adding that it _____
 iii. **Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given line, from an article on environment.**

In this way, we _____ wage the war against environmental destruction with a two-pronged approach of rationality and sensibility, and some day, win the battle altogether.

- (a) will
- (b) can
- (c) might
- (d) could

iv. **Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line, from a health report.**

Tobacco breaks down quickly in the human body, so addicts might need to smoke or chew some on regular basis to maintain the desired effects of nicotine on the brain to keep their focus intact.

Option No.	Error	Correction
(a)	may	might
(b)	or	and
(c)	on	in
(d)	their	the

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

All sorts of cruelties _____ upon them but the farmers remained united.

- (a) are being inflicted
- (b) had inflicted
- (c) were inflicted
- (d) might be inflicted

vi. **Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion a letter.**

Subject: Human dependence on technology.

Through this letter, I wish to highlight our excessive dependence on technology which _____ (be) steadily but surely _____ (turn) us into slaves.

vii. **Report the dialogue between a beggar and a woman by completing the sentence.**

Lady: Aren't you ashamed of not working?

Beggar: Madam, begging is also a work.

An annoyed lady asked a beggar _____, to which the beggar retorted that _____

viii. **Identify the error in the given sentence, from a security report of a residential area and supply the correction.**

Most of the people would have given the thief to the police so as to get rid of him and to safeguard their household goods.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

ix. **Rishabh told his teacher that he had fever the previous day and that's why he was absent.**

Report the question asked by his teacher.

x. **Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction.**

Any girls are still writing the test.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

xi. **Select the correct option to complete the narration of the dialogue between Tanmay and Aastha.**

Tanmay: How did you spend your vacation?

Aastha: I visited Kashmir with my parents.

Tanmay asked Aastha how she had spent her vacation. Aastha replied that _____.

- (a) she has visited Kashmir with her parents
- (b) she had visited Kashmir with her parents
- (c) she have visited Kashmir with her parents
- (d) she hadn't visited Kashmir with her parents

xii. Identify the error next to a busy shop's billing counter and supply the correction, for the following.

Thank you for your patients!

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

IV. Creative Writing Skills (10 m)

1. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below. (5m)

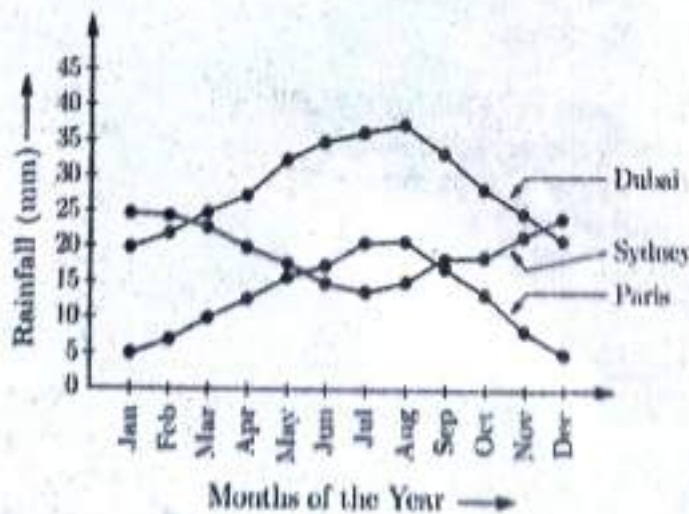
A. You are Arihant/Ananya of Ashok Vihar. Write a letter of complaint to Cabinet World regarding the faulty cabinet that they have sold to you. Invent the necessary details on your own.

OR

B. Write a letter to the Editor of an English daily in 100-120 word, making a plea to the common people to switch over to solar energy to conserve electricity and limit electricity bills. You are Divyansh of 147, Mayur Vihar-I.

2. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below. (5m)

A. The following line graph shows the average monthly temperatures in three major cities. Write an analytical paragraph on the basis of the line graph reporting the important information and making comparisons where relevant.



OR

B. Homelessness is not a condition unknown to children in India. Situations like natural disasters and conflicts render many homeless or force them to live in unsafe housing conditions. Living on the streets or in urban slum dwellings, lack of basic facilities and unhygienic living conditions become a way of life.

In view of the above remarks, write a paragraph analysing the mentioned points given below.

- Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances
- Orphaned and Abandoned Child
- Migrant Children
- Child Labour
- Child Trafficking
- Child Suffering from Abuse

Section C: Literature (40 marks)

V. Reference to the Context

(10 marks)

1. Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.

(6m)

1.A Inside the clouds, everything was suddenly black. It was impossible to see anything outside the aeroplane. The old aeroplane jumped and twisted in the air. I looked at the compass. I couldn't believe my eyes: the compass was turning round and round and round. It was dead. It would not work! The other instruments were suddenly dead, too. I tried the radio.

i. What was causing the plane to jump and twist in the air?

- (a) air pressure
- (b) wind currents
- (c) black stormy clouds
- (d) dead engine

ii. Infer one reason for the following, based on information in the extract:

The compass was turning round and round.

iii. The narrator couldn't see outside the aeroplane because:

- (a) it was too bright to look outside.
- (b) he was too high in the clouds to see anything clearly.
- (c) everything was black inside the storm clouds.
- (d) there was too much lightening.

iv. State whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE:

It was impossible to see anything outside the aeroplane.

v. Over which country was the pilot flying at this moment?

- (a) Germany
- (b) Spain
- (c) United Kingdom
- (d) France

OR

1.B It was green, green everywhere. Rajvir had never seen so much greenery before. Then the soft green paddy fields gave way to tea-bushes. It was a magnificent view. Against the backdrop of densely wooded hills a sea of tea bushes stretched as far as the eye could see. Dwarfing the tiny tea plants were tall sturdy shade-trees and amidst the orderly rows of bushes busily moved doll-like figures. In the distance was an ugly building with smoke billowing out of tall chimneys.

"Hey, a tea-garden!" Rajvir cried excitedly.

Pranjal, who had been born and brought up on a plantation, didn't share Rajvir's excitement.

i. Supply one reason for the following, based on information in the extract:

Pranjal did not share Rajvir's excitement about the view outside.

ii. **Why has the building been called ugly?**

- (a) because it was an old building
- (b) because the construction was bad
- (c) because smoke was coming out of its tall chimneys
- (d) because it didn't have a good history

iii. **Why did Rajvir cry excitedly?**

- (a) because he saw too much greenery
- (b) because he saw a tea-garden
- (c) because he saw a plantation
- (d) because he saw an ugly building

iv. **What has been called 'magnificent' in the extract?**

v. **Which of the following options tells the meaning of the word 'billowing'?**

- (a) aggressively shooting upwards
- (b) rolling outward
- (c) moving at a great speed
- (d) gathering at a place

2. Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.

(6 marks)

*2.A Now the name of the little black kitten was Ink,
And the little grey mouse, she called him Blink,
And the little yellow dog was sharp as Mustard,
But the dragon was a coward, and she called him Custard.*

i. **Who is 'she'?**

- (a) Amanda
- (b) Belinda
- (c) Wanda
- (d) Peggy

ii. **What was the little kitten called?**

- (a) Mustard
- (b) Blink
- (c) Ink
- (d) Custard

iii. **Supply one characteristic of the dragon according to the extract.**

iv. **Infer one reason for the following, based on information in the extract:**

The little dog was called Mustard.

v. **Choose an option that is an antonym of the word 'coward'.**

- (a) weakling
- (b) scaredy cat
- (c) aggressor
- (d) master

OR

*2.B. All night the roots work
to disengage themselves from the cracks
in the veranda floor.
The leaves strain toward the glass
small twigs stiff with exertion
long-cramped boughs shuffling under the roof
like newly discharged patients
half-dazed, moving
to the clinic doors.*

- i. What does the poet mean by the 'clinic doors'? (1m)
- ii. What is the significance of the use of the word 'roots' and 'disengage' to describe the social change in the poem and how does this word choice contribute to the overall mood and tone of the poem? Answer in about 40 words. (2m)
- iii. What is the figure of speech in "Like newly discharged patients"? (1m)
- iv. Complete the statement. (1m)
- v. The words 'in the veranda floor' clearly suggest that the change is taking place _____ and _____.

VI Answer ANY FOUR of the following in about 40-50 words each. (4X3=12m)

1. What does Chubukov at first suspect Lomov had come to his house for?
2. How did Valli manage to leave her house?
3. 'Money is external.' What does the poet John Berryman mean by these words?
4. The "yellow hair" is a symbol in the poem. Briefly support the statement with reference to the poem "For Anne Gregory".
5. What was the young seagull's experience during his first flight?

VII Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 40-50 words each. (2X3=6m)

1. Bring out the humorous element in the one-act play 'The Proposal'
2. 'If the theory proves correct, it will be a big step towards understanding the processes of life.' What is the theory and who proposed it?
3. What happened at the ball? Was Matilda's dream fulfilled?

VIII Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 100-120 words. (6m)

1. How does Amanda tackle the nagging nature of her parents? Explain with examples from the poem 'Amanda!'. What values does it portray about Amanda?

OR

2. According to Nelson Mandela, every man in life has twin obligations. What are these obligations? Do you agree with Nelson Mandela's opinion about the 'twin obligations'?

K Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 100-120 words. (6m)

1. "A lawless scientist is a curse to the society." Discuss with reference to the story 'Footprints without Feet'.

OR

2. Horace Danby requested the lady to forget what she saw. Was Horace afraid of being caught? Did he lack the courage to accept his crime publicly? Explain the values one must imbibe to accept one's mistake.

Sushu H
15/1/24
An
18/1/24