

**KOTHARI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, NOIDA**  
**ANNUAL EXAMINATION, SESSION: 2023-24**  
**GRADE: 9 SUBJECT: ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE (184)**  
**SET A**

**DATE & DAY: 07.02.2024 - WEDNESDAY**

**MAXIMUM MARKS: 80**

**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_**

**TIME ALLOTTED: 3 HOURS**

**ROLL NO: \_\_\_\_\_**

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**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

- i). 15-minute prior reading time allotted for Q-paper reading.
- ii). The Question Paper contains *THREE* sections - *READING, GRAMMAR & WRITING, and LITERATURE.*
- iii). Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

**SECTION A - READING SKILLS**  
**20 MARKS**

**I Read the passage given below:**

**10**

- 1 Good things often come at a price. In the year 2020, artist Suresh in Port-Blair, was awarded an assignment by Secretary - Rural Development, Government of India. to create sculpture based on the theme "Save the Ocean". It mandated making of a sculpture that would be relatable and impactful while enhancing awareness or the harmful effects of plastic waste on the marine life.
- 2 After working out the preliminaries, the team took to the dumping yard (located at Brookshabad) to collect waste plastic bottles for the project. It was the time when Covid-19 pandemic was rampant in the islands. The bottles were dumped mostly from the hospitals. Unlike mainland where you could find rag-pickers collecting plastic waste. here on the contrary, the students had to do it on their own.
- 3 Not soon enough, they all contracted Covid-19 and were placed under quarantine. This adversely affected their health and the pace of work, but not their spirit. They stood undaunted and their painstaking effort duly transformed waste into a sculpture of a blue whale that is both breath-taking and imposing at the same time.
- 4 Nature Park and Interpretation Centre in Haddo, Port Blair, captivates with its avant-garde sculptures and breath-taking landscapes, providing a visual feast for nature enthusiasts. Artist Suresh's team, which was responsible for the project, says, the project stands as a shining example of meticulous effort, and an unwavering commitment to artistic excellence. This endeavour ranks among their finest undertakings offering a unique platform for creative expression infused with a meaningful social message for the public.
- 5 Suresh's involvement in this initiative propelled him to the forefront of environmental advocacy, earning him accolades from local government and administrative authorities. Suresh dreams of a dedicated modern art museum cum gallery in the Andaman's to encourage the local artists and provide them with a platform to showcase their talents. He also tells that the administration should establish an Arts college in Port Blair so that students

can come forward and hone their skills without worrying about the expenditure of studies offshore.

(338 words)

**Source- Art Soul Life Magazine (Nov 2023-Jan-2024 Issue)**

- 1**
- i What was the theme of the sculpture created by Suresh's team?**
- A. Clean the Rivers
  - B. Save the Ocean
  - C. Reduce Pollution
  - D. Protect the Forest
- ii The sculpture created by Suresh's team stands for \_\_\_\_\_** **1**
- iii How did Suresh and his team obtain the waste plastic bottles for their project?** **2**
- Answer in approximately 40 words.**
- iv The word 'meticulous' (Paragraph-4) means-**
- A. Careful
  - B. Haphazard
  - C. Restless
  - D. Pleasant
- 1**
- v Suresh's team had to collect the plastic bottles on their own.** **1**
- State whether the above statement is True or False.**
- vi What was the sculpture created by Suresh's team?** **1**
- A. A sculpture of a turtle
  - B. A sculpture of a blue whale
  - C. A sculpture of a dolphin
  - D. A sculpture of a lion
- vii Answer in 40 words.**
- What does artist Suresh hope the establishment of an Arts college will do? **2**
- viii The vision of Suresh for the Andaman's is to \_\_\_\_\_** **1**

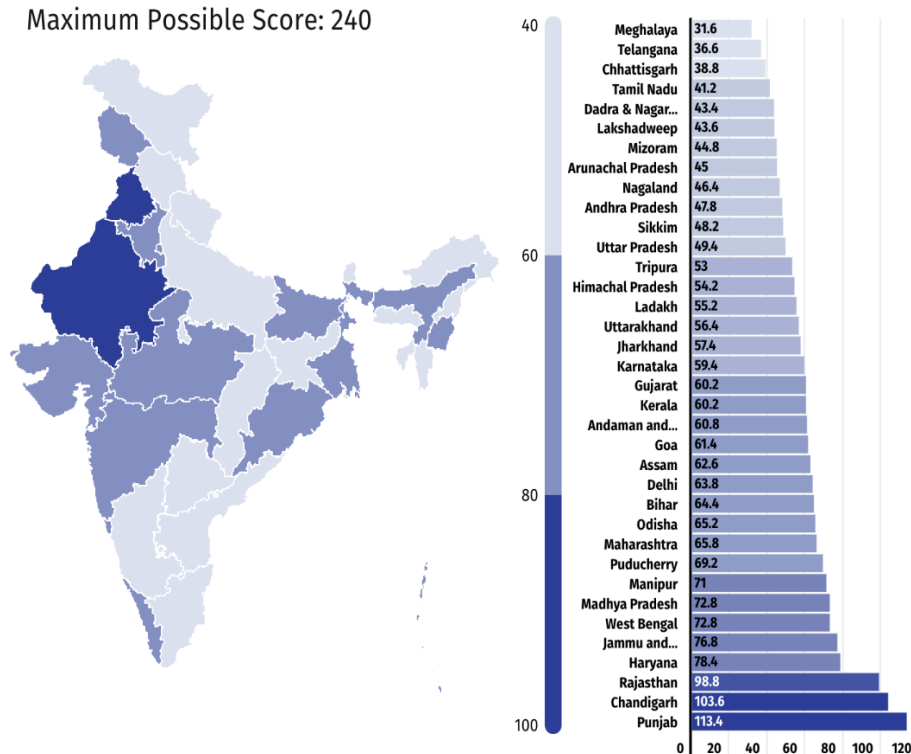
**II Read the passage given below:** **10**

- I** In the latest grading of India's school education system, all 28 states and eight Union territories (UT) scored below 50% on learning outcomes and quality, 'perhaps the most important domain' and the 'ultimate goal' of the Ministry of Education's Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0. This is lower than their scores on the preceding PGI, when the worst performing state (Arunachal Pradesh) scored 58% in this domain.

- 2 Three regions (Chandigarh, Punjab and Rajasthan) scored between 41-50% on learning outcomes and quality, while the majority (19 states/UTs) fell in the 21-30% bracket. The 11-20% and 31-40% brackets had the remaining 10 and four states/UTs, respectively. Overall performance, too, remained low. Chandigarh was the highest scoring region with an overall score of 659 out of 1,000, followed by Punjab, with a score of 647.4. The lowest scoring states were Meghalaya, with a score of 420.6, and Mizoram, with a score of 453.4.

## States Score Low On Learning Outcomes on Performance Grading Index 2.0

Maximum Possible Score: 240



Source: [Performance Grading Index 2.0, Department of School Education And Literacy, Ministry of Education](#)

Graphic: Nupur Maley

- 3 Other surveys which track the learning outcomes of students, including the National Achievement Survey 2021 (also included as one measure in the PGI) and the Annual Status of Education Report 2022, also showed low learning levels post the Covid-19 pandemic. “The state of learning in the country was moribund way before Covid19, the pandemic just made it worse,” said Sheshagiri K. M. Rao, Education and Adolescent Development Specialist at the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). He explained that India had one of the longest school lockdowns in the world, resulting in children missing school for a long time, which was bound to have an impact on learning outcomes.
- 4 In India, most children from pre-primary to Grade VIII did not attend school from the beginning of the lockdown in March 2020 to one-and-a-half years later. This affected children from poor families and vulnerable social groups the most as they were least able to access online education or get parental help in learning, our reporting from Rajasthan in August 2021 showed.
- 5 He added that the low learning outcomes are also related to teacher preparedness. For instance, states are trying to have all government schools teach in English, but teachers are

not prepared for it, Rao said. In August 2020, we reported how early schooling in a child's mother tongue, also recommended in the new National Education Policy, can improve learning, increase student participation and reduce the number of dropouts.

(386 words)

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

- i Complete the given statement. 1**

The focus of the Ministry of Education's Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0 is \_\_\_\_\_.

- ii Which state scored the highest in the overall performance category in the latest grading of India's school education system? 1**

- A. Chandigarh
- B. Punjab
- C. Mizoram
- D. Rajasthan

- iii Who is Sheshagiri K. M. Rao? According to him, what was the state of learning in India before the Covid-19 pandemic? 2**  
**Answer in 40 words.**

- iv Annual Status of Education Report 2022 is mentioned as tracking the learning outcomes of students in the context provided 1**

**State whether the above statement is True or False.**

- v According to the Education and Adolescent Development Specialist at UNICEF, what impact did the school lockdowns have on learning outcomes? 1**  
A. They had a positive impact  
B. They had a minimal impact  
C. They had a negative impact on other aspects of education, not learning outcomes  
D. They had a significant impact

- vi What demographic of children were most affected by the lack of access to online education during the lockdown? Why? 2**  
**Answer in 40 words.**

- vii According to the given information, how many states/UTs scored between 11-20% on learning outcomes and quality? 1**  
A. 4  
B. 10  
C. 19  
D. 28

**viii Complete the given statement:**

According to the National Education Policy, the early schooling in a child's mother tongue contribute to learning outcomes by \_\_\_\_\_. **1**

**SECTION B – GRAMMAR & CREATIVE WRITING**

**10**

**20 MARKS**

**III Attempt ANY TEN of the following questions.**

- i Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a public notice.** **1**

This notice is to inform all the residents regarding the suspension of water supply for 8 hours. It is \_\_\_\_\_ (be, do) to clean the water tank.

- ii Jiten and Jia had a conversation. Report Jia's dialogue-** **1**

“My life has become hell since the time I married you!”

- iii Complete the given narrative by filling in the blank with the correct option:** **1**

Either Avyukt or his students \_\_\_\_\_ (do) this to save the puppy.

- A. is doing
- B. has done
- C. are done
- D. have done

- iv Report the dialogue between Ashish and his interviewer, by completing the sentence:** **1**

**Interviewer:** Why do you want to be a computer programmer?

**Ashish:** I have always been interested in computers. I

In response to the question of the interviewer about why Ashish wanted to be a computer programmer, he replied .....

- v Complete the line from a poem written by Sylvia Plath by filling the blank with the correct option:** **1**

*I am silver and exact  
I have no preconceptions  
Whatever I see I \_\_\_\_\_ immediately  
Just as it is, unmisted by love or dislike*

- A. will swallow
- B. swallow
- C. swallows

D. swallowed

- vi Identify the error in the given sentence, from a newspaper report and supply the correction. 1

Not only we are using a huge number of polybags daily but we are even discarding them in our drains uncaring about the fact that they will block the flow of drain water.

Use the given format for your response.

| ERROR | CORRECTION |
|-------|------------|
|       |            |

- vii Fill in the blanks: 1

Each of the boys \_\_\_\_\_ rewarded.

- viii Fill in the given blank with a suitable Modal: 1

I consider what route I \_\_\_\_\_ take back home.

- ix The company \_\_\_\_\_ provide them spare dollars, so the members \_\_\_\_\_ take more foreign exchange with them. 1

- A.must, could  
B.might, will  
C.would, can  
D.should, may

- x Read the conversation between the Chief Guest and the student. Complete the sentence by reporting the reply correctly. 1

**Chief Guest:** Who inspired you to learn classical dance?

**Student:** I was inspired by my grandmother who was a renowned dancer.

The Chief Guest asked the student who had inspired the student to learn classical dance.

The student replied .....

- xi Identify the error and supply correction. Use the given format for your response. 1

Their is a story about Birbal not being allowed to attend the feast.

| ERROR | CORRECTION |
|-------|------------|
|       |            |

xii Use an appropriate **Modal** to complete the following sentence: 1

Don't dare to touch anything at the crime scene, you \_\_\_\_\_ tamper the evidences.

**CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS 10**

**All names and addresses used in the questions are fictitious. Resemblance, if any, is purely coincidental.**

IV Attempt **ANY ONE** from A and B given below: 5

A Your school recently celebrated '**Republic Day**'. Write a **Descriptive Paragraph** about the celebrations in **100-120 words**:

In your description, you can make use of the following:

- o Mention the name, purpose, date, time and venue of the event
- o Describe some highlights of the programme-speech, cultural activities, food, etc.
- o Talk about the Chief Guest, if any

**OR**

B You went to **Kathmandu** during your vacations. Give a **description of the State and your experiences in 100-120 words**. In your description, you may describe the following:

- o the location and weather
- o the opportunities for the adventure seekers
- o the natural scenery
- o how the trip ended up being a memorable one

V Attempt **ANY ONE** from A and B given below: 5

A Complete the **Story** in about **100-120 words** from the outline given below:

It was 6 o'clock in the evening and there was a lot of traffic on the road. Mohan was driving his car when suddenly two teenagers on bike overtook his car.

**OR**

B Taking help from the input given below, **Complete the Story**, in about **100-120 words**, giving it a suitable title.

*'Today my English paper got over early. While waiting to submit the paper I had a nice time observing an army of ants on the right hand side wall of the classroom. The red-headed fat ant seemed to be the commander and was ordering the rest. Then....*

**SECTION C – LITERATURE  
40 MARKS**

**40**

**Reference to Context 10**

**VI Attempt ANY ONE of the two extracts given below: 5**

**A** The screen was lit up, and it said: "Today's arithmetic lesson is on the addition of proper fractions. Please insert yesterday's homework in the proper slot." Margie did so with a sigh. She was thinking about the old schools they had when her grandfather's grandfather was a little boy. All the kids from the whole neighbourhood came, laughing and shouting in the schoolyard, sitting together in the schoolroom, going home together at the end of the day. They learned the same things, so they could help one another with the homework and talk about it.

**(The Fun They had)**

**i State whether the given statement is True or False. 1**

‘Margie was thinking about her Father's school’.

**ii Why do you think Margie follow the instruction of the machine? Answer in 40 words. 2**

**iii What does the author want us to realise through the given text? 1**

**iv Complete the analogy with a word from the extract. 1**

proper: correct: : similar: \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

**B** At first, he put it down to a cat prowling around for mice. But the sound was too guttural for a cat. He resisted the curiosity to look out lest he should behold a sight which would stop his heart. But the wailing became louder and less feline. He could not resist the temptation any more. Lowering himself to the level of the windowsill he looked out at the white sheet of moonlight outside. There, not too far away, was a dark cloudy form clutching a bundle. Mahendra broke into a cold sweat and fell back on the pillow, panting. As he gradually recovered from the ghastly experience, he began to reason with himself, and finally concluded that it must have been some sort of auto suggestion, some trick that his subconscious had played on him.

**(Iswaran The Story Teller)**

**i ‘Lest’ is a conjunction used in the above extract. The same conjunction has been used in the following sentences. Find out the sentence where ‘lest’ is inappropriately used. 1**

- A. Walk carefully lest you should fall.
- B. Work hard lest you should succeed.
- C. I feared lest I should be late again.
- D. Walk carefully lest you should not fall.

**ii The sound of the cat was ‘guttural’. Here the writer means to say that the cat was: 1**

**1. Sounding harsh**



2. Growling
3. Gruffly
4. Croaky
5. Jarring
6. Melodious

- A. Only (6)
- B. Both (6) and (2)
- C. Both (3) and (5)
- D. All, except (6)

- iii Why did Mahendra resist the curiosity to look out? Answer in 40 words. 2
- iv Why did Mahendra reason with himself? 1
- VII Attempt ANY ONE of the two extracts given 5

A

A slumber did my spirit seal-  
I had no human fears.  
She seemed a thing that could not feel  
The touch of earthly years.  
( A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal )

- i What has happened to the poet's soul? 1
- ii 'She' in the extract refers to \_\_\_\_\_ whom the death had taken away. 1
- iii Which poetic device/devices are used in the given stanza? Explain it in 40 words. 2
- iv 'The touch of earthly years' here means: 1
- A. touching the earth
  - B. realisation of the truth
  - C. thoughts from the heart
  - D. inability to accept the truth

**OR**

B

Let us remember, whenever we are told  
To hate our brothers, it is ourselves  
That we shall dispossess, betray, condemn.  
Remember, we who take arms against each other

(No Men Are Foreign)

- i What is the poet's tone in the given stanza? 1
1. Nostalgic
  2. Sad

- 3.Thoughtful  
4.Argumentative

- A. 1, 2 & 3  
B. 1, 2 & 4  
C. 2, 3 & 4  
D. 1, 3 & 4

ii Who instigates the ordinary people to hate? 1

iii What does 'condemn' mean? 1

- A. express complete disapproval  
B. agreed  
C. criticise  
D. rebuke

iv What do we do when we hate others, according to the poet? Answer in 40 words. 2

VIII Answer **ANY FOUR** of the following in about **40-50 words** each: 3\*4 = 12

i What do you think Kezia stammered in the presence of her father?  
(The Little Girl)

ii What is Gerrard's profession? How do we know that?  
(If I Were You)

iii Why did Santosh's parents agree to pay for her schooling in Delhi? What mental qualities of Santosh are brought into light by this incident?  
(Reach For The Top)

iv Why do the children of Northland look like bear's cubs?  
(A Legend of The Northland)

v What character traits of animals are revealed when the snake jumped onto the table and moved towards the mirror?  
(The Snake and The Mirror)

IX Answer **ANY TWO** of the following in about **40-50 words** each: 3\*2 = 6

i Was the Guru's technique of saving his disciple ethical? Why/ Why not?  
(The Kingdom of Fools)

ii 'There is no mystery in misery.' Explain  
(The Happy Prince)

iii How do we know that grandmother was not as fond of collecting animals as grandfather?  
(The Adventures of Toto)

**X** Answer **ANY ONE** of the following in about **100-120 words**: **6**

- i** Sometimes we think, we cannot be cheated since we consider ourselves over-smart. Was this proved correct for Gerrard in the play 'If I were you'? Discuss the values required to be stronger and not be cheated.

**(If I Were You)**

**OR**

- ii** Can you trace the relevance of the theme of the poem, in the life of a human being? Elaborate.  
**(On Killing A Tree)**

**XI** Answer **ANY ONE** of the following in about **100-120 words**: **6**

- i** Imagine yourself as Olga and express your feelings in **a Diary** on the day you first saw Lushkoff chopping wood at Sergei's house?

**(The Beggar)**

**OR**

- ii** As Zan, write **a Letter** to Johnsy asking about her health and expressing your happiness on her recovery. Also tell her how you are also passing through similar state of mind after losing your cat and home.

**(The Last Leaf & A House Is Not A Home)**