

KOTHARI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, NOIDA
ANNUAL EXAMINATION, SESSION: 2024-25
GRADE: 9 SUBJECT: ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE (184)
SET B

DAY & DATE: FRIDAY- FEBRUARY 7, 2025

MAXIMUM MARKS: 80

NAME: _____

TIME ALLOTTED: 3 HOURS

ROLL NO: _____

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 Gold has fascinated humanity since the dawn of civilization. For the ancient Egyptians, it held deep religious significance, and they revered its beauty and durability. King Tutankhamen, for instance, was buried in a solid gold coffin over 3,300 years ago. Gold's remarkable qualities—its resistance to rust and corrosion—mean artefacts crafted from it have remained intact for centuries. Its malleability is another extraordinary feature; a single ounce, about the size of a sugar cube, can be beaten into a sheet covering nearly 100 square feet or stretched into a wire 50 miles long. Additionally, gold is a highly efficient conductor of electricity, surpassed only by copper and silver, making it vital to modern electronics.
- 2 The human desire to own gold has, however, often brought out the darker side of human nature. During their conquests, the Spanish looted temples, palaces, and graves, killing thousands in their relentless pursuit of the precious metal. In more recent times, South Africa's gold mines have relied heavily on underpaid black labourers, earning around 40 pounds a plus basic accommodation. These miners endure harsh working conditions, with approximately 400 fatalities reported annually.
- 3 Part of gold's allure lies in its rarity. Throughout history, only about 80,000 tons of gold have been mined—a quantity that could fit within a 60-foot square vault or a single super tanker. Great Britain pioneered the gold standard in 1717 when Sir Isaac Newton, as Master of the Mint, established a fixed price for gold. However, the large-scale discovery of gold in places like California (1848), Australia, and South Africa in the late 19th century revolutionized the global economy, providing sufficient reserves for trading nations to base their currencies on gold.
- 4 South Africa's golden era began in 1886 when an out-of-work prospector, George Harrison, discovered gold on a farm near what is now Johannesburg. Harrison received a modest reward of 12 pounds but tragically vanished shortly after, reportedly killed by a lion.
- 5 Despite modern investment trends, the majority—75 percent—of gold is still used to craft jewellery. Italy leads global consumption for this purpose, with Italian jewellers going so far

as to burn wooden floors in workshops to recover minute gold particles. Historically, hoarding gold has been a common practice among the working class and peasants who distrust paper money. As playwright George Bernard Shaw aptly observed, when choosing between trusting governments or gold, the wise choice is gold.

(396 words)

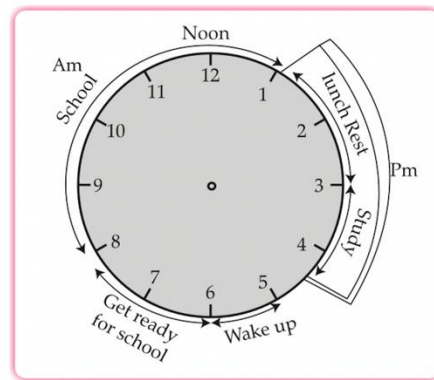
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|------|--|----------|
| i | Considering George Bernard Shaw's quote about trusting governments versus gold, what might this suggest about societal attitudes towards currency and value?
Answer in 40 words. | 2 |
| ii | Discuss the implications of the phrase "the darker side of human nature" in relation to the pursuit of gold by the Spanish. What does this reveal about human behaviour and greed?
Answer in approximately 40 words. (Para-2) | 2 |
| iii | The ancient Egyptians value gold because _____. (Para-1) | 1 |
| iv | _____ was one significant outcome of gold's discovery by George Harrison in 1886. (Para-5) | 1 |
| v | Excellent conductivity makes gold significant in the modern electronics industry. State whether the above statement is True or False. | 1 |
| vi | According to George Bernard Shaw, why is gold preferable to paper money? (Para-5)
A. Gold is easier to store.
B. Governments cannot be fully trusted.
C. Gold increases in value over time.
D. Gold can be used in jewellery and electronics. | 1 |
| vii | Which of the following is NOT a property of gold?
A. It resists rust and corrosion.
B. It is a poor conductor of electricity.
C. It can be stretched into long wires.
D. It can be beaten into thin sheets. | 1 |
| viii | The word 'malleability' (Paragraph-1) means-

A. capacity
B. rigidity
C. plasticity
D. validity | 1 |

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

- I Keep your watch accurate. For some people, moving up the time on their watch will help them get up earlier. For others, they will remember that the time on the watch is wrong and will disregard it altogether. It may be helpful to set your watch just two minutes ahead instead of five or ten.

- 2 Keep a clock, phone, computer or anything that displays time in each room of your house. One of the easiest ways to run late is simply by not realising that the time is passing as quickly as it is.
- 3 Set all your clocks and watches at the same time. Don't be an optimist. Things usually take longer than what you'd expect, even without major delays. If you have a dinner appointment at 7:30 p.m., don't think you can work till 7 p.m., then take a bath, dress and arrive on time. Realistically, calculate the time you will take at each step and then add 10 minutes more to allow for unexpected delays, or you cannot get to your job in time.



- 4 Wake up when you are supposed to wake up. Don't hit the snooze button, keep on lying in bed, and watch TV at the very start of your day. Maybe you can even try setting your clock 10 minutes earlier than you need. If you have difficulty with this, move your alarm clock somewhere away from your bed; that way, you will have to get up to turn it off. Commit yourself to being 15 minutes early for everything. If you have to reach your place of work at 8:00, don't even tell yourself this. Just tell yourself (and everyone else who listens - but don't annoy them or make them think that they are late or early!) "I have to be at work at 7:45." If you do this, you will be on time even with little unforeseen delays. You will be on time even with a traffic jam.

(330 words)

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

- i _____ is the suggested margin to add to your time calculations for unexpected delays. (Para-4) 1
- ii Why might setting your clock only 2 minutes ahead be more effective than setting it 10 minutes ahead? (Para-1) 1
 - A. It prevents overestimating the adjustment.
 - B. It ensures better synchronization with devices.
 - C. It keeps the time close to reality while still providing a slight buffer.
 - D. It allows you to calculate time differences easily.
- iii Why should you aim to be 15 minutes early for appointments? (Para-4) 2

- A. To impress others with your punctuality.
- B. To allow for unforeseen delays and still be on time.
- C. To avoid being stressed during the journey.
- D. To have extra time to relax before the meeting.

- iv **Fill in the blanks (Para-3)-** **1**
The benefit of setting all the clocks and watches to the same time avoids _____.
- v **What is the potential drawback of setting your watch significantly ahead of the correct time?** **1**
- vi Evaluate the suggestion of setting your watch ahead by a few minutes. Do you think this is an effective strategy for everyone? Why or why not? **Answer in 40 words.** **2**
- vii **Define the term "optimist" as used in the context of the text. (Para-3)** **1**
- viii Discuss the effectiveness of moving the alarm clock away from the bed. What psychological effect does this strategy aim to achieve? **Answer in 40 words.** **2**

SECTION B – GRAMMAR & CREATIVE WRITING
20 MARKS

10

- III Attempt **ANY TEN** of the following questions.
- i **Select the word that should be edited in the following sentence to make them grammatically correct:**

She did not want to do work today.
 - A. did not
 - B. want
 - C. do
 - D. today
- ii **Margie said to Tommy, “Can I read the book some more with you after school?”- (Change the narration)**
- iii **Complete the given narrative by filling in the blank with the correct option:**

I _____ (live) in Ireland since 2001.
 - A. am living
 - B. was lived
 - C. have been living
 - D. lived
- iv **Read the following conversation and complete the passage given below:**

Bharat: Is your book interesting?

Nidhi: Yes, I like it.

Bharat saw a classmate, Nidhi, reading a book.

Bharat asked Nidhi _____. Nidhi replied in positive that she liked it.

v One of _____ books that I issued from my school library is missing. **(Fill in the blank with a Determiner)**

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

I wish you can write to me very often.

Use the given format for your response.

ERROR	CORRECTION

vii **Select the correct option to fill in the blanks:**

My brother will go to watch a movie when his friend _____.

A. has come B. comes C. come D. will come

viii **Fill in the given blank with a suitable Modal:**

_____ you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us.

ix **The class is dismissed. You _____ leave now.**

- A. need to
- B. will
- C. may
- D. ought to

x **Read the following conversations and complete the passages given below:**

Mother: Have you finished your homework?

Son: Sorry mother, I fell asleep.

The mother asked the son if he had finished his homework. The son apologised and said _____.

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

He lend his book to me yesterday.

ERROR	CORRECTION

- xii Use an appropriate **Determiner** to complete the following sentence:

Fortunately, _____ of the children were hurt.

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 in about **100- 120 words**: 5

- A Write a Descriptive Paragraph describing an imaginary journey, or one that you have undertaken. You can follow the steps given below:
1. Prepare an itinerary.
 2. You can make use of the following expressions, phrases and proverbs frequently used by the travellers. Jet lag, itchy feet, hit the road, time table, on the home stretch, call it a day, book in advance, travel over, travel through, travel light, any port in a storm, stopover, etc.

OR

- B You walk home from school one afternoon to find a strange truck outside your house. You hurry inside to find more about it. Write a **Descriptive Paragraph** on what you saw, in **100–120 words**.

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

- A Write a **Short Story In 100–120 Words** with the following beginning.

“It was 2001. I was about to leave the city for my village by train. I saw some policemen coming towards me. At first, I got scared seeing them, but when one of them asked me, where are you going son? I felt very good”

OR

- B Write a **Short Story** using the following hints in about **100–120 words**. Give it a suitable title.

“Going to Mumbai by train to attend the marriage of a friend got stuck in a traffic jam reached the railway station late boarded a wrong train realised after two hours now you”

SECTION C – LITERATURE 40 MARKS

40

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

- A** Tommy looked at her with very superior eyes. “Because it’s not our kind of school, stupid. This is the old kind of school that they had hundreds and hundreds of years ago.” He added loftily, pronouncing the word carefully, “Centuries ago.” Margie was hurt. “Well, I don’t know what kind of school they had all that time ago.” She read the book over his shoulder for a while, then said, “Anyway, they had a teacher.”

(The Fun They Had)

- i Why did Tommy look at Margie with superior eyes? 1**
- ii What was special in ‘old’ kind of a school? 1**
- A. Teachers were old.
B. All the students used to go to the particular building of school.
C. Students were serious about the studies.
D. There’s no teacher in the school.
- iii What does Tommy tell Margie about school? Answer in 40 words. 2**
- iv Find the word from the passage which means in a superior way? 1**
- A. superior B. kind C. loftily D. None of these

OR

- B** Gerrard: (pleasantly) Why, this is a surprise, Mr- er
Intruder: I'm glad you're pleased to see me. I don't think you'll be pleased for long. Put those paws up!
Gerrard: This is all very melodramatic, not very original, perhaps, but...
Intruder: Trying to be calm and-er
Gerrard: 'Nonchalant' is your word, I think.
Intruder: Thanks a lot. You'll soon stop being smart. I'll make you crawl. I want to know a few things, see.

(If I Were You)

- i What, according to Gerard, is very melodramatic? 1**
- A. A thief's breaking into his house.
B. The intruder's breaking into his house.
C. A policeman's coming into his house.
D. The intruder's sudden exit from his house.
- ii How can you say that the intruder's behaviour is harsh? 1**

- A. The intruder is throwing things in the cottage.
- B. The intruder is shouting very loudly.
- C. The intruder is abusing Gerard continuously.
- D. The intruder is speaking threateningly.

iii Why does the speaker think that the listener is trying to be smart? **Answer in about 40 words.** 2

iv **Why is the speaker asking the listener ‘to put those paws up’?** 1

VII Attempt ANY ONE of the two extracts given 5

A

*Away, away in the Northland,
Where the hours of the day are few,
And the nights are so long in winter
That they cannot sleep them through.
Where they harness the swift reindeer
To the sledges when it snows.
And the children look like bear’s cubs
In their funny, furry clothes*

(The Legend of Northland)

i **What do the lines reveal about the tone of the poet?** 1

ii **The term ‘bear’s cubs’ in the extract refers to _____ .** 1

iii **Why can’t people sleep the winter nights through in Northland?** 2

iv **What is the poetic device used in the line- ‘And the children look like bear’s cubs’?** 1

- A. Personification
- B. Allusion
- C. Alliteration
- D. Simile

OR

B

*No motion has she now, no force—
She neither hears nor sees,
Rolled round in earth's diurnal course
With rocks and stones and trees.*

(A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal)

i **Choose the option that seems to express the theme of the poem:** 1

- A. people die and take their memories with them.
- B. people are buried in earth after death.
- C. death spares only a few.
- D. people die but remain with us in our memories.

- ii What does the term ‘diurnal course’ refer to? 1
- iii Fill in the blank: 1
- When the speaker says that his beloved doesn’t have any motion, he refers to _____
- iv Explain the 3rd line of the above stanza in 40 words. 2
- VIII Answer **ANY FOUR** of the following in about **40-50 words** each: **3*4 = 12**
- i Justify the opinion that the poet actually missed the place of his boyhood days and Innisfree is an escape for him from the routine life.
(The Lake Isle of Innisfree)
- ii Explain what kind of night that was and why there was an uproar that night by referring to the given lines.
And she was dragged down to where Father was pacing to and fro, hands behind his back.
(The Little Girl)
- iii Is the poet, Coates Kinney, able to enjoy the rain or does he reminisce at the lost time?
(The Rain on the Roof)
- iv After reading the poem, can you detail the tone of the entire poem?
(The Road Not Taken)
- v Describe how the doctor’s response reveals his fear and recognition of his own vulnerability. Refer to the given lines from the text.
*"The snake slithered along my shoulder and coiled around my left arm above the elbow.
The hood was spread out and its head was hardly three or four inches from my face!"*
(The Snake and the Mirror)
- IX Answer **ANY TWO** of the following in about **40-50 words** each: **3*2 = 6**
- i The story of the lost child is a powerful example of the importance of obeying parents and respecting them for their wisdom. Explain.
(The Lost Child)
- ii What was Behrman’s dream? How did it come true?
(Iswaran the Story Teller)
- iii ‘A month later, I was at my house watching them rebuild it. But this time it was different.’
How was it different?
(A House is not A Home)
- X Answer **ANY ONE** of the following in about **100-120 words**: 6

- i A human being's life is full of trials and tribulations. What does the poet convey about pain and adversity when using wind as a medium with regard to humans?

(Wind)

OR

- ii Imagine you are the tree described in the poem. Write a diary entry reflecting on the experience of being slowly killed by humans.

(On Killing A Tree)

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

6

- i How do both stories use humour and exaggeration to entertain while delivering their messages?

(The Kingdom of Fools & The Adventures of Toto)

OR

- ii Imagine yourself as the little Match girl, who was helped by the Happy Prince's blue sapphires, and write a letter to your friend sharing the gratitude towards an unknown kind man who changed your life from a poor girl to a business woman.

(The Happy Prince)