



D.A.V. PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(BIHAR ZONE)

Half Yearly Examination : 2023 – 2024

Class – X

Time – 3 Hrs.

Subject – ENGLISH (Language and Lit. (184))

F.M. – 80

General instructions:

1. 15 minute prior reading time allotted for question paper reading.
2. The question paper contains THREE SECTIONS - Reading, Grammar & Writing and Literature.
3. Attempt Questions based on specific instructions for each part.

Section A : READING SKILLS (20 Marks)

1. **Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. 1x10-10 Marks**
 - (i) Listening is the ability to accurately receive and interpret message in the communication process. One of the greatest gifts any of us can ever receive is the gift of listening. It is also one of the greatest gifts we can ever give. Unfortunately, it appears to be a lost art. We live in a world where everyone is talking but few are listening. What often passes for listening is simply one person pausing to collect their thoughts for the next soliloquy.
 - (ii) Hearing refers to the sounds that you hear, whereas listening requires more than it requires focus. Listening means paying attention not only to the story, but how it is told, the use of language and voice, and how the other person uses his or her body. In other words, it means being aware of both verbal and non-verbal messages. Your ability to listen effectively depends on the degree to which you perceive and understand these messages.
 - (iii) Listening is a difficult task. Like every skill the more you do it, the better you get up. Listening can be developed through practice, or lost if not used regularly. Good listener focus on what they are hearing. The pause think about what they've heard before responding. They ask questions because they want to know the answers. Not just to keep the conversation going.
 - (iv) So often, we are distracted with other things. We try to listen while continuing to work on the computer or watch television. To be fully present means we eliminate these distractions and focus exclusively on the other person. It takes great effort to be fully in the moment, learning forward, eyes and heart open. Words are only the part of communication. Sometimes we need to experience the other person's feelings to really understand. We need to listen with our heart as well as our mind. We must repeat back what the other person has said. When we do this and do it accurately, we communicate that we understand. It also gives an opportunity to recalibrate our understanding if we have misunderstood something. Plenty of people are good talkers, few are good listeners. If you develop the latter skill, you will find yourself invited into amazing conversations that wouldn't otherwise happen.
 - (i) According to the passage, listening appears to be a lost art because we live in a world where _____.
 - (ii) Choose the options with the sentences that are NOT TRUE according to the passage.

P.T.O.

1. Words are only the part of communication.
2. Lots of people are good listeners.
3. Listening refers to the voice that you hear.
4. Good listeners focus on what they hear.
5. Listening is a tough task.
6. Hearing requires no focus.

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| a. 2, 3, 6 | b. 3, 5, 6 |
| c. 1, 3, 4 | d. 1, 4, 6 |

(iii) Fill in the blank with correct option.

_____ focus on what they are listening.

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| a. good listeners | b. good orators |
| c. good understanding | d. good speakers |

(iv) Select the option that best captures the central idea of the passage from the following.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| a. Do more listening than talking | b. Never stop listening |
| c. Learn by talking | d. Listening is talking |

(v) We need to experience the other person's feelings.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| a. to really understand | b. to be the part of the communication |
| c. to recalibrate our understanding | d. to keep the conversation going |

(vi) What our ability to listen effectively depends on?

- a. how the other person uses his or her body
- b. use of language and voice
- c. both (a) & (b)
- d. degree to which we perceive and understand the messages

(vii) We need to _____ with our heart as well as our mind.

(viii) Hearing, different from Listening as :

- a. Hearing eliminates distractions; Listening gives us an opportunity to recalibrate our understanding.
- b. Hearing is the ability to receive message; Listening is the ability to interpret message.

- c. Hearing refers to the sounds that you hear; Listening means paying attention not only to the story, but how is it told.
- d. Option (a), (b) & (c)
- (ix) **Listening refers to observing the sounds you hear. True/ False**
- (x) **Complete the given analogy correctly with a word from the passage.**

Accurately: perfectly: _____ : unfocussed

2. Read the following passage carefully.

10 Marks

1. January 26 is celebrated as Republic Day in our country. It was on this day, in 1950, the new constitution of independent India came into force and India became a democratic republic. The Constituent Assembly headed by Dr. Rajendra Prasad with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar as the chairman of the drafting committee, took more than two years to bring the world's lengthiest constitution to its final shape.
2. The enormous task before the Constituent Assembly was to frame the basic law that would formalize India as a truly democratic nation. Democracy is aptly defined as a system of Government by the people, for the people and of the people. The founding fathers of the Constitution, therefore, had to ensure the basic law of the land contained sufficient provisions for the fulfillment of the democratic aspirations of the people of India not only in the political sphere but also in the social and economic affairs. That explains the inclusion of a separate part in the Constitution called the Directive Principles of State Policy.
3. These principles signify the fact that the framers of the Constitution were well aware of the wide gaps and inequalities that existed among the various sections of the Indian population. The Constitution makers had the wisdom to appreciate that political democracy is meaningless when an overwhelming majority of the population is historically trapped in poverty, illiteracy, ill health and superstition. The Central and State Government were expected to frame policies so that every citizen is assured of a decent living standard irrespective of sex, caste, religion, language and region.
4. The makers of our Constitution describe India as a Union of States and not as a federation. Being well conversant with the diversity of the nation in terms of the language, religion, cast and region, and its implications on the intended socio-economic development of the country as a whole, the makers of the Constitution opted for a political system in which the Central Government is equipped with overwhelming administrative, legislative and financial muscle. Most of the Nations' policies and programs for socio-economic development originate at the Central Government and the responsibility for their successful implementation is entrusted to the states.

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

1×10=10 Marks

- (i) Infer one reason for the following, based on information in paragraph 1.

26 January was chosen as the date for Republic Day.

P.T.O.

(ii) Select the appropriate option to fill in the blanks.

From paragraph 4, we can infer that our constitution refers to India as a ___ rather than a ___.

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. democratic | 2. Federation |
| 3. Nation-state | 4. Union of States |
| 5. Secular | |
| a. 2,4 | b. 3,1 |
| c. 4,2 | d. 4,5. |

(iii) Complete the following analogy correctly with a word/phrase from paragraph 1.

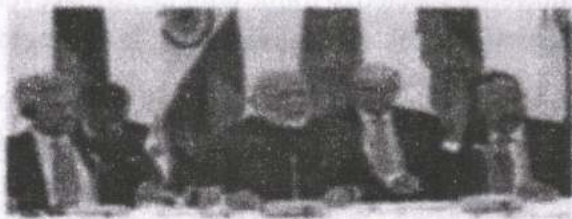
Constituent assembly: Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Drafting committee:

(Clue: Dr. Rajendra Prasad was the head of Constituent Assembly, similarly _____ was the chairperson of drafting committee).

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

_____ were well aware of the wide disparities and inequalities that existed among the various sections of the Indian population. (Paragraph 3.)

- Indian Constitution demonstrates that the farmers of the Directive Principles of State Policy
 - Universal Adult franchise demonstrates that the farmers of the voting laws
 - January 26 demonstrates that farmers of the Indian Constitution
 - Directive principles of State Policy demonstrate that the farmers of the Indian Constitution.
- (v) Which of the following pictures is associated with the constituent assembly?



(A)



(B)



(C)



(D)

(vi) Fill in the blank by selecting the correct option.

_____ is equipped with overwhelming administrative, legislative and financial muscle.

- a. State Government b. Constitution
c. Central Government d. Supreme Court

(vii) Substitute the word 'enormous' with ONE WORD similar in meaning, in the following sentence from paragraph 2.

The **enormous** task before the Constituent Assembly was to frame the basic law that would formalise India as a truly democratic Nation.

(viii) In paragraph 3, why do you think the founding fathers had the foresight to realise that political democracy is meaningless?

(ix) Give an explanation of why the Constitutions' founding fathers felt it was necessary to ensure that the basic law of land contained adequate provisions.

(x) Select the option that titles paragraphs 1 - 4 appropriately, with reference to information in the text.

A. 1. Why do we need a constitution?

2. The authority of a Constitution

3. The philosophy and Making of the Constitution

4. 4. The Importance of Rights

B. 1. Towards constitution

2. Inclusion of Directive Principles of State Policy

3. India in the past

4. Royal and Responsibilities of Central and Dtate Government

C. 1. Why do we need a constitution?

2. Relationship between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles

3. Making of the Indian Constitution

4. Guiding values of the Indian Constitution

D. 1. Constitution as A Living Document

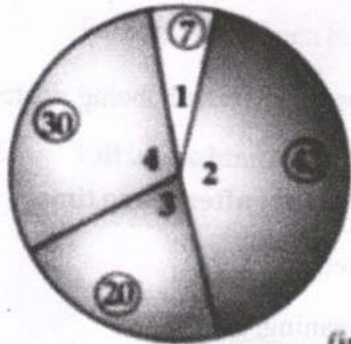
2. Are constitutions static?

3. How to amend constitution?

OR

- B. A survey conducted among the teachers of New Hope High School to find out whether class X students should be allowed to use mobile phones in the campus. The results of the survey are shown in the pie chart below. Write an analytical paragraph interpreting the data.

Should Class X students be allowed to use mobile phones in the campus ?



- 1 Yes, there should be no restrictions
 2 No, Never
 3 Yes but only in emergency
 4 Yes but not during class hours

(in percentage)

5. Attempt ANY ONE from the A and B given below. 5 Marks

- A. You come across the photograph given below and are upset to see the cattle blocking the road. In case you try to drive them away, their owners will come running from across the road and punish you with harsh words and even a punch or two. Write a letter to the Editor of Hindustan Times advocating the need of the law for the punishment of such owners.

OR

- B. You are Tanya/ Tejas of Madhubani Chowk, Dwarka. You wish to join NDA coaching classes. One of your friends shared the following advertisement through WhatsApp in this regard mentioning that he is also willing to join the institute for NDA coaching.



Write a letter to the Director of the study campus, Munirika, New Delhi enquiring about the coaching classes for the next examination. Ask for all the necessary details.

SECTION C - LITERATURE (40 Marks)

6. Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given. 5 Marks

A. 'Perhaps it requires such depth of oppression to create such heights of character. My country is rich in minerals and gems that lie beneath its soil, but I have always known that its greatest wealth is its people, dinner and truer than the purest diamonds.'

(i) **Which country is referred to here?**

- | | |
|-----------------|----------|
| a) South Africa | b) USA |
| c) Australia | d) India |

(ii) **The _____ of the country are its greatest wealth.**

(iii) **With what have the people been compared to?**

- | | |
|----------|-------------|
| a) Gold. | b) Diamond. |
| c) Trees | d) Oil |

(iv) **What according to the author, is required to create such heights of character?**

(v) **Who is the speaker of the given lines?**

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| a) De Klerk | b) Thabo Mbeki |
| c) Nelson Mandela | |

OR

B. All I think about when I'm with friends is having a good time. I can't bring myself to talk about anything but Ordinary everyday things. We don't seem able to get any closer, and that's the problem. May be it's my fault that we don't confide in each other. In any case, that's just how things are, and unfortunately they're not liable to change. This is why I've started the diary.

(i) **What are Anne's views on friends?**

- | |
|--|
| a) That they are not very nice. |
| b) That she wasn't close with any of them. |
| c) That they were mean. |
| d) That they were unnecessary. |

(ii) Explain - unfortunately they're not liable to change.

- The situation was not likely to change.
- Her friends were not likely to change.
- She couldn't be able to confide in her friends.
- Both the situation was not likely to change and she couldn't be able to confide in her friends.

(iii) Anne thought that not being able to confide in her friend was her _____.

(iv) Why did Anne think she could confide more in her diary than in people?

(v) Why did Anne think that paper has more patience than people?

- It never judges
- Because it never shows disinterest
- Because it is better than the people at keeping a secret
- All of these

7. Attempt any ONE of two extracts given.

5 Marks

A. Don't bite your nails, Amanda!

Don't hunch your shoulder, Amanda!

Stop that slouching and sit up straight

Amanda!

(i) _____ is the poet of the above lines.

(ii) _____ What is Amanda asked not to do?

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| a. Bite her nails | b. Sit lazily |
| c. Bent her shoulders | d. All of these |

(iii) What is the meaning of slouching?

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| a. Sitting or lying lazily | b. Screaming. |
| c. Eating compulsively | d. Sitting straight |

(iv) Amanda thought she could lead her life in a _____ if she were mermaid.

(v) What does Amanda do to her shoulders?

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| a. Keep them erect | b. Hunches |
| c. Keep them stiff | d. Keep them loose |

P.T.O.

OR

B. Shook down on me

The dust of snow

From a hemlock tree

(i) Complete the analogy:

Nightingale: John Keats:: Crow : _____

(ii) A dust of snow was dropped by

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| a. a cloud | b. a crow |
| c. a monkey | d. a squirrel |

(iii) Why is the snow referred to as dust?

(iv) From where was snow dropped?

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| a. From a pipal tree | b. From a neem tree |
| c. From a hemlock tree | d. From a rose plant |

(v) Name the poem.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| a. Animals | b. The Trees |
| c. Dust of Snow | d. Fire and Ice |

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

- Lencho said the raindrops were like 'new coins'. Explain.
- What were the 'twin obligations' for Nelson Mandela?
- How does the author describe Coorg in the opening paragraph?
- What is so weird about the Hyena and the Crocodile?
- What message does John Berryman want to convey through The Ball Poem?

Answer ANY TWO of the following questions. $2 \times 3 = 6$ Marks

- What made James Herriot expect a call from Mrs. Pumphery?
- Why was it difficult for Hari Singh to rob Anil?
- What was the passion of Horace Danby and how did he satisfy it?

P.T.O.

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 100 - 120 words each. 1×6=6 Marks

- (i) "The narrator knew that he could not fly up due to storm and lack of fuel but still he continued." What do you gather about the narrator from the above lines?
- (ii) Humour is the best medicine for every ailment in life. Comment with reference to 'How to Tell Wild Animals'.

11. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions. 1×6=6 Marks

- (i) Richard Ebright displayed a well rounded personality. Do you agree? Elucidate in the context of 'The Making of a Scientist'
- (ii) Do you think there are also parents like Mrs. Pumphery? Does their behavior help or ruin their child?

