

O. P. JINDAL SCHOOL, SAVITRI NAGAR
Half Yearly Examination (2025 – 2026)

Class: X
Subject: English Language & Literature

MM: 80
Time: 3 Hrs.

(Fifteen Minutes Extra will be given for reading the Question Paper.)

General Instructions:

Read the instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. This question paper comprises 11 questions. All questions are compulsory.
 2. The question paper contains THREE sections –
Section – A: Reading Skills
Section – B: Writing Skills & Grammar
Section – C: Literature
 3. Attempt all the questions based on specific instructions for each section.
 4. Strictly adhere to the word limit. Marks will be deducted for exceeding the word limit.
 5. All the questions must be correctly numbered as in the question paper and written in the answer sheet provided to you.
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Section A - Reading Skills [20 Marks]

Q1. Read the passage given below:

1. The problem of the conservation of historical monuments (statues, columns, ancient buildings) requires an accurate study of the many environmental agents which bring about the deterioration process and affect the actual rate of deterioration. Among the most active causes of weathering, we can cite: (i) the weakening of the outer layer of the art work, which is caused by complex microphysical effects and is in particular due to wetting of the outer layer of the artwork (a comparison between the effects of rainwater and condensation is made); (ii) the chemico-physical action of pollutants captured in both the dry and wet phase.
2. The destructive processes depend on many factors: the past history of the monument, the capture and nature of the pollutants, and the frequency of some microclimatic conditions, particularly those supplying the water necessary for chemical reactions. To this end studies of diurnal and seasonal variations on the monument of both the heat wave and the fluxes of moisture and energy are very important.
3. Some of these processes have been shown with microclimatic studies and microphysical investigation associated with mineralogic and chemical analyses of samples of weathered material. Mathematical models in some cases (especially for solar radiation and temperature) permit physical simulation, reconstruction of past data and extrapolation into the future observation of many monuments from different epochs; situated at various sites, gives examples of the fundamental processes that are often associated with, or masked by, other effects.
4. The main weathering processes are due to the combined action of rainwater and atmospheric pollutants (particularly the carbonaceous particles due to combustion) deposited on the surface of the monument. The way in which the surface is wetted is very important: in fact, a short drizzle can activate the dry deposit without washing it away, and in this case the pH of rain droplets is of secondary importance; on the other hand, showers supply abundant water which favours dissolution of the stone and removal of the solute, resulting in a thinning of the original rock. Another important factor is the dynamic regime (i.e. laminar or turbulent) of the water flowing over the surface of the monument.

5. In zones where the surface of marble or calcareous monuments is only wetted, but protected from runoff, black crusts (characterized by crystals of gypsum and calcite with carbonaceous particles embedded in the crusts) are formed. Zones subjected to heavy runoff are also subjected to a thinning of the rock and small authentic calcite crystals form that are white in appearance.
6. In the case of relatively unpolluted towns, where marble and limestone sulphation is not the main cause of the deterioration process, biological deterioration mechanisms are often very important, due to the activity of epilithic and endolithic microflora and microfauna.
7. The case of particularly precious mortars, e.g. murals or frescoes, is discussed in order to clarify the thermodynamic method proposed for the analysis of experimental campaigns. Finally actions are described that act on the causes and not only on the effects.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below: (10X1=10 Marks)

- I. List any two factors on which the destructive processes of historical monuments depend.
1. _____ 2. _____
- II. The problem of the conservation of historical monuments requires :
a. an understanding of the deterioration process.
b. an accurate study of the many environmental agents.
c. an accurate assumption of effects of rainwater.
d. an understanding of the effects caused by the chemico-physical action of pollutants.
- III. The main weathering processes of the monument are caused due to the deposition of _____ on the surface of the monument.
a. gypsum and calcite with carbonaceous particles
b. the heat wave and the fluxes of moisture and energy
c. pollutants which weaken the art work
d. the combined action of rainwater and atmospheric pollutants
- IV. What favours the dissolution of the stone and removal of the solute, resulting in a thinning of the original rock?
- V. To understand the destructive process of a monument it is very important to study the :
a. moisture deposited on the monument yearly.
b. understand the variations of heat affecting the monument.
c. diurnal and seasonal variations on the monument.
d. fluxes of energy experienced by the monument.

VI. Fill in the blank:

Zones that experience _____ are also subjected to a thinning of the rock and small authentic calcite crystals form that are white in appearance on the monument.

- VII. Which of the following will be the most appropriate title of the passage ?
a. Deterioration Process of Historical Monuments
b. Monuments and their Deteriorations
c. The Legacy of Monuments
d. The Science of Deterioration

VIII. Complete the following analogy correctly with a word/phrase from paragraph 2:
tree : sap :: hydrant : _____ (Clue : Just like a tree is a source of sap, similarly a hydrant is a source of...)

IX. State whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE: *When talking about weathering processes, the way in which the surface is wetted is very important.*

X. Substitute the word 'weathering' with ONE WORD similar in meaning, in the following sentence from

paragraph 4:

*The main **weathering** processes are due to the combined action of rainwater and atmospheric pollutants...*

Q2. Read the passage given below:

1. The ocean is one of the most unexplored parts of our planet, with a magnitude of undiscovered species and mysteries. It turns out from the studies conducted over the last few decades, this magnificent environment is under serious threat from human intervention, with plastics set to outnumber fish by 2050.
2. Marine life, as we know it, is suffering irreparable damage from the chemical pollution of the waters and the millions of tons of mismanaged waste dumped in the oceans each year. The result is a planetary crisis with over 100 million marine animal's lives get lost every year, and the decay of the ocean's ecosystem.
Shocking Ocean Pollution Statistics:
 - 100 million marine animals die each year from plastic waste alone.
 - 100000 marine animals die from getting entangled in plastic yearly - this is just the creatures we find.
 - 1 in 3 marine mammal species get found entangled in litter, 12-14000 tons of plastic are ingested by North Pacific fish yearly.
 - In the past 10 years, we've made more plastic than the last century. By 2050, the pollution of fish will be outnumbered by our dumped plastic.
 - The largest trash site on the planet is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, twice the surface area of Texas, it outnumbers sea life there 6 to 1.
 - China is ranked #1 for mismanaged waste and plastics. However, the US is in the top 20 with a more significant waste per person contributions.
 - 300 Million tons of plastic gets created yearly, and this weighs the same as the entire human population, and 50% is single-use only.
 - There are 5.25 trillion pieces of plastic waste estimated to be in our oceans. 269000 tons float, 4 billion microfibers per km² dwell below the surface.
 - 70% of our debris sinks into the ocean's ecosystem, 15% floats and 15% lands on our beaches.
 - In terms of plastic, 8.3 million tons are discarded in the sea yearly. Of which, 236000 are ingestible microplastics that marine creatures mistake for food.
 - Plastics take 500-1000 years to degrade; currently 79% is sent to landfills or the oceans, while only 9% is recycled, and 12% gets incinerated.
 - 1950-1998 over 100 nuclear blast tests occurred in our oceans.
 - 500 marine locations are now recorded as dead zones globally, currently the size of the United Kingdom's surface (245000 km²)
 - 80% of global marine pollution comes from agriculture runoff, untreated sewage, discharge of nutrients and pesticides.
 - 90% of the worldwide ocean debris comes from 10 rivers alone.
3. Almost 1,000 species of marine animals get impacted by ocean pollution, and we now have over 500 locations recorded as dead zones where marine life cannot exist. How did this happen, what is causing the most damage, find out everything above in the marine pollution statistics round-up.
4. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a floating island of debris, accumulated in the North Pacific Ocean by an extensive system of currents called gyres. It is built up from two other waste patches, the western garbage patch near Japan and the eastern garbage patch near America's west coast near California and Hawaii.
5. The North Pacific Subtropical Convergence Zone links the east and western garbage patches, acting as a highway for waste to move from one to the other. Because of this, a small item of debris dropped near California can travel across to Japan, and then eventually get sucked up by these swirling garbage patch vortices.
6. The great Pacific garbage patch size is quite shocking. These patches of trash are said to be twice the size of Texas and float on the surface but do drop several meters into the ocean in places, which makes the correct size challenging to measure. The world's largest garbage site is mainly made up of

microplastics creating a vast cloud, with newer items of debris that haven't broken down as much floating around like chunks in a soup. The great pacific garbage patch effects on marine life are extremely significant. (Source: The Economic Times)

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below: (10X1=10 Marks)

I. Suggest one reason for the following, based on information in paragraph 5:

A small item of debris dropped near California can travel across to Japan.

II. According to the passage, what is set to outnumber the fish in the ocean by the year 2050?

- a. Pollution b. garbage c. plastics d. human waste

III. The largest trash site on the planet, the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, is twice the size of _____.

- a. Arizona b. Florida c. Colorado d. Texas

IV. Which country is ranked number one for mismanaged waste and plastics?

V. Which of the following is not a place from where 80% of global marine pollution comes?

- a. agriculture run-off b. untreated sewage
c. discharge of nutrients and pesticide d. factory waste disposal

VI. State whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE: *700 marine locations are now recorded as dead zones globally.*

VII. Fill in the blank by selecting the correct option: An extensive system of currents in the North Pacific Ocean is called _____.

- a. debris b. vortex c. convergence d. gyres

VIII. Substitute the word 'irreparable' with ONE WORD similar in meaning, in the following sentence from paragraph 2:

*Marine life, as we know it, is suffering **irreparable** damage from the chemical pollution of the waters...*

IX. Choose an option that is an antonym of the word 'unexplored'?

- a. known b. undiscovered c. irrelevant d. unimportant

X. Based on your understanding of the text, list 2 reasons for the following:

Marine life is suffering from irreparable damage.

1. _____ 2. _____

Section B – Writing Skills & Grammar [20 Marks]

Q3. Complete any ten of twelve of the following tasks, as directed:

(10X1=10 Marks)

I. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket:

The presentation was well _____ (organise) and helped the students understand the topic easily.

II. Identify the error and write the correction:

Each of the players are ready for the match.

ERROR	CORRECTION

III. Fill in the blank with the correct form of the verb given in the brackets:

She _____ (wait) for her best friend for over an hour before the show finally began.

IV. Read the given statement and report it correctly:

He said to his teacher, "I will have finished my project tomorrow by this time."

→ He told his teacher that _____.

V. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct article:

It was ____ honour to be invited as the chief guest at the ceremony.

- A. a B. an C. the D. no article

VI. Report the following correctly:

“Please don’t make so much noise in the library,” the librarian said to the students.

→ The librarian asked the students ____.

VII. Complete the given opinion by filling the blank with the correct option:

The children returned from the picnic ____ excited and cheerful.

- A. feel B. felt C. feeling D. feels

VIII. The given question has an error. Select the correct identification:

She do not like to eat sweets.

No.	Error	Correction
A.	She	He
B.	do	does
C.	not	No
D.	sweets	sweet

IX. Report the following question:

He said to his friend, “Will you help me with my homework?”

X. Fill in the blank with the correct option:

If you want to be fit, you ____ (must / should) exercise regularly.

XI. Fill in the blank to complete the sentence with the correct possessive determiner:

This is not my notebook. Is it ____?

- A. your B. yours C. their D. our

XII. Choose the correct option to fill the blank:

We were disappointed because there were very ____ people at the seminar.

- A. few B. little C. many D. much

Q4.A. You are concerned about the increasing levels of pollution in your city, which are affecting the health and well-being of its residents. Write a letter in 100-120 words to the editor of a local newspaper, highlighting the issue, its impact on public health, and suggesting measures that the local authorities and citizens can take to mitigate the problem. You are Omar / Rashida of B-26, Raigarh, CG. **(5 marks)**

OR

Q4.B. You are Ruby / Raunak, the Sports In-charge of your school, you have been assigned the task of procuring new sports equipment for the upcoming academic year. Write a formal letter in 100-120 words to the Sales Manager of a reputed sports goods company, placing an order for various sports items such as basketballs, cricket bats, footballs, and other necessary equipment. Specify the quantities required, request details about delivery timelines, payment terms, and inquire about any discounts available for bulk purchases. Ensure your letter is professional and includes all essential details. **(5 marks)**

Q5.A. You are the Secretary of the Cultural Club in your school. Two professionals — Mr. Arvind Menon and Ms. Nisha Verma — have written to express their interest in conducting a workshop during your school’s upcoming Art & Literature Fest. Below are excerpts from their letters.

Excerpt 1

...I am excited to express my willingness to conduct a creative writing workshop at your school's Art & Literature Fest. With over 15 years of experience as a published author and writing mentor, I have helped budding writers polish their storytelling and essay writing skills. My sessions usually focus on developing imagination, clarity of thought, and effective expression. I have conducted workshops at multiple schools, with students often winning prizes in essay and story-writing competitions thereafter. I look forward to guiding your students to become confident young writers.

Warm regards,

Mr. Arvind Menon

Excerpt 2

...It would be an honour to conduct an art workshop at your Art & Literature Fest. I have exhibited my paintings in national-level galleries and believe in making art accessible to all. My workshops highlight the connection between creativity and self-expression, and I encourage students to explore their inner world through colours and forms. I have previously worked with school students, helping them use art as a medium for stress relief and personal growth. I would love to inspire your students to see art as not only a skill but also a form of emotional expression.

Sincerely,

Ms. Nisha Verma

Analyse the information in a paragraph in 100-120 words, justifying which guest speaker would be a better choice. Consider factors such as experience, relevance to the topic, and audience engagement. **(5marks)**

OR

Q5.B. Arjun, Class IX, is a curious learner with strong research skills and a talent for collecting detailed information from multiple sources. He enjoys group discussions and can present his findings clearly, but he often hesitates to take the lead and struggles with quick decision-making. He has been asked to prepare a science exhibition project with one partner. He must choose from Ritika, Mohan, and Farida.

Ritika: Ritika is highly innovative and loves conducting experiments. She enjoys exploring new methods and is quick to solve problems. However, she sometimes becomes impatient when her teammates are slow to grasp concepts.

Mohan: Mohan is very systematic and disciplined. He maintains neat records, ensures all deadlines are met, and works well under pressure. However, he is not very confident in presenting ideas in front of large groups.

Farida: Farida is an energetic speaker and very persuasive in explaining concepts to others. She is a team motivator and has experience in stage presentations. However, she can sometimes overlook small details in the process of finishing tasks quickly.

Based on the profiles, analyse in the form of a paragraph in 100-120 words who would be the most suitable partner for Arjun. Consider complementary strengths, teamwork, and the requirements of the science exhibition project. **(5marks)**

Section C – Literature – [40 Marks]

Q6. Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two: **(5marks)**

A. "Mrs. Pumphrey was a rich woman with a large house and a gardener, but she was often lonely. She had a pet dog, Tricki, whom she adored and pampered excessively. Despite the doctor's warnings, she continued to overfeed him until one day, Tricki became seriously ill."
(A Triumph of Surgery)

I. Who is the author of "A Triumph of Surgery"?

1

II. What does the word "pampered" mean in the context of the extract?

a) Neglected b) Spoiled c) Ignored d) Punished

1

III. What was the main reason for Tricki's illness?

- a) Lack of exercise b) Overfeeding
c) An accident d) Both a & b?

1

IV. How did Mrs. Pumphrey react when Tricki became seriously ill?

- a) She ignored it b) She scolded Tricki
c) She was very worried d) She celebrated

1

V. Find the word in the above stanza which means the same as 'solitary'.

1

OR

B. He just felt a bit dizzy. Then he flapped his wings once and he soared upwards. "Ga, ga, ga, Ga, ga, ga, Gaw-col-ah," his mother swooped past him, her wings making a loud noise. He answered her with another scream. Then his father flew over him screaming. He saw his two brothers and his sister flying around him curvetting and banking and soaring and diving. Then he completely forgot that he had not always been able to fly, and commended himself to dive and soar and curve, shrieking shrilly. (Two Stories About Flying - First Flight)

I. Why did the seagull chick feel dizzy?

1

II. Which of the following best describes the role of the young seagull's parents during his first flight?

1

- a) They ignored him and let him learn on his own.
b) They encouraged and supported him by flying around and calling out.

III. What does the young seagull's attempt to "dive and soar and curve, shrieking shrilly" suggest about his feelings at that moment?

2

IV. Read the following describing words from the passage:

1

- i) dizzy
ii) loud
iii) high
iv) shrill
v) young

Select the option that correctly categorises (i)–(v) into adjectives of quality and adjectives of age.

No.	Adjectives of Quality	Adjectives of Age
A	i, ii, iii, iv	v
B	ii, iii, v	i, iv
C	i, iii, v	ii, iv
D	i, ii, iv, v	iii

Q7. Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two:

(5marks)

A. He is learning, well behind his desperate eyes,
The epistemology of loss, how to stand up
Knowing what every man must one day know
And most know many days, how to stand up.

(The Ball Poem)

I. Which emotions are best conveyed through the boy's reaction to the loss of his ball?

1

- i) sadness
ii) helplessness
iii) acceptance
iv) excitement
v) maturity

Select the correct option.

- A. i, ii
- B. ii, iii, v
- C. i, iv, v
- D. iii, iv

II. What does the poet imply about life's lessons when he says "*every man must one day know*"? 2

III. Which line from the extract highlights the idea that personal loss teaches resilience? 1

IV. Fill in the blank with a suitable phrase to complete the sentence. 1

The poet uses the loss of the ball as a metaphor for _____.

OR

B. Don't bite your nails, Amanda!
Don't hunch your shoulders, Amanda!
Stop that slouching and sit up straight,
Amanda!
Stop that sulking at once, Amanda!
You're always so moody, Amanda!
Anyone would think that I nagged at you,
Amanda!

(Amanda!)

I. Which emotions are most clearly expressed in Amanda's behaviour through words like "sulking" and "moody"? 1

- i) irritation
- ii) rebellion
- iii) sadness
- iv) fear
- v) indifference

Select the correct option.

- A. i, ii, v
- B. ii, iii
- C. iii, iv
- D. i, iv

II. What does the repeated use of imperatives like "*Don't*" suggest about Amanda's life at home? 2

III. Who is the poet of the poem the lines have been taken from? 1

IV. Find the word in the above passage which means the same as 'to scold, complain, or find fault with someone repeatedly in an annoying way' _____. 1

Q8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 50 words each: (4x3=12 marks)

I. Why does the postmaster send money to Lencho? Why does he sign the letter "God"? (A Letter to God)

II. What is the opinion of Nelson Mandela regarding the wealth of his country? How can you as a student be an asset to your country? (Nelson Mandela, Long Walk to Freedom)

III. Do you think Mr Keesing was a strict teacher? How did Anne justify her being a chatterbox in her essay? (From the Diary of Anne Frank)

IV. 'Good things come in small packages'. How does the poem, 'Dust of Snow', illustrate this idea? (Dust of Snow)

V. The poet uses humour in a perfect manner in her poem—‘How to Tell Wild Animals’ to bring smile on the face of readers. In our daily life also humour is the best medicine for every ailment. Do you agree? Comment. (How to Tell Wild Animals)

Q9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words: (2x3=6 marks)

- I. ‘*Reformation can be brought by being kind.*’ Justify it in the context of Anil in the lesson ‘The Thief’s Story.’ (The Thief’s Story)
- II. “*Presence of mind and intelligence are more powerful than gun*”. How far is it true in case of Ausable, the secret agent? (The Midnight Visitor)
- III. How did the lady in red convince Horace Danby to open the lock? (A Question of Trust)

Q10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words: (1x6=6 marks)

- A. “*Freedom is a birth right. It is the most beautiful gift of god. It is valuable for all human beings as well as for creatures,*” Discuss with reference to the poem “A Tiger in the Zoo.”

OR

- B. What does ‘Fire’ and ‘Ice’ stand for and what is the general opinion regarding how the world would perish? (Fire & Ice)

Q11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words: (1x6=6 marks)

- A. ‘*Our sins never go unpunished. Horace Danby ultimately had to go to prison.*’ This shows that inspite of planning a crime intelligently and carefully a criminal can’t escape the law— Explain / discuss in reference to A Question of Trust.

OR

- B. Why did Hari Singh decide to return stolen money? What light does it throw on his character? (The Thief’s Story)
-