



**BANGALORE SAHODAYA SCHOOLS COMPLEX ASSOCIATION  
PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION (2024-2025)  
GRADE X**

**Date: 13.12.2024**

**Max. Marks: 80**

**Subject: ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (SET 2)**

**Time: 3 Hours**

**Marking Scheme**

**I. READING COMPREHENSION**

- (i) (a) – Floods have led to much greater damage than in the past
- (ii) (b) – speculative
- (iii) Reason – climate change / change of pattern of precipitation/ greater precipitation will take place in a much shorter period of unit.  
(accept a sentence also)
- (iv) Forecasting helps alert the public and mobilise various official agencies
- (v) True
- (vi) As they are helpless settlers / closest to the rivers on the banks
- (vii) Reluctant to move away/ lack the means and physical options of moving away /  
shortage of time (any two)  $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}$
- (viii) (a) – flash floods
- (ix) Heavy rain can spill over the banks of tributaries leading to floods, particularly  
in mountain region
- (x) (a) only I.

**II. READING COMPREHENSION**

- i. Causes large number of deaths and illnesses. Also, a great financial burden due to cost of treatment and loss of working days.
- ii. fact, objective detail
- iii. India has maximum air pollution which can cause such deadly illnesses as lung cancer, stroke ,and heart disease. Air pollution is estimated to have caused 1.7 million premature deaths in India in 2019.
- iv. 15 of the most polluted cities in the world are in India.
- v. The number of people affected by illness due to air pollution may have increased proportionately. Pollution levels are increasing rapidly. It is necessary to tackle air pollution on a war footing. (Any one)
- vi. The funding program introduced by the Government of India is unique because it is the world's first performance-based fiscal transfer for air quality management. This means that the financial assistance provided to the cities is contingent on their ability to reduce air pollution levels by 15% every year.

- vii. Use of renewable energy reduces consumption of fuels which cause pollution. LPG cylinders reduce burning of firewood and consequently carbon emissions. Electric vehicles are non-polluting.
- viii. C (all other options are factually incorrect)

**III. Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed. (1X10=10)**

**GRAMMAR**

- i. (b) shall be presenting
- ii. runs
- iii. (a) must
- iv. The announcement made to passengers inside the Delhi Metro stated that there would be a short delay in that service and they were sorry for the inconvenience caused.
- v. (c) a few
- vi. a) fewer
- vii. but he also
- viii. will
- ix. is
- x. C. that those
- xi. The
- xii. engaged engaging

**IV. LETTER WRITING**

Format – 1 [full credit if all aspects included. Partial credit (½ mark) if one-two aspects are missing. No credit if more than two aspects are missing]

Content -2 [ ½ mark for each content point area addressed - suggestion, importance, implication, recommendation]

Organisation of ideas -1 [effective style, orderly sequence, paragraphed structure and formal tone and vocabulary]

Accuracy 1

**V. ANALYTICAL PARAGRAPH WRITING**

Content -2

Organisation of ideas -2

Accuracy 1

**NOTE FOR GIVEN DESCRIPTORS**

---Dedicated marks at a level are to be awarded only if ALL descriptors match. If one or more descriptors do not match, the marks are awarded at a level lower.

CONTENT – 2 marks

All points included– Well-developed with sustained clarity

1 1/2 marks — Almost all points incorporated

—Reasonably well-developed

1 mark — Some points incorporated

—Fair attempt at developing ideas with some impact on the clarity of response

1/2 mark — Most of the points of the given task not incorporated

— Limited awareness of task development

#### ORGANISATION OF IDEAS -2 marks

— Highly effective style capable of conveying the ideas convincingly

— Carefully structured content within organised single paragraph, presented cohesively.

— Highly effective register (formal tone and vocabulary), relevant and appropriate sentences for conveying the ideas precisely and effectively.

1 1/2 marks — Frequent clarity of expression most of the time.

— Ideas are generally well sequenced and related to the given topic maintaining overall cohesion of ideas. The range of vocabulary is mostly relevant and conveys the overall meaning and the purpose of the writing.

1 mark — Inconsistent style, expression sometimes awkward.

— Sequencing of ideas is somewhat clear and related to the given topic attempting to maintain a general overall cohesion. The range of vocabulary is limited but manages to convey the overall meaning and the purpose of the writing.

1/2 mark — Expression unclear.

— Poor sequencing of ideas but ideas related to the given topic in a disjointed manner exhibiting a lack of coherence of ideas. Very limited vocabulary or copying from the question.

#### ACCURACY - 1 mark

— Spelling, punctuation, and grammar consistently/largely accurate, with occasional minor errors, that do not impede communication.

1/2 mark — Spelling, punctuation, and grammar display some errors spread across, causing minor impediments to the message communicated.

No credit Frequent errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar, impeding communication.

### VI. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given:

#### A.

i. (c) He had grown up in and around tea gardens.

ii. ...that the cultivation/harvesting (or any similar suitable word) (of tea) is the highest at one place namely Assam.

iii. frustration / irritation/ exasperation (or any suitable word) compatible with the exclamation mark in the sentence.

iv. b. Traditional tales

v. d. Jaspreet cried out loud when she saw a white tiger in the sanctuary

#### B.

i. b. it was very cold in London to move around barefooted

ii. c. On hearing the bell ring, the sleeping Raman started and jumped out of bed.

iii. d. captivated, interested.

iv. Remarkable

v. c. 4 and 5

### VII. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given:

**A.**

- i. c. boy's grief over the loss of the ball
- ii. False
- iii. emphasize what the boy will do/show the helplessness of the boy
- iv. b. futile
- v. c. despair

**B.**

- i. b. 3, 5 (agitated and argumentative)
- ii. a. Her conviction that she is beautiful inside.
- iii. yellow: blonde :: orange /red : carrot (either one can be accepted for full one mark)
- iv. c. The dessert needs to set for two hours before being served.
- v. Being hopelessly in love / the uncertainty in love/ Unsurity of the return of their affections

**VIII. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words. (4x3=12)**

(Content-1 ; Organisation -1 ; ½ mark to be deducted for Accuracy from the overall credit of a response, if error density is high -more than a total of 2 spellings and/or grammatical errors)

- i. After - idea of answering Lencho's Letter - wanted to help - asked for money from his employees / friends - gave part of his salary - was able to send 70 pesos to Lencho along with a letter (any two)

- ii. In the poem "*A Tiger in the Zoo*," the tiger faces several limitations in captivity. It is confined to a small cage, unable to roam freely, which restricts its movements and natural instincts. The tiger's power and ferocity are suppressed, and it can only walk silently along the cage's bars. It feels helpless and frustrated, staring at the world outside with longing.

In contrast, in its natural habitat, the tiger roams freely in the wild, stalking prey stealthily and expressing its strength and agility. It lives amidst the lush forests and grasslands, where it enjoys the freedom to hunt, roam, and thrive in harmony with nature. The confinement in the zoo strips the tiger of its dignity and natural way of life, reducing it to a shadow of its majestic self in the wild.

- iii. Maxwell took Mijbil to the bathroom. For half an hour he went wild with joy in the water, plunging and rolling in it, shooting up and down the length of the bathtub underwater, and making enough slosh and splash for a hippo. Maxwell learnt that Mijbil had immense love for water.

- iv. Ogden Nash's "*Tale of Custard the Dragon*" can be interpreted as a subversion of societal expectations.

- presents Belinda as a brave and independent female character (described as brave as a barrel full of bears, a trait that is stereotypically associated with masculinity), while the male characters (Ink, Blink, Mustard) are portrayed as weaker and less courageous.
- actions of Ink, Blink, Mustard seem motivated by fear of social judgment and ridicule - of being perceived as weak- while Custard is unafraid of crying for a nice safe cage
- when faced with danger, Custard, the dragon, labelled a coward, is the one who steps up to defend Belinda and her household, while Ink, Blink, and Mustard flee or hide - finds the courage to protect those he cares about.

The poem promotes the idea that everyone has unique talents and abilities, and should be encouraged to pursue their passions and strengths, at their pace, rather than conforming to societal expectations or stereotypes.

- v. The theme of absurdity and exaggeration in *"The Proposal"* by Anton Chekhov adds significantly to the comedic elements of the story by highlighting the trivial nature of the characters' conflicts and the dramatic way in which they escalate. Lomov visits Chubukov with the serious intention of proposing to Natalya, but instead of discussing marriage, they engage in heated arguments over trivial matters, such as the ownership of Oxen Meadows and the superiority of their dogs.

The absurdity lies in how these minor issues completely derail the purpose of Lomov's visit, with the characters behaving irrationally and emotionally over insignificant disputes. Their exaggerated reactions—shouting, interrupting, and even feigning illness—amplify the humor. For instance, Lomov's nervousness about the proposal turns into comic physical symptoms, like a racing heart, adding to the farcical tone.

This exaggeration not only entertains the audience but also satirizes human tendencies to prioritize pride and petty disagreements over meaningful relationships, making the story both humorous and thought-provoking.

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

(Content-1 ; Organisation -1 ; ½ mark to be deducted for Accuracy from the overall credit of a response, if error density is high -more than a total of 2 spellings and/or grammatical errors)

- i. The line *"But to be a really big man, a clever and respected man, was something else"* in *"The Thief's Story"* reflects Hari Singh's desire for personal growth and a transformation in his character. It suggests that, despite being a thief, Hari aspires to be more than just a cunning criminal. He dreams of earning genuine respect and becoming a person of worth in society, indicating an inner conflict between his current way of life and his aspiration for a better, honest existence. This line reveals that Hari is self-aware and capable of introspection, which later leads to his decision to change his ways after encountering Anil's kindness and trust.
- ii. (Any one )  
The author employs various elements of writing style to create a sense of tension, uncertainty, and suspense, well-suited to the story's mystery and suspense genre.
- Skilful use of language to create tension-- Throughout the story, he employs short, punchy sentences that create a sense of urgency and a feeling that events are unfolding quickly and unpredictably. This helps to build momentum and keep the reader engaged, while also conveying a sense of unease and urgency.
  - Use of dialogue - The conversation between Ausable and Max is filled with half-truths and mystification, which creates a sense of ambiguity and heightens the story's sense of mystery. The reader is left wondering about Max's true motives and intentions, which adds to the sense of uncertainty and tension in the story.
  - Pacing and plot development - contribute to the story's sense of suspense , as the author carefully builds the tension throughout the story, gradually revealing new information and plot twists that keep the reader guessing and on edge.
- iii.
- Matilda's desire leads her to borrow a necklace from her friend Forestier to appear wealthy at a party.
  - She loses the necklace -- she and her husband embark on a desperate journey to replace it-- ultimately leads to their financial ruin.
  - Her desire for material wealth sets off a chain of events that shape the plot.

**X. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 100-120 words. (1x6=6)**

Content 3

Expression 2

Accuracy 1

Curriculum document-Questions on theme or plot involving interpretation, extrapolation beyond the text and inference or character sketch.

- Use the given descriptors to mark the LQs. For CONTENT (refer to Value points) and Expression

- If the response does not justify all points of a level, the response is marked down.

Descriptors for Content (with reference to value points) – 3 marks

- Sustained, clear, well-developed personal response to the task
- Well-developed and justified arguments/evidence provided
- Largely, a reasonably well developed personal response to the task
- Clear justification with arguments/evidence provided
- Fairly competent personal response to the task
- Justification with restricted arguments/evidence
- Limited awareness of the task
- Limited justification or relevant arguments/evidence

Descriptors for Expression (Coherence and Cohesion) – 2 marks

- Carefully structured content with a beginning, middle and end with highly relevant ideas presented cohesively.
- Highly effective vocabulary usage, relevant and appropriate sentences for
- Range of vocabulary suffices in large parts to convey the overall idea and meaning
- Ideas sequenced fairly well and related to the given topic, sometimes maintaining cohesion of ideas.
- Range of vocabulary is limited and conveys a basic idea of the overall meaning
- Poor sequencing of ideas; though related to the given topic, expressed in a disjointed manner exhibiting a lack of coherence of ideas.
- Very limited expected/ topical vocabulary as per question asked

Descriptors for accuracy – 1 mark

- Spelling, punctuation and grammar are almost always or mostly accurate with occasional minor errors which do not impede communication
- Spelling, punctuation and grammar fairly accurate, with some minor errors that mildly impede communication
- A lot of errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar that impede communication.

A. Value Points:

[A detailed insight has been presented below to allow for usage of content points as per individual choice. However, the final answer crafted by the learner, is to be written in first person, as indicated from the question cues. It has to be a cohesive whole, structured in paragraphs and devoid of headings, in about 120 words.]

Good morning, everyone.

Today, I'd like to discuss two pieces of literature that offer a powerful insight into the resilience of the human spirit required to transcend discrimination. Both works share some of the common themes.

(Theme 1: Transcending Discrimination)

Both Mandela's excerpt and Rich's poem address the issue of discrimination. Mandela speaks of how his own experiences of discrimination made him more determined to fight against it. He emphasizes the need to move beyond the divides created by race, gender, and class. Similarly, Rich's poem acknowledges the discrimination faced by trees, which are often overlooked and undervalued. She argues that these trees deserve to be recognized and appreciated, just as all living beings should be. [The metaphorical perspective for The Trees - the emergence of women against discrimination. Rich compares the growth of trees to the growth of women who were once suppressed and marginalized by society. Just as trees grow from the earth and reach for the sky, women too are rooted in their past but strive towards a better future, breaking free from the chains of oppression and discrimination.]

(Theme 2: The Efforts Involved in Achieving Equality)

Both pieces of literature also highlight the hard work and sacrifices required to achieve equality. Mandela describes his long and difficult journey towards freedom, including his time spent in prison. He emphasizes that true freedom is not just about breaking physical chains but also breaking mental ones. Rich's poem speaks of the efforts required to protect trees and nature, highlighting the importance of activism and advocacy. [The metaphorical perspective for The Trees - Despite being cut down and uprooted by the patriarchy, women continue to grow and flourish, resisting oppression and striving towards equality. The trees symbolize the tenacity and determination of women to rise above their

circumstances and claim their rightful place in society.]

(Theme 3: Resilience of the Human Spirit)

Despite the challenges faced, both Mandela's excerpt and Rich's poem showcase the resilience of the human spirit. Mandela's perseverance and unwavering determination to fight against discrimination, even in the face of great adversity, inspire us to do the same. Rich's poem also speaks to the resilience of nature, which continues to thrive even in the face of human neglect and disregard. [The metaphorical perspective for The Trees - The poem celebrates the strength and tenacity of women and highlights the importance of perseverance in the face of adversity. Through the symbol of the trees, Rich suggests that just as nature can regenerate and thrive, so too can women emerge stronger and more resilient from discrimination and oppression.] Conclusion: To conclude, I'd like to say that the common themes of transcending discrimination and the efforts involved in achieving equality are prevalent in both these pieces of literature and remind us of the strength of the human spirit and the importance of standing up for what we believe in, even when faced with obstacles. By acknowledging and valuing all forms of life and working towards a more just and equal world, we can continue to build a better future for ourselves and for future generations.

Thank you.

B. Value Points:

- Agreement with the given statement
- Motivation of the pilot: to spend time with his family – to have an English breakfast - took the risk to fly into the storm
- Motivation of the young seagull: hunger and desire for food made him dive at the fish – thus he made his first flight.

**XI. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 100-120 words. (1x6=6)**

Content 3

Expression 2

Accuracy 1

A. *Date: 20th November 2024*

*Time*

Today, I find myself reflecting on my treatment of Tricki and the consequences of my overindulgence. My excessive pampering—feeding him rich food and treating him as though he were fragile—led to his poor health. I mistook indulgence for love, and it nearly cost Tricki his life. Seeing him regain his energy and vitality under Dr. Herriot's care taught me a valuable lesson. True care involves discipline and understanding what is best, even if it means saying no. I now realize that moderation and exercise are as important as affection. From now on, I vow to prioritize Tricki's health over my own whims. Love means doing what is right, not just what feels good.

*Mrs. Pumphrey*

B. –

Students may draw upon the following:

▪ Introductory sentence:

✓ crucial and indelible role played by parents

✓ parents influence their children both implicitly (indirectly) and explicitly (directly)

✓ are role models, first teachers, friends, companions, guides

▪ **Critical examination (any 3-4)**

✓ Richard H. Ebright's mother- loving, caring, understanding, a friend, a companion

✓ filled the vacuum in Ebright's life in his father's absence

✓ invested time and energy in his upbringing which made him see heights of success

- ✓ Bholi's parents – uncaring, indifferent, biased, insensitive, had a patriarchal mindset
  - ✓ traditional outlook- did not believe in the education of girls, totally indifferent to Bholi and her needs, neglected her
  - ✓ did not bother to groom her (oil her hair, give her good clothes to wear)
  - ✓ sent her to school not to educate her but to save their own face
  - ✓ despite their prosperity, they left Bholi to her own misery, worst was when they decided to marry her off to Bishamber
- (Accept any other relevant content point that lends itself to critical examination)

▪ **Concluding thought:**

- ✓ The contribution and companionship of parents cannot be denied. Love, care, and guidance from parents makes a difference, sculpts children and shapes their future.