

Sample Question Paper
Communicative English
2023-24
Class - X

Time allowed: 3 Hrs.

Max. Marks 80

Details and instructions

1. 15-minute prior reading time allotted for Q-paper reading.
2. The Question Paper contains FOUR sections-READING SKILLS, WRITING SKILLS, GRAMMAR and LITERATURE TEXTBOOK.
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION A : READING SKILLS (22 marks)

I	Read the following passage	12 m
A	Dirшти was young woman who had always been fascinated by the supernatural. She had read countless books and watched numerous documentaries about ghosts and otherworldly beings. So, when she heard about an abandoned hotel on the outskirts of town that was said to be haunted, she knew she had to investigate.	
B	One night, Dirшти decided to sneak into the dilapidated hotel with a few of her friends. As they made their way through the dark, eerie corridors, they heard strange noises and felt cold spots. They were convinced that they were not alone.	
C	Suddenly, they came across a room that was different from the rest. It was filled with old cooking equipment and strange symbols etched into the walls. Dirшти felt a chill run down her spine as she entered the room. She knew that this was where the most paranormal activity occurred. As they were examining the room, they heard a loud bang coming from the hallway. They froze in fear, not knowing what was coming their way. They could hear footsteps approaching, and they knew they had to hide.	
D	They quickly ducked behind some old shelves as the footsteps grew louder. The sound of breathing was getting closer and closer until finally, they saw a figure appear in the doorway. It was a man wearing a chef's hat, with a face that was twisted in a sinister smile. Dirшти and her friends felt their blood run cold as the man approached them. They could feel his cold breath on their faces as he leaned in, whispering in a deep voice, "You shouldn't be here."	
E	Dirшти and her friends were frozen with fear as they stared into the chef's eyes. But suddenly, the lights flickered on and the figure disappeared. They looked around the room, and everything seemed normal. They had been so scared that they hadn't realized they were in a room with faulty wiring.	
F	Disappointed, they realized that their ghost hunt had been a bust. They left the hotel feeling deflated and let down. They had hoped for an exciting, spine-tingling adventure, but all they got was a scary moment caused by faulty wiring. As they drove home, they couldn't help but feel foolish for getting so worked up over nothing. They had been so convinced that they would find evidence of the paranormal that they had overlooked the simple explanation for the noises they had heard.	
G	Dirшти learned an important lesson that night. Sometimes, the scariest things are the ones that we create in our own minds. She realized that she didn't need to chase after the supernatural to experience thrills and excitement. The world around her was full of mystery and wonder, and she was content to experience it without the need for ghosts and ghouls.	
(Created for academic usage/ 531 words)		
Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.		
I i	How does the setting contribute to the overall mood and atmosphere of the story?	1

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	<p>A. It creates a sense of nostalgia.</p> <p>B. It provides a sense of false security.</p> <p>C. It adds to the suspense in the story.</p> <p>D. It presents a contrast with the real world.</p>	
ii	List two ways, how the disappointment that Drishti and her friends felt after their ghost hunt, is analogous to the feeling of waking up from a dream. Answer in 30 -40 words	2
iii	<p>What is the main flaw in Drishti's approach to investigating the haunted hotel?</p> <p>A. She was too focused on finding evidence of the paranormal.</p> <p>B. She was too skeptical and refused to believe in the possibility of ghosts.</p> <p>C. She relied too heavily on other people's accounts of the supernatural.</p> <p>D. She didn't take enough precautions to ensure her safety.</p>	1
iv	<p>After which paragraph of the story, would the following paragraph most likely be placed?</p> <p><i>They commenced walking through the hotel, Drishti's torchlight barely illuminating the darkness around her. Suddenly, they heard a loud creaking noise behind them. Drishti whipped around, pointing her flashlight in the direction of the noise. Nothing . Shaken, they all quickened their pace.</i></p>	1
v	Briefly explain (in 30-40 words) any two elements that classify the story as scary.	2
vi	<p>Substitute the underlined word in the following sentence with a word/ phrase from paragraphs 4-6, that means the same.</p> <p><i>The sound of the footsteps outside the door left her <u>petrified</u> and the rasping breathing added to her horror.</i></p>	1
vii	<p>What is the most significant lesson that Drishti learns from her experience in the haunted hotel?</p> <p>A. The importance of avoiding risk- taking.</p> <p>B. The need to be more sceptical of the supernatural.</p> <p>C. The value of evaluating your weaknesses</p> <p>D. The power of imagination to create suspense.</p>	1
viii	<p>Complete the following appropriately.</p> <p><i>Based on the use of the word "dilapidated" to describe the hotel, in Paragraph 2, we can infer that its condition was _____.</i></p>	1
ix	<p>Complete the sentence appropriately.</p> <p>If the title, <i>The Hotel Haunting</i> is given to this passage, it would be an inappropriate title, as compared to <i>The Unsettling Encounter at the Abandoned Hotel</i> because _____.</p>	1
x	<p>State whether the given assertion is TRUE or FALSE.</p> <p><i>The reason Drishti and her friends visited the abandoned hotel was to prove the existence of ghosts.</i></p>	1

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2	Read the following table displaying the details of five House Captains.							10 m
Name	Motto	Participation in activities	Achievements	Awards	Personal Qualities	Drawbacks	Other notable things	
Rohit	"Together we can achieve greatness"	Debate club, Quiz club	1 st prize in Science Olympiad	Best Student	Diligent, confident, empathetic	Sometimes tends to be overly competitive	Volunteer at a local NGO	
Sanya	"Service before self"	Social service club, Drama club	1 st prize in Debate competition	Best Orator	Compassionate, organized, responsible	Can be overly critical times	Participated in a Model United Nations conference	
Rajat	"Never give up, always rise up"	Sports club, Music club	2 nd position in Chess competition	Best Sportsperson	Perseverant, team player, adaptable	Can sometimes be indecisive	Plays in a local band	
Aryan	"Success through hard work"	Photography club, Science club	1 st prize in Photography competition	Budding Innovator	Creative, curious, detail-oriented	Can sometimes procrastinate	Built a working model of a wind turbine for a science fair	
Ananya	"Strive for excellence"	Dance club, Art club	1 st prize in Art competition	Creative Mind	Confident, hardworking, imaginative	Tends to overthink things	Published her own poetry collection	

Total word limit ----- 168

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Answer the following questions, based on the table above.		
i	Identify the person who is likely to ask many "why" questions, and support your choice with one reason.	2
ii	Which house captain is most likely to struggle the most with handling stress during the school's annual inter-house sports tournament? A. Rohit B. Sanya C. Rajat D. Ananya	1
iii	Give two justifications for Sanya being the best fit to lead a school-wide initiative to promote mental health and well-being among students.	2
iv	Select the correct option to fill the blank and complete the analogy. _____ : paint brush :: Rajat : tabla A. Rohit B. Sanya C. Aryan D. Ananya	1
v	Based on the personal qualities of the House Captains, why is Rajat the most likely to be a collaborative worker?	1
vi	Complete the given sentence with the appropriate reason, with reference to the information in the table. <i>We can infer that Aryan's overall performance may be negatively impacted by his weakness in time management because _____.</i>	1
vii	Explain briefly why situation (b), from the three situations given below, showcases Ananya's motto, "Lead by example"? (a) During a group project, Ananya assigns each team member specific tasks and sets a high standard for the project's quality. She tells them to actively participate in the project and take it to fruition. (b) During a house debate competition, Ananya notices that a few of her house members are struggling to articulate their arguments effectively. Ananya takes the time to listen to their concerns and provides constructive feedback and support. (c) During a fundraising event, Ananya volunteers to be in charge of organizing and coordinating the event but she frequently delegates tasks to others and attends to her school assignment while her team completes the task successfully.	1

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viii	<p>Select the option that correctly matches the House Captains (a) -(c), to the trophies (i)-(v).</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> HOUSE CAPTAINS - (a) RAJAT (b) ANANYA (c) ARYAN </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center; margin: 10px auto;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>(i)</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>(ii)</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>(iii)</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>(iv)</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>(v)</p> </div> </div> <p>A. (a) - (ii) , (b) - (i) , (c) - (iii) B. (a) - (i) , (b) - (v) , (c) - (iv) C. (a) - (v) , (b) - (iii) , (c) - (ii) D. (a) - (iii) , (b) - (iv) , (c) - (i)</p> <p><u>FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES</u></p> <p>Identify the House Captain who fits the saying-<i>Being too hard on oneself</i>.</p>	1
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SECTION B : WRITING SKILLS (22 marks)

3	<p>As the school Head Girl, write an email, in about 50 words, to the Teacher Coordinator, Student Enrichment Activities of your school, informing her/him of the need to schedule transport for the participants of the inter-school dance competition, at the mandated venue. Include a reason why you would need a smaller vehicle instead of the school bus.</p> <p>You may copy the given template to write your email.</p>	3												
<table><tr><td>from:</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>to:</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Cc:</td><td>transportoffice@gkschool.com</td></tr><tr><td>date:</td><td>Sept 10, 2023, 07:03 PM</td></tr><tr><td>subject:</td><td></td></tr><tr><td colspan="2"></td></tr></table>			from:		to:		Cc:	transportoffice@gkschool.com	date:	Sept 10, 2023, 07:03 PM	subject:			
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4	Write a factual description, in not more than 100 words, of a potted plant that you and your sibling recently chose, to gift your parent.	4												
5 a	Write a letter to the librarian, City Library, in not more than 120 words, for purchase and addition of popular fiction and non-fiction titles in Braille and also the intake of audio books, to promote inclusion. You are an NGO employee, from the same city. You may use ideas from Unit 2: Education, along with your own ideas to write this letter.	7												
OR														
5 b	You are a sports scout*. Write a letter to the Governor of your region, drawing attention to the need for creating and upgrading sport facilities and following practices to enable the local / indigenous sporting talent from your city, to hone their skills. Include specific recommendations. Write the letter in not more than 120 words using ideas from Unit 1: Health and Medicine, along with your own.													

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	* A person who uses their expertise and knowledge of the sport to identify potential talent and recruit individuals who can contribute to the team's success.	
6 a	<p>Some people prefer solo travel, while others enjoy travelling in a group. As Hema Joseph of class X-C, write an article for your school magazine, in about 150 words, discussing the advantages and disadvantages of each preference and examining the factors that influence these choices.</p> <p>Use the given cues, along with your own ideas and those you may have gathered from Unit 5: Travel and Tourism, to create this article.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>*How can loneliness and safety concerns impact solo travel?</p> <p>*What are some factors that can make solo travel more expensive?</p> <p>*How does travelling alone allow for personal growth and discovery?</p> <p>*What are some advantages of being able to choose your itinerary and pace?</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>*How can conflicts and disagreements arise when travelling with others?</p> <p>*What are some factors that can limit independence and freedom when travelling with a group?</p> <p>*How does travelling with others provide opportunities to make friends?</p> <p>*What are some ways that group travel can be more cost-effective?</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>*How can personality type influence travel preferences?</p> <p>*How does budget impact travel choices?</p> <p>*What role does the destination play in determining travel preferences?</p> </div>	8
OR		
6 b	<p>Space tourism, though in its early stages, is a reality. As Jagmeet Singh of class X-D, write an article for your school magazine, in about 150 words, discussing the opportunities and challenges of space tourism, the ethical considerations surrounding it and how it might impact society.</p> <p>Use the given cues, along with your own ideas and those you may have gathered from Unit 3: Science, to create this article.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Safety concerns and potential accidents in space tourism</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Space debris and the need for responsible space traffic management</p> <p>Turning space into a commodity: the ethics of commercializing space</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Ensuring equality and access to space tourism opportunities</p> <p>Promoting responsible and sustainable practices in space tourism</p> <p>Balancing economic opportunities with environmental and social responsibility</p> </div>	

SECTION C : GRAMMAR (10 marks)

7	Complete the tasks A-C , as directed.	
(A)	Fill the blanks (i) -(iii) with the appropriate option from those in the brackets.	3
<p>Time travel (i) _____ (ought to /should/ could) become a reality in the near future, (ii) _____ (allows/ allowed/ allowing) human beings to experience the thrill of travelling back or forward in time.</p>		

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However, (iii) _____ (most/ many/ much) challenges must be overcome, such as ensuring safety and affordability for all potential time-travellers.

(B) In the following paragraph, one word has been omitted in each line. In your answer sheets, remember to write the missing word **along with** the word that comes before and after it, as shown below. The first one has been done as an example. **4**

No.	Text	Word before	Omission	Word after
e.g.	Ever wondered sleep deficit? Well,	wondered	about	sleep
i	sleep deficit a common problem among			
	teenagers today, with many staying up late			
ii	to use electronic devices. This lead to			
iii	difficulty in concentrating, mood swings, even			
iv	It's important for teens to prioritize sleep			
	to ensure their overall health and well-being.			

(C) Do as directed. **3**

i. Rearrange the following jumbled words/phrases in the given dialogue to create a meaningful sentence. **1**

Did you know that the lack of hydrological resources affects more than 40% of the world population?

No, I didn't. What are hydrological resources?

(i) WATER RESOURCES, / SURVIVAL / AND PLANT / TO HUMAN, / ANIMAL, / REFER TO / WHICH / ARE VITAL / HYDROLOGICAL RESOURCES

ii. Report the dialogues to complete the paragraph that follows. **1+1**

Photographer: I want to use a drone for photographing your event.

Customer: Really! Do you usually offer this advice?

Photographer: No. I don't. Your event is in an open and picturesque area and I want to capture the complete scene.

The photographer told the customer that she wanted to use a drone for photographing his event. The customer exclaimed in surprise and asked **(ii)** _____. The photographer replied in the negative and shared that **(iii)** _____ as his event was in an open and picturesque area.

SECTION D : LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (26 marks)

8 Read the given excerpts and answer the questions briefly, for **ANY TWO** excerpts, of the three, given. **4+4=8**

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(A)	But must I confess how I liked him, How glad I was he had come like a guest in quiet, to drink at my water-trough And depart peaceful, pacified, and thankless, Into the burning bowels of this earth? (<i>The Snake</i>)	
i	What can be inferred about the speaker's attitude towards nature based on the excerpt?	1
ii	List the meaning of the phrase "burning bowels of this earth".	1
iii	How is the snake's arrival and departure symbolic?	1
iv	The speaker compares the snake to the guest . Which word in the extract displays the snake's non-guest like behaviour?	1
(B)	ANTONY: If you have tears, prepare to shed them now. You all do know this mantle : I remember The first time ever Caesar put it on; 'Twas on a summer's evening, in his tent, That day he overcame the Nervii : Look, in this place ran Cassius' dagger through: See what a rent the envious Casca made: Through this the well-beloved Brutus stabb'd; And as he pluck'd his cursed steel away, (<i>Julius Caesar</i>)	
i	How does Antony use visual imagery to make his point about the assassination of Caesar?	1
ii	What is the significance of the mantle that Antony refers to, in his speech?	1
iii	Identify the tone of Antony's statement when he says, "If you have tears, prepare to shed them now".	1
iv	What does Antony's reference to the Nervii suggest about Caesar's military prowess?	1
(C)	"Well," I said, "we're leaving on Monday. Is there anything I can do for you before we go?" Nicola shook his head, but suddenly Jacopo said, "Sir," he burst out, "every Sunday we make a visit to the country, to Poleta, 30 kilometres from here. Usually we hire bicycles. But tomorrow, since you are so kind, you might send us in your car." I had already told Luigi he might have the Sunday off. However, I answered, "I'll drive you out myself." There was a pause. Nicola was glaring at his young brother in vexation . "We could not think of troubling you, sir." "It won't be any trouble." (<i>Two Gentlemen of Verona</i>)	
i	Identify the phrase that indicates that the visit to Poleta on Sundays is significant as a routine or tradition.	1
ii	What does the narrator's offer to drive the brothers to Poleta reveal about his character?	1
iii	Why was there a pause after the narrator's offer?	1
iv	State one reason why Jacopo might have wanted a car ride despite the choice of hired bicycles?	1
9	Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions in about 30- 40 words each	5x2=10
i	How effective is the use of the phrase "Nothing beside remains", in conveying the theme of the transience and impermanence of power and human achievement, in <i>Ozymandias</i> by P.B.Shelley?	2
ii	What does the writer wish to convey via the use of the metaphor for a false friend in the given line from <i>The Letter</i> ?	2

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	...the cold used sleep to extend its sway over all things even as a false friend lulls his chosen victim with caressing smiles.	
iii	Comment on Elsie Brown's writing style in the story, <i>The Shady Plot</i> .	2
iv	In <i>Patol Babu, Film Star</i> , how is Patol Babu's character a commentary on the struggling actors in the film industry?	2
v	In the story, <i>Virtually True</i> , Michael said, "That's what I like about computers. The more futuristic they get, the better you can understand the past." Explain what he meant.	2
vi	What is Stanley Houghton's primary purpose in employing irony in the play ' <i>The Dear Departed</i> '?	2
10	Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 150 words.	8
(A)	Even though both, the frog from Vikram Seth's poem, <i>The Frog and the Nightingale</i> and Abel's children from the play, <i>The Dear Departed</i> , display greed, there are differences. Elaborate, in about 150 words, how the greed of the frog and that of Abel's children differ in motivation, actions, relationship, and consequences.	
OR		
(B)	Imagine that the mariner hears of Mrs. Packletide's hunt and decides to share some advice with her, about the impact of wilfully killing creatures. As the mariner, write this letter, in about 150 words, to Mrs. Packletide, based on the consequences following your own experience of having killed a creature intentionally. (<i>Rime of the Ancient Mariner</i> and <i>Mrs Packletide's Tiger</i>)	