SAHODAY ASCHOOL COMPLEX
(NORTH ODISHA CHAPTER)
MID-TERM EXAMINATION 2026-27
CLASS- X
SUB: ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (CODE NO.184)
M.M-80 TIME: 3 HOURS

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions carefully and strictly follow them :

i. **Thisquestionpapercomprises11questions.Allquestionsarecompulsory.**

ii. **The question paper contains THREE sections–**
Section–A: Reading Skills
Section–B: Grammar and Creative Writing Skills
Section – C: Literature Textbook

iii. **Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each Part.**

Section–A: Reading Skills [20Marks]

1. Read the passage given below. [10]

A. The main difference between men and animals is the difference in their power of concentration. All success in any line of work is the result of this. Everybody knows something about concentration. We see its results every day. High achievements in art, music, etc. are the result of concentration. Those who have trained animals find much difficulty in the fact that they are constantly forgetting what is told to them. They cannot concentrate their minds on anything long at a time. Here is the difference between men and animals—the man has the greater power of concentration and also constitutes the difference between one man to another. Compare the lowest with the highest man. The difference is in the degree of concentration. This is the only difference.

B. Everybody's mind becomes concentrated at times. We all concentrate upon things we love, and we love those things upon which we concentrate our minds. What mother is there that does not love the face of her child? That face is to her the most beautiful in the world. She loves it because she concentrates her mind on it, and if everyone could concentrate his mind on that same face, everyone would love it. It would be to all the most beautiful face.

C. We all concentrate our minds upon those things we love. When we hear beautiful music, our minds become fastened upon it and we cannot take them away. Those who concentrate their minds on classical music do not like common music, and vice-versa. Music in which the notes follow each other in rapid succession holds the mind readily. A child loves lively music because the rapidity of the notes gives the mind no chance to wander. A man who likes common music dislikes classical music because it is more complicated and requires a greater degree of concentration to follow it.

D. The great trouble with such concentration is that we do not control the mind; it controls us. Something outside of ourselves, as it were, draws the mind into it and holds it as long as it chooses. We hear melodious tunes or see a beautiful painting, and the mind is held fast; cannot take it away.

E. If I speak to you well about a subject you like, your mind becomes concentrated on what I am saying. I draw your mind away from yourself and hold it upon the subject in spite of yourself. Thus, our attention is held and our minds are concentrated upon various things, in spite of ourselves. We cannot help it.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below: 10 Marks

(i) What is the underlying theme of the author in paragraph (A)? (1)

Which of the following sums up the main thought of the author?

(a) Concentration constitutes the main difference between living creatures.

(b) Concentration is what differentiates men from animals

(c) Animals have better concentration than men.
(d) Animals can be trained to perform which require high concentration.

(ii) Select the option that corresponds to the following relations below. (1)
The greater the power of concentration, the bigger the success story.
a) The more you laugh- the lesser your illness.
b) The higher the stamina- the lower food intake
c) The smaller the car- the bigger the advantage
d) The heavier the luggage- the higher the penalty.

(iii) Select the option that displays what the writer projects, with reference to the following. (1)
Those who have trained animals find much difficulty in the fact that they are constantly forgetting what is told to them.

(iv) What is the trouble with the concentration that is being talked about in the above passage? When is it easy to concentrate our mind on a particular thing? (2)

(v) What connection does the writer draw between concentration and the liking for classical music? (1)
Based on your reading of the text, list 2 reasons why the writer says that lively or fast music is the popular choice of the majority. (2)

(vi) The writer says 'When we hear beautiful music, our minds become fastened upon it and we cannot take them away.' Choose the best option that reflects the meaning of the word 'fastened' in the given statement.
(a) Connected (b) Closed (c) Hooked (d) Secured (1)

(vii) Supply 1 point to justify the following:
Our mind controls us; we do not control our mind. (1)

2. Read the following passage carefully (10)

(i) Mango (Mangifera indica) is Asia's most popular fruit and it has gained popularity around the world. It has long been a component of culture and religion as a useful and tasty fruit. In addition to taste, it has many good qualities thus making it to be called as 'King of Fruits" Major mango-growing states in India include Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh are the leading states in mango production.

(ii) Mango is grown in an area of 5.58 million hectares of area in the world. India is the largest producer of mangoes with 46.02 and 45.88 percent of the total world area and production, respectively. However, India being the major shareholder in terms of mango production, exports only 0.52% of its total production indicating the huge gap in exporting of mangoes. Peru exports about 46%, Thailand 24%, Mexico 18% and Brazil 11% of their total mango production. These countries are the bigger challenges for Indian mango exports. Hence, efforts are needed to evolve cheap transportation mechanism, increase the trade agreements with major importing countries and enhance the productivity.

(iii) The top importing country is United States of America, however, India exports only two percent of its total exports to the USA. The USA, European countries, the UK, Malaysia and Russia can be the other hotspots where India can target to export the mangoes. The critical issue for exporting to the USA is transportation cost (due to sea route distance) and limited shelf life of mango, while for Europe transportation costs as well as competition by African countries are the major hurdles. The following chart shows the major export destinations of Indian mangoes in 2019-20.

SL.NO.	COUNTRY	PERCENTAGE
1	U.S.A	2
2	Kuwait	2
3	Saudi Arabia	3
4	Qatar	6
5	Bangladesh	6
6	Oman	7
7	U.K.	9
8	Nepal	24
9	United Arab Emirates	33
10	Bahrain	2
11	Others	6

Answer the following questions based on the passage above:

(i) Complete the following analogy appropriately, based on your understanding of Para (i)
We can say that for becoming the king of jungle, Lion has to be the strongest, bravest and the fiercest. Similarly, Mango is known as the king of fruits because _____ . (1)

(ii) Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of Para (ii):
The statement that, India is the largest producer of Mangoes with 45.88 percent of the total world production can be attributed to Indian orchardists, is a/an___ (fact/opinion) because it is a/an_____ (subjective judgement/objective detail) (1)

(iii) Justify the following: India being the major shareholder in terms of mango production, exports only 0.52% of its total production. (2)

(iv) The top mango importing country is the USA, however India exports only two percent of its total exports to the U.S.A. State any one inference that can be drawn from this. (1)

(v) In the given sentence taken from para-ii, select the option that correctly replaces the underlined word, with its most likely antonym. These countries are the bigger challenges for Indian mango exports. (1)
A. enigmas B. solutions C. provocations D. disputes

(vi) Why is India described as the largest producer of mangoes in the world? (1)

(vii) Which of the following is the main takeaway from the study mentioned in the passage? (1)
A. India needs to produce more mangoes so that more can be exported.
B. The UAE imported least mangoes from India in 2019-20.
C. India is the largest producer of mangoes and by putting in more efforts, has the potential to be the largest exporter too.
D. More study is needed to find ways to increase.

(viii) Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below- (1)
Assertion: India is the largest producer of mangoes.
Reason : India has the largest cultivated land area and highest production of mangoes.
Options-
A. Both assertion and reason are correct, and the reason is a correct explanation of the assertion.
B. Both assertion and reason are correct, but the reason is not a correct explanation of the assertion.
C. Assertion is correct, but the reason is incorrect.
D. Assertion is incorrect, and the reason is correct.

(ix) Justify the following: India being the major shareholder in terms of mango production, exports only 0.52% of its total production.

SECTION-B (GRAMMAR AND CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS GRAMMAR) (20)

3. Complete ANY TEN of the following twelve tasks, asdirected. (10x1=10)

i. Fill in the blank with the correct option to complete a corporate offer letter from a company to its newly recruited employee. (1)
Dear Sreeja
We are pleased to inform you that next September 1, you _____ to join in our company.
(A) will be requested (B) have been requested
(C) would have requested (D) are requested

ii. Read the given sentence from a self help book. Identify the error and supply the correction in the given format.
It was the total peace in this place.

iii. Pratistha asked her friend the following question.
Could you please come to my home tonight. My parents had gone to my uncle's house.
Report Pratistha's question correctly.

iv. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the beginning line from a school notice board on a community outreach programme.
It is to inform _____ (each / all) the students of the school that, our Annual Fiesta 2026 will be taken on 26th November 2026 .

v. Read Virat's reply to his junior players –
Our daily 8 hours consistent practice and proper monitoring our development should be our prime focus. The junior players asked to Virat _____

vi. Identify and correct the error in the given line.

I prefer the chocolate pudding than the vanilla truffle anyday.

Option No.	Error	Correction
A	prefer	Preferred
B	the	an
C	than	to
D	any day	Every day

vii. Choose the correct option to fill the blank.
I looked inside the bucket and saw there was _____ water in it, so they had to add more to use.
(a) Few (b) A Few (c) A Little (d) Little

viii. Mala _____ nonsense in her dream which her mother could hardly understand.
a) was talking b) will be talking c) is talking d) has been talking

ix) I have decided that I _____ go to Bali this year definitively.
(a) Should (b) Can (c) Would (d) Will

x) Fill in the blanks with suitable word given in the bracket.
Dear Sir,
Subject :- Placement of order for musical instruments
This is to inform you that our school management……(decide) to place an order with your company for the supply of music instruments ; the list is given below.

xi) Identify the error in the given opinion below and supply the correction.
The rise or control of artificial intelligence (AI) is impacting society, as a whole.
Error - _____ Correction - _____

Complete the line from a self- awareness song, by filling the blank with the correct option.
The river runs through your veins
The trees and mountains _____ your name
The moon and stars watch over
You're guiding your way back home
To dream the night away.
(a) will call (b) call (c) had called (d) calls

xii) Fill in the blank with correct form of the verb given in the bracket:
Mohan _____ (fail) unless he works hard.

4. Attempt any one from (a) and (b) given below: (5)

(a) You are Vaibhavi Sinha, examination Incharge, Goodway Public School, Aurobindo Road, Indore. You require 4 reams of white paper, 2 packets of carbon paper, one dozen registers, blue and red ball point pens (50 each). Place an order with Sunrise Stationary Mart, 12 Mall Road, Indore mentioning terms of payment, discount asked by you and delivery date. (120 words)

OR

(b) You are Riti / Rahim a parent of a school-going child. You were invited to attend a 2 day festival organized by the school. You were amazed to see how your child's school arranged a culinary competition as per the direction / guideline of CBSE.
Write a letter to the Principal expressing your views on how these programmes help in building confidence and self-esteem among children. Also draw attention to their organizational skills, sense of responsibility, and commitment in their tasks.

You may use the following points:

- Students from UKG – 12th participated.
- Different types of foods were prepared.
- Well garnished, hygienic, nutritious and healthy food arranged.
- Proper Waste Management.
- Special judges were invited from NIMS Hotel Management School

Outcome of the Event

- Self reliance building
- Leadership quality
- Creativity and proper managemen

5. Attempt any one from (a) and (b) given below: (5)

(a) Gurmeet Kaur is an aspiring candidate for a public-funded engineering college in the suburbs. She belongs to a nearby village, has minimal technological skills and exposure, has the required cut-off percentage and is looking for a complete or partial scholarship. Write a paragraph in about 100-120 words, analyzing her SWOT notes to support your stand on whether she should join/not join the college.

STRENGTH	**WEAKNESS**
✓ Strong Curriculum ✓ Quality Faculty ✓ Vibrant Activity Clubs ✓ Green Location ✓ Close proximity to residential areas	✓ Lack of diversity ✓ Students' behavioral problems ✓ No hostel facility ✓ Slow repair and maintenance work ✓ Underutilization of IT services ✓ Lack of targeted advertisements to out-state students
OPPORTUNITIES	**THREAT**
✓ Practice based research ✓ Partnership with professional organisations ✓ Strong alumni ✓ Acclaimed Student Exchange Programme with European countries	✓ Lack of publicity in areas of excellence ✓ Public perception towards funded colleges ✓ Declining students' interest towards technical subjects ✓ Low employee morale due to budget cuts

OR

(b) An area is believed to be water stressed when annual water supplies drop below 1700 cubic metres per person per year. As per an analysis we are already surviving with around 1700-1800 cubic meters per year. As our demand for water has increased drastically over the years, per capita water availability has taken a beating. Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words, analyzing the possible causes of water scarcity in the future

SECTION-C(LITERATURESKILL) [40Marks]

6. Extract-Based Questions

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Instead, you have spent a dull evening in a French music hall with a sloppy fat man who, instead of having messages slipped into his hand by dark-eyed beauties, gets only a prosaic telephone call making an appointment in his room. You have been bored!" The fat man chuckled to himself as he unlocked the door of his room and stood aside to let his frustrated guest enter.

(i) Identify the synonym for 'chuckle' as used in 'The fat man chuckled to himself'. 1

A. Shriek B. Snigger C. Guffaw D. Bellow

(ii) Which of the following is a synonym for 'frustrated' as used to describe the guest? 1

A. Thwarted B. Indifferent C. Exultant D. Composed

(iii) Comment on the expectation of the narrator from the mentioned context. 2

(iv) Describe the physical description of the person as per the author in the given context.

7. Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow. [5]

I would not intrude on him ;
A dime, another ball, is worthless. Now He senses first responsibility
In a world of possessions.

(a) Giving another ball to the child is

(i) Intruding on him (ii) going to make him upset
(iii) worthles (iv) going to make him happy

(b) Why is the boy sad? (2)

(c) What do the following lines suggest about the boy? **(1)**
"Now he senses first responsibility In a world of possessions".

(i) It suggests that he is thinking of getting another ball.
(ii) It suggests that he now hates life.
(iii) It suggests that he wants to transform himself.

(iv) It suggests that the boy is nothing now that his ball is gone.

(d) The ball is called worthless because it costs only----------. **(1)**

OR

Is it inside, doors open to the veranda writing long letters
in which I scarcely mention the departure of the forest from the house.
The night is fresh, the whole moonshines in a sky still open.....

(a) The poet talks about the house as a safes actuary from predators.(True/False)

(b) The poet uses the in definite article for' sky' instead of the definite one. Why? (1)

(c) The extract uses 'open' twice, suggesting different meanings. Pick the option that lists the correct meanings, respectively. (1)

(i) Entry point-vastness (ii) Sharing a common space-great view

(iii) Allow in gaccess and vision-expanse of space (iv)Advantage-obstacles ahead

(d) Choose the option that DOES NOT state the meaning of the underlined word. 'I scarcely mention...' **(1)**

(i) Tactfully (ii)Barely (iii)Hardly (iv) Only just

8. **Answer ANYF OUR of the following questions in 40-50words each.** **(4x3)**

(a) What does Mandela imply by "true freedom"?

(b) There are many ideas about how the world will 'end' ? Do you think the world will end some day? Have you ever thought that would happen if the sun got so hot that it 'burst', or grew colder and colder?

(c) How does Lesile Norris use the vivid imagery and metaphorical language in A Tiger in the Zoo, to effectively depict the confinement and oppression experienced by captive tiger?

(d) Why does Valli stand upon the seat of the bus? What does she see now?

(e) What 'experiment' did Maxwell think Camusfearna would be suitable for?

9. **Answer ANY TWO of the following questions in 40-50 words each.** **(2x3)**

(a) "A little flattery helps in making friends". Comment on this statement in your own words.

(b) In 'A Triumph of Surgery', how does Tricki's condition reflect the consequences of pampering pets excessively ? What does this suggest about human attachment ? (A Triumph of Surgery)

(c) What are the follies in Max's judgement ? (Midnight's Visitor)

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in100-120words: **(6)**

(a) Instead of enjoying their childhood, the children today are keen to enter adulthood. Children are stuck to social media, internet. After reading about all the joys that the author Lucio Rodrigues had in his childhood do you think such a keenness on the part of children is desirable?
(Glimpses of India: A Baker from Goa)

(b) What does this poem, Amanda, tell about relationships between parents and teenagers? Why is Amanda always in a sulking mood?
(Amanda)

10. AnswerANYONEofthefollowingtwoquestionsin100-120words: **(6)**

(a) How does the narrator prove that presence of mind and intelligence are more powerful than a gun. How far is it true in case of Ausable, the secret agent?
(The Midnight Visitor)

(b) Tricki was more than a dog. He was more like a spoilt child of an overindulgent mistress, Mrs. Pumphrey. Comment.
(A Triumph of Surgery)