



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
ASSESSMENT 2 - (2025-26)
SUBJECT – ENGLISH

Class: XI
Date: 25/11/2025

Maximum Marks: 80
Time allowed: 3 Hours

General Instructions:

- (i) *This paper is divided into three sections:*

<i>Section A- Reading</i>	<i>26 marks</i>
<i>Section B- Grammar & Writing</i>	<i>23 marks</i>
<i>Section C- Literature</i>	<i>31 marks</i>
- (ii) *All questions are compulsory.*
- (iii) *Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.*
- (iv) *Avoid using correction fluid.*

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (26 marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully.

1. In a rapidly changing world, the value of empathy has become more significant than ever before. Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of others. It goes beyond sympathy, which merely acknowledges another person's pain; empathy allows one to experience and respond with compassion. In schools, workplaces, and communities, empathy acts as the foundation for cooperation, tolerance, and mutual respect.

2. Psychologists believe that empathy can be both innate and learned. Infants display the earliest signs of empathy when they cry in response to another baby's distress. However, as individuals grow, their surroundings, family behaviour, and education play vital roles in shaping this quality. Children who are encouraged to express emotions and listen to others tend to develop stronger empathetic skills. In contrast, environments that suppress emotions or prioritize competition over compassion may weaken a person's ability to empathize.

3. In the professional world, empathy has become an essential leadership skill. Studies show that leaders who exhibit empathy tend to inspire greater loyalty and productivity among team members. They listen actively, make fair decisions, and create inclusive environments where people feel valued. Such workplaces experience lower stress levels and higher job satisfaction. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, organizations that prioritized emotional support and flexible policies saw higher employee morale compared to those focused solely on performance metrics.

4. Empathy also plays a major role in reducing social conflicts. When people take time to understand differing perspectives, misunderstandings are minimized. This is particularly crucial in multicultural societies, where respect for diversity ensures harmony. Social media, however, has made empathy both easier and harder to practice. While it connects people globally, it can also encourage judgment and detachment due to lack of face-to-face interaction. Therefore, the challenge today is to balance digital communication with genuine emotional connection.

5. Cultivating empathy requires conscious effort. Reading literature, volunteering, and engaging in dialogue with people from diverse backgrounds are effective ways to enhance it. Empathy, if nurtured collectively, has the power to create a kinder, more understanding world — a world that values not just intelligence or success, but humanity itself.

6. Furthermore, empathy contributes to mental well-being by reducing stress, anxiety, and feelings of isolation. People who practice empathy regularly report greater emotional stability and stronger social bonds. Schools and workplaces that emphasize emotional education and peer support programs notice improved relationships and a more positive environment. In addition, exposure to real-life stories, cultural narratives, and shared experiences encourages individuals to reflect on their own behaviour and become more compassionate toward others. Experts suggest that integrating mindfulness exercises and reflective journaling into daily routines can further enhance empathetic skills.

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer the questions given below:

- i. According to the passage, empathy differs from sympathy because it — (1 mark)
 - a) only recognizes another's feelings
 - b) allows one to share another's feelings
 - c) ignores emotions
 - d) is purely instinctive
- ii. Which of the following is *not* a way to cultivate empathy? (1 mark)
 - a) Volunteering for social causes
 - b) Ignoring others' emotions
 - c) Reading literature
 - d) Interacting with diverse people
- iii. Fill in the blank: (1 mark)

Psychologists believe that empathy can be both _____ and learned.
- iv. What impact did empathetic leadership have during the pandemic? (2 marks)
- v. Write True / False: - (1 mark)

Organizations that showed empathy during the pandemic had better employee morale.
- vi. The central idea of the passage is — (1 mark)
 - a) Empathy should be replaced by intelligence
 - b) Empathy is essential for harmonious living
 - c) Technology promotes empathy
 - d) Empathy cannot be learned
- vii. Assertion (A): Empathy helps in building cooperation and tolerance. (1 mark)

Reason (R): It enables individuals to understand and respect others' emotions.

 - a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
 - b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.

- c) A is true but R is false.
- d) A is false but R is true.

viii. Find a word in the last paragraph that means “the state of being emotionally steady or balanced”. (1 mark)

ix. According to the passage, what role does empathy play in workplaces? (1 mark)

2. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: -

1. In recent years, online learning has transformed the way education is delivered and received. With advancements in technology, students can now attend classes, submit assignments, and even appear for exams virtually. The pandemic accelerated this trend, making digital platforms like Google Classroom, Zoom, and Microsoft Teams a regular part of academic life.

2. Online learning offers flexibility and accessibility, allowing students from different geographical areas to attend the same class. It eliminates the need for travel and provides opportunities for self-paced study. Moreover, recorded lectures and interactive quizzes have made the learning process more engaging and efficient. However, despite these advantages, online learning is not without its drawbacks. Many students report distractions at home, reduced peer interaction, and increased screen fatigue. Teachers, too, face challenges in maintaining classroom discipline and assessing student understanding effectively.

3. A survey conducted among 500 students from various schools and colleges revealed the following results:

Aspect of Online Learning	Positive Response (%)	Negative Response (%)
Flexibility in study schedule	85%	15%
Ease of understanding through videos	70%	30%
Interaction with teachers	40%	60%
Motivation to study regularly	45%	55%
Technical issues (internet/device)	35%	65%

4. The survey shows that while students appreciate the convenience of online classes, many struggles with maintaining motivation and consistent engagement. Educational institutions are now adopting a hybrid model, combining online and offline teaching to achieve balance. Experts believe that the future of education will depend on how effectively schools can blend technology with traditional classroom values.

5. In addition, students’ overall performance and satisfaction are influenced by their home environment and digital resources. The survey also revealed that 50% of students had a quiet study space at home, while 50% faced noise or other distractions. Similarly, only 60% of students reported having access to reliable devices and high-speed internet, while the remaining 40% faced connectivity challenges. These factors play a significant role in determining how well students can participate in online learning and complete their assignments on time. Schools are

now providing additional support, such as lending devices and offering counselling sessions, to ensure all students can benefit equally from digital education.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below:
(1x 8 = 8 marks)

i. Which factor has made online learning more common in recent years?

- (a) New textbooks
- (b) The pandemic
- (c) Decrease in school fees
- (d) Ban on classroom teaching

ii. Name any two online platforms mentioned in the passage.

iii. Answer whether the given statement is True or False: Most students found it easier to interact with teachers during online classes.

iv. Fill in the blank: According to the survey, _____ students faced technical issues during online learning.

v. List two major advantages of online learning mentioned in the passage.

vi. Find a word in the last paragraph that means *“help or assistance provided to improve a situation”*.

vii. What teaching approach are schools now adopting to balance online and offline learning?

- (a) Digital-only classes
- (b) Hybrid learning model
- (c) Weekend lectures
- (d) Recorded lessons only

viii. According to the passage, which factor contributes most to students’ struggle in online learning?

- (a) Lack of study materials
- (b) Long commutes
- (c) Reduced motivation and peer interaction
- (d) Limited use of technology

3. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: (8 marks)

1. In today’s fast-paced world, maintaining mental health has become as important as physical fitness. Mental health refers to a person’s emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act in daily life. A healthy mind enables better decision-making, stronger relationships, and increased productivity. Unfortunately, many people ignore their mental health until they face stress, anxiety, or burnout.

2. Several factors influence mental health, including lifestyle, environment, family relationships, and genetics. Lack of sleep, poor diet, and constant exposure to digital screens often increase stress levels. Experts suggest that maintaining a routine, exercising regularly, and taking breaks

from social media can greatly improve mental balance. Mindfulness practices such as meditation, journaling, and deep breathing are also proven to reduce anxiety and enhance focus.

3. Workplaces today are increasingly promoting mental health awareness. Many companies now organize wellness sessions and provide counselling support to employees. Schools too are introducing mindfulness programs to help students manage academic pressure. Open conversations about mental health help reduce stigma and encourage people to seek help when needed.

4. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines mental health as a state of well-being in which an individual realizes his or her own potential, can cope with normal life stresses, can work productively, and contributes to the community. Thus, mental health is not just the absence of illness but the presence of emotional resilience and inner stability. Nurturing mental well-being is essential for living a balanced, meaningful, and fulfilling life.

(a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it, using headings and subheadings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary-minimum four) and a suitable format. Also supply an appropriate title to it. **(5 marks)**

(b) Write a summary of the passage in about 50 words. **(3 marks)**

SECTION B –GRAMMAR AND CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS- (23 Marks).

4. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate option: Attempt any THREE. (3 marks)

Aryan, a talented young artist, (a) _____ (force/forced/was forced/to force) to stop painting temporarily when his eyesight (b) _____ (fail/failing/failed/had failed) due to an accident last year. This (c) _____ (happen/happened/was happening/had happened) when he (d) _____ (go/went/had gone/will go) to a summer art camp in Jaipur.

5. Do as directed. Attempt any FOUR. (4 marks)

(i) Meena said to her brother, “Will you help me complete this project?” (Change into reported speech)

(ii) Arjun said to the teacher, “I have finished my homework.” (Change into reported speech)

(iii) Identify whether the underlined part is a Phrase or a Clause.

She went to the market because she needed vegetables.

(iv) government / announced / plan / new / to / reduce / pollution / measures / several
(Rearrange the jumbled words into a meaningful sentence)

(v) Identify whether the underlined part is a Phrase or a Clause.

Walking in the rain, he forgot his umbrella.

6. Attempt ANY ONE of the two in about 50 words: (3 marks)

A. You are Rohit / Riya, a student of Class XI. You have lost your wristwatch in the school playground. Draft a classified advertisement in about 50 words for the “Lost and Found” column.

OR

B. You are Harsha / Harish. You want to rent out a two-bedroom apartment in Mumbai. Draft a suitable classified advertisement in not more than 50 words.

7. Attempt ANY ONE of the two in about 50 words: (3 marks)

A. Your school is organizing a “Book Fair Week.” Create a poster inviting students to participate. Mention the dates, venue, and special attractions like author talks, book sales, and reading competitions.

OR

B. Design a poster to promote road safety awareness. Highlight common road hazards, safety rules, and preventive measures. Include a catchy slogan to grab attention.

8. Attempt ANY ONE of the two in about 120-150 words: (5 marks)

A. You are *Aarav / Meera*, a student of Class XI. In today’s world, technology has become an integral part of education. However, it is important that students learn to use digital tools responsibly and effectively.

Write a speech to be delivered in the morning assembly on the topic “The Importance of Digital Literacy in Modern Education.” In your speech, highlight how students can use technology for learning, creativity, communication, and personal growth, while maintaining digital ethics and online safety.

OR

You are *Aarav / Meera*, a student of Class XI. Mental health has become one of the most significant issues among today’s youth. Many young people face stress, anxiety, and emotional challenges, yet the stigma surrounding mental health often prevents them from seeking help.

Write a speech to be delivered in the school assembly on the topic “The Role of Youth in Promoting Mental Health Awareness.” In your speech, discuss how young people can help reduce stigma, encourage open conversations, support peers facing mental health challenges, and create a compassionate school environment.

9. Attempt ANY ONE of the two in about 120-150 words: (5 marks)

You are *Riya / Karan*, a student of Class XI. Your school is organizing an inter-school debate competition on the topic “Climate Change is the Biggest Challenge Facing the World Today.”

Write a debate either for or against the motion. In your arguments, include relevant facts and examples to support your views. You may discuss aspects such as environmental degradation,

human responsibility, sustainable development, global cooperation, and technological solutions.

OR

You are *Riya / Karan*, a student of Class XI. Your school is conducting an inter-class debate competition on the topic “Social Media Does More Harm Than Good.”

Write a debate either for or against the motion. In your response, present logical arguments supported by suitable examples. You may include points related to communication, privacy, mental health, academic distraction, social awareness, and responsible use of digital platforms.

SECTION C – LITERATURE (31 MARKS)

10. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given:
(3 x 1 = 3 marks)

A. *“And who art thou? said I to the soft-falling shower,
Which, strange to tell, gave me an answer, as here translated:
I am the Poem of Earth, said the voice of the rain,
Eternal I rise impalpable out of the land and the bottomless sea.”*

i. Complete the sentence.

The rain is called the “Poem of Earth” because _____.

ii. What does the phrase “Eternal I rise” signify?

iii. Answer whether the given statement is True or False.

The poem conveys that nature and humanity are interconnected.

OR

B. *“Then with eerie, delicate whistle-chirrup whisperings,
She launches away, towards the infinite
And the laburnum subsides to empty.”*

i. Answer whether the given statement is True or False.

After the bird flies away, the laburnum tree remains lively and full of movement.

ii. Explain the phrase “towards the infinite” as used in the extract.

iii. The expression “eerie, delicate whistle-chirrup whisperings” is an example of

- (a) Onomatopoeia
- (b) Simile

- (c) Metaphor
- (d) Synecdoche

11. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given:

(3 x 1 = 3 marks)

A. *“When I reached the deck, I saw the damage — the starboard side was bashed open, water was pouring in. The hand pumps had been blocked with debris and the electric pump short-circuited. The entire boat was filled with water, and we were sinking fast.”*

- i. What was the immediate problem faced by the narrator and his crew?
- ii. The word “*starboard*” refers to which side of the ship?
 - (a) left side
 - (b) right side
 - (c) front side
 - (d) rear side
- iii. What do these lines reveal about the situation at sea?
 - (a) It was calm and under control
 - (b) The crew had given up hope
 - (c) It was a critical and life-threatening emergency
 - (d) They were near the shore

OR

B. *“She was like the winter landscape in the mountains, an expanse of pure white serenity breathing peace and contentment.”*

- i. Who is being described in the above lines?
- ii. Identify the figure of speech used in this description.
- iii. What does ‘*pure white serenity*’ refer to in the context?

12. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given:

(4 x 1 = 4 marks)

A. *“No doubt about it at all. Who’s the better for being spoilt; grown man, lad or girl? Nobody. You think it does them good when you run after them all the time, take their orders as if you were the servant in the house, stay at home every night while they go out enjoying themselves? Never in all your life. It’s the ruin of them as well as you. Husbands, sons, daughters should be taking notice of wives and mothers, not giving them orders and treating them like dirt. And don’t tell me you don’t know what I mean, for I know more than you’ve told me.”*

- i. Answer whether the given statement is True or False.
The tone of the speaker reinforces the message of non-assertiveness, indifference mixed with vengeance.

ii. How do the children of Mrs. Pearson treat her?

iii. Complete the sentence.

The extract captures the play's theme of _____.

iv. Assertion (A): Mrs. Fitzgerald believes that Mrs. Pearson's family members treat her poorly because she allows them to.

Reason (R): She feels that by being too submissive and running after them, Mrs. Pearson has encouraged their disrespectful behaviour.

- a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true, but R is false.
- d) A is false, but R is true.

OR

B. *"And one day I noticed I was curious about all the possessions that must still be at that address. I wanted to see them, touch, remember. After my first visit in vain to Mrs. Dorling's house I decided to try a second time. Now a girl of about fifteen opened the door to me. I asked her if her mother was at home. 'No' she said, 'my mother's doing an errand. 'No matter,' I said, 'I'll wait for her.'"*

i. Assertion (A): The narrator felt an emotional connection with the possessions that once belonged to her family.

Reason (R): These possessions reminded her of her lost home and her life before the war.

- a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true, but R is false.
- d) A is false, but R is true.

ii. Why did the narrator feel curious to visit Mrs. Dorling's house? What memories did the address hold for her?

iii. Choose the correct meaning of "vain" as used in the extract:

- a) Successful or fruitful
- b) Without success or result
- c) Done with pride or self-love
- d) Done quickly or carelessly

iv. The narrator wanted to see and touch her family's belongings to relive her _____ and feel a sense of _____.

13. Answer ANY TWO of the following four questions in about 40-50 words:

(3 x 2 = 6 marks)

a. How did the relationship between the author and his grandmother change when they moved to the city?

- b. What is the central idea of the poem *Childhood*?
- c. What discovery about Tutankhamun surprised the archaeologists in *Discovering Tut*?
- d. Explain how the photograph acts as a bridge between the poet's present and the past.

14. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 40-50 words: (3x1 = 3 marks)

- a. What made the narrator feel uncomfortable during her visit to Mrs. Dorling's house?
- b. What is the central theme of the play *Mother's Day*?

15. Answer ANY ONE out of two questions in about 120-150 words. (1x 6 = 6 marks)

- a. How did Prof. Gaitonde come back to the world he knew?
- b. The poem "Childhood" is a reflection on the loss of innocence and the process of growing up. Discuss.

16. Answer ANY ONE out of two questions in about 120-150 words. (1x 6 = 6 marks)

- a. How does *The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse* highlight the values of honesty and integrity?
- b. What message does the play *Mother's Day* convey about family relationships?

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