



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

ASSESSMENT 1 - (2025-26)

SUBJECT – ENGLISH

Class: XI

Maximum Marks: 80

Date: 18.09.2025

Time allowed: 3Hours

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 pen.*

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (26 marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully.

1. We live in an age of wonders and miracles. It has been called the ‘Age of Science’ and different aspects of our life that changed in the preceding centuries have been attributed to science. This is completely true, but it is only one side of the coin. The flip side is that as we have advanced more in the field of technology, something fundamental to humanity has been left behind. Values such as empathy and concern for our fellow human beings are gradually being eroded due to the onslaught of our ever-evolving lifestyles, aided by the marvels of technological advancements

2. Take the example of the Internet. On the one hand, access to information and knowledge at the click of a button is a veritable boon to everyone (especially students) and this has made our lives much simpler. On the other hand, it has severely limited actual contact with teachers, friends and elders. Thus, the learning that a person gain is incomplete as he or she cannot easily take the advice that another person can give on the basis of knowledge and practical experience that is at his or her disposal.

3. Today, a small child can access and navigate the Internet with an ease that still astounds those from the older generation. But what is even more astounding is the neglect of the basic human traits of friendship, relationship and family values. Owing to all the technological advancements and the gadgets available today, children often miss out on the most enriching childhood experiences such as playing outdoor games with friends, which apart from being immensely enjoyable and physically exhilarating, also develop traits such as teamwork and discipline at an early age.

4. But now when the concept of friend is gradually being limited to virtual friends on social networking sites, one shudders to think of the implications for the personality development of a

child because the time spent with computers or mobile phones for entertainment can never really substitute for the holistic benefits of outdoor play. Such examples can be found in plenty.

5. Now if we compare the hustle and bustle of modern city life and the peace and calm of a rustic village life, we can see that in cities, life is a race with a variety of factors. It is a race that everyone tries their level best to win, but nobody actually wins as it never ends.

6. As for me, I think this age of rapid development has created at least as many problems as it has solved, if not more. The reason is that the basic goal of life, which should be the pursuit of happiness, has now been replaced by the pursuit of money. Money and happiness are considered analogous in our present society, but they actually are not so. In this mindless pursuit of money, nobody has time now to appreciate the beauty of life, which consists not of multi- billion-dollar skyscrapers, but a simple act of kindness to someone in a time of need.

7. So there is an urgent need to stop for a moment and think about where we are actually heading, is it development or destruction? Do we have to wait until people have grown so much apart from each other that we cannot see the suffering of our own species due to our mindless greed, or can we still mend our ways?

8. To answer this question, I will take the help of that most magnificent of human feelings-hope. I sincerely wish that we, as the most intelligent species on earth, would take our fair share of responsibility and sincerely think about the path we should follow. Though mankind will possibly last for a long time thanks to its determination and sheer ingenuity, we have to make sure we do not lose our humanity somewhere along the way.

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer the questions given below: (10 marks)

- i. According to the passage, “one side of the coin” has changed owing to science as _____. (1)
 - (a) age of science has brought wonders and miracles.
 - (b) different aspects of life have changed due to science.
 - (c) there is another side of the coin to look at.
 - (d) this side of coin is true and sufficient to look at.
- ii. Which of the following is not true about the internet? (1)
 - (a) It provides an easy access to information and knowledge.
 - (b) It has made our lives simpler.
 - (c) It has limited actual contact with teachers and friends.
 - (d) It can easily give advice based on personal experience.
- iii. How does the internet hamper the holistic growth of a child? (2)
- iv. According to the passage, true happiness lies in _____. (1)
 - (a) simple acts of kindness
 - (b) rapid development

- (c) multi-billion-dollar skyscrapers
- (d) pursuit of money

- v. The word 'veritable' in para 2 means _____ (1)
- vi. An Antonym of 'holistic' is _____ (1)
- vii. Identify the statement as true or false. (1)
The personality development and holistic growth of a child is hindered due to the virtual friends replaced the actual ones in their life.
- viii. What responsibility should be taken by us to save us from the virtual destruction? (2)

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

1. The story of Joanne Kathleen Rowling's near magical rise to fame is almost as well known as the characters she creates. Rowling was constantly writing and telling stories to her younger sister Dianne. "The first story I ever wrote down was about a rabbit called Rabbit." Rowling said in an interview. "He got measles and was visited by his friends including a giant bee called Miss Bee. And ever since Rabbit and Miss Bee, I have always wanted to be a writer, though I rarely told anyone so."

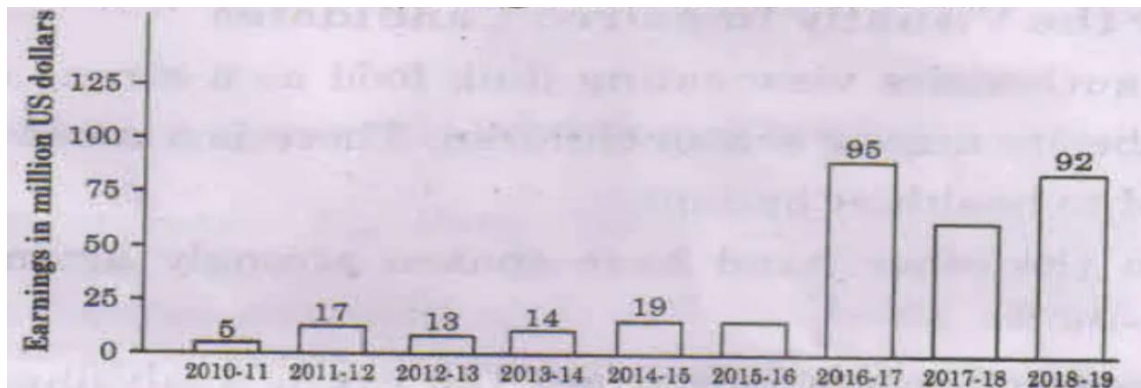
2. However, my parents, both of whom come from impoverished backgrounds and neither of whom had been to college, took the view that my overactive imagination was an amusing personal quirk that would never pay a mortgage or secure a pension.

3. A writer from the age of six, with two unpublished novels in the drawer, she was stuck on a train when Harry walked into her mind fully formed. She spent the next five years constructing the plots of seven books, one for every year of his secondary school life.

4. Rowling says she started writing the first book, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, in Portugal, where she was teaching English. At first nobody wanted to publish Harry Potter. She was told that plot was too complex. Refusing to compromise, she found a publisher.

5. In 1997 Rowling received her first royalty cheque. By book three, she had sky rocketed to the top of the publishing world. A row of zeroes appeared on the author's bank balance and her life was turned upside down. Day and night she had journalists knocking on the unanswered door of her flat.

6. Rowling's quality control has become legendary, as her obsession with accuracy. She's thrilled with Stephen Fry's taped version of the books and outraged that an Italian dust jacket showed Harry minus his glasses. "Don't they understand that the glasses are the clue to his vulnerability?"



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

(1x 8 = 8 marks)

- (i) Explain J.K. Rowling's 'near magical rise to fame'.
- (ii) The reason that the publishers rejected Rowling's book was _____
- (iii) The nuisance of becoming successful for Rowling is _____
 - a) She had many journalists waiting to meet her
 - b) She had many jobs offers given by the publishers
 - c) The fame restricted her new launches
 - d) She met many publishers
- (iv) The Italian dust jacket hints affected the trait of Harry Potter. She denies the concept written in that book.
 - a) Both statements are true.
 - b) Both statements are false.
 - c) Only the first statement is true
 - d) Only the second statement is true
- (v) Find a word in the last para that means the same as 'insecure/helpless'.
- (vi) According to the graph, how many years did it take Rowling to become very successful?
- (vii) Harry Potter is her Only success.
 - a) True
 - b) False
 - c) Not given
 - d) It is an assumption

- (viii) Identify whether the given statement is true or false.

Rowling's parent felt that her sensitive imagination was an amusing quirk that would always pay a mortgage or secure a pension.

3. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

1. How does television affect our lives? It can be very helpful to people who carefully choose the shows that they watch. Television can increase our knowledge of the outside world; there are high quality programmes that help us understand many fields of studies, science, medicine, various arts and so on. Moreover, television benefits very old people, who can't leave the house, as well as patients in hospitals. It also offers non-native speakers the advantage of daily informal language practice. They can increase their vocabulary and practise listening.

2. On the other hand, there are several serious disadvantages of television. Of course, it provides us with a pleasant way to relax and spend our free time, but in some countries, people watch television for an average of six hours or more a day. Many children stare at the TV screen for more hours a day than they spend on anything else, including studying, playing and sleeping. It's clear that TV has a powerful influence on their lives but its influence is often negative.

3. Recent studies show that after only thirty seconds of television viewing, a person's brain 'relaxes' the same way that it does just before the person falls asleep. Another effect of television on the human brain is that it seems to cause poor concentration. Children who view a lot of television can often concentrate on a subject for only fifteen to twenty minutes. They can pay attention only for the amount of time between commercials.

4. Another disadvantage is that television often causes people to become dissatisfied with their own lives. Real life does not seem so exciting to these people. To many people, television becomes more real than reality and their own lives seem boring. Also, many people get upset or depressed when they can't solve problems in real life as quickly as television actors seem to.

5. Before a child is fourteen years old, he or she views eleven thousand murders on the TV. He or she begins to believe that there is nothing strange about fights, killings and other kinds of violence. Many studies show that people become more violent after viewing certain programmes. They may even do the things that they see in a violent show.

(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 five) 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. Convert the following sentences to reported speech. Attempt any **THREE**. **(3 marks)**

a) My mother said "*I had a headache yesterday.*"

b) Krish told Rita, "*It's been raining since this afternoon.*"

c) Sherly said, "*I haven't seen them since last week.*"

d) My interviewer questioned me, "Do you have any experience working with people?"

5. Fill the blanks with the correct form of the tenses given in the bracket. Attempt any TWO: (1 x 2 = 2 marks)

One of the reasons why university students fail in English is because they a) _____ (not, speak) the language regularly with friends or parents. Another reason is that they b) _____ (rarely, read) English novels or stories to improve their grammar and vocabulary. In addition, they c) _____ (not, take) the subject seriously.

6. Rearrange the following jumbled words to form meaningful sentences. Attempt any TWO. (2 x 1 = 2 marks)

a. lies / salt / of / grain / statements / people / sometimes / his / he / tells / so / take / with / a

b. admitted / betrayal / guilt / having / act / his / the / was/ cashier / imprisoned / for/ his/ of

c. letters / ward / to / his / strong / his / good / forbearance / his / serve / sense / as / testimony / and / his

7. Attempt ANY ONE of the two questions in about 50 words: (4 marks)

A. You are Shweta/ Shashwat from Imphal and want to rent out a house. Prepare an advertisement for publishing in a newspaper, giving the location of the building, nature of accommodation, etc. in not more than 50 words.

OR

B. You are Gaurav Singh of 42 A, Enclave, Dwarka, New Delhi. You want to sell your car. Draft an advertisement in not more than 50 words for publication in the Times of India giving details of make, model, condition, etc.

8. Attempt ANY ONE of the two questions in about 50 words: (4 marks)

A. You are a fitness trainer in a health club. Design a poster in not more than 50 words, to emphasize the importance of exercise in maintaining mental and physical fitness. You are Prem/Priya.

OR

B. You are the environmental club leader at Greenfield High School, Delhi. Your school is organising an awareness campaign on the importance of saving water. Prepare a poster for the campaign, including all essential details.

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

A. Manish is preparing a speech about everyday life in a particular country. Using the notes provided below, craft a well-structured speech in about 150 words that reflect his ideas clearly and effectively.

peace and quiet—soothing air—fresh and pure green fields all around—lovely sight helpful neighbours vehicles—smoke
--

industries—smoke-pollution
crowded streets
people hurry—never relax

OR

B. Write a speech in about 150 words on 'Benefits of early rising' to be delivered by you in the morning assembly. You are Karuna/Karan, Head Girl/Head Boy of New Indian Public School, Delhi.

SECTION C – LITERATURE (31 MARKS)

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

(3 x 1 = 3 marks)

A. *"Till the goldfinch comes, with a twitching chirrup*

A suddenness, a startlement, at a branch end."

- i. What effect is produced at the branch end at the sitting of the mother goldfinch bird on it?
- ii. Why is the mother goldfinch bird 'alert' while entering the thickness?
- iii. Which figure of speech is used to describe the movement of the mother goldfinch bird?

OR

B. *"...the sea, which appears to have changed less,*

Washed their terribly transient feet."

- i) Read the given statements and choose the most appropriate answer from the options given below:

Assertion: The sea in the photograph remains the same.

Reason: The sea touched the girl's feet in the picture.

- a) Both assertion and reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
 - b) Both assertion and reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.
 - c) The assertion is true, but the reason is false
 - d) The assertion is false.
- ii) What is meant by "the sea, which appears to have changed less"?
- iii) Complete the sentence: The theme highlighted in the line is _____

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

(3 x 1 = 3 marks)

A. *“After Akhenaten's death, a mysterious ruler named Smenkhkare appeared briefly and exited with hardly a trace. And then a very young Tutankhaten took the throne – King Tut as he’s widely known today. The boy king soon changed his name to Tutankhamun, living image of Amun, and oversaw a restoration of the old ways. He reigned for about nine years - and then died unexpectedly.”*

i) The statement "appeared briefly and exited with hardly a trace" is the same as

- (a) had a small role
- (b) his stage performance was average
- (c) he ruled for a short time only
- (d) his reign was short and without any impact

ii) The expression "oversaw a restoration of the old ways" means -----

iii) What does the expression "took the throne" refer to?

OR

B. *“At dawn on January 2, the waves were gigantic. We were sailing with only a small storm jib and were still making eight knots. As the ship rose to the top of each wave, we could see endless enormous seas rolling towards us, and the screaming of the wind and spray was painful to the ears.”*

i) Which figure of speech has been used in this line ‘the waves were gigantic’?

- (a) simile (b) oxymoron (c) irony (d) Hyperbole

ii) Which kind of fear was evident in the mind of the author during the incident given in the extract?

iii) Complete the analogy with a word from the extract: huge: massive: colossal: _____

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

(4 x 1 = 4 marks)

A. *“It wasn’t morning yet, but it was summer and with day break not many minutes around the corner of the world it was light enough for me to know I wasn’t dreaming. My cousin Mourad was sitting on a beautiful white horse. I stuck my head out of the window and rubbed my eyes. Yes, he said in Armenian. It’s a horse. You are not dreaming. Make it quick if you want to ride.”*

i) Why couldn’t Aram believe when he saw Mourad on the horse?

ii) ‘Make it quick’ here means

- (a) to be sad

- (b) to hurry up
- (c) to hide
- (d) to be content

iii) Why did Mourad wake his cousin?

iv) Read the given statements and choose the most appropriate answer from the options given below:

Assertion: The narrator initially thought he was dreaming when he saw Mourad on a white horse.

Reason: It was still dark outside, and seeing a horse in their possession was unexpected.

- (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. *“Perhaps I was mistaken. I thought, perhaps it isn’t her. I had seen her only once, fleetingly, and that was years ago. It was most probable that I had rung the wrong bell. The woman let go of the door and stepped to the side. She was wearing my mother’s green knitted cardigan. The wooden buttons were rather pale from washing. She saw that I was looking at the cardigan and half hid herself again behind the door. But I knew now that I was right.”*

(i) The lady hid herself behind the door because the author was looking at_____

- (a) the lady
- (b) things placed in the house
- (c) the cardigan
- (d) the name plate

(ii) Which of the following doubts the author had about the lady of the house?

- (i) author had reached the wrong house
- (ii) author was not wearing red cardigan
- (iii) author forgot to carry proof of address
- (iv) author could not recognize the face of the lady
- (v) probably it was not the lady she was looking for

- (a) 1,2, 3
- (b) 1,4,5
- (c) 2,4,5
- (d) 3,4,1

(iii) Why did the colour of the buttons of the cardigan fade?

(iv) Identify whether the given statement is true or false.

The narrator initially thought he was dreaming.

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

(3 x 2 = 6 marks)

- a. King Tut's body had been subjected to repeated scrutiny". Why?
- b. Describe the boat 'Wavewalker'.
- c. What did the poet mean by 'that girl lived' from 'A Photograph'.
- d. Mention the odd ways in which the author's grandmother behaved just before she died.

14. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 40-50 words:

(3 x 1 = 3 marks)

- a. What do you think induced the boys to return the horse to its owner?
- b. Why did the old possessions of the narrator lose their value?

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

- a. How does the poem express the sentiment of co-dependency? How do the laburnum and the goldfinch help each other? Elaborate.
- b. Draw a character sketch of Khushwant Singh's grandmother as portrayed by him in the lesson 'The Portrait of a Lady'.

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

- a. Justify the appropriateness of the title "The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse".
- b. Why did the narrator wish to forget the address?