

**Sample/Pre-Board Paper 9**  
**Class X Term 1 Exam Nov -Dec 2021**  
**English Language and Literature (Code 184)**

Time Allowed : 90 Minutes

Maximum Marks : 40

**General Instructions :**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections.
2. Section A-READING has 18 questions. Attempt a total of 14 questions, as per specific instructions for each question.
3. Section B-GRAMMAR & WRITING has 12 questions. Attempt a total of 10 questions, as per specific instructions for each question.
4. Section C-LITERATURE has 30 questions. Attempt 26 questions, as per specific instructions for each question.
5. All questions carry equal marks.
6. There is no negative marking.

**READING****I. Read the passage given below.**

- I. Amartya Sen wrote about the Indian tradition of skepticism and heterodoxy of opinion that led to high levels of intellectual argument. The power sector in India is a victim of this tradition at its worst. Instead of forcefully communicating, supporting and honestly and firmly implementing policies, people just debate them. It is argued that central undertakings produce power at lower tariffs and must therefore build most of the required extra capacities. This is a delusion. They no longer have access to low-cost government funds.
- II. Uncertainty about payment remains a reason for the hesitation of private investment. They had to sell only to SEBs (State Electricity Boards), SEB balance sheets are cleaner after the "securitisation" of the Rs. 40,000 crore or so owed by SEBs to central government undertakings, now shown as debt instruments. But state governments have not implemented agreed plans to ensure repayment when due. The current annual losses of around Rs. 28,000 crore make repayment highly uncertain. The central undertakings that are their main suppliers have payment security because the government will come to their help. Private enterprises do not have such assurance and are concerned about payment security, that must be resolved.
- III. By the late 1990s, improving the SEB finances was recognized as fundamental to power reform. Unbundling SEBs, working under corporate discipline and even privatization and not vertically integrated state enterprises, are necessary for efficient and financially viable electricity enterprises. Since government will not distance itself from managing them, privatizing is an option. The Delhi model has worked. But it receives no public support.
- IV. The Electricity Act 2003, the APRDP (Accelerated Power Reform and Development Programme) with its incentives and penalties, and the creation of independent regulatory commissions, were the means to bring about reforms to improve financial viability of power sector. Implementation has been half-hearted and results disappointing. The concurrent nature of

electricity in the Constitution impedes power sector improvement. States are more responsive to populist pressures than the central government, and less inclined to take drastic action against electricity thieves.

- V. Captive power would add significantly to capacity. However, captive generation, three years after the Act enabled it, has added little to capacity because rules for open access were delayed. Redefined captive generation avoids state vetoes on purchase or sale of electricity except to state electricity enterprises. Mandating open access on state-owned wires to power regardless of ownership and customer would encourage electricity trading. The Act recognized electricity trading as a separate activity. A surcharge on transmission charges will pay for cross-subsidies. These were to be eliminated in time. Rules for open access and quantum of surcharge by each state commission (under broad principles defined by the central commission) have yet to be announced by some. The few who have announced by some. The few who have announced the surcharge have kept it so high that no trading can take place.

**Based on your understanding of the passage, answer any eight out of the ten questions by choosing the correct option.**

1. The author thinks it appropriate to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (a) discuss any policy in details and make it fool proof instead of implementing it hastily.
  - (b) follow Indian tradition meticulously as skepticism is essential for major decisions.
  - (c) divert our energies from fruitlessly contracting policies to supporting its implementation wholeheartedly.
  - (d) intellectual arguments and conceptualization of every policy is definitely better than its enforcement.

**Ans :** (c) divert our energies from fruitlessly contracting policies to supporting its implementation wholeheartedly.

2. Why are the Central undertakings not capable of generating power at low cost?
- Due to paucity of low-cost funds
  - Due to their access to Government funds
  - Due to their delusion about government funds
  - Because of their extra capacities

**Ans :** (c) Due to their delusion about government funds

3. Which of the following is the reason for apathy of private investors in power sector?
- Their hesitation
  - Uncertainty of their survival
  - Cut-throat competition
  - Lack of guarantee of timely returns

**Ans :** (d) Lack of guarantee of timely returns

4. What was the serious omission on the part of the State Government ?
- Agreement for late recovery of dues
  - Reluctance to repay to private investors as per agreed plan
  - Non-implementation of recovery due to unplanned and haphazard policies
  - Lack of assurance from private enterprises

**Ans :** (b) Reluctance to repay to private investors as per agreed plan

5. Which of the following is/are considered necessary for improving performance of electricity enterprises?
- Corporate work culture
  - Privatisation
  - Properly integrated State enterprises
  - None of these

**Ans :** (a) Corporate work culture

6. The example of 'Delhi Model' quoted by the author underlines his feelings of \_\_\_\_.
- happiness about its success.
  - unhappiness for lack of public support.
  - disgust towards privatisation.
- A and B only
  - B and C only
  - A and C only
  - None of these

**Ans :** (a) A and B only

7. Why were the results of the power sector reforms not as had been anticipated?
- The means to bring about reforms were ill-conceived
  - The enforcement of the reform means was inadequate and apathetic.
  - The Act and the reform measures were contradicting with each other.
  - The incentives on the one hand and penalties on the other created dissatisfaction.

**Ans :** (d) The incentives on the one hand and penalties on the other created dissatisfaction.

8. What serious drawback of the States is pointed out by the author of the passage?
- The incentives and penalties enforced by the States were disproportionately incomparable
  - The enforcement of the provisions of the acts was drastic and harsh
  - Their vulnerability to fall prey to populist pressures
  - Imposition of penalties were not judicious and incentives were not free from partiality

**Ans :** (c) Their vulnerability to fall prey to populist pressures

9. Choose the word or group of words which is most nearly the same in meaning as the word printed in bold

**DELUSION**

- Proper understanding
- Wrong prediction
- False belief
- Unrealistic optimism

**Ans :** (c) False belief

10. Choose the word which is most opposite in meaning of the word printed in bold

**IMPEDES**

- Interferes
- Grows
- Excels
- Promotes

**Ans :** (d) Promotes

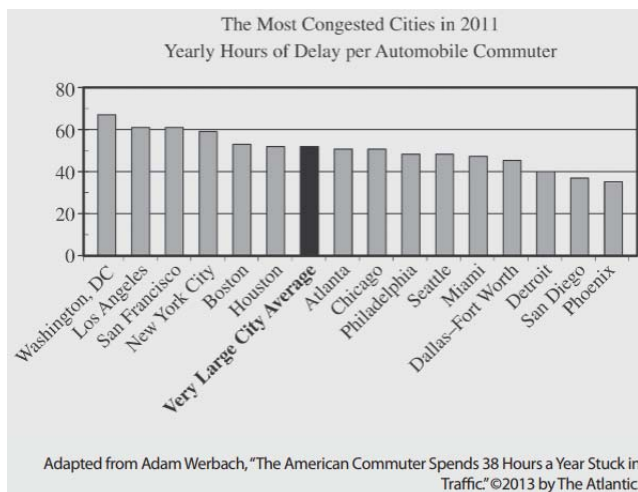
## II. Read the passage given below.

- In today's idea-driven economy, the cost of time is what really matters. With the constant pressure to innovate, it makes little sense to waste countless collective hours commuting. So, the most efficient and productive regions are those in which people are thinking and working-not sitting in traffic.
- The auto-dependent transportation system has reached its limit in most major cities and mega-regions. Commuting by car is among the least efficient of all our activities - not to mention among the least enjoyable, according to detailed research by the Nobel Prize - winning economist Daniel Kahneman and his colleagues. Though one might think that the economic crisis beginning in 2007 would have reduced traffic (high unemployment means fewer workers traveling to and from work), the opposite has been true. Average commutes have lengthened, and congestion has gotten worse, if anything. The average commute rose in 2008 to 25.5 minutes, "erasing years of decreases to stand at the level of 2000, as people had to leave home earlier in the morning to pick up friends for their ride to work or to catch a bus or subway train," according to the U.S. Census Bureau, which collects the figures. And those are average figures. Commutes are far longer in the big West Coast cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco and the East Coast cities of New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington D.C. In many of these cities, gridlock has become the norm, not just at rush hour but all day, every day.

III. The costs are astounding. In Los Angeles, congestion eats up more than 485 million working hours a year; that's seventy hours, or nearly two weeks, of full-time work per commuter. In D.C., the time cost of congestion is sixty-two hours per worker per year. In New York it's forty-four hours. Average it out, and the time cost across America's thirteen biggest city regions is fifty-one hours per worker per year. Across the country, commuting wastes 4.2 billion hours of work time annually - nearly a full work-week for every commuter. The overall cost to the U.S. economy is nearly \$90 billion when lost productivity and wasted fuel are taken into account. At the Martin Prosperity Institute, we calculate that every minute shaved off America's commuting time is worth \$19.5 billion in value added to the economy. The numbers add up fast: five minutes is worth \$97.7 billion; ten minutes, \$195 billion; fifteen minutes, \$292 billion.

IV. It's ironic that so many people still believe the main remedy for traffic congestion is to build more roads and highways, which of course only makes the problem worse. New roads generate higher levels of "induced traffic," that is, new roads just invite drivers to drive more and lure people who take mass transit back to their cars. Eventually, we end up with more clogged roads rather than a long-term improvement in traffic flow.

V. The coming decades will likely see more intense clustering of jobs, innovation, and productivity in a smaller number of bigger cities and city-regions. Some regions could end up bloated beyond the capacity of their infrastructure, while others struggle, their promise stymied by inadequate human or other resources.



Based on your understanding of the passage, answer any six out of the eight questions by choosing the correct option.

11. The average commute rose in 2008 to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) 15.5 minutes (b) 20.5 minutes  
 (c) 25.5 minutes (d) 30.5 minutes

**Ans :** (c) 25.5 minutes

12. Which of the following is not a East Coast city?  
 (a) New York (b) Philadelphia  
 (c) Washington D.C. (d) Los Angeles

**Ans :** (d) Los Angeles

13. The passage most strongly suggests that researchers at the Martin Prosperity Institute share which assumption?

- (a) Employees who have longer commutes tend to make more money than employees who have shorter commutes.  
 (b) Employees who work from home are more valuable to their employers than employees who commute.  
 (c) Employees whose commutes are shortened will use the time saved to do additional productive work for their employers.  
 (d) Employees can conduct business activities, such as composing memos or joining conference calls, while commuting.

**Ans :** (c) Employees whose commutes are shortened will use the time saved to do additional productive work for their employers.

14. As used in the passage, 'intense' most nearly means

- (a) determined  
 (b) emotional  
 (c) concentrated  
 (d) brilliant

**Ans :** (c) concentrated

15. Which claim about traffic congestion is supported by the graph?

- (a) Commuters in Detroit spend more time delayed annually by traffic congestion than do commuters in Houston, Atlanta, and Chicago.  
 (b) New York City commuters spend less time annually delayed by traffic congestion than the average for very large cities.  
 (c) Los Angeles commuters are delayed more hours annually by traffic congestion than are commuters in Washington D.C.  
 (d) Commuters in Washington D.C., face greater delays annually due to traffic congestion than do commuters in New York City.

**Ans :** (d) Commuters in Washington D.C., face greater delays annually due to traffic congestion than do commuters in New York City.

16. In Washington D.C., the time cost of congestion is \_\_\_\_\_ per worker per year.

- (a) Sixty two hours  
 (b) Seventy two hours  
 (c) Fifty one hours  
 (d) Sixty five hours

**Ans :** (a) Sixty two hours

17. What is the overall cost to the U.S. economy when lost productivity and wasted fuel are taken into account?

- (a) \$20 billion  
 (b) \$50 billion  
 (c) \$70 billion  
 (d) \$90 billion

**Ans :** (d) \$90 billion

18. Which of the following statements is not true?
- In today's idea-driven economy, the cost of time is what really matters.
  - In Los Angeles, congestion eats up more than 485 million working hours a year.
  - Commutes are far longer in the big East Coast cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco.
  - The coming decades will likely see more intense clustering of jobs, innovation, and productivity in a smaller number of bigger cities and city-regions.

**Ans :** (c) Commutes are far longer in the big East Coast cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco.

## GRAMMAR & WRITING

### GRAMMAR

#### III. Answer any five out of six questions by selecting the most appropriate option for each.

19. Which option displays the correct change of the following to reported speech?  
The chairman of the selection committee said, "We shall finalise the rest of our team after we have selected the skipper."
- The chairman of the selection committee told that they would finalise the rest of our team after we have selected the skipper.
  - The chairman of the selection committee said that we would finalise the rest of our team after we have selected the skipper.
  - The chairman of the selection committee said that they would finalise the rest of their team after they selected the skipper.
  - The chairman of the selection committee said that they would finalise the rest of their team after they had selected the skipper.

**Ans :** (d) The chairman of the selection committee said that they would finalise the rest of their team after they had selected the skipper.

20. Which option displays the correct change of the following to reported speech?  
I said to my friend, "Can I borrow your dictionary for one day?"
- I asked my friend if I could borrow his dictionary for one day.
  - I asked my friend if I could borrow your dictionary for one day.
  - I asked my friend if I can borrow his dictionary for one day.
  - I asked my friend that if I can borrow his dictionary for one day.

**Ans :** (a) I asked my friend if I could borrow his dictionary for one day.

21. She was wearing a bracelet on \_\_\_\_\_ wrist.
- each
  - any
  - every
  - None of these
- Ans :** (a) each

22. He \_\_\_\_\_ not eat so much, he will fall ill.
- dare
  - must
  - need
  - used to
- Ans :** (c) need

23. The book 'Management Principles' \_\_\_\_\_ quite insightful.
- are
  - is
  - have
  - has
- Ans :** (b) is

24. As he was crossing the road, a car \_\_\_\_\_ him down.
- was knocking
  - had knocked
  - knocked
  - would have knocked
- Ans :** (c) knocked

### WRITING

#### IV. Answer any five out of the six questions by selecting the most appropriate option for each.

25. Which of the following is the correct receiver's address from the following
- To, The Editor, The Hindustan Times
  - The Editor, Hindustan Times
  - The Editor, The Hindustan Times
  - None of these
- Ans :** (c) The Editor, The Hindustan Times

26. Why do we write a letter to the editor?
- To comment on news/articles
  - To complain
  - To express views on societal issues
  - All of these
- Ans :** (d) All of these

27. What should be written if sender's address is not given in the question/heading of a letter to editor?
- Any address you know
  - Address of the school
  - XYZ, Examination Hall
  - None of these
- Ans :** (c) XYZ, Examination Hall

28. What are parameters of measuring a good letter written to editor?
- Grammatical Accuracy
  - Suggest ions to sort out the problem
  - Request to editor to publish the views
  - All of these
- Ans :** (d) All of these



29. Which of the following is the correct subject in a letter to editor?
- Nuisance Created by Stray Animals
  - Nuisance Created by Street kids
  - Nuisance created by Family Members
  - None of these
- Ans :** (a) Nuisance Created by Stray Animals

30. The writer's address is placed at the top left corner.
- False
  - May or may not be true
  - True
  - Not sure
- Ans :** (c) True

## LITERATURE

**This section has sub-sections - V, VI, VII, VIII & IX. There are a total of 30 questions in this section. Attempt any 26 questions from the sub-sections V to IX.**

### V. Read the given extract to attempt the questions that follow:

"God, he wrote, "if you don't help me, my family and I will go hungry this year. I need a hundred pesos in order to sow my field again and to live until the crop comes, because of the hailstorm...." He wrote 'To God' on the envelope, put the letter inside and, still troubled, went to town. At the post office, he placed a stamp on the letter and dropped it into the mailbox. One of the employees, who was a postman and also helped at the post office, went to his boss laughing heartily and showed him the letter to God. Never in his career as a postman had he known that address. The postmaster – a fat, amiable fellow – also broke out laughing, but almost immediately he turned serious and, tapping the letter on his desk, commented, "What faith! I wish I had the faith of the man who wrote this letter. Starting up a correspondence with God!"

*(A Letter To God)*

31. What did Lencho write in his letter to God?
- He communicated his poverty-stricken situation.
  - He wrote that he needed 100 pesos.
  - He asked for money to sow seeds and survive until the new crop comes.
  - All of the above
- Ans :** (d) All of the above

32. Where was the post office situated in which Lencho posted the letter to God?
- In the valley
  - In the village
  - On the outskirts of the town
  - In the town
- Ans :** (d) In the town

33. Why are the stamps pasted on the letters?
- To beautify the letters.
  - To distinguish the letters.
  - To pay the cost involved in moving the letters.
  - Stamps on letters do not serve any purpose.
- Ans :** (c) To pay the cost involved in moving the letters.

34. Why did the postman laughed heartily on seeing Lencho's letter to God?
- He never saw a letter to God in his lifetime.
  - Lencho had bad handwriting.
  - The postman was an amiable fellow.
  - He wanted to make fun of Lencho's letter.
- Ans :** (a) He never saw a letter to God in his lifetime.

35. Why did the Postmaster immediately turn serious?
- He was afraid of God.
  - He was astonished at Lencho's faith in God.
  - He did not want to make fun of a needy farmer.
  - He was pretending to be serious.
- Ans :** (b) He was astonished at Lencho's faith in God.

### VI. Read the given extract to attempt the questions that follow:

As for Maddie, this business of asking Wanda every day how many dresses and how many hats, and how many this and that she had was bothering her. Maddie was poor herself. She usually wore some body's hand-me-down clothes. Thank goodness, she didn't live up on Boggins Heights or have a funny name. Sometimes, when Peggy was asking Wanda those questions in that mocking polite voice, Maddie felt embarrassed and studied the marbles in the palm of her hand, rolling them round and saying nothing herself.

*(The Hundred Dresses I)*

36. Maddie used to wear old clothes because
- she had a universal one
  - she never wants others
  - she liked them
  - she was poor
- Ans :** (d) she was poor
37. What bothered Maddie the most was the
- asking of queries
  - asking of notations
  - asking of questions by classmates
  - asking of whereabouts by teachers
- Ans :** (c) asking of questions by classmates

38. The old discarded clothes, given to someone were
- hand-me-down clothes
  - designer clothes
  - costly clothes
  - non-sticky clothes
- Ans :** (a) hand-me-down clothes

39. Maddie would feel ashamed herself when
- Wanda asked Peggy those questions about her dress
  - Peggy asked Wanda those questions about her dress
  - Keesing asked Peggy those questions about her dress
  - Wanda asked Keesing those questions about her dress

**Ans :** (b) Peggy asked Wanda those questions about her dress

40. The word 'embarrassed' means

- laughed
- cherished
- focussed
- ashamed

**Ans :** (d) ashamed

**VII. Read the given extract to attempt the questions that follow:**

But he's locked in a concrete cell,  
His strength behind bars,  
Stalking the length of his cage,  
Ignoring visitors.  
He hears the last voice at night,  
The patrolling cars, ...

(A Tiger In The Zoo)

41. Choose the image that best describes the condition of the tiger based on the given extract.



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)

- Option (1)
- Option (2)
- Option (3)
- Option (4)

**Ans :** (b) Option (2)

42. Which option correctly lists the reason for the tiger 'stalking the length of his cage'?

- Animals tend to cover large distances and burn a lot of their energy by hunting for prey, in their natural habitat. Zoos deprive them of such stimulation and they are restless and bored.
- Animals are scared of visitors gazing at them in their unnatural surroundings. Zoos are places where animals are far removed from the privacy of their natural habitat.
- Animals dislike human noises in the city and react to them aggressively. Zoos are often located in cities or outskirts.
- Animals require human love and care and miss this when in captivity. Zoos are places where they walk around mechanically to attract human attention.

**Ans :** (a) Animals tend to cover large distances and burn a lot of their energy by hunting for prey, in their natural habitat. Zoos deprive them of such stimulation and they are restless and bored.

43. Which option identifies a patrolling car correctly?



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)

- Option 1
- Option 2
- Option 3
- Option 4

**Ans :** (b) Option 2

44. The main contrasting idea suggested by the extract is that of

- strength and weakness.
- nature and culture.
- beasts and mortals.
- confinement and freedom.

**Ans :** (d) confinement and freedom.

45. Choose the option listing the most likely reason for the tiger to ignore visitors, according to the extract.

- He is scared of their constant stares.
- The visitors don't provide him with any food.
- He knows that none would help him out of captivity.
- The visitors don't speak to him kindly.

**Ans :** (c) He knows that none would help him out of captivity.

**VIII. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

As she and her husband turned away in terror, the extraordinary chair pushed them both out of the room and then appeared to slam and lock the door after them. Mrs Hall almost fell down the stairs in hysterics. She was convinced that the room was haunted by spirits, and that the stranger had somehow caused these to enter into her furniture. "My poor mother used to sit in that chair," she moaned! To think it should rise up against me now! The feeling among the neighbours was that the trouble was caused by witchcraft."

*(Footprints Without Feet)*

46. Mrs Hall felt that the room was haunted by spirits because
- she could see evil spirits.
  - she heard strange noise.
  - uncanny things happened there.
  - the door slammed shut.

**Ans :** (c) uncanny things happened there.

47. Pick the option that best describes how Mrs Hall must be feeling at the moment described in the extract.
- stunned and furious
  - shocked and outraged
  - outraged and nervous
  - stunned and agitated

**Ans :** (d) stunned and agitated

48. Pick the option that includes the correct matches of Column A with Column B.

	Column A		Column B
I.	The stranger was	(i)	eccentric, lonely and callous
II.	He had escaped	(ii)	eccentric, callous and short-tempered
III.	He had an uncommon appearance	(iii)	from Iping to London
		(iv)	as he wore bandages round his forehead

- I-i; II-iv; III-iii
- I-i; II-iii; III-iv
- I-iii; II-ii; III-i
- I-ii; II-iii; III-iv

**Ans :** (d) I-ii; II-iii; III-iv

49. Pick the sentence that brings out the meaning of 'hysterics' as used in the extract.
- My friend and I were in splits when we saw the clown's antics.
  - I don't know why I suddenly felt worried about flying home.
  - The sight of blood put the old man in a frenzy.
  - The people who had witnessed the accident were spellbound.

**Ans :** (c) The sight of blood put the old man in a frenzy.

50. Pick the option that displays a cause -> effect relationship.
- pushed and locked out -> hysterical
  - rising of the chair -> moaning
  - troubled neighbours -> witchcraft
  - stranger -> haunted spirits

**Ans :** (a) pushed and locked out -> hysterical

**IX. Attempt the following.**

51. What began Mandela's hunger for freedom?
- The fact that it had already been taken away from him
  - His obligation towards people
  - His obligation towards family
  - He was born to fight

**Ans :** (a) The fact that it had already been taken away from him

52. How far was the narrator from Paris when he saw dark clouds in the sky?
- 200 km
  - 100 km
  - 50 km
  - 150 km

**Ans :** (d) 150 km

53. What name was Anne's book published with?
- From the Diary of Anne Frank
  - The Diary of a Young girl
  - Anne Frank
  - Anne Frank's Diary

**Ans :** (b) The Diary of a Young girl

54. "So Peggy had the same idea! Maddie glowed" What was the idea?
- To tease Wanda one more time
  - To go and look for Wanda at Boggins Height
  - To apologise to Wanda
  - Both b and c

**Ans :** (d) Both b and c

55. The fall of snow flakes on the poet made him realize that
- it is winter
  - the whole day is wasted.
  - the whole day is not wasted
  - crow is a symbol of ill omen

**Ans :** (c) the whole day is not wasted

56. What does violent desire refer to in the poem "Fire and Ice"?
- Fire
  - Ice
  - Both a and b
  - None of the above

**Ans :** (a) Fire

57. Why does the poet decide not to condole the boy?

- (a) He is busy
- (b) He is indifferent
- (c) It will be of no use
- (d) He is happy

**Ans :** (c) It will be of no use

58. What did Mrs Pumphrey think her dog is suffering from?

- (a) Fever
- (b) Malnutrition
- (c) Stomach pain
- (d) Footsore

**Ans :** (b) Malnutrition

59. The thief boy was grateful to Anil for

- (a) giving him a job
- (b) giving him money
- (c) watching wrestling match with him
- (d) talking with him

**Ans :** (a) giving him a job

60. Who called the incident “an extraordinary affair”?

- (a) Clergyman
- (b) Clergyman’s wife
- (c) Mrs Hall
- (d) None of the above

**Ans :** (a) Clergyman

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