

THE MANTHAN SCHOOL, GREATER NOIDA (W)
PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION (2025 – 26)
GRADE – 10 ENGLISH

Name: _____

Date: 5th December, 2025

Max. Marks: 80

Time: 3 hrs

General Instructions

- This paper has **8** printed sides.
- There are total **11** questions in this paper.
- The paper is divided into three sections- Reading, Grammar & Writing and Literature.
- Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.
- All the answers must be correctly numbered as in the question paper.
- Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.
- Handwriting must be neat and legible.

Section A: Reading (20 marks)

1. Read the passage carefully given below.

- 1 The growing preference for indigenous craft items is a welcome trend in today's globalized world, where mass-produced goods often dominate markets. These handcrafted products, rooted in the cultural and artistic traditions of their regions, offer more than just aesthetic appeal. They symbolize sustainability, support local economies, and preserve the heritage of diverse communities.
- 2 One of the primary reasons for choosing indigenous crafts is their eco-friendliness. Unlike factory-made products, most traditional crafts are created using natural, locally sourced materials. Artisans often employ time-tested methods that minimize waste and avoid harmful industrial processes. For example, pottery made from local clay, handwoven textiles using organic dyes, and bamboo-based crafts all have a much lower environmental footprint compared to their machine-made counterparts. By opting for these items, consumers indirectly contribute to reducing pollution and promoting sustainable practices.
- 3 Supporting indigenous crafts also strengthens local economies. Many artisans depend solely on their craft for livelihood, often working in small communities where opportunities for other forms of employment are limited. When people purchase their products, it provides a direct income to these artisans, empowering them and encouraging their craftsmanship. Initiatives like fair trade further ensure that artisans receive fair wages, fostering economic stability within their communities.
- 4 Moreover, indigenous craft items help preserve cultural heritage. Every handcrafted product carries a story—a glimpse into the traditions, beliefs, and skills passed down through generations. In India, whether it's paintings, terracotta jewellery, sculptures, athangudi tiles, mud work frames or many others, each item reflects the unique identity of its region. By choosing these crafts, people not only appreciate the artistry but also help keep these traditions alive in an era where cultural homogenization threatens diversity.
- 5 In addition to their economic and cultural value, indigenous crafts add a personal touch to homes and wardrobes. Unlike mass-produced items, which often lack individuality, handcrafted products are unique. Each piece bears the imprint of the artisan's effort, creativity, and dedication, making it special for the buyer.
- 6 However, the preference for indigenous crafts requires sustained efforts to thrive. Governments, organizations, and consumers all have roles to play. Policies that promote local craftsmanship, provide training to artisans, and create global platforms for showcasing their work can boost the visibility and demand for these products. Consumers, too, must actively seek out and invest in handmade crafts rather than opting for cheaper, factory-made alternatives. Choosing indigenous craft items is a meaningful step toward a more sustainable and culturally enriched world.

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

- (i) Why is the growing preference for indigenous craft items described as a ‘welcome trend’ in paragraph 1? (1)
- (ii) According to paragraph 1, the indigenous craft items have all the following qualities except being: (1)
- (a) handcrafted products (b) rooted in artistic traditions
(c) aesthetic in appeal (d) easily accessible
- (iii) Complete the following by selecting the correct option from those given in the brackets. (1)
The usage of locally sourced materials makes the indigenous crafts _____ (traditional / eco-friendly) (paragraph 2).
- (iv) Select the option that is True from (a)-(c) given for what the phrase, ‘time-tested methods’ suggests in paragraph 2. (1)
- (a) Artisans use traditional techniques that have been refined and proven effective over generations
(b) Artisans use outdated practices that are no longer relevant in today's commercial markets
(c) Artisans follow techniques that prioritize speed and mass production over craftsmanship.
- (v) Complete the analogy (paragraph 3):- (1)
fair trade: fair wages:: indigenous crafts : _____
- (vi) Why is supporting indigenous crafts considered an effective way to improve the economic conditions of small communities? (paragraph 3) (2)
- (vii) What are the main ideas of paragraph 4 and paragraph 5? (1)
- (i) Choosing indigenous crafts helps preserve cultural heritage.
(ii) Handcrafted products lack individuality.
(iii) Indigenous crafts reflect the artisan’s creativity.
(iv) Indigenous crafts promote uniformity by erasing regional differences in artistic traditions.
(v) Cultural homogenization encourages people to choose indigenous crafts over mass-produced goods.

Select the correct option.

Options	Main idea of paragraph 4	Main idea of paragraph 5
(a)	ii	iv
(b)	v	ii
(c)	i	iii
(d)	iv	ii

- (viii) Why is it important for consumers to take an active role alongside government and organizations in sustaining indigenous crafts? (paragraph 6) (2)

2. Read the passage given below.

- A recent study conducted across two age groups—students aged 10–12 and 13–16 explored their preferences for ballpoint and micro-tip pens for various writing activities such as note-taking, examinations, and personal writing. The study aimed to understand trends in writing habits and the factors influencing pen selection among students.
- The results revealed distinct patterns based on age groups and writing purposes. Among students aged 10–12, 65% preferred ballpoint pens for notetaking, citing ease of use and affordability as key factors. However, 35% opted for micro-tip pens, valuing their precision and smooth writing. For examinations, ballpoint pens were the overwhelming choice, with 78% favouring them for their speed and reliability, while 22% stuck with micro-tip pens, appreciating their fine control.

- 3 In the 13–16 age group, preferences shifted slightly. For notetaking, 60% favoured micro tip pens, highlighting their ability to produce neat, legible notes, while 40% continued to use ballpoint pens. During examinations, however, 70% still relied on ballpoint pens, indicating their consistency under time constraints. When it came to personal writing, such as journalling or creative tasks, 58% in this group chose micro-tip pens, appreciating the aesthetic appeal of finer lines, while 42% stuck with ballpoint pens for their convenience.
- 4 These findings point to the importance of understanding age-specific preferences and task requirements, enabling manufacturers to innovate products. Manufacturers could further explore incorporating hybrid features, such as pens offering the speed of ballpoint pens with the precision of micro-tip pens, to cater to a wider range of student preferences.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions:

- (i) Why did the study most likely focus on the two specific age groups of 10–12 and 13–16? This is so because these age groups _____. (paragraph 1) (1)
 - (a) represent the largest population of growing students.
 - (b) are when students develop and refine their writing habits.
 - (c) were the easiest to survey across various schools.
 - (d) have a natural preference for ballpoint pens.
- (ii) Identify the phrase in paragraph 1 that conveys the writer's reference to the patterns or preferences observed in how students use pens for various writing tasks. (1)
- (iii) Complete the following by selecting the correct option from those given in the brackets. (1)

(paragraph 2)

Geetha, aged 11, wishes to complete her practical file neatly, ensuring her work is legible and appealing. She is most likely to choose a micro-tip pen for this task because the _____ (speed / precision) offered by this type of pen helps produce tidy work.
- (iv) What does the writer mean by 'affordability' while citing the high percentage of ball point pen usage? (1)
- (v) Complete the following with the correct option. (1)

When the writer says, 'distinct patterns' in the line 'The results revealed distinct patterns based on age groups and writing purposes,' of paragraph 3, she/he means that _____.

 - (a) students in both age groups use pens in the same way for all the listed purposes.
 - (b) the preferences for pens varied according to the students' age and the type of writing task.
 - (c) only micro-tip pens were popular across all writing tasks in the 13-16 age group.
 - (d) students of all age groups preferred ballpoint pens for completing creative writing tasks.
- (vi) Complete the following appropriately. (1)

The one likely reason why more than 40% of students still chose ballpoint pens for creative tasks, even though micro-tip pens are better suited for such activities is _____.

(Paragraph 3)
- (vii) How are 'aesthetic appeal' and 'finer lines' connected? (paragraph 3) (1)
- (viii) Elaborate how hybrid features in pens would lead to a commercially viable product. (2)

(Paragraph 4)
- (ix) Fill in the blank with **One** suitable word. (paragraph 4) (1)

Understanding age-specific preferences helps manufacturers design products that cater to the unique needs of different age groups, ensuring their products are both _____ as well as appealing.

Section B: Grammar and Writing (20 marks)

3. Complete ANY TEN of the following twelve tasks as directed:

- (i) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket for the given portion of market research: (1)

The special subscriptions of newspapers are well _____ (illustrate), to make reading interesting for school students.

- (ii) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the conclusion of a letter of placing order. (1)

There would be no compromise _____ the quality of items supplied.

- (a) regards (b) regard
(c) regardless (d) regarding

- (iii) Fill in the blank with the correct form of verb given in the brackets. (1)

I'm so happy to see my plants again! They _____ (grow) so much since I last saw them.

- (iv) Identify the error and write the correction in the given sentence from a life skills' book. (1)

The road to success is not the bed of roses.

Error	Correction

- (v) Complete the given opinion by filling the blank with correct option. (1)

The experience of watching the movie left me _____ grateful for knowing the importance of being empathetic to others.

- (a) having felt (b) feeling
(c) felt (d) feels

- (vi) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete an official announcement. (1)

Attention all prefects, please be informed that the deadline for submitting your registrations for participation in the Art Exhibition has been extended; _____ (that/ these/ this) should be communicated to all students of classes IX-X.

- (vii) Report the following question. (1)

She said to her sister, "Are you joining us for lunch today?"

- (viii) Fill in the blank with the correct option from those given in the brackets. (1)

Everyone is saying that Farhana's chances are bright in the upcoming tournament and she _____ (must / may) become the youngest football player ever.

- (ix) The given question has an error. Select the option that correctly identifies the error and the correction. (1)

Which kind of person does something like that?

Error	Correction
(a) Which	What
(b) kind	kinds
(c) something	somethings
(d) that	this

- (x) Read the conversation about social media, between a teacher and a student. (1)

Teacher: How do you think social media influences our perceptions of reality?

Jagrit: I believe it distorts our perception of reality by only showing the highlighted reels of people's lives.

Report the student's response by completing the following.

The student remarked _____ by only showing the highlighted reels of people's lives.

- (xi) Identify the error and supply correction for the following note in a toaster's instruction manual: (1)

Use this appliance only for its intentional use as described in this manual. Do not use attachments that are not recommended by the manufacturer.

Error	Correction

- (xii) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the line given below. (1)
Oral hygiene _____ be inculcated in children early in life. (should/ would)

4. As Vaibhav, the Club in-charge of your school's Ecology Club, you strongly believe in the importance of starting Eco-Clubs in schools in the rural areas surrounding your city to promote the preservation and conservation of nature. Write a letter to the Education Secretary of your city, in about 120 words, highlighting the significance of ecological awareness and suggesting the need to establish Eco Clubs in these schools. (5)

OR

As Amitha, the Vice Head Girl of Vidya Mandir, you are aware of the increasing prevalence of cyber-attacks and unauthorized exploitation of systems, networks, and technologies affecting individuals across all demographics. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily in about 120 words, stressing the urgent need to promote digital security among all age groups. Highlight the challenges posed by cyber threats and propose practical solutions to address this growing issue.

5. You are the President of the Debate Society in your school. Two guest speakers --Mr. Rajan Sharma and Ms. Meera Kapoor, have written to express their interest in participating in your upcoming debate competition. Below are excerpts from their letters. (5)

Excerpt 1 ...I am thrilled to express my interest in participating as a guest speaker at your school's debate competition. With over 10 years of experience as a public speaker and debate coach, I have guided numerous students to success in national-level competitions. My approach focuses on encouraging critical thinking and fostering a passion for debating. I have previously spoken at various schools and universities, often receiving positive feedback for my engaging sessions and practical insights. I believe my experience and knowledge can inspire and empower your students to excel in debating.

Best regards

Mr. Rajan Sharma

Excerpt 2: ...It would be a privilege to participate as a guest speaker at your school's upcoming debate competition. I have participated in international debate forums and have won accolades for my arguments on global and social issues. My strength lies in connecting with young audiences and making debates relevant to real-world scenarios. I also emphasize how debating can improve public speaking, confidence, and interpersonal skills. I look forward to sharing my journey and experiences with your students to inspire them to use debating as a tool for personal growth.

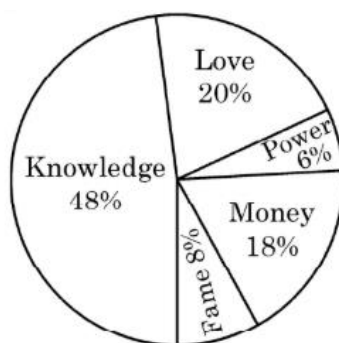
Yours sincerely

Ms. Meera Kapoor

Analyse the information in a paragraph, justifying which guest speaker would be a better choice. Consider factors such as experience, relevance to the topic, and audience engagement.

OR

Riti / Ritik has to write a paragraph on the qualities required for success. He notices the chart given below and decides to use it as the basis of his writing. Using the pie chart along with your own ideas, write a paragraph for him in about 100-120 words on 'The Most Important Thing in Life'.



Section C: Literature (40 marks)

6. Read the extract given below carefully and answer the questions that follow:

The arrival of a stranger at an inn in winter was in any case an unusual event. A stranger of such uncommon appearance set all tongues wagging. Mrs. Hall, the landlord's wife, made every effort to be friendly. But Griffin had no desire to talk, and told her, "My reason for coming to Iping is a desire for solitude. I do not wish to be disturbed in my work. Besides, an accident has affected my face." Satisfied that her guest was an eccentric scientist, and in view of the fact that he had paid her in advance, Mrs. Hall was prepared to excuse his strange habits and irritable temper. (Footprints Without Feet)

- (i) State any one inference about Griffin from the given context: (1)
"My reason for coming to Iping is a desire for solitude. I do not wish to be disturbed in my work. Besides, an accident has affected my face."
- (ii) State True or False. (1)
Even though Mrs. Hall was satisfied with Griffin, she was skeptical to excuse his strange habits and irritable temper.
- (iii) It was not difficult for Griffin to convince the landlord and his wife about his strange appearance and eccentric behaviour. Elaborate in about 40 words with reference to the context. (2)
- (iv) Which word from the passage means "to talk excitedly about something"? (1)

OR

Tenth May dawned bright and clear. For the past few days, I had been pleasantly besieged by dignitaries and world leaders who were coming to pay their respects before the inauguration. The inauguration would be the largest gathering ever of international leaders on South African soil. The ceremonies took place in the lovely sandstone amphitheatre formed by the Union buildings in Pretoria. For decades this had been the seat of white supremacy, and now it was the site of rainbow gathering of different colours and nations for the installation of South Africa's first democratic non-racial government. (Nelson Mandela -Long Walk to Freedom)

- (i) What do you infer from the following statement? (1)
"The inauguration would be the largest gathering ever of international leaders on South African Soil."
- (ii) Explain in about 40 words the effective shift from white supremacy to a rainbow gathering. (2)

- (iii) Which phrase would correctly substitute the highlighted words in the given sentence from the extract? (1)

I had been **pleasantly besieged** by dignitaries and world leaders who were coming to pay their respects before the inauguration.

- (iv) State **true** or **false** with reference to the given extract. (1)
In the past the 'Amphitheatre' had been a seat for theatrical performances.

7. Read the given extract carefully and answer **any one** of following extracts.

He is learning, well behind his desperate eyes,
The epistemology of loss, how to stand up
Knowing what every man must one day know
And most know many days, how to stand up.

(The Ball Poem)

- (i) What does the phrase 'how to stand up' suggest about the boy's emotional growth? (2)
(ii) What emotions are most appropriately conveyed by the phrase 'desperate eyes' and 'epistemology of loss'? (1)
(i) despair
(ii) anger
(iii) frustration
(iv) confusion
(v) helplessness

Select the correct option.

- (a) (i), (iii) (b) (i), (iv), (v)
(c) (ii), (iii), (iv) (d) (iv), (v)
(ii) Which phrase from the extract conveys the poet's idea that loss is universal? (1)
(iv) Fill in the blank with a phrase to suitably complete the sentence. (1)
The loss of his ball symbolises _____ in life.

OR

Or if some time when roaming round,
A noble wild beast greets you,
With black stripes on a yellow ground,
Just notice if he eats you.
This simple rule may help you learn
The Bengal Tiger to discern.

(How to tell Wild Animals)

- (i) Complete the following suitably. (1)
The word 'ground' in the line 'With black stripes on a yellow ground' refers to _____.
(ii) What does the poet imply by referring to the Bengal Tiger as a 'noble wild beast'? (1)
(a) The tiger is majestic and dignified despite its ferocity.
(b) The tiger is kind and considerate toward humans.
(c) The tiger has a royal lineage and should be revered.
(d) The tiger is a symbol of fear and destruction.
(iii) How does the poet use humour in the description of the Bengal Tiger? (2)
(iv) Identify the phrase in the poem that is advisory in nature. (1)

8. Answer **any four** of the following questions in about **40-50** words each. (3×4=12)

- (i) Otters are known for their peculiar behavioural traits. Support this statement with reference to any two traits mentioned in 'Mijbil the Otter.'

- (ii) How does the use of repetition in the poem 'Amanda' highlight the speaker's expectations and Amanda's responses?
- (iii) Explain the irony in the chapter "A Letter to God".
- (iv) How does the line 'and then moves on' reflect the transient nature of the fog thereby contributing to the poem's deeper message about life's impermanence? (Fog)
- (v) How does Chubukov's reaction to Lomov's marriage proposal reflect his priorities and values? (The Proposal)

9. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about 40-50 words each. (3×2=6)

- (i) How does 'The Necklace' illustrate the significance of honesty as the key element for leading a happy and stress-free life?
- (ii) Briefly evaluate the validity of the adage 'Values are caught, not taught', in the context of the relationship between Anil and Hari Singh in 'The Thief's Story'.
- (iii) Justify the opinion that Ebright's early successes were essential for his later achievements in science. (The Making of a Scientist)

10. Answer **any one** of the following questions, in about 100- 120 words. (6)

How does literature like 'The Baker from Goa,' 'Coorg,' and 'Tea from Assam' contribute to promoting tourism and raising awareness about regional cultures and traditions?

OR

Both poems 'Dust of Snow' and 'Fire and Ice' use contrasting elements of nature to convey their respective messages about life and human emotions but they do it differently. Examine these differences.

11. Answer **any one** of the following questions, in about 100- 120 words. (6)

Comment critically on the role of the Surgery in the 'The Triumph of Surgery'.

OR

A character arc is the transformation or development of a character throughout a story and refers to the changes a character undergoes as a result of his/her experiences, challenges and interactions with other characters. In the light of the above information, trace the character arc of Bholi.