

Bhartiya Shiksha Board

Sample Question Paper- 2026-27

Class - X English (Language and Literature) - Code 003

Time: 3:00 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them.

- (i) This question paper contains **11** questions.
- (ii) **Write the Serial Number of the question in the answer-book before attempting it.**
- (iii) 15 Minutes has been allotted to read this question paper. Use these 15 minutes for reading question paper only.
- (iv) This question paper comprises **three sections – Section A, Section B, and Section C.**

Section A – Reading Skills	-	20 marks
Section B – Grammar and Creative Writing Skills	-	20 marks
Section C – Literature	-	40 marks
- (v) All questions are compulsory.
- (vi) There is no overall choice in the question paper. However, internal choice has been provided in Section **B** and Section **C**.
- (vii) In addition to this, separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary.
- (viii) Answer should be brief and to the point. Adhere to the prescribed word limit, where applicable, while answering the questions.

SECTION – A
READING SKILLS (20 Marks)

1. Read the following passage.

(10 Marks)

I. The rapid diffusion of social media and artificial intelligence tools has transformed how humans learn, remember and make decisions. These technologies provide extraordinary access to information and cognitive assistance.

II. But the growing body of research suggests that excessive reliance on them may alter patterns of thinking, attention and learning. Understanding this impact requires examining three connected ideas: what research says about the cognitive effects of digital technologies, how the brain develops through exercise, and why the developmental stage of the brain - especially in youth - makes regulation a matter of public policy.

III. Research on heavy digital technology use has increasingly focused on attention, memory and critical thinking. The findings are nuanced. Technology can enhance learning when used deliberately, but excessive use appears to correlate with weaker engagement of higher-order thinking.

IV. Studies on social media use among children and adolescents suggest that heavy exposure is associated with decline in attention, working memory and executive functioning, particularly when usage becomes addictive or highly frequent.

V. Excessive social media use has been linked with impaired attention and reduced working memory, even though some educational use of these platforms can aid language learning and knowledge acquisition.

VI. Research on AI use points to a related mechanism: cognitive offloading - the delegation - the delegation of mental tasks such as memory, reasoning or problem solving to external tools. Studies indicate that higher level of AI tool use correlates with greater cognitive off-loading and weaker critical - thinking scores.

VII. An MIT study conducted between April and July 2025 found a decline in cognitive abilities in the group using AI for defined tasks compared to an equivalent control group.

VIII. Broader reviews of digital technology use show two additional cognitive patterns. The first is digital amnesia: when devices become the default storehouse of memory, internal recall weakens. The second is attention fragmentation: algorithm-driven feeds and rapid content switching strain sustained attention and encourage shallow information processing.

IX. Taken together, these findings point to what some researchers call an “efficiency-atrophy paradox”. Technology improves short- term performance and speed, but may also reduce opportunities for brain to practice complex reasoning and memory formation. (Source: Times of India)

Answer the following questions based on the passage above.

- i. Social media and AI tools have transformed..... (Para I) 1
 - a. human caring
 - b. human earning
 - c. **human learning**
 - d. human sharing

- ii. What may happen if one relies excessively on social media and AI tools? (para II) 2

- iii. Research on digital technology use focused on attention, memory and (para III) 1

- iv. Find the word which means similar as ‘something delicate, complex or different’. (para III) 1

- v. What harm may the excessive exposure to social media use cause? (para-V) 2

- vi. “cognitive offloading” is the delegation of: (para VI) 1
 - a. official power
 - b. family responsibility
 - c. mental tasks
 - d. financial power

- vii. What is digital amnesia? (para VIII) 1

- viii. Technology improves speed, but ... (para IX) 1
 - a. takes time of students
 - b. reduces opportunities for brain
 - c. exhausts brain
 - d. consumes energy

2. Read the passage given below. (10 Marks)

I. The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi urged country’s citizens to save fuel by using public transport and carpooling. We need to embrace a strong carpool culture.

For commuters who spend hours trapped in traffic every day, shared commuting appears to be an obvious and practical solution.

II. Transport departments in multiple cities, including Bengaluru and Pune initiated action against several carpooling portals arguing that private cars with white number plates cannot be used for “hire or reward” under Motor Vehicle Act.

III. Carpooling reduces traffic and benefits environment. It is a popular low-cost option for students and office-goers because the apps handle payments, identity verification and routing, removing the discomfort of manually coordinating with strangers.

IV. There are some operational problems with carpooling too. Long detours, multiple pickups, delays, driver dissatisfaction and cancellation often make rides frustrating. In Delhi, one wrong left turn get you delayed by around 15 minutes.

V. The Covid pandemic changed commuters’ psychology, with many becoming less comfortable sharing enclosed spaces. App based platforms such as BlaBlaCar, Quick Ride, Zoom, Rideshare, Uber Pool, and Ola Share have repeatedly faced regulatory scrutiny over use of private vehicles for commercial carpooling.

VI. Safety remains one of the biggest concerns, especially for women commuters. Trusted carpool with colleagues, friends, and social groups feel safer because participants already know each other. App based carpooling can still feel risky as passengers and drivers are often unknown.

VII. Carpooling, literally involves coworkers, neighbours or friends informally sharing a private vehicle and splitting travel cost while heading in same direction. It is usually non-commercial. Indian authorities generally allow non-profit carpooling and office commute sharing. However, when private vehicles repeatedly transport passengers for money, through app, regulators may classify them as commercial transport requiring permit under Motor Vehicle Act.

VIII. Ride sharing is an app-based service where platforms match passengers travelling in a similar route for a fee. Delhi-NCR has multiple app-based carpooling and ride-sharing platforms operating across key office corridors.

IX. Chandigarh’s grid-based sector layout designed by French architect Le Corbusier makes route planning predictable and efficient, a major advantage for carpooling. This city is relatively compact, with most commuters falling within a 10-20 kms radius, making shared rides convenient, without significantly increasing travel time.

(Source: Times of India)

Answer the following questions based on the passage above.

- i. The Prime Minister requested citizens to..... (para I) 1
- a. save animals
 - b. plant saplings
 - c. save fuel
 - d. save transport
- ii. The word opposite to 'reject' is (para I) 1
- a. urged
 - b. embrace
 - c. trapped
 - d. shared
- iii. Why did the transport departments of many cities take action against several carpooling portals? (para II) 2
- iv. Why is the app-based carpooling popular option amongst students and office-goers? (para III) 2
- v. In Delhi, one wrong turn can..... (para IV) 1
- a. take you to police station
 - b. make you enjoy whole city
 - c. take you on a flyover
 - d. make you late for your destination
- vi. The Covid-19 pandemic made people less comfortable about..... (para V) 1
- a. taking taxis alone
 - b. talking to strangers
 - c. sharing enclosed spaces
 - d. doing work from home
- vii. Carpooling can feel risky as passengers and drivers are..... (para VI) 1
- a. often unknown
 - b. unfriendly to each other
 - c. always in hurry
 - d. scared of traffic police
- viii. The layout of Chandigarh city makes it (para VIII) 1
- a. complicated for carpooling
 - b. convenient for carpooling
 - c. healthier for living
 - d. convenient for riding

SECTION-B
GRAMMAR AND CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (20 MARKS)
GRAMMAR (10 MARKS)

3. Attempt ANY TEN of the following twelve questions. 10x1=10

i. Fill in the blank the correct form of the word given in the bracket. 1
The letter was (draft) by the Director himself.

ii. Identify the error in the following sentence and write the correction in given format. 1
You may stick to this timeline if you want to submit your assignment by the deadline.

error	correction

iii. Report Kamal's question. 1

Kamal: Are you interested to join Hobby Camp during summer vacation?
Kapil: No, I am visiting my grandparents this summer.

iv. Read the following conversation between a customer and a shopkeeper and select the correct option that fills the gap in the reporting. 1

Customer: Please give me a 250-gram tea pack.
Shopkeeper: Which brand do you want?
The customer requested the shopkeeper to give him a 250-gram tea pack, upon which the shopkeeper wanted to know.....
a. the brand he want.
b. the brand you wanted.
c. the brand he wanted.
d. the brand wanted by him.

v. Following is the incomplete closing sentence of a notice pasted on a school notice board. Fill the blank with the correct option given in the bracket. 1

The desirous students will themselves by depositing participation fee by 15th July 2026. (enrolled/ enrolls/ enrolling/ enroll)

vi. Select the appropriate correction for the error in the following sentence. 1

The PM's speech highlight the achievements made by Indians during recently held para-athletics meet in Delhi.

option	error	correction
a	made	make
b	recently	recent
c	highlight	highlighted
d	held	hold

vii. Select the correct option to fill the gap in the following question asked by a principal to his/her teacher. 1

How students of your class are registered for the 'Express Series' competition?

- a. much
- b. most
- c. more
- d. many

viii. Following sentence has an error. Select the correct option of error and its correction. 1

There is someone in this team who disclosed out game plan to our opponents.

- a. have
- b. has
- c. having
- d. hasn't

ix. A manager scolds one of his team members for making a negative comment about their company. Find the correct option which appropriately fills the gap. 1

Howyou make that derogatory remark about our company culture?

- a. need
- b. must
- c. can't
- d. dare

x. Select the correct option that completes the sentence below. 1

The coach warned his team.....

- a. against leaving practice sessions early.
- b. for practicing for the next match.

- c. about playing their natural game.
- d. on their strategy for the final.

xi. Fill the blank of the following sentence with the correct option out of those given below. 1
..... milk left in the pot is not sufficient for preparing tea for all the guest coming.

- a. The least
- b. The less
- c. The little
- d. The lesser

xii. Select the option that completes the following reporting correctly. 1
Annoyed by continuous whispering of Ravi and Kavi, the teacher

- a. suggested them to stop this.
- b. advised them to not whisper.
- c. instructed them to stop that.
- d. told them to close it.

CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (10 MARKS)

4. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below. 5

A. The crisis in West Asia has caused fuel shortage across the world. India managed its strategic stocks well and, therefore, the people in the country did not face any perceptible problems. The need of the hour is to reduce our fuel dependance on other countries. Judicious consumption, carpooling, use of public transport, and adopting renewable sources of energy are some viable measures.

Write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper highlighting the issue and suggesting some valuable and workable measures. You are Rakesh/ Rakshita of 21, Power Tower, Sector 49 Noida.

OR

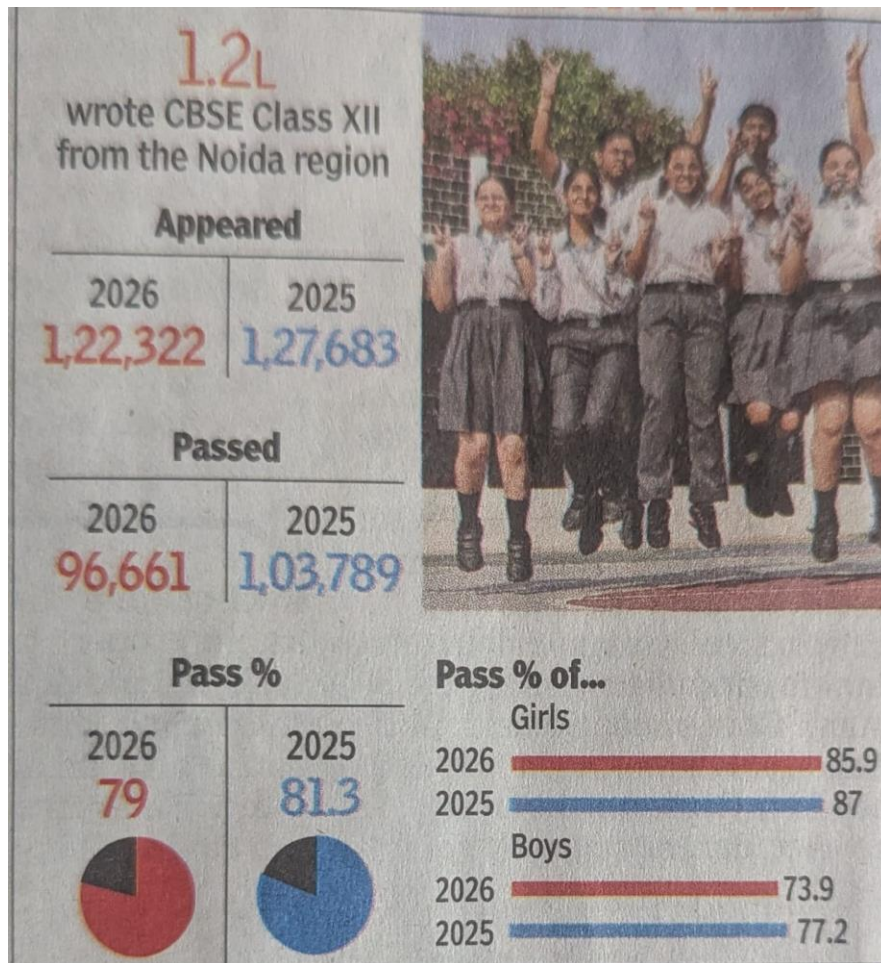
B. You are Basant/ Basanti, a student of Shine Star Academy, Greater Noida. You came across the Summer Camp advertisement of Bal Bhawan Delhi. You are keenly interested in joining the said camp to sharpen your hobbies and learning.

Write a letter to the Director, Bal Bhawan, Delhi seeking information about the registration, duration, activities included, convenient transport to reach the venue, fee, if any etc.

5. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.

5

A. Given below is a chart showing the final performance of class XII CBSE candidates in Noida. Write a descriptive paragraph analysing the data given in the said visual.



Source: Times of India

For visually challenged students only.

Class XII CBSE Result of Noida Region: Comparison – 2026 Result with 2025									
	Year	Appeared	Passed	%		Year	Appeared	Passed	%
Total	2026	122322	96661	79.0		2025	127623	103789	81.3
Girls				85.9					87.0
Boys				73.9					77.2

OR

B. Fiscal deficit is the excess of a government's total expenditure over its total receipts excluding borrowing. Many of Indian states are in debt yet political parties promise big in every election to win voters' favour. Revenue deficit shows whether regular income is enough to meet regular spending

Study the data in the table below and write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words.

Outstanding Liabilities as % of State's Gross Domestic Product at the End of March 2026 in Rupees Lakh Crore			
State/UT	2016	2026	Change
Gujrat	22.5	17.9	4.6
Maharashtra	17.9	19	-1.1
Karnataka	17.8	26.5	-8.7
Tamil Nadu	19.4	29.2	-9.8
Andhra Pradesh	24.5	35.4	-10.9
Telangana	15.7	27.5	-11.8
All States and UTs	23.7	29.2	-5.5

Source: Times of India

SECTION-C
LITERATURE (40 MARKS)

6. Attempt ANY ONE of the two extracts given below.

5

A. Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow.

We, who were outlaws not so long ago, have today been given the rare privilege to be host to the nations of the world on our own soil. We thank all of our distinguished international guests for having come to take possession with the people of our country of what is, after all, a common victory for justice, for peace, for human dignity.

(Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom)

i. The guests are distinguished because

1

a. they are invited.

b. they are eminent world leaders

c. they are visiting this country for first time

d. they have improved their relations with speaker's country.

- ii. What does human dignity include? 2
- iii. It is a 'rare privilege' because 1
- a. they remained privileged for long.
 - b. they never had this honour earlier.
 - c. they saw world leaders for the first time.
 - d. they were chosen over other people.
- iv. Which word in the extract means 'fugitive who broke laws'? 1

OR

B. Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow.

'Paper has more patience than people.' I thought of this saying on one of those days when I was feeling a little depressed and was sitting at home with my chin in my hands, bored and listless, wondering whether to stay in or go out. I finally stayed where I was, brooding: Yes, paper does have more patience, and since I'm not planning to let anyone else read this stiff-backed notebook grandly referred to as a 'diary', unless I should ever find a real friend, it probably won't make a bit of difference. (From the Diary of Anne Frank)

- i. 'Paper has more patience than people.' It implies that Ann Frank.... 1
- a. believed in the power of patience.
 - b. felt that she could pour her heart out on paper.
 - c. was afraid of people.
 - d. did not trust anyone.
- ii. Which one of the following is not a trait of a real friend? 1
- a. good listener
 - b. encouraging
 - c. judgmental
 - d. credulous
- iii. Which word in the extract means 'anxious contemplation'? 1
- iv. Why does the speaker believe that her feelings will remain secret and unknown? 2

7. Attempt ANY ONE of the two extracts given below.

5

A. Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow.

I sit inside, doors open to the veranda
writing long letters in which I scarcely mention the departure
of the forest from the house.

The night is fresh, the whole moon shines
in a sky still open
the smell of leaves and lichen
still reaches like a voice into the rooms. (The Trees)

i. The word 'scarcely' used in the extract means...

1

- a. casually
- b. hardly
- c. basically
- d. mainly

ii. The poem uses 'the trees' as.....

1

- a. an extended simile
- b. an extended metaphor
- c. decorative showpieces
- d. expressive ideas

iii. What does the speaker smell?

1

iv. Why does the speaker avoid mentioning the departure of the trees in her writing?

2

OR

B. Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow.

Belinda paled, and she cried Help! Help!
But Mustard fled with a terrible yelp,
Ink trickled down to the bottom of the household,
And little mouse Blink strategically mouseholed. (The Tale of Custard the Dragon)

i. Who was a threat to Belinda?

1

- a. Mustard
- b. Police
- c. Dragon
- d. Pirate

ii. Who are Mustard, Ink and Blink here? 1

iii. The action of Mustard, Ink and Blink showed them as..... 1

- a. brave
- b. coward
- c. loyal
- d. protective

iv. Which important lesson/ message was tested here? 2

8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions in about 40 to 50 words each. 4 x 3 = 12

- i. The postal workers were both amused and touched at Lencho's letter to God.
Explain how? (A Letter to God)
- ii. What is the ancient legend about tea first discovered in China? (Glimpses of India)
- iii. Justify the statement that Lomov was a quarrelsome person. (The Proposal)
- iv. what are the key limitations of a tiger kept in a zoo? (A Tiger in the Zoo)
- v. Robert Frost uses 'fire' and 'ice' to symbolize some negative human traits. Associate a few with the both, Fire and Ice. (Fire and Ice)

9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions in about 40-50 words. 2x3=6

- i. What made Hari Singh put the stolen money back from where he had stolen it?
(The Thief's Story)
- ii. Griffin's character is a warning to modern scientific society. Explain. (Footprints without Feet)
- iii. What complexities did Loisel couple face while arranging money to buy a similar necklace as borrowed from Madame Forestier? (The Necklace)

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 100 to 120 words. 1x6=6

A. Age does not become a barrier if one is determined and curious. Valli fulfilled her dream of riding the bus by displaying discipline, compassion, self-reliance and courage. Elaborate how these traits can be helpful in meeting one's goals and targets. (Madam Rides the Bus)

OR

B. In today's fast and hyper-competitive world, people struggle to accept failures, losses and setbacks. Drawing insight from the story of Kisa Gotami and Buddha's teachings, analyse how accepting the realities of life helps us to overcome pain and sorrow and live peacefully. (The Sermon at Benares)

11. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 100 to 120 words. 1x6=6

A. Do you think that the parents behave like Mrs. Pumphrey? If yes, how do they pamper their children, if not, interpret pampering in the light of 'A Triumph of Surgery'.

OR

B. Bholi is a story of social evil, strengthening education, and women empowerment. Justify the statement.