



**QUESTION PAPER (2020-21)**  
**ENGLISH–Language and Literature**  
**CBSE CLASS-X**

**Time allowed: 3 Hrs.**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. This paper is divided into two parts: A and B. All questions are compulsory.
2. Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.
3. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

**Part A (40 Marks)**

**READING (20 marks)**

**1. Read the passage given below.**

1. Necessity is indeed the mother of invention. When areas in and around Leh began to experience water shortages, life didn't grind to a halt. Why? Because Chewang Norphel, a retired civil engineer in the Jammu and Kashmir government came up with the idea of artificial glaciers.
2. Ladakh, a cold desert at an altitude of 3,000-3,500 metres above sea level, has a low average annual rainfall rate of 50mm. Glaciers have always been the only source of water. Agriculture is completely dependent on glacier melt unlike the rest of river/monsoon-fed India. But over the years with increasing effects of climate change, rainfall and snowfall patterns have been changing, resulting in severe shortage and drought situations. Given the severe winter conditions, the window for farming is usually limited to one harvest season
3. It is located between the natural glacier above and the village below. The one closer to the village and lowest in altitude melts first, providing water during April/May, the crucial sowing season. Further layers of ice above melt with increasing temperature thus ensuring continuous supply to the fields. Thus, farmers have been able to manage two crops instead of one. It costs about Rs.1,50,000 and above to create one.
4. Fondly called the "glacier man", Mr. Norphel has designed over 15 artificial glaciers in and around Leh since 1987. In recognition of his pioneering effort, he was conferred the Padma Shri by President Pranab Mukherjee, in 2015.
5. There are few basic steps followed in creating the artificial glacier.
  
6. River or stream water at higher altitude is diverted to a shaded area of the hill, facing north, where the winter sun is blocked by a ridge or a mountain range. At the start of winter/November, the diverted water is made to flow onto sloping hill face through distribution channels. Stone embankments are built at regular intervals which impede the flow of water, making shallow pools and freeze, forming a cascade of ice along the slope. Ice formation continues for 3-4 months resulting in a large accumulation of ice which is referred to as an "artificial glacier". (349 words)

**1.1** Attempt *any eight* of the following questions on the basis of the passage you have read.

- i. Who was Chewang Norphel?
- ii. What kind of land form is Ladakh?
- iii. Why have Glaciers been the only source of water for Ladakh?
- iv. Why has the pattern of snowfall and rainfall changed?
- v. How are Glaciers significant for irrigation?
- vi. How do farmers manage to grow two crops instead of one?
- vii. In which year did President Pranab Mukherjee confer Padmashri to Mr. Norphel?
- viii. How many months does the ice formation continue for?
- ix. Find the word in the paragraph 6 which means the same as „gathering“?

**1x8=8**

**2.**

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

1. Have you ever failed at something so miserably that the thought of attempting to do it again was the last thing you wanted to do?
2. If your answer is yes, then you are “not a robot.” Unlike robots, we human beings have feelings, emotions, and dreams. We are all meant to grow and stretch despite our circumstances and our limitations. Flourishing and trying to make our dreams come true is great when life is going our way. But what happens when it’s not? What happens when you fail despite all of your hard work? Do you stay down and accept the defeat or do you get up again and again until you are satisfied? If you have a tendency to persevere and keep going then you have what experts call, grit.
3. Falling down or failing is one of the most agonizing, embarrassing, and scariest human experiences. But it is also one of the most educational, empowering, and essential parts of living a successful and fulfilling life. Did you know that perseverance (grit) is one of the seven qualities that have been described as the keys to personal success and betterment in society? The other six are: curiosity, gratitude, optimism, self-control, social intelligence, and zest. Thomas Edison is a model for grit for trying 1,000 plus times to invent the light bulb. If you are reading this with the lights on in your room, you know well he succeeded. When asked why he kept going despite his hundreds of failures, he merely stated that what he had been not failures. They were hundreds of ways not to create a light bulb. This statement not only revealed his grit but also his optimism for looking at the bright side
4. Grit can be learned to help you become more successful. One of the techniques that help is mindfulness. Mindfulness is a practice that helps the individual stay in the moment by bringing awareness of his or her experience without judgment. This practice has been used to quiet the noise of their fears and doubts. Through this simple practice of mindfulness, individuals have the ability to stop the self-sabotaging downward spiral of hopelessness, despair, and frustration.
5. What did you do to overcome the negative and self-sabotaging feelings of failure? Reflect on what you did, and try to use those same powerful resources to help you today. (396 words)

**2X4 = 8**

**2.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer *any four* of the following questions in about 30-40 words each.**

- i. According to the passage, what are the attributes of a human?
- ii. What is perceived as grit?
- iii. How is „failing“ an educational and empowering part of human life?
- iv. In what ways can grit be developed?
- v. How does mindfulness help?

1x4 =4

**2.2 On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer *any four* of the following:**

- i. While inventing the light bulb, Thomas Edison had failed\_\_\_\_
  - a. 1000 times
  - b. 10000 plus times
  - c. 1000 plus times
  - d. 10000 times
- ii. Failure is a part of \_\_\_\_\_life.
  - a. normal
  - b. common
  - c. human
  - d. ordinary
- iii. In paragraph 2, \_\_means continue.
  - a. robots
  - b. satisfied
  - c. persevere
  - d. flourishing
- iv. In paragraph 3, the synonym of distressing is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. embarrassing
  - b. scariest
  - c. agonizing
  - d. failing
- v. \_\_helps in preventing individuals from going down the lines of despair.
  - a. success
  - b. fear
  - c. doubt
  - d. mindfulness

**LITERATURE**

(10 marks)

**1. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE, by answering the questions that follow. (5x1)**

**(A)**

Suddenly she was startled by a voice. “Listen, child,” said the voice, “you shouldn’t stand like that. Sit down.”  
Sitting down, she looked to see who had spoken. It was an elderly man who had honestly been concerned for her, but she was annoyed by his attention.  
“There’s nobody here who’s a child,” she said haughtily. “I’ve paid my thirty paise like everyone else.”  
The conductor chimed in. “Oh, sir, but this is a very grown-up madam. Do you think a mere girl could pay her own fare and travel to the city all alone?”  
Valli shot an angry glance at the conductor and said, “I am not a madam. Please remember that. And you’ve not yet given me my ticket.”

i. How did Valli feel when the elderly man expressed concern that she was standing?

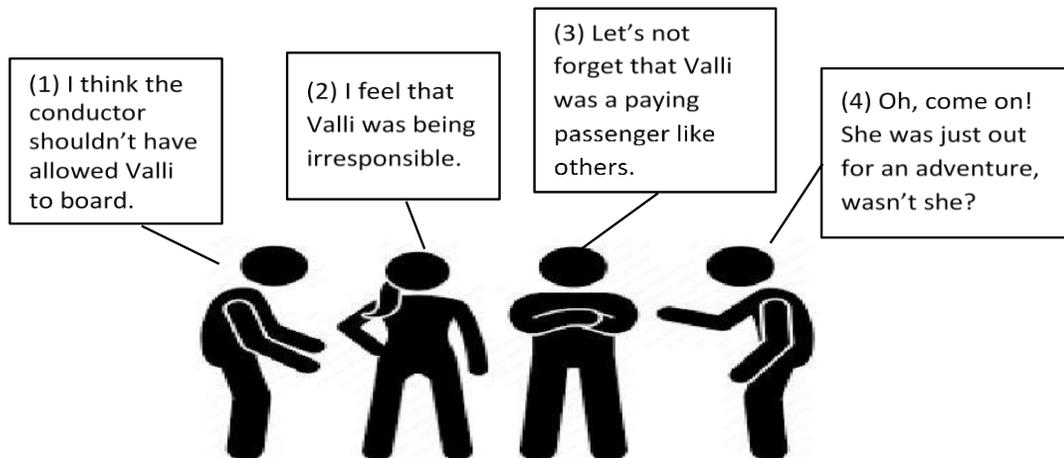
- a) Rather shocked
- b) Somewhat happy
- c) Fairly displeased
- d) Quite embarrassed

ii. Choose the option that lists the set of statements that are NOT TRUE according to the given extract.

- 1. Valli was travelling without a guardian.
- 2. The conductor was bullying Valli.
- 3. Valli was nervous in her interactions.
- 4. Valli was a child passenger.
- 5. Valli followed the elderly man's advice.
- 6. Valli's response to the elderly man was respectful.
- 7. It took Valli some time to participate in the jocular conversations.

- a) 2, 3, 4
- b) 5, 6, 7
- c) 3, 5, 7
- d) 2, 3, 6

iii. Pick the option that correctly classifies fact/s(F) and opinion/s (O) of the students below.



- a) F - 1,2 and O - 3,4
- b) F - 2,3,4 and O - 1
- c) F - 2,4 and O - 1,3
- d) F - 3 and O - 1,2,4

iv. Which word does 'chimed in' NOT correspond to?

- a) Intervened
- b) Interrupted
- c) Intersected
- d) Interjected

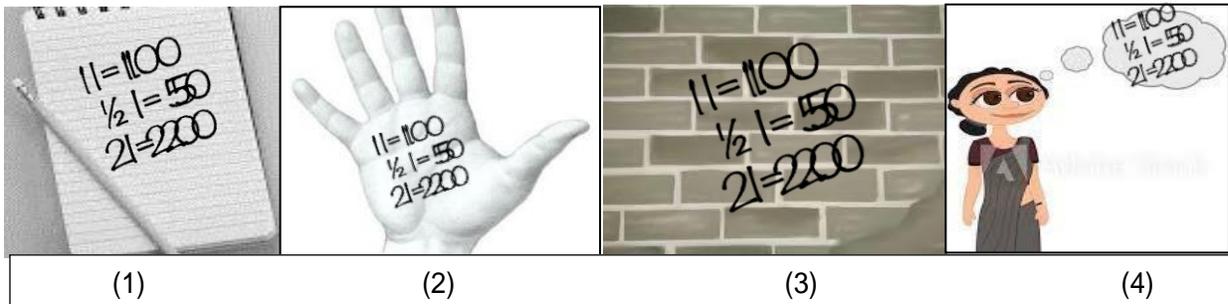
- v. Choose the characteristic displayed by the conductor when he addressed Valli and declared that she couldn't be 'a mere girl'.
- a) encouragement
  - b) indulgence
  - c) embarrassment
  - d) authority

OR

The baker or bread-seller of those days had a peculiar dress known as the *kabai*. It was a single piece long frock reaching down to the knees. In our childhood we saw bakers wearing shirt and trousers which were shorter than full-length ones and longer than half pants. Even today, anyone who wears a half pant which reaches just below the knees invites the comment that he is dressed like a *pader*!

(B)

- i. Choose the answer that lists the correct option about the recording of the baker's monthly accounts.



- a) Option (1)
  - b) Option (2)
  - c) Option (3)
  - d) Option (4)
- ii. When the writer says, 'Baking was indeed a profitable profession in the old days.', he means that
- a) baking isn't as popular in Goacurrently.
  - b) bakers have chosen to adopt other professions.
  - c) baking, as a job, isn't as gainful as it used to be.
  - d) bakers' goods were of a better quality in earlier times.

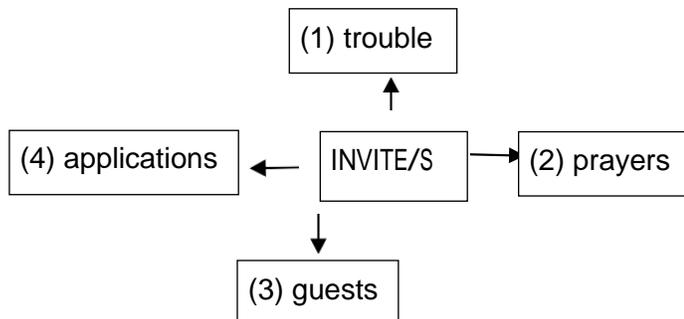
iii. The statement that is TRUE about payment collection, according to the passage is:

- a) The baker received payment on a daily basis.
- b) The baker was paid for his services at the end of the month.
- c) The baker insisted that customers pay before the month-end.
- d) The baker chose to receive payment any day of the month.

iv. The *kabai* was a 'peculiar' outfit as it was

- a) a tight-fitting apparel.
- b) too colourful.
- c) made of unsuitable materials.
- d) a dress-like attire.

v. The extract uses the phrase, '*invites (the) comments*'. Which of the following expressions is incorrect with respect to the word 'invites'?



- a) Option (1)
- b) Option (2)
- c) Option (3)
- d) Option (4)

4. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANYONE, by answering the questions that follow.

(5x1)

(A)

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,  
And stares with his brilliant eyes At the

brilliant stars

- i. The fact that the tiger is 'stalking the length of his cage' tells us that he is
- a) restless.
  - b) reckless.
  - c) resilient.
  - d) reverent.
- ii. What is the rhyme scheme of the given stanzas?
- a) abcb; abcb
  - b) abcb; abcd
  - c) abcd; abcd
  - d) abcd; abcb
- iii. These stanzas bring out the contrast between
- a) zoos and cities.
  - b) strength and weakness.
  - c) freedom and captivity.
  - d) visitors and patrolling cars.
- iv. What is the caged tiger NOT likely to say to the visitors?
- a) "Stop staring".
  - b) "Set me free".
  - c) "Join me".
  - d) "Go away".
- v. The tiger's 'brilliant eyes' reveal that he
- a) hopes to be free and in the wild, someday.
  - b) is looked after well and is nourished and healthy.
  - c) enjoys staring at the bright stars each night.
  - d) is well-rested and hence, wide-awake.

OR

(B)

I saw it go  
Merrily bouncing, down the street, and then Merrily over  
— there it is in the water!  
No use to say 'O there are other balls': An ultimate  
shaking grief fixes the boy  
As he stands rigid, trembling, staring down All his young  
days into the harbour where His ball went

- i. The poet uses the ball as a symbol of the boy's
- sense of adventure.
  - carefree childhood days.
  - ability to bounce back.
  - extended family.
- ii. The poet feels that there is no point consoling the boy as
- it would give him false hope.
  - he might demand for a new ball.
  - it might distress him further.
  - whatever he has lost is irretrievable.
- iii. The word 'harbour' DOES NOT have a meaning similar to
- port.
  - pier.
  - dock.
  - cargo.
- iv. '*Merrily over — there it is in the water!*' The dash here is meant to convey
- some familiar experience.
  - a feeling of excitement.
  - a sense of unexpected interruption.
  - some thoughtful moments.
- v. The word that DOES NOT indicate a physical manifestation of sorrow in the boy, is
- worthless.
  - shaking.
  - trembling.
  - rigid.

## GRAMMAR

(10 marks)

### 5. Choose the correct options to fill in the blanks to complete the note about the Wangala Festival of Meghalaya. (3x1)

The Wangala **-(i)-** festival for the Garo in Meghalaya, Assam and Nagaland. It is a post-harvest festival - **(ii)-** the end of the agricultural year. It is popularly known as 'The Hundred Drums' festival. During the signature dance, the leading warrior **-(iii)-** with synchronised dance steps and specific hand-head movements.

- (i)
- is important
  - are an important
  - was the important
  - is an important

- (ii) a) being celebrated for marking  
b) celebrated to mark  
c) celebrated to marking  
d) being celebrated for mark
- (iii) a) leads the youngsters  
b) is lead the youngsters  
c) was leading the youngsters  
d) had leads the youngsters

**6. Choose the correct options to fill in the blanks to complete Venu's narration. (3x1)**



I saw Supanddi standing in the field. When I **-(i)-** doing there, he **-(ii)-** he was trying to win a Nobel prize. I was confused and enquired how standing in the rice field would help him do so. He stumped me by saying that he **-(iii)-** won Nobel prizes had all been out- standing in their fields!

- (i) a) exclaimed what he was  
b) told him what he was  
c) asked him what he was  
d) says to him about what
- (ii) a) ordered that  
b) refused that  
c) questioned that  
d) replied that
- (iii) a) has heard that people who has  
b) was hearing that people who were  
c) had heard that people who had  
d) did hear that people who had

7. Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct options for ANY FOUR of the six sentences given below.  
(4x1)

(i) You ..... consult the Thesaurus if you need groups of synonyms for those words.

- a) had to
- b) need to
- c) used to
- d) might

(ii) Everybody..... keen to participate in the upcoming *nukkad natak*.

- a) are
- b) has
- c) is
- d) were

(iii) The good news is that... .....volunteers dropped out this month than the last two.

- a) fewer
- b) less
- c) few
- d) a little

(iv) It was ..... historic day for the organisation when ..... honour was bestowed upon its employees.

- a) a; an
- b) an; the
- c) the; a
- d) an; a

(v) At this time tomorrow we ..... our project details to ma'am.

- a) are presenting
- b) shall be presenting
- c) have been presenting
- d) will have presenting

(vi) The Komodo dragon.....follow its prey till it will eventually dies due to its venomous bite.

- a) must
- b) will
- c) could
- d) may

**Section B**  
**WRITING**

(2x5= 10 marks)

8. Attempt **ANYONE** of the following in 100-120 words. (5 marks)

You are Tabassum/Tarun, a resident of Satya Nagar Colony, Bhubaneswar, Orissa. You have noticed that some residents of your colony are repeatedly flouting quarantine rules laid out during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

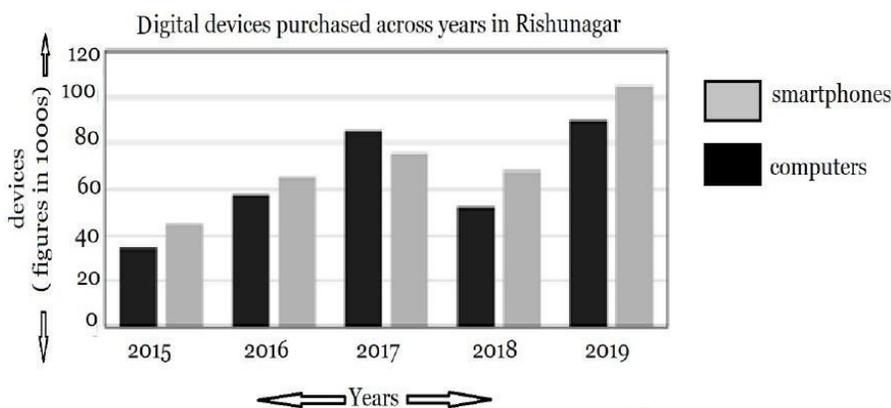
Write a letter to the SHO of the local Police Station, drawing attention towards the same. Explain how such acts impact the health of the community and request immediate intervention and strict action.

**OR**

(A) You are Vaijanthi/Vijay from Prakasham Nagar, Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh. Write a letter to Book Haven Store, requesting home delivery of the books, stationery and art materials you had ordered telephonically. Share the reason for being unable to pick up the goods in person. Confirm your address details and a convenient time slot.

9. Attempt **ANYONE** of the following in 100-120 words. (5 marks)

(A) The chart below displays data about the number of digital devices purchased in Rishunagar across the years 2015-2019. Write a paragraph analyzing the given data.



**OR**

(B) Read the following excerpt from an article that appeared in the magazine section of a local daily:

*The ban on single-use plastic is impractical. The purpose of articles like bags and packaging is ultimately to make human life easier. Plastic articles do this well, so they shouldn't be banned.*

Write a paragraph to analyse the given argument.

You could think about what alternative explanations might weaken the given conclusion and include rationale / evidence that would strengthen / counter the given argument.

**LITERATURE**

(30 marks)

**10. Answer ANY TWO questions in 20-30 words each, from (A) and (B) respectively.**

(2x4=8)

**(A) (anytwo)**

(2x2=4)

- i.** How did Peggy justify her cruel behavior towards Wanda?
- ii.** Describe how Custard's reaction was different from that of others, on seeing the pirate?
- iii.** Who, according to Nelson Mandela, is a courageous man?

**(B) (anytwo)**

(2x2=4)

- i.** Why did Oliver Lutkin's mother laugh as she chased him and Bill away?
- ii.** Why was it important for Mrs. Pumphrey to be a little cruel in order to be kind towards Tricky?
- iii.** List any one characteristic of Bholi's teacher with reference to her first day at school. Give a reason for your answer.

**11. Answer ANY TWO questions in 40-50 words each, from (A) and (B) respectively.**

(3x4=12)

**(A) (anytwo)**

(3x2=6)

- i.** Annie writes that it was fortunate that Mr. Keesing took the joke the right way. Why does she feel so?
- ii.** The use of symbolism in the poem 'Fire and Ice' conveys the poet's message effectively. Expand with reference to the poem.
- iii.** Justify the poet's allusion to Rapunzel in 'Amanda'.

**(B) (anytwo)**

**(3x2=6)**

- i. Griffin's brilliance as a man of science fades before his darker traits. Comment.
- ii. Why do you think Mr. Weiherer was pleased that Richard Ebright not only put in the nightly research hours towards butterflies, but also his other interests?
- iii. What madame Forestier exclaim in astonishment, when she saw Matilda, years after the Minister's
- iv. ball?

**12. Answer ANYONE** the following in 100-120 words.

**(5x1)**

**(A)** Natalya and Ivan argued about the ownership of Oxen Meadows and the superiority of their respective dogs in the play, *The Proposal*.

Imagine yourself as the playwright of the play. Based on your understanding of the personality traits of Natalya and Ivan, write a dialogue based on an imaginary event, show- casing another argument between them.

**OR**

**(B)** Read the extracts given below and comment on the difference in the nature of help both the characters, of these two stories, received.

- a) Suddenly I came out of the clouds and saw two straight lines of lights in front of me. It was a runway! An airport! I was safe! I turned to look for my friend in the black aeroplane but the sky was empty.  
[The Black Aeroplane]
- b) All through the night Lencho thought only of his one hope: the help of God...The following Sunday, at daybreak he began to write a letter...It was nothing less than a letter to God...The following Sunday Lencho came a bit earlier than usual to ask if there was a letter for him.... Lencho showed not the slightest surprise on seeing the money, such was his confidence. [A Letter to God]

**13. Answer ANYONE** of the following in 100-120 words.

**(5x1)**

**(A)** Hari Singh says- "*He knew it but neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything.*"

Anil successfully addressed the situation by not addressing it at all. Elaborate based on your reading of *The Thief's Story*.

**OR**

**(B)** Read the following quote by an American author, E. E. Hale.

*"I am only one but, I am one. I cannot do everything but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I do."*

Bholi's evolution from a 'dumb cow' to a 'masterpiece' supports the given quote. Justify.

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**Best of Luck**

