

HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION: 2025-26

Class : X
Subject : English Language & Literature (Code: 184)

F.M : 80
Time : 3 hrs

General Instructions:

All questions are compulsory.

Follow word limits wherever specified.

Attempt questions in the given sequence.

Marks for each question are indicated against it.

Section A – Reading (20 Marks)

Q1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: (10 Marks)

In the heart of a bustling city lived a young violinist named Rohan. Every morning, he stood at the same street corner, playing his violin with unmatched passion. Passers-by often stopped for a few moments, enchanted by the melody, before rushing to their destinations. One day, an elderly man paused for a long time and asked Rohan, “Why do you play here instead of in a grand concert hall?” Rohan smiled and replied, “Music is meant for everyone, not just for those who can buy a ticket.” The old man nodded and quietly left. The next week, Rohan received an invitation to perform at the city’s most prestigious auditorium. When he stepped on stage, he saw the elderly man in the front row, smiling with pride.*

- (a) Why did Rohan choose to play in the street? (2)
- (b) How did the elderly man help change Rohan’s life? (2)
- (c) Find a word from the passage which means *‘filled with great enthusiasm’*. (1)
- (d) What message does this story convey? (2)
- (e) Do you think the elderly man was right in his approach? Why/Why not? (3)

Q2. Read the following passage carefully: (10 Marks)

Plastic Waste in Oceans

Every year, millions of tonnes of plastic end up in the oceans. This plastic breaks down into smaller particles called microplastics, which are consumed by marine animals and eventually enter the human food chain. The United Nations has called this issue one of the most urgent environmental challenges. While governments are implementing bans on single-use plastics, individual responsibility plays an equally vital role. People can reduce plastic waste by carrying reusable bags, avoiding plastic bottles, and participating in beach clean-up drives.

On the basis of your reading, answer the following questions:

- (a) What are microplastics and why are they harmful? (2)
- (b) Mention two individual actions that can reduce plastic waste. (2)
- (c) What has the United Nations stated about this problem? (1)
- (d) Give one word for ‘particles that are extremely small’. (1)
- (e) If you were part of a school eco-club, what initiative would you take to fight this problem? (4)

Section B – Grammar & Creative Writing (20 Marks)

Q3. Grammar (10 Marks)

(a) Fill in the blanks with appropriate modals: (2)

1. You _____ (must/should) wear a helmet while riding a bike.
2. We _____ (can/must) visit them tomorrow if we have time.

(b) Change the voice:

(2)

1. The teacher praised the student. (into passive)
2. The room has been cleaned by them. (into active)

(c) Rewrite the sentence in reported speech:

(2)

1. She said, "I am reading a novel."
2. The guard said, "No one is allowed inside."

(d) Spot the error and correct it:

(2)

1. He do not like spicy food.
2. The childrens are playing in the park.

(e) Rearrange the words to form meaningful sentences:

(2)

1. the / beautiful / is / sky / today
2. has / my / already / homework / finished / brother

Q4. Creative Writing (10 Marks)

(a) Notice Writing

(3 Marks)

You are the Head Boy/Head Girl of Starlight Public School. Draft a notice informing students about an Inter-School Debate Competition to be held in your school auditorium next month.

(b) Letter to the Editor (4 Marks)

Write a letter to the Editor of *The Times Herald*, highlighting the problem of rising noise pollution in your city and suggesting measures to control it. (120–150 words)

(c) Short Story (3 Marks)

Write a story in about 150–200 words beginning with the line:

"It was the first time I had ever seen such heavy rain, and then I noticed..."

Section C – Literature (40 Marks)

Q5. Read the following extract and answer the questions: (6 Marks)

"But suddenly that part of the forest seemed strange to me. It was silent, except for the rustling of leaves. I felt a little frightened."* (*The Midnight Visitor*)

- (a) Who is the speaker here? (1)
- (b) What made the forest seem strange? (2)
- (c) Identify the literary device in the line "rustling of leaves"*. (1)
- (d) How does this moment build suspense in the story? (2)

Q6. Answer ANY TWO of the following in 40–50 words each: (6 Marks)

- (a) How does 'A Letter to God' highlight Lencho's faith in God?
- (b) What lesson do you learn from the poem 'Dust of Snow'?
- (c) How did the thief in 'The Thief's Story' change by the end?

Q7. Answer ANY TWO of the following in 40–50 words each: (6 Marks)

- (a) What message does 'The Black Aeroplane' convey?
- (b) Why is Nelson Mandela's speech an inspiration for the world?
- (c) Describe the narrator's first meeting with Ausable in 'The Midnight Visitor'.

Q8. Answer ANY ONE of the following in 100–120 words: (6 Marks)**

- (a) Compare the characters of Griffin and Ausable.
- (b) Describe the irony in 'A Triumph of Surgery'.

Q9. Answer ANY ONE of the following in 100–120 words: (6 Marks)

- (a) Both 'Fire and Ice' and 'The Ball Poem' deal with loss in different ways. Discuss.
- (b) How is the theme of deception portrayed in 'Footprints without Feet'?

Q10. Long Answer Question – Value Based (10 Marks)

Imagine you are the narrator of 'The Necklace'. Write a diary entry after you learn the truth about the necklace, expressing your mixed feelings of regret, anger, and irony.

Marking Scheme – Class X Half Yearly Examination

English Language & Literature (Code: 184)

Maximum Marks: 80

SECTION A – Reading (20 Marks)

Q1. Passage – Rohan the violinist (10 marks)

* (a) Why did Rohan choose to play in the street? → *Music is for everyone, not just ticket-buyers.* (2)

* (b) How did the elderly man help change Rohan's life? → *Invited to prestigious auditorium via the elderly man's influence.* (2)

* (c) Word meaning – “filled with great enthusiasm” → *passion* (1)

* (d) Message – *True art should be accessible to all.* (2)

* (e) Opinion – Any reasonable point with justification. (3)

Q2. Passage – Plastic Waste in Oceans (10 marks)***

* (a) Microplastics → *Tiny plastic particles harmful to marine life and humans.* (2)

* (b) Two actions → *Use reusable bags, avoid plastic bottles, join clean-ups.* (2)

* (c) UN statement → *One of the most urgent environmental challenges.* (1)

* (d) One word for ‘extremely small particles’ → *micro* (1)

* (e) Initiative → Any practical eco-club action (awareness drive, no-plastic campaign, etc.) (4)

SECTION B – Grammar & Creative Writing (20 Marks)**

Q3. Grammar (10 marks)**

* (a) must, can (0.5 each × 2 = 1 mark each → 2 marks)

* (b) The student was praised by the teacher. / They have cleaned the room. (1 mark each → 2 marks)

* (c) She said she was reading a novel. / The guard said that no one was allowed inside. (1 mark each → 2 marks)

* (d) He **does** not like spicy food. / The **children** are playing in the park. (1 mark each → 2 marks)

* (e) The sky is beautiful today. / My brother has already finished homework. (1 mark each → 2 marks)

Q4. Creative Writing (10 marks)**

* (a) **Notice Writing** – Format 1, Content 1.5, Expression 0.5 = 3 marks

* (b) **Letter to Editor** – Format 1, Content 2, Expression 1 = 4 marks

* (c) **Short Story** – Relevance 1, Coherence 1, Expression 1 = 3 marks

SECTION C – Literature (40 Marks)**

Q5. Extract – “The Midnight Visitor” (6 marks)***

* (a) Ausable (1 mark)

* (b) Silence, unusual atmosphere made forest seem strange (2 marks)

* (c) Literary device – Onomatopoeia (rustling) (1 mark)

* (d) Builds suspense by hinting at danger/unknown situation (2 marks)

Q6. Short answers (Any two × 3 = 6 marks)**

* ‘A Letter to God’ → Lencho's faith unshaken despite setback.

* ‘Dust of Snow’ → Small moments change mood, shift perspective.

* ‘The Thief's Story’ → Transformation due to trust and kindness.

Q7. Short answers (Any two × 3 = 6 marks)**

* ‘The Black Aeroplane’ → Courage, faith in help during crisis.

* Nelson Mandela → Inspiration for equality and justice.

* Ausable in ‘The Midnight Visitor’ → Clever, calm, resourceful.

Q8. Long answer (Any one × 6 = 6 marks)**

* Compare Griffin & Ausable → Content 4, Expression 2

* Irony in ‘A Triumph of Surgery’ → Content 4, Expression 2

Q9. Long answer (Any one × 6 = 6 marks)**

* ‘Fire and Ice’ vs ‘The Ball Poem’ – both about loss but different tones.

* Deception in 'Footprints without Feet' – Griffin's invisible mischief.

Q10. Diary entry – 'The Necklace' *(10 marks)*

* Feelings of regret, lost youth, irony (4 marks for content)

* Logical sequencing & coherence (3 marks)

* Language & expression (3 marks)