KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN LUCKNOW REGION

PRE BOARD EXAMINATION- 2025-26

CLASS - X

SUBJECT: ENGLISH COMMUNICATIVE (101)

TIME: 3 HOURS **MAX MARKS-80**

General Instructions

Read the following instructions carefully and follow them:

- This question paper has 12 questions. All questions are compulsory.
- This question paper contains four sections:
  - Section A: Reading Skills
  - Section B: Writing Skills
  - Section C: Grammar
  - Section D: Literature
- Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
- Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
- Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.
- You may attempt any section at a time.

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (22 MARKS)

1. Read the following table displaying Plastic Waste Management in India. ***10***

Table : India's Performance in Major International Sports Events (2015–2024)

Year	Olympic Medals	Asian Games Medals	Commonwealth Medals	% Increase in Overall Medal Tally (over previous event year)
2015	—	57	64	—
2016	2	—	—	—
2018	—	69	66	+12%
2020	7	—	—	+250% (from 2016 Olympics)
2022	—	74	61	+7%
2024	9	—	—	+28% (from 2020 Olympics)

Over the last decade, India's performance in international sports has improved steadily. The medal count has shown a consistent upward trend, reflecting better infrastructure, training, and recognition of diverse sports beyond cricket.

Chart: Participation of Indian Youth in Different Sports (2024)

Sport	% of Participants (Age 12–25)
Cricket	38%
Badminton	16%
Football	14%
Athletics	10%
Kabaddi	8%
Others (Hockey, Wrestling, Archery, etc.)	14%

While cricket still dominates, the younger generation is increasingly exploring other sports, especially badminton, football, and athletics. The government's *Khelo India* programme and private academies have helped identify rural talent.

According to a survey by the *Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (2024)*, nearly **68% of school students** now participate in at least one sport activity each week. Experts believe that the growing sports culture contributes not just to fitness but also to teamwork, discipline, and national pride.

Based on your understanding of the table answer the questions given below.

(i) Which statement best represents India's sporting trend from 2015 to 2024? *1*

(a) Growth only in cricket-based sports
(b) Irregular but overall upward improvement
(c) No measurable progress
(d) Decline due to lack of infrastructure

(ii) Complete the analogy- *1*
Cricket : National popularity :: Kabaddi : _____ popularity

(iii) The question consists of two statements an Assertion(A) and a Reason(R). Read both the statements and decide which of the following answer choices correctly depicts the relationship between these two statements. *1*
Assertion (A): India's medal tally at the Olympic Games has significantly improved in recent years.
Reason (R): More students participate in weekly sports activities than ever before.

Choose the correct option:
(a) Both A and R are true, and R correctly explains A.
(b) Both A and R are true, but R does not explain A.
(c) A is true, but R is false.
(d) A is false, but R is true.

(iv) Find a word from the passage meaning: **"**constant and gradual." 1

(v) Match the sports categories in Column A with the correct interpretation in Column B: 1

Column A	Column B
(a) Badminton	(i) Reflects growing interest beyond mainstream sports
(b) Athletics	(ii) Second most preferred sport among youth
(c) "Others" category (Hockey, Archery, etc.)	(iii) Youth moving toward fitness-driven sports culture

Options:
A. (a–ii), (b–i), (c–iii)
B. (a–iii), (b–ii), (c–i)
C. (a–ii), (b–iii), (c–i)
D. (a–i), (b–ii), (c–iii)

(vi) Which two sports (other than cricket) have the highest youth participation? *1*
(vii) How has India's sporting culture changed in the last decade? *2*
(viii) Suggest two evidence-based strategies schools can adopt to increase participation in non-cricket sports specifically. *2*

2. Read the following passage carefully: ***12***

Rising Heatwaves in India: The Scorching Reality of a Warming Nation

(1) Once known for its rhythmic monsoons and diverse climate, India is now becoming synonymous with relentless heat. The summer of 2025 has been one of the hottest on record, with temperatures soaring past 48°C in many northern and central states. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the country experienced nearly twice as many heatwave days between March and June compared to the previous decade. "We are witnessing a dangerous new normal," said IMD chief scientist Dr. M. Rajeevan. "Heatwaves that used to occur once every 30 years are now happening almost every other year."

(2) The impact of these rising temperatures has been devastating. In May 2025, parts of Delhi, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh recorded night-time temperatures above 35°C, offering little relief from the searing days. Hospitals in several cities reported a surge in cases of dehydration, heat exhaustion, and stroke, while the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) confirmed over 2,000 heat-related deaths nationwide — the highest toll in more than a decade. For outdoor workers, farmers, and street vendors, surviving the day has become a battle against nature. "It feels like the air itself is burning," said Meera, a daily wage worker in Jaipur. "Even the water from the hand pump is too hot to touch."

(3) Beyond human suffering, the heatwaves are inflicting severe economic and environmental damage. Crop failures are becoming common, especially in wheat, rice, and sugarcane belts where prolonged dry spells and soaring heat reduce yields. The Indian Institute of Agricultural Research (2025) estimates that every 1°C rise in temperature could cut wheat output by nearly 6%. Power

grids are under immense stress as electricity demand for cooling spikes, causing frequent blackouts. Meanwhile, shrinking reservoirs and groundwater depletion threaten both rural livelihoods and urban water supplies. Cities like Bengaluru and Nagpur have already faced "Day Zero" warnings this year — when taps are expected to run dry.

(4) Scientists attribute the increasing frequency and intensity of heatwaves to a deadly combination of climate change, rapid urbanization, and deforestation. Concrete jungles trap heat, while declining tree cover reduces natural cooling. The IMD's 2025 climate analysis shows that India's average temperature has risen by 1.2°C since 1901, but the rate of increase has accelerated sharply in the past two decades. Climate experts warn that if global emissions continue unchecked, India could experience over 100 extreme heat days per year by 2050. "What makes Indian heatwaves deadly is not just their intensity but their humidity," said climatologist Dr. Anjal Prakash. "High humidity prevents sweat from evaporating, which makes the human body unable to cool down naturally."

(5) In response, state governments and researchers are experimenting with adaptive solutions. Cities like Ahmedabad and Bhubaneswar have implemented Heat Action Plans, which include early warning systems, cool roof initiatives, and public awareness drives. NGOs are promoting community cooling shelters, while urban planners advocate for green corridors and reflective building materials. Yet experts caution that these are short-term measures. "Unless we cut carbon emissions and protect green spaces, adaptation alone won't save us," said Dr. Rajeevan. "Heatwaves are not isolated weather events anymore — they are the visible scars of a planet in crisis."

As the blazing Indian summer of 2025 continues to rewrite records, one thing is clear: the fight against heat is no longer seasonal — it's existential.

Answer the following questions based on the passage:

(i) Why is India described as experiencing a "dangerous new normal" in Paragraph 1? *1*
a) Because heatwaves have become rare and unpredictable.
b) Because extreme heat events are becoming more frequent and intense.
c) Because rainfall patterns have improved across the country.
d) Because summer temperatures have remained constant over time

(ii) Complete the following with the correct option from those given in brackets. In the line "We are witnessing a dangerous new normal," the word "dangerous" indicates (an alarming and threatening trend / a minor temporary condition / a hopeful change / a seasonal variation). (Paragraph 1) *1*

(iii) Give two ways in which rising heatwaves have affected people's health and daily life in India. Answer in 30–40 words. (Paragraph 2) *2*

(iv) What does Meera's statement "Even the water from the hand pump is too hot to touch" symbolise? Select the correct option to complete the answer. (Paragraph 2) *1*
It symbolises that the heat has become _____
a) unbearable and all-pervasive, affecting even natural sources.
b) limited only to urban areas and cities.
c) manageable through ordinary precautions.
d) unrelated to water and resources

(v) Complete the following with the appropriate option. (Paragraph 2) *1*

The phrase "a battle against nature" brings up the imagery of a __.

a) struggle for daily survival against climate forces.
b) political conflict between states.
c) competition between workers.
d) disagreement between scientists and citizens.

(vi) What would be the most suitable title for Paragraph 3? *1*

a) Economic Benefits of Heatwaves
b) The Double Burden: Crops and Power Under Stress
c) How Technology Solves Heatwaves
d) India's Renewable Energy Achievements

(vii) Fill in the blank by choosing the appropriate option from those given in the brackets. *1*

Paragraph 4 includes a __ (warning / appreciation / assumption) by Dr. Anjal Prakash regarding the danger of humidity during heatwaves.

(viii) Which phrase from Paragraph 4 bears evidence that heatwaves in India are worsening due to man-made factors? *1*

(ix) What initiatives are being implemented under the Heat Action Plans of cities like Ahmedabad and Bhubaneswar? Answer in about 30-40 words. (Paragraph 5) *2*

(x) What is the overall tone of the passage? *1*

a) Hopeful and futuristic
b) Analytical yet cautionary
c) Casual and conversational
d) Humorous and light-hearted

SECTION B: (WRITING SKILLS) (22 MARKS)

3. Write an application to the Principal, in not more than 50 words, requesting better classroom facilities, such as repairing broken desks, adding fans, etc., to improve the learning environment. You are Aman/Aarohi, Class Monitor of Class X-A. *1 x 3 = 3*

4. Write a factual description, in not more than 100 words of a trophy or medal, you won in a competition. *1 x 4 = 4*

5. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two, (A) or (B), in 120 words. *1 x 7 = 7*

A. You have observed that modern lifestyles in cities have made people follow the principle 'late to sleep and late to rise' instead of the other way round. As you understand the harm to a person's health due to this, write a letter to the Editor of a national daily making people aware of the problems that arise. Use ideas from the MCB unit on ***'Health and Medicine'*** and your own ideas. You are Fazal/ Farzana of 106, Station Road, Kandivli West, Mumbai.

OR

B. You have read newspaper reports about the harm to the environment due to e-waste, meaning the electronic waste generated by people throwing away their obsolete, unwanted and non-functional electronic and electrical equipment and appliances like TV sets, radios, old refrigerators, etc. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily making people aware of the problems that arise due to e-waste. Use ideas from the MCB unit on '***Science***'. You are Anil/Neela of 221, Station Road, Ahmedabad.

6. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in 150 words. *1 x 8 = 8*

A. With online apps, digital maps, and easy bookings, travel has become smoother and more accessible. Taking ideas from the unit ***'Travel and Tourism'*** and using the given cues along with your own ideas, write an article on **"Technology: Changing the Face of Tourism."**
Include:

- Role of online travel apps and social media
- Impact on travel planning and safety
- Rise of virtual tourism and AI-guided tours
- Challenges of over-dependence on gadgets

B. You are Arjun / Meera, a Class X student. You feel proud of India's cultural and linguistic diversity. Write an article in about 120–150 words on **"Unity in Diversity: The Strength of India."** You may use your own ideas along with the given cues and your reading of the MCB Unit 6: ***National Integration***.

- India: a land of many religions, languages, and traditions
- Harmony through festivals, sports, and national symbols
- Importance of tolerance and mutual respect
- Role of youth in promoting unity

SECTION C: GRAMMAR (10 MARKS)

7. Complete the tasks (a)–(c), as directed.

(a) Fill in the blanks (i)–(iii) with the appropriate option from those given in the brackets. *3*
The teacher said that she (i) _____ (is/was/has been) happy with our performance. She added that we (ii) _____ (have/had/will have) improved a lot since the last exam and hoped we (iii) _____ (will/would/would have) continue to do well.

(b) In the following paragraph, one word has been omitted in each line. In your answer sheets, remember to write the missing word along with the word that comes before and after it, as shown below. The first one has been done as an example. *4*

No.	Text	Word before	Omission	Word after
e.g.	I reading a novel	I	was	reading
(i)	when phone rang suddenly.			
(ii)	I was so lost the story that I jumped.			
(iii)	It a thrilling mystery about a spy.			
(iv)	My brother laughing seeing my reaction.			

(c) Do as directed. **3**

i. Rearrange the following jumbled words/phrases in the given dialogue to create a meaningful sentence. *1*

RAVI: I recently read about Rajasthan's desert festivals. They sound fascinating!

PRIYA: (i) handicrafts / of / vibrant attire / the / and / the / desert life / truly reflect / our / cultural spirit

ii. Report the conversation given below by filling in the blanks to complete the following paragraph. *1+1*

Maya: Have you completed the science project, Ritu?

Ritu: I'll finish it by tomorrow.

Maya asked Ritu (i) _____ the science project. Ritu replied (ii)_____ it by the next day.

SECTION D: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (26 MARKS)

8. Read the following excerpts and answer the questions briefly, for **ANY TWO** excerpts of the given three, (a), (b), (c). *4+4=8*

(a) And immediately I regretted it.
I thought how paltry, how vulgar, what a mean act!
I despised myself and the voices of my accursed human education.

(Snake)

(i) What is the poet regretting?
(ii) Why does he call his education 'accursed'?
(iii) Give the synonym of the word 'paltry'.
(iv) What was the result of the poet's action?

(b) You know not what you do: do not consent
That Antony speak in his funeral:

(Julius Caesar)

(i) Identify the speaker of the given lines.
(ii) Whose 'funeral' is being talked about?
(iii) Why did the speaker raise this objection?
(iv) Give the antonym of the word 'consent'?

(c) But when the evening of his life was drawing in, he left his old ways and suddenly took a new turn. His only child, Miriam married and left him. She went off with a soldier into his regiment in the Punjab.

(The Letter)

(i) What does the expression 'evening of life' mean?
(ii) What does 'old ways' refer to here?
(iii) Whose life is being referred to in the above lines?
(iv) Why has Ali's life taken a new turn?

9. Answer ***ANY FIVE*** of the following six questions in about 30-40 words each. *5x2=10*

(i) How do Jacopo and Nicola show their dedication and love for their family member? (Two Gentlemen of Verona)
(ii) How is Mrs. Packletide's character a commentary on the vanity, superficiality, and competitiveness that exist within the society? (Mrs. Packletide's Tiger)
(iii) Why and how, according to Shakespeare, is the pen mightier than the monuments or even mighty kings? (Nor Marble nor The Gilded Monuments)
(iv) What role does the bog's audience play in the downfall of the nightingale in the poem 'The Frog and the Nightingale'? (The Frog and the Nightingale)
(v) What makes Helen, the ghost, and her other co-ghosts organise 'The Writer's Inspiration Bureau'? (A Shady Plot)
(vi) The broken - down statue of Ozymandias points to the short-lived nature of political regimes and tyrannical power. Comment. (Ozymandias)

10. Answer ***ANY ONE*** of the following two questions in about 150 words. *1x8=8*

(a) Discuss the concept of redemption explored in 'The Letter' by Dhumaketu and compare it with the redemption seen in 'Patol Babu, Film Star' by Satyajit Ray.

OR

(b) The story 'Virtually True' has elements of virtual reality and advanced technology that contrast with the traditional ghostly occurrences in 'A Shady Plot'. How do these contrasting themes and narrative styles contribute to the overall tone and meaning of each story?