

**Set A****Name of Student:** _____**Class & Div.:** X A**Roll No. :** _____**Subject:** English**Date:** 14 /10/ 2025**Time.:** 90 Minutes

_____	_____	_____	Marks Obtained	
Invigilator	Examiner	Moderator	Total Marks: -	40

Sr.No	Questions	Marks
	<u>SECTION A – READING SKILLS</u>	
Q.1)	<p>Read the following passage and answer the question given below it.</p> <p>1. In recent years, urban gardening has gained popularity as city-dwellers seek greener, more sustainable lifestyles. Balconies, rooftops, and even window sills are being transformed into mini gardens—growing vegetables, herbs, and flowers. This trend reflects a desire to reconnect with nature within otherwise concrete surroundings.</p> <p>2. Proponents of urban gardening point to multiple benefits. First, it helps improve mental health by offering a calming, hands-on activity and reducing stress through contact with plants. Second, it contributes to food security and cost savings, as fresh produce grown at home cuts grocery bills. Third, it enhances biodiversity, attracting pollinators like bees and butterflies, and supports ecological balance in the urban ecosystem.</p> <p>3. Nevertheless, challenges and criticisms abound. Space constraints, limited sunlight, pollution, and access to suitable soil make urban gardening difficult for many. Some argue that the yield from these small plots is often negligible, barely worth the effort. Critics suggest a middle way: instead of forcing everyone into urban farms, we should adopt “green integration”—incorporating plants into daily urban design (green walls, vertical gardens, community planters) while balancing functionality and aesthetics. The aim is not to mandate everyone be a gardener, but to harness nature smartly within city life.</p> <p>i) Which of the following best represents the primary purpose of the paragraph discussing the proponents and their views?</p> <p>(a) To list types of plants used in urban gardens. (b) To show the negative aspects of urban gardening. (c) To provide evidence supporting the value of urban gardening. (d) To compare gardening with other hobbies.</p> <p>ii) The phrase “concrete surroundings” suggests that urban areas are predominantly:</p> <p>(a) vibrant with nature (b) full of open spaces (c) dominated by buildings and pavement (d) free from human influence</p> <p>iii) Which statement best describes the author’s overall attitude toward urban gardening and green integration?</p>	11

- (a) Strongly opposed to gardening as impractical in cities
 (b) Enthusiastic about requiring everyone to garden
 (c) Appreciative of gardening but realistic about limitations and supportive of balanced approaches
 (d) Indifferent about ecological practices in cities
- iv) What is the tone of the writer in the following line from paragraph (3)? “Some argue that the yield from these small plots is often negligible, barely worth the effort.”
 (a) Encouraging (b) Critical (c) Skeptical (d) Celebratory
- v) Identify the set of antonyms (opposites) from the passage:
 (a) popular and niche
 (b) benefits and criticisms
 (c) sustainable and negligible
 (d) integrate and mandate
- vi) Based on the reading of the passage, illustrate (in about 40 words) how the debate over urban gardening resembles choosing between two methods of travel in a busy city.
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- vii) What message is conveyed by the following scenario?
 Rita begins harvesting vegetables from her rooftop garden but finds they’re too few to feed her household, so she switches to contributing to a nearby community garden instead.
 (a) Only those with large spaces should garden.
 (b) Partial participation in gardening is impractical.
 (c) A hybrid or collaborative approach can be more effective than going it alone.
 (d) Urban gardening is useless for food production.
- viii) A city planner sees some neighbourhoods lacking green cover and wants to act. Which choice best aligns with the philosophy of **green integration** (rather than mandating everyone to have personal gardens)?
 (a) Requiring each household to convert balconies into farms
 (b) Installing vertical garden panels on municipal buildings
 (c) Discouraging plantings due to maintenance costs
 (d) Forcing citizens to attend gardening workshops weekly
- ix) Suppose a student used to spend hours online daily, but now uses that time to tend a small herb pot on her balcony, finding it relaxes her mind. What immediate positive outcome, in line with the passage, is most likely?
 (a) She becomes a professional gardener overnight
 (b) Her peers admire her new hobby
 (c) She experiences reduced stress and improved mental health
 (d) She saves huge amounts on groceries
- x) A local NGO is planning a campaign to promote integrating nature into the city. Which event title would best reflect the balanced, sustainable approach from the passage?
 (a) “Everyone Grow Your Own Food!”
 (b) “Green Walls, Not Green Wars: Smart Urban Nature”
 (c) “Ban Concrete, Plant Forever!”

	<p>(d) "Forced Gardening: The City's Future"</p> <p>xi) An urban critic claims that home gardening is impractical for city residents. Which piece of evidence from the passage best supports a counterpoint to that claim by pointing out a benefit?</p> <p>(a) City gardening "gained popularity" among people (b) It "attracts pollinators like bees and butterflies" (c) Urban gardens allow "fresh produce grown at home cuts grocery bills" (d) It helps "improve mental health by offering a calming, hands-on activity"</p>																
Q.2)	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SECTION B – GRAMMAR</u></p> <p>Attempt the following questions given below.</p> <p>i) Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given line to complete a travel review. The flight was delayed, so we _____ reach the conference on time. a) mustn't b) couldn't c) shouldn't d) mightn't</p> <p>ii) Read the conversation between Ms. Arora and a student and complete the narration that follows: Ms. Arora: The library books must be returned by Friday. Student: I will make sure to return them tomorrow. When Ms. Arora said that the library books must be returned by Friday, the student promised that _____.</p> <p>iii) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a business report: The company is currently facing a challenge in the _____ (distribute) of its new product line across rural areas.</p> <p>iv) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line, from a history textbook: The Great Depression was a severe worldwide economic downturn the took place during the 1930s.</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>Option No.</th><th>Error</th><th>Correction</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>(a)</td><td>was</td><td>Is</td></tr> <tr> <td>(b)</td><td>downturn</td><td>downtimes</td></tr> <tr> <td>(c)</td><td>the</td><td>That</td></tr> <tr> <td>(d)</td><td>took</td><td>Takes</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>v) Complete the instruction by filling in the blank with the correct option: For best results, the oven _____ be preheated to 180°C before placing the cake inside. a) ought b) can c) must d) will</p> <p>vi) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket. The team has _____ (achieve) remarkable success in the last quarter, setting a new sales record.</p> <p>vii) The teacher said, "If you had studied harder, you would have passed the exam." Reported speech: a) The teacher said that if I studied harder, I would have passed the exam. b) The teacher said that if I had studied harder, I would pass the exam. c) The teacher said that if I had studied harder, I would have passed the exam. d) The teacher said that if I had studied harder, I would have passed the exam.</p> <p>viii) Report the dialogue between a Customer and a Shopkeeper, by completing the</p>	Option No.	Error	Correction	(a)	was	Is	(b)	downturn	downtimes	(c)	the	That	(d)	took	Takes	17
Option No.	Error	Correction															
(a)	was	Is															
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(c)	the	That															
(d)	took	Takes															

sentence: Customer: How much does this laptop bag cost?
Shopkeeper: It is priced at four thousand five hundred rupees.
The customer asked the shopkeeper_____

ix) Identify the error in the given sentence from a science journal and supply the correction. The bacteria in this specimen is very resistant to the new class of antibiotics.

Error	Correction

x) Rahul met his friend Priya in the park. Report Rahul's question. Rahul: Priya, are you practicing for the marathon next month?
Reported speech: _____

xi) Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction. The house stood completely alone in the remote mountain side, far away from the nearest village.

Error	Correction

xii) Select the correct option: _____ of the two reports provides sufficient detail for the presentation.

a) None b) Neither c) No one d) Not one

xiii) Report the statement: The coach announced, "We will hold an extra practice session today."

The coach announced that _____.

xiv) Fill in the blank with the correct option: The new regulation states that all waste _____ separated into four categories.

a) must be b) had been c) is d) were

xv) Identify the error and supply the correction for the following sentence. One of the most compelling themes that appears repeatedly throughout the author's collection of short stories involve the pervasive loneliness of the modern city dweller.

Error	Correction

xvi) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction:

Before moving to a new city, one must consider a number of factor, such as cost of living and job opportunities.

Option No.	Error	Correction
(a)	moving	Move
(b)	must	Should
(c)	factor	Factors
(d)	as	Like

xvii) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket. The security guard was reprimanded for _____ (sleep) on duty during the night shift.

Q.3)

Answer ANY ELEVEN of the following twelve questions.

i) Valli saved every stray coin and resisted buying sweets or toys so that she could ride the bus. What does this behaviour most strongly indicate about her, and how does it relate to the theme of the story?

- (a) It shows her childish stubbornness, suggesting she is immature — this contrasts with the story's lesson that children should obey adults.
- (b) It reveals her self-control and foresight, underscoring the theme of taking responsibility to fulfill one's dreams.
- (c) It indicates her obsession with material things, pointing to a theme of greed.
- (d) It shows her dependence on others to help her, reinforcing that she cannot achieve anything alone.

ii) When Valli refuses to get off the bus at town and says she must stay aboard to save money for the return journey, what does this choice reveal about her, and how does this reflect a central theme of the story?

- (a) It shows her stubbornness and child-ish impulsiveness, reflecting the theme that children often act irrationally in pursuit of desires.
- (b) It reveals her self-respect and planning, reinforcing the theme that small dreams demand responsibility and maturity.
- (c) It indicates she is indifferent to new experiences, pointing to the theme of fear of change.
- (d) It suggests she mistrusts strangers, tying into the theme of isolation and distrust in society.

iii) The Buddha's instruction to bring a handful of mustard seeds from a house where no one had ever died is a form of experiential learning. What was the intended learning outcome for Kisa Gotami?

iv) The Buddha says, "The wise do not mourn, for they know the terms of the world." This counsel is most closely aligned with which modern-day mental health competency?

- (a) Emotional suppression
- (b) Acceptance and mindfulness
- (c) Blaming fate
- (d) Avoiding painful memories

v) A friend is considering adopting an exotic pet like an otter. Based on the author's experience of arranging transport and accommodation for Mijbil, what is the most crucial practical lesson your friend must consider before the adoption?

- (a) The need to spend a lot of money on toys for the pet.
- (b) The need to thoroughly research and plan all legal, travel, and appropriate housing requirements before adoption.
- (c) The need to find a pet that will attract attention on a boat.
- (d) The need to ensure the pet gets along with other dogs and pets immediately.

vi) The poet compares the tree branches to "newly discharged patients" from a hospital. What real-life emotion is evoked by this comparison?

vii) Despite Custard's heroic act of saving everyone, the poem ends with the other characters returning to their old ways of boasting and teasing him. What central satirical point is the poet making about human nature?

viii) Choose the option that correctly pairs the two different meanings implied by the use of 'open' twice in the extract.

- a) Empty point - vastness
- b) sharing a common space - great view
- c) allowing access and vision - expanse of space
- d) advantage - obstacles ahead

ix) "Match the description of the cat's movement with the corresponding action of the fog.

- (i) Little cat feet: (a) Temporary stay/observation
- (ii) Silent haunches: (b) Gentle, soundless departure
- (iii) Moves on: (c) Stealthy, quiet approach
- (a) (i)-(c), (ii)-(a), (iii)-(b)
- (b) (i)-(a), (ii)-(c), (iii)-(b)
- (c) (i)-(b), (ii)-(a), (iii)-(c)
- (d) (i)-(c), (ii)-(b), (iii)-(a)

x) Line Focus: The entire poem, especially the climax and the return to the old dynamic where Custard is mocked.

Question: What one lesson about judging others' potential can be applied to real-life based on the dragon's ultimate action?

xi) Mme Forestier writes a diary entry after having met Matilda, knowing the truth and seeing the transformation in her friend. Write a short diary entry as Mme Forestier about your encounter and how you felt.

xii) The primary conflict in the story (Footprints without Feet) is not between people and a monster, but between Scientific Power and Ethical Responsibility. How does Griffin personify the danger of unchecked scientific power?