

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

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Session: 2025-2026 Sample Paper

Class : X

Subject : English

Sample Paper No.1

Section -A Literature

Q1. Read the following passage carefully.

(1) Every moment of life is precious. Time is the essence of life. It is the wealth given to us by nature. Every day, all of us get 24 hours-nothing less, nothing more. Now, it is up to us how we use it. People who know how to make the best use of every moment easily open the doors of success in their lives, and those who misuse time get failures one after the other. There is a saying that "spent time and spent words cannot come back" Everybody is tied to the limits of time; even God respects the boundaries of time.

(2) Work wins appreciation only when it gets completed in the requisite timeframe. Beyond the time allotted, work loses all its utility, however good it may have been. Just as falling rains after the crops have dried up have no use, likewise, when the time is past the deadline, the work loses its importance and value. When iron is hot, it can be cast into whichever shape we want. Once it gets cold, nothing can be made out of it; however, we may beat it.

(3) In the same way, a person who has learned to wisely use his time and has understood how to cast himself according to the needs of the time has actually learned the true mantra of life. Shakespeare wrote in one of his plays, "I wasted time, and now doth time waste me." It is true that a person who wastes even a little bit of time loses wonderful opportunities that he could have otherwise availed of by utilising that time. All the great leaders have one thing in common: They wisely utilise every moment of their time. When other people are busy wasting time in laziness, great men are busy making plans for the future. There is no person in history who wasted his time and still managed to achieve greatness.

(4) Therefore, there is a great need to manage time wisely. "Careful Time Management" refers to careful planning of time and sincere execution of this plan. This is the only mantra to attain success in any endeavour. A simple change in outlook and some modification in one's daily routine can result in a big jump forward towards greater achievements.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

(A) Why is time referred to as "the wealth given to us by nature"? (Paragraph 1)

(a) Because it is limited and valuable like treasure.

(b) Because it can be stored and saved like money in a bank.

(c) Because it is endless and renewable.



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(d) Because it can be borrowed or lent like currency.

(B) Complete the following with the appropriate option.

The phrase "falling rains after the crops have dried up" brings up the imagery of a _____ . (Paragraph 2)

(a) loss caused by bad weather.

(b) situation beyond repair or use

(c) gift of nature to farmers.

(d) symbol of seasonal changes

(C) What does Shakespeare mean by 'waste' in the phrase "now doth time waste me"? (Paragraph 3)

Select the correct option to complete the answer.

It means that time is _____.

(a) slowly destroying and consuming him

(b) giving him more opportunities

(c) allowing him to rest peacefully

(d) rewarding him with success

(D) Which sentence from Paragraph 2 indicates that work is valuable only when done on time?

(E) Why has the writer said that time should be considered precious?

(F) What would be the most suitable title for Paragraph 4?

(a) Planning Time: The Mantra of Success

(b) The Futility of Time Management

(c) How Laziness Builds a Better Future

(d) Daily Routines Without Any Changes

(G) Complete the following with the correct option from those given in the brackets.

In the line "Everybody is tied to the limits of time", the word 'tied' indicates _____ (being restricted by boundaries / being connected to relationships / being pulled by circumstances). (Paragraph 1)

(H) Fill in the blank by choosing the appropriate option from those given in the brackets.

Paragraph 4 includes a _____ (recommendation / personal anecdote /criticism) about effective time planning and execution.

(I) Why does the writer compare late work to "falling rains after the crops have dried up"?

Answer in 30-40 words. (Paragraph 2)



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Q2. Read the following table displaying the details of 5 top students in leadership roles.

Name	Leadership position	Notable initiatives	Achievements	Awards	Personal qualities	Areas for improvement	Other notable things
Neelam	Student council president	Implemented a school recycling program	Improved recycling rates by 30%	Best leader	Motivated, responsible	Needs to delegate more effectively	Organised a school wide Eco fair
Sameer	Head of sports committee	Revamped School sports facilities	Increased sports participation by 20%	Best organiser	Energetic, strategic	Can be too focused on details	Coordinated an inter school sports festival
Reena	Head of cultural committee	Plant annual cultural festival	Enhanced student participation in arts	Best event planner	Creative, organised	Sometimes struggles with time management	Initiated School talent show
Aman	Chair of academic club	Introduced peer tutoring program	Boosted average student grades by 15%	Best academic leader	Dedicated, analytical	Needs to work on interpersonal skills	Published a monthly academic newsletter
Jaya	Editor of school newspaper	Revamped School newspaper layout	Increased readership by 25%	Best communicator	Articulate, innovative	Sometimes misses deadlines	Created a digital version of the newspaper

Answer the following questions, based on your reading of the above information.

(A) What might be the most likely reason why Aman is the student most suited to excel in improving academic performance among peers?

(B) What might be the most likely reason why Sameer coordinated an inter-school sports festival?

- (a) To encourage wider student participation in sports.
- (b) To showcase the school's new sports facilities.
- (c) To reduce the number of cultural activities.
- (d) To provide entertainment during holidays.



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(C) What does the statement "enhanced student participation in arts" wish to convey about Rina's efforts?

(D) Complete the following with the correct option.

The student most likely to motivate peers through creativity in cultural expression is _____ .

(a) Sameer. (b) Rina. (c) Aman. (d) Jaya

(E) State which of the following is True.

(a) Sameer is known for being creative and humorous.

(b) Sameer is energetic and strategic in his approach.

(c) Sameer often misses deadlines.

(F) Fill in the blank by selecting the correct option from the brackets.

Aman's effectiveness as a leader in academic initiatives might be affected by his(lack of interpersonal skills /poor academic record).

(G) Why is the statement "revamped the layout of the school newspaper to make it more engaging for readers" suitable to showcase Jaya's skills as a communicator instead of just her creativity?

(H) If Neelam's recycling program highlights environmental responsibility, what does Rina's cultural festival most likely focus on?

(a) Academic excellence. (b) Artistic expression and creativity

(c) Organisational discipline. (d) Physical well-being

Section -B Writing Skills and Grammar

Q3. Write an application, in not more than 50 words, requesting permission to use the school auditorium for a debate competition between classes IX and X. You are Riya Sharma, Class X-B, Cultural Captain.

Q4. On your way back home from school, you saw a balloon vendor. Write a factual description of the balloon vendor in about 100 words. Mention details about the vendor, his appearance, the balloons he was selling, and the overall scene.

Q5. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in 120 words.

Write a formal letter to the director of the Geological Survey of India, in not more than 120 words, requesting information on preserving a local geological heritage site. In your letter, mention the significance of the site, express your concerns about its current state,



and seek advice on how the community can contribute to its preservation. You may use ideas from Unit 4: Environment, along with your ideas to write this letter. You are Naman Jain.

OR

India's rivers, lakes, and wetlands are crucial ecosystems that support biodiversity, agriculture, and livelihoods. However, these water bodies are increasingly threatened by pollution, encroachment, and climate change. As Ananya of 102, Green View Apartments, Bhopal, write a letter to the editor of a national newspaper stressing the urgent need to conserve India's water bodies, highlighting the major challenges they face, and suggesting practical steps citizens and authorities can take to protect them.

Use your own ideas along with references from MCB Unit 4: Environment to write this letter.

Q6. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in 150 words.

Write an article for your school magazine in about 150 words, on the theme "Are Indians Getting Enough Rest?". Use the given cues, along with your ideas and those you may have gathered from Unit 1: Health and Medicine, to create this article. You are Namit Singh of class X.

Cues:

- *Modern lifestyle and sleep patterns.
- *Impact of work and study demands.
- *Health issues linked to sleep deprivation.
- *Cultural attitudes towards sleep.
- *Strategies to improve sleep habits.

OR

You are Aryan Mehta. Write an article on the topic 'Artificial Intelligence: A Boon or a Threat to Humanity?'

Highlight the growing role of AI in daily life and its potential benefits in sectors like healthcare, education, and transportation. Discuss concerns related to job loss, data privacy, and over-dependence on machines. Reflect on whether the progress in AI should be embraced or approached with caution. Use your own ideas along with the given cues and your reading of MCB Unit 3: Science.

Cues:

- Potential Benefits: Efficiency, precision, automation, improved decision-making
- Challenges and Concerns: Unemployment, ethical concerns, bias in algorithms
- Key Considerations: Should AI development be regulated to protect human interests?



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Q7. Fill in the blanks (i) - (iii) with the appropriate option from those provided in the brackets.

Online education (i)_____ (was/is/has) revolutionised the way students learn, (ii)_____ (making/make/made) education more accessible to people worldwide. However, (iii)_____(much/many / the few) learners face challenges in adapting to this new mode of learning.

Q8. 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.

No.	Text	Word before	Omission	Word after
1	Ever wondered sleep deficit?			
2	Reading books a beneficial habit that			
3	enhances knowledge improves vocabulary. Many people			
4	spend time watching TV, while reading books helps gaining knowledge.			

Q9. Do as directed.

(A) Rearrange the following jumbled words/phrases in the given dialogue to create a meaningful sentence.

BOY 1: Do you know what diverse ecosystems support? forests and mountains

BOY 2: No. I didn't. What kind of ecosystems do forests and mountains support?

BOY 1: (1) Forests/Support/And/Diverse/Mountains/Ecosystems

(B) Report the dialogues to complete the paragraph that follows.

HR Manager: We should consider implementing a flexible work schedule to improve employee satisfaction.

CEO: That sounds promising! How will we measure its impact?

HR Manager: We'll use employee surveys and productivity metrics to evaluate the results

The HR manager suggested to the CEO that they should consider implementing a flexible work schedule to improve employee satisfaction. The CEO responded positively and asked (1) _____. The HR manager responded that (2)_____ and productivity metrics to evaluate the results.



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Section -C Literature

Q10. Read the given extracts and answer the questions briefly, for ANY TWO extracts, of the three, given.

(A) What struck one most was their willingness to work. During these summer days, under the hot sun, they shined shoes, sold fruit, hawked newspapers, conducted tourists round the town, and ran errands. (Two Gentlemen of Verona)

- (i) What impact did the boys' willingness to work create on the narrator?
- (ii) Why did the narrator note their willingness to work?
- (iii) What feelings did the narrator's reflection on their willingness to work evoke?
- (iv) What does the writer mean by 'struck one most'?

(B) MRS. SLATER: And when we'd finished dinner I thought I'd take up a bit of something on a tray. He was lying there for all the world as if he was asleep, so I put the tray down on the bureau - (correcting herself) on the chest of drawers and went to waken him. (A pause.) He was quite cold. (The Dear Departed)

- (i) Select the line that indicates the use of visual imagery in this extract.
- (ii) What is the significance of the correction from 'bureau' to 'chest of drawers' in Mrs. Slater's speech?
- (iii) What about the story signifies the materialistic tendencies of today's families?
- (iv) What does the reference to the person being 'quite cold' suggest about the severity of the situation?

(C) *He drank enough*

And lifted his head, dreamily, as one who

has drunken,

And flickered his tongue like a forked night

on the air, so black,

Seeming to lick his lips,

And looked around like a god, unseeing

into the air,

And slowly turned his head,

And slowly, very slowly, as if thrice a



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dream,

Proceeded to draw his slow length curving

round

And climb again the broken bank of my

wall-face.

(Snake)

- (i) What does the comparison of the snake's tongue to 'a forked night' suggest about its appearance and movement?
- (ii) How does the poet elevate the snake's presence using the line "And looked around like a god"?
- (iii) What impression is created by the repetition of the word 'slowly' in the description of the snake's movement?
- (iv) How does the extract reflect the poet's awe and reverence towards the snake?

Q11. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions in about 30-40 words each.

- (A) How does the use of the frog's criticism explore the theme of exploitation and manipulation in the poem, 'The Frog and the Nightingale'?
- (B) What does the writer wish to convey through "a ghostly whisper in the dead of night" in 'A Shady Plot'?
- (C) Support the view that the post office serves as a symbol in the story, 'The Letter'. How does it contribute to highlighting the central themes?
- (D) Explain briefly how the story 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' portrays the conflict between personal hardship and a strong sense of duty.
- (E) Discuss how Shelley's 'Ozymandias' conveys the theme of immortality through the poem's depiction of a ruined monument.
- (F) How does the author use the film shoot as a plot device in the story 'Patol Babu, Film Star' to highlight the theme of self-worth versus material success in the story?

Q12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 150 words.

In 'Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments' and 'The Frog and the Nightingale', analyse how the poets use imagery and tone to convey their perspectives on the nature of true worth and artistic achievement.

OR

Explore how the themes of deception and emotional neglect are presented in the drama 'The Dear Departed' and the short story 'The Letter'. How do these themes impact the characters' behaviour and shape the narrative in each text?



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