

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE - Code No. 184
MARKING SCHEME
CLASS-X- (2026-27)

General Instructions: -

1. The Marking Scheme carries only suggested value points for the answers / sample answers. The value points are in the nature of Guidelines only and do not constitute the complete answer. The students can have their own expression and if the expression is correct, then due marks should be awarded accordingly.
2. If a student has attempted an extra question, answer of the question deserving more marks should be retained and the other answer scored out with a note "Extra Question".
3. If more than one option is mentioned in the answer of multiple choice questions, then no marks to be awarded.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

SECTION A: READING		
Discursive Passage		
1.	Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.	10
I	It emphasises the overwhelming abundance and endless rows of plastic toys in stores, highlighting how pervasive plastic products have become in consumer culture.	1
II	(a) the potential health hazards present in mass-produced plastic toys that consumers often ignore or are unaware of.	1
III	C Plastic bottles processed and converted into shoes	1
IV	The writer's comparison reveals that consumer responsibility extends beyond mere convenience and affordability. By highlighting the presence of harmful chemicals (BPA and lead) in plastic toys alongside the safer, more sustainable materials used in eco-friendly toys, the writer suggests that consumers should prioritise children's health and environmental impact over cost. The writer emphasises that making informed choices is both a personal and collective responsibility.	2
V	False	1
VI	(b) is correct. [maintains the logical relationship of the original analogy. Just as 'disposable trinkets (throwaway items) end up in 'landfills' (waste and environmental destruction); 'meaningful keepsakes' end up being with 'future generations' (as a legacy).]	1
VII	D. (i) F (ii) O (iii) F (iv) O (v) O	1

VIII	The author uses rhetorical questions to engage readers directly and provoke thought. It is to make readers reflect on their choices. The questions encourage critical thinking and build a persuasive argument that guides readers toward accepting the need for eco-friendly alternatives.	2
Case-Based Passage		
2.	Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.	10
I	become a support in people's lives	1
II	It suggests that consumers increasingly prefer digital, on-the-go content fitting mobile lifestyles, rather than physical books or stationary screen-based media.	1
III	C. The assertion is true, but the reason is false.	1
IV	C. Approximately 30% of listeners spend less than one hour weekly listening to audiobooks.	1
V	The strong fiction preference (56%) indicates audiobooks are used for narrative-driven content. Storytelling formats likely work better in audio where the narrator's voice and the intricacies of the plot enhance engagement.	2
VI	audiobooks allow individuals to consume literature while engaging in other activities, eliminating the need to carve out dedicated time for conventional reading practices.	1
VII	user-friendly format	1
VIII	Any one - Audio format removes text processing barriers especially for students who struggle with reading such as decoding words & reading sentences. - Engagement occurs despite reading challenges when one is listening to audiobooks.	1
IX	Any one - This title comprehensively captures all major themes of the passage as it acknowledges the paradigm shift shown by the 67% of listeners who read more with audiobooks. - This title balances key ideas covered in all four paragraphs, growing popularity of audiobooks, while identifying key benefits.	1
SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20 marks)		
GRAMMAR (10 marks)		
3.	Complete any ten of twelve of the following tasks, as directed.	
I	A. has been reviewed	1
II	The doctor advised/ recommended the patient to reduce his/ her/ their sugar intake and exercise regularly.	1
III	B. those	1

IV	she had been absent the previous day because she had had to visit the dentist for her regular check-up.	1
V	Error: were Correction: was	1
VI	C. must	1
VII	A. what - which	1
VIII	if she was prepared for the mathematics test the following week.	1
IX	D. little	1
X	Error: have Correction: has	1
XI	might	1
XII	has lost	1
WRITING SKILLS (10 MARKS)		
4.	Format-1 Content-2 Organisation of ideas-1 Accuracy-1	1 x 5 =5
A.	(The response may be created from the following content points) ⇒ Issue and context • Insufficient recreational facilities in the colony • Lack of dedicated space for community activities and social gatherings • No indoor play areas for children and youth • Absence of venue for cultural programs and events ⇒ Need for Community Centre • Essential for promoting social bonding among residents-creates sense of belonging and colony pride • Provides safe, organised space for multiple age groups • Bridges gap between different families and communities ⇒ Benefits for Children and Youth • Indoor games, activities, and educational programs • Safe environment for recreation away from traffic • Develops skills and talents through workshops ⇒ Benefits for Adults and Elderly • Venue for community meetings and discussions • Space for cultural programs and celebrations • Fitness and yoga classes • Social events to reduce isolation among senior citizens ⇒ Appeal to RWA Secretary • Request for action and timely implementation • Call for cooperation from all residents and authorities • Urgency of meeting this fundamental community need	

	OR	
B.	The response may be created from the following value points: ⇒ Issue and context • Open burning of hospital/biomedical waste — used syringes, bandages and other disposed items— in public spaces • Domestic garbage burnt on roadsides, open plots, and near residential areas • Practice widespread, frequent, and largely unchecked in the city ⇒ Health Implications • Release of toxic gases in the air, soil and groundwater contamination from chemical residue and ash • Causes respiratory diseases — asthma, bronchitis, chronic lung damage • Spread of infectious diseases from unprocessed biomedical waste • Particularly harmful to children, elderly, and pregnant women ⇒ Scientific Waste Disposal Practices • Strict enforcement of biomedical waste disposal protocols in all hospitals and clinics • Colour-coded bin system for segregation — biomedical, recyclable, and organic waste • Regular and timely municipal collection of domestic waste to discourage open burning ⇒ Public Awareness • Awareness campaigns in hospitals, schools, and residential colonies about responsible waste disposal • Involvement of Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) in local monitoring • Media campaigns highlighting health and environmental dangers of open burning ⇒ Appeal to Editor and Authorities • Request the newspaper to amplify the issue and reach a wider audience • Urge civic authorities — Municipal Corporation and Pollution Control Board — to act swiftly • Appeal to citizens to act responsibly and report violations	
5.	Content - 2 Organisation of ideas - 2 Accuracy - 1	1 x 5 =5
Analytical paragraph writing should NOT be confused with writing a description of given elements or writing a summary. It requires examining the given elements closely and sharing inputs based on given stimulant. It carries no title or heading.		
A.	Suggested Response: The student study desk organiser is an excellent purchase for students who are academically focused and like to keep things organised. Firstly, its multi-compartment storage with dedicated slots for books, stationery, and devices keeps the study space organised and clutter-free, helping one focus better on studies. Secondly, the eco-friendly bamboo wood construction shows environmental responsibility, making it a sustainable choice. Moreover, adjustable shelves allow storage space customisation for different-sized items. The compact design is perfect for small rooms. Additionally, the anti-slip base	

	prevents the organiser from sliding on smooth surfaces, ensuring safety and stability. Furthermore, the natural wood and light oak finishes look attractive and suit any room décor. Finally, the five-year durability guarantee, guarantees quality and excellent value for money, making this organiser an excellent choice and a smart investment for students.	
	OR	
B.	Suggested Response: Accepting the Debate Club presidency offers Vikram significant opportunities to develop leadership and public speaking skills while building a strong network of peers. The recognition gained at competitions and mentorship from experienced debaters could strengthen his university applications in future. However, these benefits are offset by some challenges. The 5–7-hour weekly commitment directly conflicts with board examination preparation, risking academic decline and burnout. Additionally, managing team conflicts and handling criticism demands substantial emotional effort. While collaborating with other clubs presents growth opportunities, it results in limited time available for personal interests and recreational activities. Consequently, Vikram should accept this position only if he can establish robust time management strategies and prioritise academic commitments. With proper planning, the benefits of leadership development and personal growth likely outweigh the challenges.	
SECTION D: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (40 marks)		
6.	Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two.	5
A.	Prose (The Proposal)	
I	(a) is correct [Natalya's words demonstrate genuine surprise and curiosity, not mockery. Her sincere compliment "Though I must say you look better..." and straightforward questions show she is simply trying to understand why he's dressed formally.]	1
II	C. demonstrates his anxiety and emotional turmoil.	1
III	Any one • is nervous/ anxious about proposing to her and wants to establish his worthiness and family credentials to gain her approval • hopes to impress her by demonstrating his respect and his right intentions through formal address and family connections.	1
IV	The stage directions significantly enhance the dramatic tension in several ways: • [excited] reveals Lomov's emotional state despite his formal speech, showing the gap between his outward composure and inner agitation, creating dramatic irony. • [aside] allows readers/audience to understand Lomov's private thoughts, making his anxiety visible and relatable, while emphasising his nervousness through this interjection about it being cold.	2
	OR	
B.	Prose (Bholi)	

I	extremely scared and anxious/ nervous and apprehensive	1
II	C. giving readers a peek into Bholi's thoughts [The author uses the narrative technique of internal monologue. This technique allows readers to directly access Bholi's thoughts, emotions, and fears—providing a glimpse into her psychological state.]	1
III	Despite her stammer, Bholi is able to say her full name after receiving encouragement from the teacher. It shows that anxiety and the fear of being judged are the primary obstacles—which are psychological. By addressing Bholi's emotional state through compassion and reassurance, the teacher enables Bholi to overcome the problem of stammering.	2
IV	hope and hesitation	1
7.	Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two.	5
A.	Poetry (Amanda)	
I	Amanda's physical appearance and health OR immediate consequences of Amanda's choices	1
II	B. Amanda is defiant and the speaker feels disrespected and ignored.	1
III	request	1
IV	The repetition of 'Amanda' emphasises the speaker's frustration and creates an insistent, nagging quality. The exclamation marks convey urgency, exasperation, and emotional intensity. Together, they establish a tone of frustrated concern and create a mood of tension and conflict between the speaker and Amanda.	2
	OR	
B.	Poetry (The Trees)	
I	sense of immediacy/ urgency	1
II	C. unsteady and uncertain, breaking through all obstacles	1
III	fundamental or inevitable	1
IV	This sensory progression reflects the transformation process—chaos begins with sound of the glass breaking, intensifies through struggle shown by movement of trees stumbling forward, concludes in supreme beauty of flashing moonlight. Engaging multiple senses immerses readers emotionally in the experience rather than merely informing them.	2
8.	Answer any four of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words.	4x 3=12
Content – 2 Expression – 1 Accuracy – Deduct up to 1 mark from overall		
I	Fog arrives silently like a cat's quiet footfall, settles, observes, then departs without disruption. The comparison gives fog feline qualities — mysterious, aloof,	3

	and intensely observant — transforming an ordinary natural phenomenon into something unknowable. It also suggests a deeper connection between living and non-living elements of nature, leaving a lasting impression on the imagination.	
II	The comic descriptions serve dual purposes — Mijbil's tap-screwing frustration and playful mischief is humorous and entertains readers, while the absurd guesses of Londoners and the labourer's indignant reaction critique human arrogance. People's insistence on fitting Mijbil into predetermined categories like 'rat' critiques human arrogance and disconnection from the natural world.	3
III	The hailstorm is a turning point that tests Lencho's faith. It destroys his crops and creates his crisis, but it also becomes the catalyst for demonstrating both his unwavering belief and the postmaster's compassion. The natural disaster reveals character and creates opportunities for human connection and kindness.	3
IV	Today's culture often judges people by superficial traits—appearance, social media presence, or initial impressions. Custard's story remains relevant in showing that true character emerges through actions under pressure, not outward appearance or shallow traits. The poem challenges modern tendencies to form instant judgments about people's worth based on limited information.	3
V	These legends humanise tea's history beyond mere facts and dates. They add cultural richness and show how different civilizations—Chinese and Indian—value tea spiritually and medically. Including legends demonstrates that tea's significance isn't purely commercial; it holds deep cultural meaning. The legends also make the narrative more engaging and memorable for readers.	3
9.	Answer any two of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.	2 x 3=6
Content – 2 Expression – 1 Accuracy – Deduct up to 1 mark from overall		
I	Initially, Hari manipulates Anil through calculated charm and deception. His final smile is genuine and spontaneous, requiring no effort. This contrast demonstrates authentic change—Hari moves from viewing relationships as opportunities for exploitation to valuing genuine human connection. The effortless smile suggests his change has been internalised, and is not merely a behavioural compliance.	3
II	The story weaves multiple ironies—Matilda sacrifices everything to replace a worthless necklace; ten years of poverty transform her into the very 'common woman' she despised; her pride becomes her downfall. The ultimate irony reveals that her suffering was entirely needless. The writer uses irony to critique materialism and expose how vanity leads to self-inflicted tragedy.	3
III	Removing his gloves tells us that Horace has abandoned his careful criminal protocol due to emotional manipulation. He's so eager to please the lady and be released that he forgets basic safety procedures. This action reveals his desperation, vulnerability, and how the young lady exploited his fear of prison. His loss of caution suggests he's emotionally compromised—no longer thinking like a criminal but like a desperate man seeking escape.	3

10.	Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.	6
Content – 3 Expression – 2 Accuracy – 1		
A.	- Both Valli in 'Madam Rides the Bus' and the young seagull in 'His First Flight' are protagonists who undergo significant personal transformation. - However, they undergo transformation through contrasting catalysts. The seagull's change is driven by acute biological necessity—prolonged hunger and family isolation force instinctive action, overriding fear. His catalyst is external and involuntary: starvation compels the desperate dive, revealing dormant flying ability. - Unlike the seagull's straightforward hunger, Valli's motivation includes curiosity and yearning for experience. She has observed the bus with fascination, longing for the independence and an opportunity to discover it represents. This internal yearning—for dignity, independence, and experience beyond prescribed domestic limits—acts as a catalyst in her transformation. - However, both catalysts function identically: forcing protagonists towards liberating suppressed potential, and demonstrating that transformation requires catalysts powerful enough to overcome fear and unwillingness, whether biological desperation or independence.	6
OR		
B.	- Both poems show that important learning can happen instantly, not slowly over time. When the ball falls into the water, the boy understands loss's permanence quickly. When snow falls on the speaker, the mood shift happens immediately. In both poems, one powerful moment seems to teach everything at once. - Berryman suggests the boy will remember this moment's lesson forever. One lost ball teaches him about loss, and responsibility—lessons that shape the rest of his life. Frost's speaker also shows lasting change: the dust of snow doesn't just make them feel better for a few minutes; it transforms how they see their day. The moment is quick, but its effect lasts. - The boy in 'The Ball Poem' doesn't think through loss step-by-step; he feels it deeply in one moment. The speaker in 'Dust of Snow' doesn't reason about beauty; they experience it directly.	6
11.	Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.	6
Content – 3 Expression – 2 Accuracy – 1		
A.	- The balcony symbolises the power of narrative to create reality. It exists only in language—in Ausable's detailed description and Max's belief—yet it becomes more 'real' than the room itself because characters act upon it. Ausable constructs the balcony's existence through plausible details: explaining the building's history, describing access routes, mentioning previous intrusions. - The non-existent balcony reveals the story's focus on truth versus perception. Max accepts the balcony's existence because Ausable's account aligns with what Max expects to find in a hotel in Paris. - Ultimately, the balcony represents the triumph of storytelling over material facts. Ausable understands that controlling the narrative gives absolute power: the fictional balcony becomes more consequential than any physical barrier.	6
OR		

B.	• Think-Tank represents the danger of absolute power combined with absolute ignorance. Think-Tank's refusal to admit errors transforms his foolishness into catastrophe. Throughout the play, he mistakes books for sandwiches, then hats, then weapons—yet insists each misinterpretation proves his genius. When corrected, he claims he knew it and is never wrong. This pattern reveals that his intelligence becomes useless without humility. • His absolute authority amplifies this flaw dangerously. As no one challenges him, Think-Tank never receives honest feedback. His space crew's fearful obedience prevents reality-check. Consequently, his errors escalate: nursery rhymes become military threats, and paranoia replaces reasoning. • By the climax, these combined flaws—arrogance plus refusal to acknowledge mistakes—drive catastrophic decisions. Seeing Humpty Dumpty's image, he panics completely, ordering Mars's evacuation. Think-Tank's character demonstrates that unchecked power combined with arrogance and foolishness creates destructive leadership. His massive brain becomes a liability rather than an asset.	6
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