

BUDHA DAL PUBLIC SCHOOL PATIALA
FIRST TERM EXAMINATION (23 September 2025)
English Communicative
Class - X (Set - A)

Time Allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. This question paper comprises 11 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. The question paper contains three sections:
Section - A Reading Skills
Section - B Creative Writing Skills
Section - C Grammar
Section - D Literature
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

Section - A (Reading Skills)

Q1. Read the passage carefully. (12 marks)

1. The time Uncle Ken and I went for a walk and he insisted on going the zigzag way, I did the same. It was fun. But like all things to do with Uncle Ken, it landed us in a situation where we had to make a hasty exit. While we were being chased away by an irate man from his fields and were dashing away, Uncle Ken's hat flew off. Later, when we had stopped panting, I remembered what Granny had said about looking at the funny side of situations and had a good laugh. Unfortunately, I don't think Uncle Ken saw the lighter side at that moment.
2. It helps to have such an outlook on finding oneself in the oddest of circumstances. Like the time I was in Mumbai and my belt decided to have some fun by getting entangled with a fellow passenger's luggage. After that, I sat quietly at the book festival I had been taken to attend, to keep my belt out of trouble. And it's not just belts that get me into trouble. There was the time I was sharing a taxi to Delhi with a gentleman with a fierce moustache. He was carrying a book written by me with him. When I told him it was my book, he looked offended that I was trying to lay a claim to his property. I gave up on the conversation quickly and filed it away for future use in a story.
3. I have even been accused by some of my younger audience for being too funny. Once a girl asked me disapprovingly why my ghost stories are not scary enough. "Your ghosts are too funny," she grumbled. I tried to write a few scary ghost stories. But I find benign, friendly ghosts just as delightful. So, I also wrote about my friend Jimmy, who discovered he was a jinn. That meant he could elongate his arms at will. This ensures that he had a starring role to play in the school basketball team. Mostly, I feel I have been able to live this life enjoying its small moments of happiness and been able to laugh when needed.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above

- a) What happened when Uncle Ken and the narrator went for a walk? (2)
- b) "I don't think Uncle Ken saw the lighter side at the moment". What is 'moment' being referred to by the narrator? (2)
- c) Do you think the narrator cherished the time he spent with Uncle Ken? Elucidate. (1)
- d) What did the narrator mean by 'the oddest of circumstances' in paragraph 2? Elucidate with example(s) from the passage. (2)
- e) What was the oddest situation that the narrator had faced in Mumbai? (1)
 - i) Being accused by his young audience for being too funny
 - ii) Sharing a taxi with a gentleman with a fierce moustache
 - iii) Getting entangled with a fellow passenger's luggage
 - iv) Trying to write a few ghost stories
- f) Complete the following sentence appropriately. (1)
"I was trying to lay claim to his property."

The 'property' here refers to

A-1

g) What kind of life did the narrator have?
(i) Lively (ii) Miserable (iii) Mysterious (iv) Low-spirited (1)

h) Fill in the blank using appropriate word.
In paragraph 3, the word means the same as 'harmless'. (1)

i) Why did Jimmy have a starring role to play in the school basket ball team? (10)

Q2. Read the following passage carefully:

- With eager anticipation we awaited the next stage. A tailor was called in to measure us, five boys and one girl, Mary Lila Rao, for the sports kits. I was filled with happiness, just like a child who had been given a bag full of candy. After all, I would be fulfilling my dream to wear a blazer with INDIA written on it!
- A week later, we left for Australia. The night before we left I could not sleep. My small suitcase had been packed with my kit and bedding and I waited for the sun to rise. Excited by the prospect of what lay ahead, we boarded the train to Bombay, the first lap of our long journey across the seas to far-off Australia. When we reached Bombay's Churchgate station, we were taken by bus to the Astoria Hotel. It was the first time that I had seen such a grand place, and I could barely believe my eyes. What was I, a simple village boy doing in such a different world? While we were at the Astoria, Commander Rekhi, our manager, showed us how to knot a tie and gave us lessons on table manners.
- When we reached Santa Cruz, the entire atmosphere at the terminal seemed unreal - its bright lights, the strange sounds, the rush of people. Except for Mary Lila Rao, none of us had flown before. I was scared and confused. I had no bedding and no food. Where would I sleep? What would I eat? How would the plane take off with so many people, their luggage and other cargo? Would it crash under so much weight? I followed my companions towards the huge monster that awaited us, and blindly climbed up the ramp into the cabin. I was asked to fasten my seatbelt, but naturally I did not know what to do and was fumbling with the straps when the air-hostess kindly helped me.
- When the plane started to taxi along the runway, I closed my eyes and prayed to my God. I had butterflies in my stomach as the plane ascended. And then we were airborne. When I looked out of the window I saw smoke pouring out of the engines, and raised an alarm, thinking that the plane was on fire. The air-hostess calmed me down, patiently explaining that it was only the fuel burning. I felt very foolish and laughed with relief.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above

- Mention the reasons responsible for Milkha Singh's worry or confusion. (2)
- Complete the following sentence appropriately. (1)

The entire atmosphere at Santa Cruz appeared unreal because

- Which incident does 'I felt very foolish and laughed with relief' refer to? (2)
- "With eager anticipation we awaited the next stage." What does the 'next stage' refer to? (1)
- What does the idiomatic expression, butterflies in my stomach, as given in the paragraph 4, imply? (1)
- (i) nervousness (ii) hunger (iii) confusion (iv) illness
- Fill in the blank with ONE/TWO words only. (1)

Milkha Singh refers to the plane as

- How was Milkha Singh's first experience of travelling by plane? Elaborate in 30-40 words. (2)

Section - B (Writing Skills)

Q3. As the school Head Girl, write an e-mail, in about 50 words, to the Teacher Coordinator, Student Enrichment Activities of your school, informing her/him of the need to schedule transport for the participants of the Inter-School Dance Competition, at the mandate venue. Include a reason why you would need a smaller vehicle instead of the school bus. (3)

Q4. Write a factual description, in not more than 100 words, of a famous sports personality you admire. (4)

Q5. Attempt any one of the following:
Write a letter to the librarian, City Library, in not more than 120 words, for purchase and addition of popular fiction and non-fiction title in Braille and also the intake of audio books, to promote inclusion. You are an NGO employee, from the same city. You may use ideas from Unit 2: Education, along with your own ideas to write this letter. (7)

OR

Write a letter in about 120 words, to the Editor of The Hindu, Chennai, discussing in detail the advantage and disadvantage of ban on crackers. You are Anu/ Ajuj, 112, Lawrence Road, Kochi. (8)

Q6. Attempt any one of the following:
To meet the employment needs, the youth today are venturing into start-ups. As Veena/ Veer of Class X-A, write an article in about 150 words, for your school magazine discussing the merits of start-ups as a boon to self-reliance. Use the cues given below along with your ideas and those you may have gathered from the unit: Education, to write the article.

- From job seeker to job creator
- Economic growth
- Self-reliance
- Decision-making freedom
- Flexible working conditions

OR

Write an article, in about 150 words, as Gauravn Taneja, X-B, advocating for the implementation of inclusive education practices in schools, focusing on the benefits for students with diverse learning needs. Share advantages and discuss the importance of fostering an inclusive school environment. Additionally, propose any one recommendation for policymakers and educators to promote inclusivity in the education system. Use the given cues, along with your own ideas and those you may have gathered from Unit 2: Education, to create this article.

- Benefits of inclusive education for students with diverse learning needs
- Importance of fostering an inclusive school environment

Section - C (Grammar)

Q7. Fill in the blanks (i) - (iii) with the appropriate option from those in the brackets. (3)
Therapeutic gardens are a public health measure and key to Singapore's aim of (i) (become/becoming/will becoming) one of the world's top wellness destinations. In a tourism sense, wellness often (ii) (had referred / refers / referring) merely to spa treatments but Singapore's approach is more scientific. Singapore now (iii) (have view/ has viewed /views) Therapeutic gardens as a forward-thinking tourism strategy.

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, as shown below. The first one has been done as an example. (4)

Before	Omission	After
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e.g. The environment is most precious resource

is	our	most
----	-----	------

(a) We reduce waste, conserve energy, and plant

.....
-------	-------	-------

(b) more trees to combat pollution. This planet is only

.....
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(c) home we have. Each action, big or small, makes a

.....
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(d) significant difference. We act now to safeguard

the environment and prevent it from further harm.

A - 3

Q9. Do as directed

(1+2=3)

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

RAVI: Priya! Tell me about Orissa. I've always been curious about your state's culture and traditions.

PRIYA: (i) for our / in the eastern / is a beautiful / state / temple architecture,/ rich heritage,/ part of India, / known /vibrant festivals /Orissa / and/ exquisite

II) Report the conversation given below by filling in the blanks to complete the following paragraph.

Aanya: Hey, Rohan! Did you hear about the new discovery in space announcement yesterday?

Rohan: I heard about finding a planet with water vapour in its atmosphere!

Anya asked Rohan (i) Rohan exclaimed (ii) in its atmosphere. Then, Aanya added that the new planet was in the 'habitable zone' with life-supporting conditions.

Section - D (Literature)

Q10. Read the given extract carefully. Attempt any two out of three extracts: (4+4=8)

A) "I thought you picked fruit for a living," I said.

"We do many things, sir," Nicola answered seriously. He glanced at us hopefully. "Often we show visitors through the town ... to Juliet's tomb ... and other places of interest."

Alright, "I smiled. "You take us along."

As we made the rounds, my interest was again provoked by their remarkable demeanour. They were childish enough, and in many ways quite artless. Jacopo was as lively as a squirrel. Nicola's smile was steady and engaging. Yet in both these boyish faces there was a seriousness which was far beyond their years.

(Two Gentlemen of Verona)

- What might have been the most likely tone of the statement in 'I thought you picked fruit for a living ...'?
- Why did Nicola glance hopefully at the narrator?
- What does the boys' willingness to engage in multiple tasks reveal about their attitude toward life?
- What does the narrator's growing interest in the boys suggest about his perception of them?

B) " My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:

Look upon my works, ye Mighty, and despair!"

Nothing beside remains. Round the decay

Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare

The lone and level sands stretch far away.

(Ozymandias)

- How does the phrase 'king of kings' reflect Ozymandias' perception of himself?
- What does the line 'Look upon my works, ye Mighty, and despair!' imply about Ozymandias' intentions for future rulers?
- How does the imagery of ' boundless and bare' and 'lone and level sands' challenge Ozymandias' boast?
- What message does the phrase "Nothing beside remains" convey about human ambition?

C) MRS. JORDAN: What bureau was that, Father?

ABEL: Why, my bureau the one I bought

MRS. JORDAN: (pointing to the bureau) Was it that one. Father?

ABEL: Ah, that's it. What's it doing here? Eh? (A pause. The clock on the mantelpiece strikes six. Everyone looks at it.)

A - 4

Drat me if that isn't my clock too! What the devil's been going on in this house? (A slight pause.)

BEN: Well, I'll be hanged.

MRS. JORDAN: I'll tell you what's been going on in this house. Father. Nothing short of robbery.

MRS. SLATER: Be quiet, Elizabeth.

MRS. JORDAN: (rising) I'll not be quiet. Oh, I call it double-faced.

HENRY: Now now, Elizabeth.

MRS. JORDAN: And you, too. Are you such a poor creature that you must do every dirty thing she tells you?

MRS. SLATER: (rising) Remember where you are, Elizabeth.

HENRY: (rising) Come, come. No quarrelling.

(The Dear Departed)

1. What does the dialogue between Mrs. Jordan and Mrs. Slater reveal about their relationship?
2. What is Mrs. Jordan implying about Henry when she says, "And you, too. Are you such a poor creature that you must do every dirty thing she tells you?"
3. How does Mrs. Jordan's accusation of 'robbery' impact the atmosphere of the scene in the extract?
4. What does Abel's reaction to finding his possessions in the living room suggest about his awareness of his daughters' intentions?

Q11. Answer any five of the following six questions in about 30-40 words each : (5x2=10)

- a) Support the view that the villagers were active participants in supporting Mrs. Packletide's ambition in the story 'Mrs. Packletide's Tiger'?
- b) What is an Ouija Board? Why does Mrs. Hallock purchase it?
- c) How does the mood shift throughout the story, 'The Letter'?
- d) Compare the character sketch of both the sisters, Mrs. Slatter and Mrs. Jordon. Who is better among them and why?
- e) What role does the bog's audience play in the downfall of the nightingale in the poem 'The Frog and the Nightingale'?
- f) How does the structure of a Shakespearean sonnet enhance the impact of the poem, ' Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments'?

Q12. Answer any one of the following in about 150 words.

(8)

- a) Discuss how the supernatural is portrayed in the story 'The Letter' and 'A Shady Plot' and examine how these portrayals serve to influence the characters' actions and the progression of the plot in each work?

OR

- b) The nightingale has scaled the heights of success. But now the audience is dwindling, the frog is unhappy and reprimands her all the time. She is mentally and physically exhausted and fears failure. As the nightingale, write a diary entry highlighting her fears and analyzing the reasons for her failure.