

INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
ENGLISH COMMUNICATIVE (Code No. 101)
SAMPLE PAPER
CLASS-X-(2025-26)

TIME- 3 Hrs.

Max. Marks-80

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

I. This question paper has 10 questions. All questions are compulsory.

II. This question paper contains three sections:

Section A: Reading Skills -22 marks

Section B: Writing Skills -22 marks

Section C: Grammar -10 marks

Section D: Literature Textbook -26 marks

III. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.

IV. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.

V. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION – A (READING)

(22 Marks)

I. Read the following passage:

(12 marks)

The Ascendance of Indian Chess

In recent years, India has asserted itself as a formidable force in the world of chess. A particularly notable milestone occurred in 2024 when 17-year-old Gukesh D clinched victory at The Candidates Chess Tournament in Toronto, making him the youngest challenger for the world title. His success not only broke records but also underscored India's growing influence in chess. Unlike a decade ago, when Viswanathan Anand was the sole Indian presence at the global level, the 2024 tournament featured five Indian players, including two women.

Gukesh's triumph and the emergence of other young talents are far from coincidental. A multitude of factors have contributed to India's ascendance in the chess arena. Key among these is the commitment of veteran Grandmasters to nurturing the next generation. They have established academies and training programs to hone emerging talent. For instance, Charvi Anilkumar, a promising 10-year-old chess player from Bengaluru, has been receiving guidance from Grandmaster RB Ramesh. Recognizing her aptitude early on, her parents have invested in her training, leading her to secure titles such as the Under-8 Girls World Championship in 2022.

The chess landscape in India has also benefited from increased governmental and private sector support. Many institutions provide a structured environment where young players can refine their skills under the guidance of accomplished coaches.

The surge of chess talent in India can be attributed to various interrelated factors. Advances in technology have provided young players with unprecedented access to online platforms, sophisticated training software, and a wealth of chess literature, enabling them to study strategies

employed by legends worldwide. The COVID-19 pandemic, despite its challenges, offered many of these youngsters the opportunity to sharpen their skills without the usual pressures of travel and competition.

Moreover, the consistent success of Indian players on the international stage has conferred a psychological advantage. As Grandmaster RB Ramesh notes, "Many are fearing playing against Indians," indicating that Indian players often start with a mental edge. Additionally, both governmental backing and private investments have enhanced the infrastructure supporting young chess aspirants.

The journey to attaining the prestigious title of Grandmaster demands unwavering commitment, sacrifice, and a robust support network. Charvi Anilkumar, for instance, has foregone watching television for five years to maintain her focus on chess. Gukesh D's coach, Grandmaster Vishnu Prasanna, has emphasised the extent of Gukesh's sacrifices, noting that he has largely set aside the experiences of a typical childhood to reach the apex of his sport. These anecdotes illustrate the level of dedication required to excel in the competitive world of chess.

Yet, experts like Viswanathan Anand and Grandmaster Ramesh maintain that the title of Grandmaster is attainable for anyone willing to put in the effort. "It's not about innate talent," says Anand. "Our cultural emphasis on learning and the competitive environment in India push young players to constantly improve." Grandmaster Ramesh concurs, noting, "Most of the children are inherently talented. The human mind is the foundational requirement to become a Grandmaster."

Despite this promising trajectory, challenges persist. The increased popularity of chess has brought more tournaments and training resources, but it has also driven up the cost of coaching. Grandmaster Ramesh points out that many trainers now charge substantial fees, placing a financial burden on parents. Additionally, the widespread reliance on online training can detract from developing a deeper, more intuitive connection with the game.

Nevertheless, the future of Indian chess remains bright. The country now boasts 84 Grandmasters, ranking fifth globally. Its players are prominent in both the men's and women's categories, and the talent pool is growing rapidly. This progress in chess parallels a broader cultural shift in India, where young athletes are increasingly confident about their ability to compete at the highest levels on the global stage.

Viswanathan Anand envisions a time when India might produce multiple world-class champions. "We have a unique opportunity," he observes. "With the right guidance and support, India could become a global chess powerhouse."

As Indian families become more open to the idea of sports as a viable career, young players like Charvi Anilkumar are receiving crucial support from their parents. While the journey to becoming a Grandmaster involves substantial sacrifices, India's growing ecosystem of mentorship, training, and opportunities has made this aspiration more achievable than ever. For those willing to invest the time and effort, the dream of becoming a Grandmaster is within reach, and India's future in chess looks exceptionally promising.

India Today altered for academic purpose

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:

I. What is one factor that contributed to the rise of chess in India?

1

- a) Lack of competition from other countries
- b) Reduced focus on academic subjects
- c) Increased access to online chess platforms and training software
- d) Decrease in coaching costs

II. What challenge, related to online training, is mentioned in the passage as a potential drawback for Indian chess players? 1

- a) Difficulty accessing reliable internet
- b) Overreliance on technology, weakening intuition
- c) Lack of high-quality online platforms
- d) The high cost of subscription to online resources

III. List any one of the challenges faced by young Indian chess players: 1

IV. Rectify the given false statement: 1

"The COVID-19 pandemic slowed down the progress of young Indian chess players by preventing them from practicing."

V. Explain why the future of Indian chess looks promising despite the challenges. 1

VI. Why has it become easier for young Indian chess players to learn from international chess legends? 1

VII. What sacrifices do young chess players in India have to make? 2

VIII. Explain why mentorship from veteran Grandmasters is important for young chess players in India. 2

IX. How can we say that India is becoming a global chess powerhouse? 2

2. Read the following report: 10

ABC School Launches Innovative AI Club to Foster Interest in Artificial Intelligence

by Samira Rao, Secretary, AI Club

Ahmedabad, Nov. 20 – ABC School proudly announces the establishment of its first AI Club, designed to spark interest and engagement in the field of artificial intelligence among students. The club was officially launched during the school’s technology fair on October 18, attracting a diverse group of students eager to learn about AI and its applications.

The event was inaugurated by Ms. Anita Sharma, the school's head of the computer science department, and Raj Mehta, the club's president, who shared their excitement about the potential of AI in shaping the future. They emphasised the importance of understanding AI technologies and their ethical implications in today’s rapidly evolving digital landscape. The club aims to provide students with practical experiences through workshops, projects, and discussions with industry professionals.

During the fair, club members showcased a series of interactive demonstrations, including AI-powered chatbots and simple machine learning models. Attendees were encouraged to participate in coding challenges and explore various AI applications, such as image recognition and natural

language processing. The enthusiasm and creativity displayed by the students highlighted their eagerness to dive deeper into this fascinating field.

The AI Club has planned a variety of upcoming activities, including coding workshops, guest lectures from AI experts, and collaborative projects with local tech companies. They are also organising a hackathon, where students will have the opportunity to develop their own AI-driven solutions to real-world problems. The AI Club aims to equip students with essential skills and knowledge while fostering a collaborative and innovative learning environment.

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Answer the following questions, based on the report above:

I. Complete with a suitable reason:

The AI Club was motivated to plan various upcoming activities because _____. 1

II. The AI Club intends to deepen students' understanding of artificial intelligence by offering _____, real-world projects, and collaborative sessions with experts in the field. 1

III. What was the primary goal of the AI Club when it was launched? 1

- A) To organize coding competitions for students
- B) To provide students with knowledge about AI technologies and ethical implications
- C) To focus on robotics and hardware development
- D) To prepare students for annual technology fairs

IV. Who did the AI Club collaborate with to provide students hands-on experiences and expert guidance? 1

- 1. Faculty members
- 2. Local business leaders
- 3. Industry professionals
- 4. Computer science department head
- 5. AI researchers

Select the correct option:

- A. Only 2
- B. Only 5
- C. 3 and 4
- D. 1 and 5

V. What was the most likely purpose of the interactive demonstrations showcased during the technology fair? 1

VI. What does the passage suggest about the students' interest in artificial intelligence? 1

VII. What specific skills are the students expected to develop through their participation in the AI Club? 2

VIII. Explain how the AI club at ABC School aligns with the school's goals of promoting holistic education. 2

SECTION – B WRITING SKILLS**(22 MARKS)**

3. You are Jina a student of Palash Public School, Delhi. You are sick and need leave from school for two days. Write a letter to the Principal for the same. (3 m)

4. Write a factual description, in not more than 100 words, of a memorable trip you took recently (4m)

5. A Write a letter to the mayor of your city to identify existing parks that may need upgrades, such as new playground equipment, picnic areas, walking trails, or sports facilities. Highlight how these improvements can foster community engagement and promote healthier lifestyles. Use Ideas from the unit Health and Medicine along with your own to write this letter in not more than 120 words.

(7m)

OR

5. B. Write a letter to the municipal authority to raise concerns about the problem of food waste dumping in your locality. Discuss the issue in detail and propose specific measures to resolve it. Use Ideas from the unit Environment along with your own to write this letter in not more than 120 words.

6A. As Ganesh from X-B, write an article advocating for the implementation of skill-based courses in schools. Discuss the benefits of skill-based education for students and propose a recommendation for policymakers and educators to promote these courses effectively.

Use the given cues, along with your own ideas and those you may have gathered from Unit 2: Education to create this article. 8m

- emphasis on real-world application - prepare for various career paths - foster creativity and critical thinking

OR

6. B. As Ganesh from X-B, write an article on ‘Eco Tourism’. Discuss on the need for a joyful and sustainable tourism. Use the given cues, along with your own ideas and those you may have gathered from Unit 5: Travel and Tourism to create this article.

- Protect bio-diversity – conserve water and energy – promote sustainable tourism

SECTION – C: GRAMMAR (10 MARKS)

7. Complete the tasks (A) to (C), as directed:

A. Fill the blanks (I)-(III) with the appropriate option from those in the brackets. 3x1=3

Chandrayaan-3 (I) _____ (intended / intends / intending) to enhance India's proficiency in

achieving lunar exploration, particularly focusing on a soft landing. The mission (II) _____ (could / must / might) provide unprecedented insights into the Moon's South Pole, potentially revealing clues about the presence of water ice. (III) _____ (This / Those / Such) discoveries are crucial for future manned missions and the establishment of sustainable lunar bases.

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. 4x1=4

No.	Text	Word before	Omission	Word after
e.g.	My trip Rajasthan was amazing. I visited the	trip	to	Rajasthan
I	beautiful forts Jaipur, like Amber Fort and Hawa Mahal.			
II	The markets full of colourful handicrafts and textiles.			
III	I enjoyed delicious local food, including spicy curries sweet Rabri.			
IV	A camel ride in the Thar Desert sunset made it unforgettable.			

C. Do as directed.

3

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

Amit: Have you noticed why many people avoid eating fast food these days?

Priya: I haven't. What's the reason?

Amit: unhealthy/food/fast/consuming/people/realise/that/too/often/can/be.

b) Report the dialogues to complete the paragraph that follows.

2

Raj: I have joined a cooking class.

Vikram: Why did you join it?

Raj: I want to learn how to cook different cuisines.

Raj told Vikram that (I).....As Vikram was curious, he asked Raj

(II)To this, Raj replied that he wanted to learn how to cook different cuisines.

8. Read the given excerpts and answer the questions briefly, for any two excerpts, of the three, given. (2x4=8)

A. Suddenly he felt he could write a whole thesis on that monosyllabic exclamation. Why had he felt so disheartened when this single word contained a gold-mine of meaning?

(Patol Babu)

- I. What made Patol Babu disheartened?
- II. How did he muster up his courage?
- III. What did Patol Babu discover in the dialogue ?
- IV. What does monosyllabic mean?

B. *And some in dreams assured were
of the spirit that plagued us so;
Nine fathom deep he had followed us
from the land of mist and snow.*

(The Rime of the ancient mariner)

- I. Where were the mariners?
- II. What emotions do the mariners experience in relation to the spirit?
- III. How does the setting contribute to the mood of the poem?
- IV. Why has the spirit followed them?

C. O pardon me, though bleeding piece of earth
That I am meek and gentle with these butchers!
Thou art the ruins of the noblest man
That ever lived in the tide of times.

(Julius Caesar)

- I. Which dramatic device is used by the speaker?
- II. What was been referred to as the bleeding piece of earth?
- III. What attitude of the speaker can be understood when he asks for pardon?
- IV. Who are referred to as butchers?

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

1. Technology was advancing every day. How did Dad and Michael update themselves with the latest gizmos? *(Virtually True)*

2. How did Brutus convince the Romans at the Caesar's funeral address? Were they convinced? State instances from the play. *(Julius Caesar)*

3. The impact of unpleasant song sung in a baritone voice irritated the listeners. Write the reaction of the audience with reference to the poem *The frog and the nightingale*.
4. The Ouija board took the place of a protagonist of the story for some time. Elucidate the hardships underwent by John Hallock due to the Ouija board. (The Shady Plot)
5. Mr. Packletide develops extreme jealousy for Loona Bimberton. Elucidate by picking two instances from the story. (*Mrs. Packletide's Tiger*)
6. What purpose does the bureau serve in the play 'The Dear Departed'?

10. Answer any one of the following two questions in about 150 words. (1x8=8)

In D.H. Lawrence's *Snake*, the poet experiences a strong internal struggle between civilized social education and personal feelings. How does the speaker's reaction to the snake reveal his internal conflict, and what does this suggest about his perception of natural human instincts versus the influence of societal teachings? Use specific examples from the poem to support your analysis.

(or)

In both "**Coachman Ali**" and "**The Two Gentlemen of Verona**," characters display deep family bonds that underscore the significance of love and responsibility in family relationships. How do these stories highlight the power of love, trust, and sacrifice in family life, particularly through Coachman Ali's longing for his daughter and the parental care exhibited by the orphaned boys towards their sick sister?
