



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
Mid-Term Examination (2025-26)
ENGLISH COMMUNICATIVE - Code No. 101
SET-1 ANSWER KEY

Class: X

Maximum Marks: 80

Date: 18.09.2025

Time allowed: 3

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

*(i) The question paper is divided into **four** sections - A, B, C and D.*

Section A — Reading Skills

22 marks

Section B — Writing Skills

22 marks

Section C — Grammar

10 marks

Section D — Literature Textbook

26 marks

*(ii) There are **12** questions in the question paper. **All** questions are compulsory.*

(iii) You may attempt any section at a time.

(iv) Write the correct question number.

(v) All questions of that particular section must be attempted in the correct order.

(vi) Instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary.

(vii) Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

Hours

SECTION A – (Reading Skills) (22 marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully:

12

1. Popcorn, also known as popping corn, is a special variety of corn. Each kernel contains a tiny drop of water. When it is heated, the water expands causing the kernel to explode and flip inside out. Most US popcorn is grown in Nebraska and Indiana, and increasingly in Texas.

2 Native Americans first discovered popcorn thousands of years ago in Guatemala or Mexico. It was popped in China during the Song Dynasty (960-279), as well as, in Sumatra and India long before Columbus reached the Americans.

3. In 1519 when he invaded Mexico, Spanish Conquistador Hernando Cortes first saw popcorn when he met the Aztecs. Popcorn was important to the Aztecs as food, as decoration for ceremonial headdresses and necklaces, and as ornaments on statues of their gods. Around 1612, French explorers around the Great Lakes met Iroquois, who used heated sand in a pottery vessel to make popcorn. There is an unproven theory that an Indian named Quadequina brought a deerskin bag of popped corn for the first Thanksgiving feast. In 1948 and 1950, anthropologist Herbert and botanist Earle Smith discovered ears of popcorn in the Bat Cave of west central New Mexico. The ears measured from smaller than a penny to about 2 inches. They were determined to be about 5,600 years old.

4. Colonial housewives served popcorn with sugar and cream for breakfast. Some colonists used a cylinder of thin sheet-iron that revolved on an axle in front of the fireplace to make popped corn.

5. In 1885, Charles Cretors of Chicago, Illinois, invented the first popcorn machine. Street vendors were soon pushing steam or gas-powered poppers through fairs, parks and public exhibitions.

6. Today much of the popcorn you buy at movies and fairs is popped in machines manufactured by the Creators family.

7. Americans eat more than 17 billion quarts of popcorn a year, an average of 60 quarts per person per year. As a result of an elementary school project, popcorn became the official state snack food of Illinois. January 19 is National Popcorn Day, and October is National Popcorn Month.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

(i) What causes popcorn kernels to pop and flip inside out when heated? **1**

Ans (B) Expansion of water inside the kernel

(ii) What is the historical significance of popcorn in the Aztec culture as mentioned in the passage? **2**

Ans- Popcorn was important to the Aztecs as food, as decoration for ceremonial headdresses and necklaces, and as ornaments on statues of their gods.

(iii) Arrange the following events in chronological order: **1**

Ans-1. (C) Native Americans discovering popcorn in Guatemala or Mexico

2. (D) Introduction of popcorn to China during the Song Dynasty

3. (A) Invention of the first popcorn machine by Charles Cretors

4. (B) Discovery of popcorn in the Bat Cave of New Mexico

(iv) How was popcorn used by Native Americans, and the Iroquois, as described in the passage?

Ans- Iroquois, used heated sand in a pottery vessel to make popcorn. An Indian named Quadequina brought a deerskin bag of popped corn for the first Thanksgiving feast. / used it as food, decoration and ornaments. **2**

(v) Substitute the underlined word in the following sentence with a word/phrase from the passage. **1**

Some colonists used a cylinder of thin sheet-iron that turned in a circle on an axle (paragraph 4) in front of the fireplace to make popped corn.

Ans- Revolved

(vi) Who invented the first popcorn machine as mentioned in the passage? **1**

Ans-(C) Charles Cretors

(vii) Americans eat more than 17 billion quarts of popcorn a year, an average of 60 quarts per person per year. This information suggests that - **1**

Ans- (B) popcorn is a popular snack in the United States

(viii) Complete the sentence appropriately. **1**

Ans-Popcorn became the official state snack food of Illinois as a result of an elementary school project.

(ix) Identify the statement as True or False: **1**

Ans-Popcorn was only used as a food source by the Aztecs. **FALSE**

(x) Complete the following appropriately.

1

Ans- As a result of invention of popcorn machine, street vendors could be seen **pushing steam or gas-powered poppers through fairs, parks and public exhibitions.**

2. Read the following text.

10

(1) India is a country of many languages. The constitution recognizes 22 languages officially, but over 121 unique languages have been identified in the country.

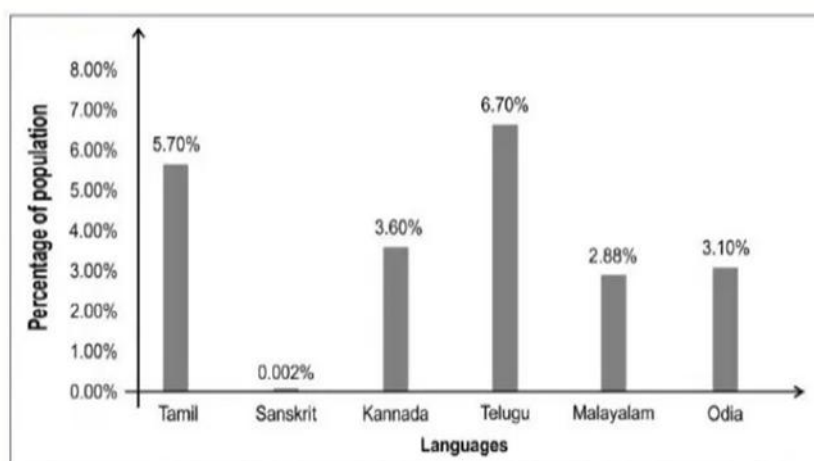
(2) To preserve and encourage the literary function of language, the government introduced 'classical languages' in 2004. According to the Ministry of Culture, a classical language is one that is at least 1,500 years old and has ancient, valuable literature recorded in it. Further, such a language is original and not derived from another language. Based on these guidelines, six languages have been classified as classical languages: Tamil, Sanskrit, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam and Odia.

(3) The following graph shows the percentage of Indian people whose mother tongue is a classical language. This is as per data collected by the census of 2011. The census was not conducted in 2021 due to the pandemic.

(4) According to the graph, around 6.7% of the Indian population are native speakers of Telugu, whereas Sanskrit has been identified as a mother tongue by only 0.002% of the population, which is around 24,821 people. Malayalam has the second lowest number of native speakers, making up about 2.9% of Indians.

(5) The 2011 census data also noted that a majority of the native speakers reside in the area that their mother tongue originated from. For example, 93% of Kannada speakers live in Karnataka. Similarly, 93% of Malayalam speakers live in Kerala.

(6) Balancing preservation of culture and inclusivity is a delicate equation for a heterogeneous country like India. With growing awareness, concepts like 'classical languages' may help us achieve harmony.



Answer the following questions, based on the passage above

(i). Which of these pieces of information can be confirmed by reading the passage? **1**

- (I) the number of people in India who speak Tamil
- (II) where the majority of native Sanskrit speakers live
- (III) the reason Malayalam is considered a classical language
- (IV) when the idea of classical languages was introduced in India

Ans- (D) Only (III) and (IV)

(ii). Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets. **1**

Ans-Based on the passage, the historical value of a language is of utmost importance while categorising it as a classical language.

(iii). Imagine that a committee was formed to ensure that classical languages have more native speakers by the time the next census is conducted.

In 40 words, answer the following questions to help the committee achieve its objective. **2**

A. Which classical language needs its attention most urgently and why?

Ans- Sanskrit, as it has the lowest percentage of people who identify it as their mother tongue.

B. Which classical language would be THIRD on its priority?

Ans- Odia

(iv). State an example from the passage that shows that India is a 'heterogeneous country'.

Answer in one sentence.

Ans- A country of many languages/ Over 121 unique languages/ any relevant sentence. 1

(v). Why has the writer stated the following line in the passage? Give a reason. **1**

The census was not conducted in 2021 due to the pandemic.

Ans- 1. to justify why data from a census as old as 2011 has been used/

2. to state that newer data is not available/

3. because readers would expect the next census to have been conducted in 2021 (10 years after the 2011 census) for more recent data/

4. to give a disclaimer to readers in case they find updated information in recent times that contradicts the stated data (ANY ONE)

(vi). Complete the sentence based on information from the passage. **1**

If Tamil originated from Tamil Nadu, we can infer that most/a majority /Any percentage that shows majority of the native Tamil speakers would be living in Tamil Nadu.

(vii). Which of these hypothetical situations would help India achieve harmony? Justify your answer in about 40 words. **2**

Ans- (B) if more languages from remote and tribal areas of India are identified as classical languages

Justification (any one):

1. The passage mentions that preservation and inclusivity are important. Therefore, including languages that are native to people who live in lesser-known areas of India would lead to more harmony.

2. The recognition of lesser-known languages as 'classical languages' would make certain cultures and languages more nationally acceptable for citizens of the country.
3. It would increase our awareness about our own country, which would lead us to understand unique cultures and languages with more curiosity than judgement.

(viii). Which one of these sentences uses 'delicate' in the same way as paragraph (6) does? **1**

Ans- (C) This discussion will require careful consideration as it is a delicate matter.

SECTION B – (Writing Skills) (22 marks)

3. You are Saurabh/ Saumya of class X, DAV Public School, Daryaganj, New Delhi. Write an application, in about 50 words to the principal of your school seeking permission to participate in a Robotics Contest being organised by a private company giving him details about the Robot that you plan to display in the contest.

Content – 1 mark

Organisation (fluency, coherence/expression) – 1 mark

Accuracy – 1 mark

4. Write a factual description, in not more than 100 words, of one of your favourite outfits that you purchased recently.

Content – 2 marks

Organisation (fluency, coherence/expression) – 1 mark

Accuracy – 1 mark

4

5. (a) Given below is an extract from an article in a magazine:

Fast Food and its Nutritional Value
To say fast food has a 'nutritional value' is an oxymoron. There is absolutely nothing nutritional about fast food. Fast food simply feeds hunger and/or your immediate craving. Fast food does not feed your body in the form of usable lasting energy or building materials, the essence your body thrives on for life itself.

You are Jivan/ Jyoti. Write a letter to the editor of a local daily, expressing your concern over the health hazards caused by fast food in about 150 words.

OR

(b) Drinking water is becoming a rare commodity. Industrial development is filling our rivers, seas and oceans with toxic pollutants which are a major threat to human health. You are deeply saddened to see water pollution as an appalling problem, which is powerful enough to lead the world on a path of destruction. Write a letter to the Editor of Express News to make the public aware about the causes of water pollution and also suggest the measures to prevent water pollution. (About 150 words) You may use the clues given below:

Causes of Water Pollution

- industrial waste
- sewage and waste water
- mining activities
- accidental oil leakage
- burning of fossil fuels

Suggestive measures

- prevent river water to get polluted
- treatment of wastes before discharge
- treatment of drainage water
- public awareness

Format – 1 mark, Content – 3 marks, Organisation (fluency, coherence/expression) – 2 marks, Accuracy – 1 mark = 7

6. (a) Recently there was a news item in Times of India related to RTE (Right to Education Act) where the Supreme Court directed every school, including the private ones to immediately give free education to students of socially and economically backward classes. This Act has no doubt heralded a new era in the country's formal education. Still you feel, it's a big challenge for the nation. Based on the input and your ideas gathered from 'Unit 2-Education', write an article on 'New Hope with the Right to Education' in about 150 words. **8**

OR

(b) You are Rahul/ Renu. There are frequent power cuts in your locality. You strongly feel it is time to shift to solar power. Write an article on the topic 'Solar Power: An Apt Global Solution for Energy Crisis'. Use the clues given below.

- Renewable energy,
- Reduce energy bill
- Completely clean, no water pollution, no green house effect, no emissions,
- Low maintenance cost

Format – 1 mark, Content – 3 marks, Organisation (fluency, coherence/expression) – 3 marks Accuracy – 1 mark = 8

SECTION C – (Grammar) (10 marks)

7. Fill in the blanks (a) – (c) with the appropriate option from those given in the brackets. 3

When wet waste is mixed (a) with dry waste, it is called garbage. For zero garbage, the two (b) should be kept separate. Dry waste can be recycled. Wet waste can be (c) turned into compost and used for gardening in place of fertilizers.

8. In the following paragraph, one word has been omitted in each line. In your answer sheet, remember to write the missing word along with the word that comes before and after it. 4

S.No	Sentence/Phrase	Before	Missing	After
(a)	Gone the days when wedding	gone	are	the
(b)	gifts meant anything was readily available. Today	anything	that/which	was
(c)	people tend to spend effort to choose the right gift-a gift	spend	a lot of / more / lots of	effort
(d)	that only has aesthetic appeal but also has a high usability.	that	not	only

9. Do as directed.

(i) Rearrange the following words and phrases to form a meaningful sentence. 1

opportunities /of golden / every moment / thousands / brings with it

Ans- Every moment brings with it thousands of golden opportunities.

(ii) Report the dialogues to complete the paragraph that follows. 1+1

Rohit: I have bought a new DSLR camera.

Mohit: What will you do with this?

Rohit: I will click beautiful pictures with this camera.

Rohit told Mohit that (a) he had bought a new DSLR camera. As Mohit was not aware of it, he asked what he would do with that. Rohit answered that (b) he would click beautiful pictures with that camera.

SECTION D – (Literature Textbook) (26 marks)

10. Read the following excerpts and answer the questions briefly, for any TWO excerpts, of the given three, (a), (b), (c). 4+4=8

(a) *"Evidently the wrong animal had been hit and the beast of prey had succumbed to heart failure."*

(i) What did Mrs. Packletide want to kill?

Ans- Mrs. Packletide wanted to shoot a tiger.

(ii) Why did she want to kill it?

Ans- She wanted to outshine Loona Bimberton's achievement.

(iii) How did the two animals die?

Ans- The tiger died of heart failure and the goat was shot by Mrs. Packletide.

(iv) How did Miss Louisa Mebbin take advantage of this situation?

Ans- She blackmailed Mrs. Packletide and made her pay huge amount to buy a cottage for herself.

(b) *"In the grey sky of early dawn, stars still glowed, as happy memories light up a life that is nearing its close. An old man was walking through the town, now and again drawing his tattered clothes tighter to shield his body from the cold and biting wind." (The Letter)*

(i) Whose life is drawing to a close? 1

Ans- Coachman Ali

(ii) Where is he going? 1

Ans-Post office

(iii) Why is he going there? 1

Ans- He is expecting a letter from his daughter Miriam.

(iv) What does this show about his character? 1

Ans- A loving and compassionate father, who is missing his daughter.

(c) "I don't call that delicate, stepping into a dead man's shoes in such haste." (The Dear Departed)

(i) Who is the speaker and when does the speaker say these words? 1

Ans- Elizabeth says it after noticing Mr. Slater wearing the slippers of grandfather.

(ii) What was the real intention of the speaker? 1

Ans- She wanted to reveal the intention of her sister and family of pinching the objects.

(iii) What does the speaker mean by 'stepping into a dead man's shoes'? 1

Ans- Stepping into dead man's shoe is to take the position of the dead man although one might not be capable of it. **OR**

Mrs. Jordan on seeing her brother-in law wearing grandfather's shoes feels that he was in too much of a hurry to step into the grandfather's shoes. He didn't even wait for his funeral.

(iv) Complete the following analogy correctly, by using the word from the extract. 1

New: Antique: Haste: Delay

11. Answer any FIVE of the following six questions in 30 – 40 words each: 5×2=10

(a) What does the shifting of the bureau tell us about the character of Mrs. Slater? (The Dear Departed)

Ans- The shifting of the bureau tells us that Mrs. Slater is very greedy and money-minded. Just after her father's death, when the lady is expected to be in mourning, she is more concerned about how to acquire her father's belongings and portray them as her own when her sister Elizabeth arrives at her house. She wants to keep the bureau for herself before Elizabeth can claim it.

(b) What did the sculptor want to portray through the statue of Ozymandias?

Ans- The sculptor wanted to portray the true expressions of Ozymandias, successfully he carved Ozymandias' arrogance on the face of the statue. The statue had the expressions of a sneer and a frown. The grim, arrogant expression on his face reveals the excessive pride possessed by the king.

(c) Validate the poet's reference to Time, as being sluttish in the poem 'Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments'.

Ans- The poet refers to Time as "sluttish" because it carelessly tarnishes even the most magnificent creations, such as marbled or gilded monuments. Over time, these grand structures lose their original beauty as Time gradually discolours, erodes, and ruins them through its various agents—like wind, rain, air, and natural growth.

(d) How does the story 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' give hope to the society?

Ans- The story highlights the importance of family and human connection. Nicola and Jacopo, orphaned by war, worked tirelessly to support their sister's treatment for spinal tuberculosis. Despite their hardships, their dedication and sacrifice at such a young age are inspiring. Their actions offer hope and set a powerful example for society.

(e) What message is conveyed by Vikram Seth through the poem 'The Frog and the Nightingale'?

Ans- The poem The Frog and the Nightingale teaches a powerful lesson about self-confidence and awareness. It warns against blindly trusting others and highlights how lack of self-belief can lead to exploitation. The Nightingale, though talented, was misled by the cunning Frog, ultimately leading to her downfall. For survival and

success, one must protect their interests, think independently, and guard against manipulative people.

- (f) How was the tiger hunt more beneficial to others than to Mrs. Packletide?

Ans-Mrs. Packletide's primary motive behind organizing the tiger hunt was to outshine and demoralize her rival, Mrs. Loona Bimberton. However, her plan backfired. Mrs. Bimberton declined the invitation to the luncheon party that Mrs. Packletide had arranged to flaunt her achievement, thereby denying her the satisfaction of triumph. Moreover, the hunt proved to be a costly affair. Mrs. Packletide had to pay a large sum to the villagers for arranging the hunt and later found herself blackmailed by Miss Mebbin, who had assisted her during the event. As a result, the entire episode turned out to be more beneficial to others than to Mrs. Packletide herself.

12. Answer any ONE of the following two questions in about 150 words:

8

- (a) Why could Ali not enjoy a sportsman's pleasure of hunting any more after Miriam left him?

Ans- Value Points:

Understood the meaning of love and separation-gave up hunting partridges-could now understand the grief of parents of the hunted animals went through after getting separated from their young ones.

Detailed Answer:

Ali was a skilled hunter—no animal could escape his sharp eyes. The moment he spotted a rabbit or partridge, it was as good as in his bag. But then, his life took an unexpected turn. His beloved daughter Miriam married a soldier and moved to Punjab with him. After that, Ali received no news from her.

This silence transformed him. He became more sensitive and began to understand the true meaning of love and separation. The thrill of the hunt no longer brought him joy. He imagined that animals and birds, too, must feel the pain of losing their loved ones. With this newfound empathy, Ali gave up hunting altogether.

He could now feel the sorrow of the parent animals—those left grieving after being separated from their young, or vice versa. The hunter had become a man of compassion.

OR

- (b) Shakespeare, in the poem 'Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments' talks about two destructive forces. What are those and how does he manage to save his friend from their clutches?

Answer: The two devastating powers mentioned by the poet in this poem are time and war. Sonnet's first quatrain is devoted to the subject of the harm caused by the passage of time. The poet claims that the 'sluttish time' has soiled and neglected the previously praised and well-known durable marbled and gilded monuments of monarchs. He continues by discussing yet another destroyer called war in the second quatrain. Over the years, these conflicts have destroyed enormous sculptures and enormous "works of masonry."

However, the poet feels at ease when he becomes sure that neither the blade of Mars nor sluttish time pose a threat to either his poem or his dear friend. His poem will endure all the effects of time, and his friend will be more radiant than the princes' gilded monuments. Mars or his "quick fire" won't be able to destroy the poetry in which the poet has immortalised his friend since it is a live record.

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