



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH (2025-26)  
CLASS – XI  
READING COMPREHENSION PASSAGE

**I. Read the following passage very carefully:**

**(10)**

1. Panchayati Raj goes a long way in accomplishing community participation and empowering the marginalized and vulnerable in the hinterland through grassroots administrative institutions.
2. Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) play a predominant role in the delegation of power and resources to villages. The role of PRIs acquires crucial significance in the attainment of cherished ideals of good governance including Gram Swaraj and localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
3. Mahatma Gandhi deserves special mention for conceptualizing Panchayat Raj in India. He envisioned panchayats as a small self-sufficient republic that entails total participation of the people and equal opportunities for all.
4. The 1993 amendment has proved to be a catalyst in bringing more than 14.5 lakh women into leadership roles in the country's local governance. At present as many as 20 states have 50% seats reserved for women in their PRIs. States such as Karnataka are giving the much-needed impetus to women into governance with more than 50% women representation in PRIs. Since ages, the prerogative of men in politics and governance is slowly and steadily changing at the grassroots and women are at the forefront making their way in a field from which they have historically been excluded. To top it all, while the Covid crisis had disproportionate impact on women, in terms of increased vulnerability to job and income losses, and heightened burden of care work, women have shined through as being the first responders in their roles as frontline health workers, and local leaders in PRIs and Self-Help Groups.
5. Panchayat Palli in Jammu was selected for the Panchayati Raj Diwas event this year and an exhibition showcasing latest innovations was put up enabling farmers, sarpanches and village heads to advance their income and their produce.
6. The need and demand for good governance is fueled with the rapid expansion of the economy as well as the growing awareness for proclamation of rights by the populace. PRI engagement is possibly the only existing mechanism to accomplish large-scale community participation and empower the marginalized and vulnerable, particularly women, children, and the poor. While the centre and the state government are together implementing various development programmes, it all boils down to PRIs to have a definite mandate for realization of the goal towards improving the quality of life in rural areas. To sum up in the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "When the Panchayat Raj is established, public opinion will do what violence can never do."

**I.A) On the basis of your reading the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given options: (1x5=5)**

i. Complete the sentence by choosing the appropriate option:

Panchayati Raj Institutions have been formed for-

- a. assigning excess power to villages
- b. assigning power and resources to villages
- c. taking away power and resources from villages
- d. converting villages into metropolitan cities

ii. According to para-3, which of the options most appropriately describes the impact of Covid crisis on women in villages?

- a. drastic fall in job opportunities
- b. increased stress of care work
- c. outshined as first responders in roles as frontline health workers
- d. All the above

iii. Select the most suitable title for the above passage-

- a. Gandhiji's vision for PRIs
- b. Role of Women in PRIs
- c. Flagbearers of Participative Democracy
- d. Central government Vs PRIs

iv. Statement-A: Panchayat Palli in Jammu was selected for the Panchayati Raj Diwas event this year. Statement-R: Exhibition showcasing latest innovations was put up to advance their income and their produce.

- a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true but R is false.
- d) A is false but R is true.

v. Select the option that conveys the opposite of 'catalyst'.

- a. adjuvant
- b. agitator
- c. stimulant
- d. hindrance

**I.B) Answer the following questions:**

**(1x5=5)**

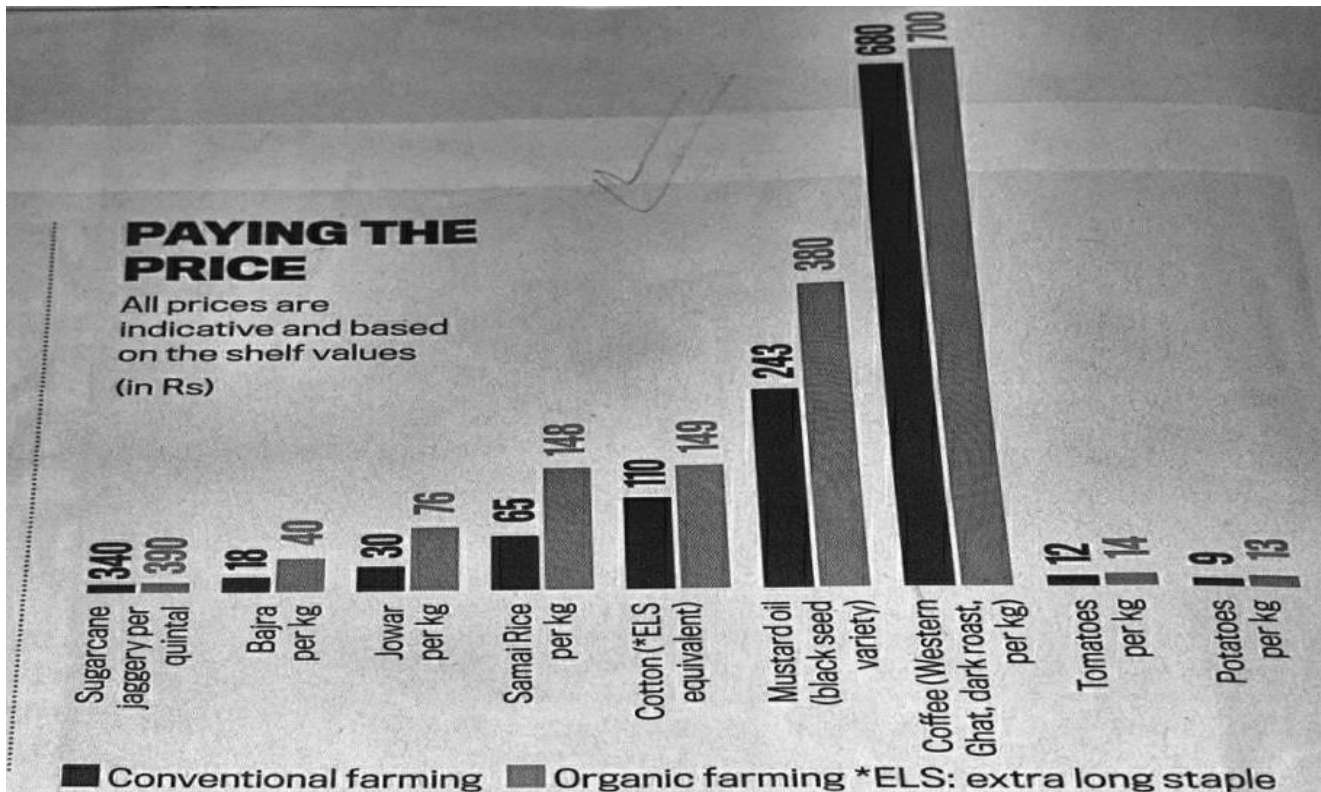
- vi. In what way did Mahatma Gandhi try to attain localization of SDGs while conceptualizing Panchayat Raj in India?
- vii. Comment on the role of women in the country's local governance after the amendment of 1993.
- viii. List two reasons for the requirement of good governance.
- ix. What do you understand by Gandhiji's belief as given in the last paragraph?
- x. Find a word from the last paragraph which means the same as 'inhabitants'.

**II. Read the following passage carefully:**

**(8)**

1. AITU, a sleepy town in Faridkot district, is in the heart of Punjab's cancer belt, where experts believe the extensive use of fertilisers and pesticides has impacted the health of generations. One person waging a personal war against this man-made nightmare is Umendra Dutt, founder member and the Executive Director of Kheti Virasat Mission (KVM).
2. Dutt was part of the national Task Force on Organic farming & Chemical-Free Farming that the Union Agriculture Ministry constituted soon after Prime Minister Narendra Modi began his first term. The panel recommended that at least Rs.12,500 crore a year be allocated to expand the sector, laying the foundation for the push in organic farming. But amid all the real-world exigencies, the money-and the sowing-haven't kept pace with the intentions.
3. In this year's budget, Union Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman laid out the blueprint for chemical-free farming on both sides of the Ganga in five states, creating an organic/natural corridor totalling 1.23 mha and dedicated to growing fruits, vegetables, herbs and medicinal plants. The states involved-- Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal-- could tap into the annual Rs. 20,000 crore budget for the National Mission for Clean Ganga.
4. The Agriculture Ministry is setting smaller, achievable targets. Officials say their focus is on promoting chemical-free agriculture in tribal, hilly and agro-forestry areas. The hilly terrain of smaller states like Meghalaya, Mizoram, Uttarakhand and Goa have some 10 percent of their farmland dedicated to organic cultivation.
5. It has also criminalised the sale and purchase of chemical fertilisers and pesticides in these blocks. However, it is the bigger states that have to do the catching up: their figures for organic farming are embarrassingly small. MP has 4.9 percent, Rajasthan 2 percent and Maharashtra just 1.6 percent of their farms dedicated to organic produce.
6. Punjab is a story by itself, with some plot elements specific to it. Some 85 percent of its crops--paddy, wheat and cotton-- are produced by central agencies such as the Food Corporation of India and Cotton Corporation of India. Most of its farmers focus on growing crops that have

this guaranteed procurement safety net. That's also an incentive to grow more, which is why they put all their effort into volumes.



**II.A. On the basis of your reading the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given options:** (1x4=4)

i. Select the correct option of states where organic farming is below 5%.

- a. Meghalaya, Rajasthan, MP
- b. MP, Mizoram, Goa
- c. Rajasthan, MP, Maharashtra
- d. Maharashtra, Goa, Uttarakhand

ii. Is the following statement in line with what is mentioned in para-2?

The money allocated for the expansion of organic farming and the real world requirements are healthily moving towards the intentions.

- a. true
- b. false
- c. partially true
- d. partially false

iii. As a farmer you wish to shift to organic farming. According to the bar chart, which of the crops would you select that will bring out much variation in your pricing.

- a. mustard oil, cotton, Samai Rice
- b. sugarcane, jaggery, coffee
- c. cotton, tomatoes, jowar
- d. potatoes, bajra, cotton

iv. Which of the following statements accurately concludes the given passage?

- a. The basic problem for an ordinary farmer remains- Organic farming is expensive.
- b. The organic and natural produce is often visually less appealing in shape and colour.
- c. Organic farming has no future in India and our efforts need to shift to other issues.
- d. Only a few states of India are seriously working for a shift from conventional to organic farming.

**II.A Answer the following questions:**

**(1x4=4)**

- v. Which states of India have been involved in the chemical-free farming in the blueprint as laid out by the Union Finance Minister. Give evidence from the passage.
- vi. Mention the objectives of the Agriculture Ministry behind setting up achievable targets?
- vii. Highlight one reason why farmers of Punjab put all their efforts into volumes of growing crops.
- viii. Draw a conclusion on the basis of the prices of Samai Rice grown conventionally and organically from the given bar chart.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ENGLISH CORE**  
**Marking Scheme and Hints to Solutions**

| Q. No. | Value Points/Key                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Marks allotted to each value point/Key point                   | Total Marks                                                      |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
|        | <b>SECTION-A (READING SKILLS) (26 MARKS)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                |                                                                  |
| I.     | <p>A. i) b. assigning power and resources to villages<br/> ii) d. All the above<br/> iii) c. Flagbearers of Participative Democracy<br/> iv) c. A is true but R is false.<br/> v) d. hindrance</p> <p>B. vi) Envisioned Panchayats as a small self-sufficient republic that entails total participation of the people and equal opportunities for all.<br/> vii) More than 14.5 lakh women are in leadership roles/50% seats reserved in PRIs.<br/> viii) Rapid expansion of the economy and growing awareness for proclamation of rights by the people<br/> ix) PRIs hold the main key to improve the quality of life in rural areas.<br/> x) populace</p> | <p>1<br/>1<br/>1<br/>1<br/>1<br/>1<br/>1<br/>1<br/>1<br/>1</p> | <p>5<br/><br/><br/><br/><br/><br/><br/><br/><br/><br/><br/>5</p> |
| II.    | <p>A. i. c. Rajasthan, MP, Maharashtra<br/> ii. b. false<br/> iii. b. sugarcane, jaggery, coffee<br/> iv. a. The basic problem for an ordinary farmer remains- Organic farming is expensive.</p> <p>B. v. Chemical-free farming on both sides of the Ganga in five states- Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal<br/> vi. promoting chemical-free agriculture in tribal, hilly and agro-forestry areas.<br/> vii. guaranteed procurement safety net<br/> viii. Price is double in comparison to conventional farming/price is much higher than conventional farming/difference in the price is Rs. 83 per kg. (Any one)</p>          | <p>1<br/>1<br/>1<br/>1<br/><br/>1<br/>1<br/>1<br/>1<br/>1</p>  | <p>4<br/><br/><br/><br/><br/><br/><br/><br/><br/><br/>4</p>      |