Roll No. _____ **NLCS/10/English (184)/95**

Pre Board Exam 2025 – 2026

Time Allowed: 3: 00 Hrs. **M M: 80**

General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and follow them:

i. This question paper has 11 questions. All questions are compulsory.

ii. This question paper contains three sections: Section A: Reading Skills, Section B: Creative Writing Skills, Section C: Literature.

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

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

SECTION A (READING SKILLS) (20 marks)

Q.1 Read the passage carefully: **10**

1. Usually you would need to visit a national park or sanctuary to sight beautiful wild animals such as the wild boar, blue bull (Nilgai) spotted deer, Chinkara, black buck, Indian hare, or monkeys. Today, just go round to any agricultural field and you may find plenty of wild herbivores roaming the grounds freely and feeding on the crops and natural palatable plants therein.
2. When forests were abundant, ecologically sound and self-sufficient, the movement of wildlife inside the Protected Areas/Forests in search of food would extend farther than the buffer zone meant for environmental protection. Over time, however, the alarming rise in human population has put maximum pressure on forest wealth, leading gradually to large swathes of the forest, including the buffer zone and corridors, being converted into agricultural fields and industries and cleared for the construction of urban zones, big dams, railway tracks, roads and highways, mining corridors, electricity transmissions lines and other development works that massively reduce forest area and shrink good-quality wildlife habitats.
3. Resultantly, as wild herbivores were made to move or migrate, through natural corridors, from one forest to another in search of food, they found themselves in agricultural fields, which are full of easily accessible feeding material. This has been the gradual effect of human encroachment into the homes of wildlife, compounding the human-wild animal conflict. Exposed, such animals also become easy prey for poachers or become road kill. As per Delhi-based NGO Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI), over 1,000 tigers have been killed in the country by poachers over the last two decades. Over 650 instances of road kill have been recorded in the last five years.
4. So, on the one hand, wildlife outside the protected areas is in great peril. On the other hand, farmers and locals in and around the forest-fringe areas are at a loss due to crop damage and the danger posed to human and livestock lives. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) estimates that between 2014 and 2017, one death took place every day due to human-animal conflict. It is observed that the wild herbivores damage between 15-50% of the standing crops in the field and may affect 50-75% of the total agricultural area. Hence, a balanced solution in the form of a ‘Special Management Plan’ (SMP) is a need of the hour, not only to protect wildlife outside protected areas and forests but also to safeguard human lives and livelihoods.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

i. In paragraph 1, what does the phrase 'wild herbivores roaming the grounds freely and feeding on the crops and natural palatable plants' emphasize? 1

ii. Complete the following with the correct option from the two given. 1

The gradual effect of human encroachment into the homes of wildlife has led to _____.

(a) Wild herbivores being confined within protected areas only.

(b) Wild herbivores migrating into agricultural fields in search of food.

iii. Support the writer's ideas that the expansion of human activities is affecting wildlife habitats. 2

iv. Select the option that best reflects the concept of 'human-wild animal conflict' in the context of the passage. 1

(a) Wildlife thriving in large protected areas with no human interference.

(b) Wildlife moving into agricultural fields and posing a danger to crops and human life.

v. State whether the following statement is True or False. 1

The Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI) reported over 1,000 tigers being killed by poachers in the last two decades.

vi. Do you think wild herbivores pose a significant threat to farmers? Justify in about 40 words. 2

vii. Do you think it is apt that the passage is titled 'Save Animal'? 1

(a) Yes, because it talks about the ways animals can be saved.

(b) No, because it does not talk about the ways animals can be saved.

(c) No, because it places emphasis on the problems humans face because of wild animals

(d) Yes, because it gives us a comprehensive outline of the human-wild animal conflict.

viii. What are the two perspectives that the passage gives us? 1

Q.2 Read the passage carefully: **10**

1. Private coaching is a multi-million rupee industry in India. But it is the symptom of a problem, not the problem itself. Coaching centres merely fill the gap caused by lack of quality teaching especially in government school, more so in small towns and villages. Only a sincere and sustained effort to improve education in such schools will alter the picture and prevent this huge drain on the resources of the families desperately seeking to give their children decent education.

2. Secondary level students topped the number of students taking private coaching with 31% males and 29% female students taking recourse to the method, a recent NSSO survey has shown. The report also showed that nearly 20% students attending pre-primary and above level (21% of males and 19% of females) were taking private coaching.

STUDENTS AT SECONDARY LEVEL TAKE PRIVATE COACHING THE MOST			
Rural + Urban (%) Level	Male	Female	All India
Pre-primary	12.4	10.8	11.6
Primary	16.5	16.2	16.4
Upper Primary Middle Level	23	20.6	21.9
Secondary	31.1	29.1	30.2
Higher Secondary	29.6	24.7	27.5
Diploma Certificate	7.2	7.7	07.3
Graduate & above level	13.8	13	13.5
All (pre-primary and above (level)	20.5	19	19.8

3. Private coaching is a thriving business across the country and according to a 2016 NSSO report more than 7.1 crore students were taking private coaching or tuition classes in addition to their basic education.

4. Experts attributed the trend of a larger share of students at the secondary level taking recourse to private coaching to the entrance exams for professional courses such as engineering and medicines.

5. Anil Swarup, former Secretary School education in the ministry of human resource development, explained the increase of students taking private coaching to the different competitive examinations and said this was a result of the dichotomy between learning and understanding.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

i. Complete the following analogy appropriately, based on your understanding of para 1 and 2.
We can say that the dichotomy between learning and understanding widely considered to be the main reason for the increase in the number of students taking private coaching is comparable with two banks of a river because _____. 1

ii. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of paragraph 2. 1
According to the author, private coaching is the symptom of a problem, not the problem itself is _____ (a/an fact/opinion) because it is _____ (a/an subjective judgement/objective detail)

iii. 'Private coaching is a thriving business across the country' according to a NSSO report issued in 2016. Justify the reasons for this trend in about 40 words. 2

iv. Based on the survey results, which two concerns clearly demonstrate the larger problem associated with the fact that private coaching has become a multi-million-rupee industry in India? 2

v. In the given table state any one inference that can be drawn from the fact that 11.6% of pre-primary and 16.4 % of primary students need private coaching too. 1

vi. Infer one benefit and one drawback of mushrooming of private coaching centres in India. Answer in about 40 words. 2

vii. Below are given the main takeaways from the NSSO report mentioned in the passage about the effect of private coaching on professional courses on secondary-level students. Which of these is NOT mentioned explicitly in the report? 1

(a) The lack of good teachers is most felt at the secondary level.
(b) There is a dichotomy between learning and understanding.
(c) They need coaching to qualify for engineering.
(d) 27.5% of the students depends on private coaching at this level.

SECTION B (GRAMMAR & CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS) (20 marks)

Q.3 Attempt ANY TEN out of the TWELVE of the following: 1×10=10

a) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter.

Respected Sir/ma'am

Subject-Seeking information about the course in visual communication.

I have just appeared for my class 10th examination and I am interested in _____ (pursue) a course in visual communication.

b) Select the correct option to complete the narration of the dialogue between Neetu and Geetu.

Neetu- I am really looking forward to the party tomorrow.

Geetu- Yes, we are going to have a lot of fun.

Neetu told Geetu that she was really looking forward to the party, the next day. Geetu agreed and said _____

i) They will be having a lot of fun ii) that they were going to have a lot of fun
iii) They will go to have fun iv) She will going to enjoy there

c) Identify the errors in the given report from the magazine and supply the correction.
Critical corridors that are part of phase 4 of the Delhi metro rail corporation DMR, were running behind schedule between 3 months and almost 3 years, pushing the combining cost of their construction up to over ₹ 12048.50 crore from initial estimates of around ₹10479.66 crore.

ERROR	CORRECTION

d) Report the following sentence correctly:
Mohini said, “Alas! I have lost my favourite dress.”

e) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line, from a news report.
The officials said that multimedia systems had been delayed due to the war in Ukraine, while the supply of network switches is running 2 years behind schedule.

OPTION	ERROR	CORRECTION
(i)	Had been	has
(ii)	Said	Say
(iii)	Is running	Was running
(iv)	Running	Ran

f) Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given line from a magazine:
Adani group, helmed by Asia’s richest man Gautam Adani, _____ lost close to ₹ 4 lacs crore in the trading sessions since Hinderburg published its findings.
(i) Has reported (ii) Have repeatedly (iii) Had reportedly (iv) Has reportedly

g) Identify the error in the given sentence, from a magazine report and supply the correction:
Due to drizzle in Delhi, the cold has increased.
Use the given format for your response.

ERROR	CORRECTION

h) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the slogan:
Let us guide _____home.
(i) Us (ii) Your mother (iii) You (iv) Your friend

i) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete an online update:
The oil ministry _____ the key recommendations of the Kirti Parikh Committee on domestic natural gas pricing and begun consultations with other ministers before it sends a proposal to the cabinet. (i) Have accepted (ii) had accept (iii) Will accepted (iv) has accepted

j) Report the dialogue between Vaibhav and Sarita by completing the sentence:
Vaibhav: I want to improve my command over the English language.
Sarita: For that you need to do a lot of reading in English.
Vaibhav said that _____ . Sarita replied to Vaibhav that for that he needed to a lot of reading in English.

k) Complete the given narrative, by filling in the blanks with the correct option:
Tomorrow is your birthday, _____ do you want to wish you first?
(i) Which (ii) Who (iii) Whose (iv) Whom

l) Identify the error on a shop’s hoarding and supply the correction for the following sales offer:
SHOP ON SELL

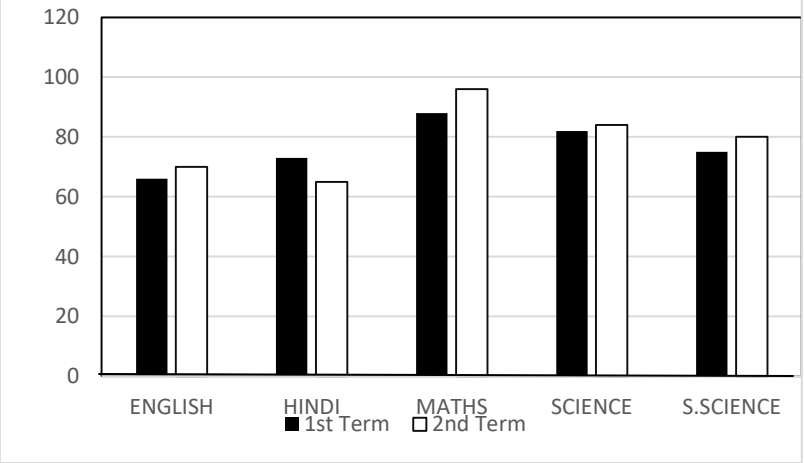
Q.4 Attempt ANY ONE of the following: **5**

A. When you think about your city you feel proud of its historical monuments, museums, Parliament House, Rashtrapati Bhavan, Metro, Delhi Haat, Shopping malls and beautiful parks. Write a letter, in about 120 words, to the editor of a national daily expressing your views on "Delhi the city of my dreams". You are Akshay/Akshita, living at 121, Lake View colony, Delhi.

B. You had bought an iPad from India Electronics, Guru gram. But it has developed a problem. Write a letter of complaints to the manager, in about 120 words, asking for repair or replacement of the same.

Q.5 Attempt ANY ONE of the following: **5**

A. You work as a teacher at a reputable city school. As analysis of how students performed in various subjects on the half yearly exam is displayed in the bar graph below. Write 120 words analytical essay about the differences in students' performances to be presented at the annual teachers' meeting.



B. There are two types of bottles available in the market: glass and plastic. Based on the information given below. Write an analytical paragraph, in about 120 words, assessing the pros and cons of using glass and plastic bottles.

GLASS BOTTLES PROS	**PLASTIC BOTTLES PROS**
Non-toxic, no chemicals	Easy to use, lightweight
Environmentally friendly	Unbreakable
Easy to clean and sanitize	Widely available
	Wide variety of options

SECTION: C (LITERATURE) (40 marks)

Q.6 Read the following extract and answer ANY ONE of the following: **5**

A.

The fog comes
On little cats feet,
It sits looking
Over harbour and city
On silent haunches
And then moves on.

a) How does the fog come? 1

b) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket. 1
The use of the word 'silent' adds to a sense of _____ (calm /chaos) in the poem.

c) Pick the poetic devices used in the line 'on little cat feet'. 1

(i) metaphor (ii) anaphora (iii) simile (iv)alliteration

d) How does the personification of the fog influence the reader's understanding? 1

e) For what does 'it' stand in the third line? 1

B.

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree
Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.

a) Choose the option that lists the possible feelings of the poet prior to the experience shared in the poem 1

1.reassured 2.disappointed 3.curious 4.demotivated 5.thankful 6.disheartened 7.impulsive

i) 1,3 & 7 ii) 2,4 & 6 iii) 5 & 7 iv) 1 & 3

b) Synecdoche is a poetic device that uses a parts to represent the whole. 1

E.g.That's a great set of wheels! (Set of wheels has been used for car). Pick an example of synecdoche from the poem.

i) Has given my heart / a change of mood ii)The way a crow / shook down on me

iii)The dust of snow / from a hemlock tree iv)And saved some part / of a day I had rued

c) Choose the option showing the reason **NOT** corresponding with ". . . . . … a crow/shook down on me/The dust of snow," 1

i)The crow's landing on the branch of the tree. ii)The shivering of the crow, due to the cold.

iii)The readjustment of position of the crow on the branch.

iv)The cawowing of the crow hidden in the foliage.

d) What does the presence of the hemlock tree signify in the poem? Justify your answer in about 40 words. 2

Q.7 Read the following extract and answer ANY ONE of the following: 5

A. Kisa Gotami became weary and hopeless, and sat down at the way side watching the lights of the city, as they flickered up and were extinguished again. At last the darkness of the night reigned everywhere. And she considered the fate of men that their lives flicker up and are extinguished again. And she thought to herself, 'How selfish am I in my grief! Death is common to all; yet in this valley of desolation there is a path that leads him to immortality who has surrendered all selfishness'.

a) Read the following description (i)-(iii) and identify which one correctly correspondences to the extract. 1

i) Kisa is seeking distraction from her sorrow.

ii) Kisa is reflecting on the transient nature of life and the inevitability of death.

iii) Kisa is plotting revenge against those who have caused her grief.

b) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket. 1

The use of word 'flicker' adds to a sense of ____ (transience/ permanence), in the extract.

c) What did Kisa Gotami learn in the end? 2

d) Kisa Gotami was selfish and grief-stricken. Justify. 1

B. When he saw those photos Ebright didn't shout, 'Eureka!' or even, 'I've got it!' But he believed that, along with his findings about insects harmones, the photo gave him the answer to one of biology's puzzles how the cell can 'read' the blueprint of its DNA. DNA is the substance in the Nucleus of a cell that control heredity. It determines the form and function of the cell. Thus, DNA is the blue-print for the life. Ebright and his college room-mate, James. R. Wong, worked all that night drawing pictures and constructing plastic models of molecules to show how it could happen. Together they later wrote the paper that explained the theory.

a) State an inference about Ebright that can be drawn from the given statement.
When he saw those photos, Ebright didn't shout, 'Eureka' or even, 'I've got it!' 1

b) 'Thus, DNA is the blueprint for life' is another way of saying that the DNA contains a genetic _____. i) Experiment ii) ultimatum iii) take away iv) information 1

c) What kind of atmosphere is created through these lines? Select the correct option 1

1. Jealously 2. Determination 3. Empathy 4. Sluggishness

i) 1 and 4 ii) only 2 iii) 1, 2 and 3 iv) 3 and 4

d) What kind of picture is painted by the line, 'Ebright and his college roommate worked all night drawing pictures and constructing plastic models of molecules'? 2

Q.8 Attempt ANY FOUR out of five in 40-50 words: 3×4=12

a) How does Natalya excite Lomov to the point of verbal fighting? (The Proposal)
b) How has the Coorgi tradition of courage and bravery been recognised in Modern India?
c) Interpret the use of vivid imagery in the poem 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon, to engage the reader's imagination?
d) Why did Prince Siddharth Gautam leave the palace and become a beggar?
e) What happened after the narrator flew straight into the storm? (The Black Aeroplane)

Q.9 Attempt ANY TWO out of three in 40 -50 words: 3×2=6

a) Do you think Horace Danby was unfairly punished or that he deserved what he got?
b) 'Griffin was rather a lawless person.' Comment.
c) What would have happened to Matilda if she had confessed to her friend that she had lost her necklace?

Q.10 Attempt ANY ONE of the following in 100-120 words: 6

1. Evaluate how Valli's character is shaped by a combination of her curiosity, the joy of discovering the unknown, and the reactions of the people she encounters during her bus journey?

2. After having read the lesson on the oppression that communities faced in South Africa, you were deeply hurt. You could also relate to the struggles and hardships of millions of Indians who fought against the oppressive British rule.
Write a dairy entry expressing your feelings about oppression faced by people in their homeland. You may begin like this:

12 Oct, 19XX, Monday 9 pm Dear Diary My heart is filled with sadness as I think of the oppressed and how they had to tolerate the inhuman attitude of the oppressors in their own land……..

Q.11 Attempt ANY ONE out of the two in 100-120 words: 6

1. Imagine yourself as Fowler. After knowing Ausable's true side and how, with his clever mind and alertness, he was able to save you and himself, you are filled with a sense of awe and inspiration. Write a diary entry, sharing your emotions and thoughts in about 100-120 words.

2. 'And in her smiling eyes was the light of deep satisfaction that an artist feels, when he is contemplating the completion of his masterpiece.' Imagine you are Bholi. You are overwhelmed with a sense of satisfaction to see the conversion of Bholi to 'Sulekha.' Express your feelings in the form of a diary entry.

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