Future Topper

Annual Examination Practice Paper 2

Class IX English

Time allowed: 3 hours Maximum marks: 80

Syllabus covered: the full Class IX English syllabus, Kaveri (NCERT) Units 1 to 8, with reading, grammar and writing skills.

General instructions

1. This paper has three sections: A (Reading, 20 marks), B (Grammar and Writing, 30 marks) and C (Literature, 30 marks). All questions are compulsory.
2. Internal choice is given in some questions. Attempt only one of the choices.
3. Keep to the word limits given for the writing and literature answers.

Section A: Reading

20 marks

1. **12**

Read the passage given below.

1. Every letter and parcel sent within India carries a small number that most of us write without a second thought: the six-digit PIN code. PIN stands for Postal Index Number. It was introduced on 15 August 1972, and the idea is credited to Shriram Bhikaji Velankar, a senior officer of the postal department.

2. Before the PIN code, sorting mail was slow and full of mistakes. Many towns and villages had the same or similar names, addresses were written in many languages, and sorters had to remember thousands of places. A letter meant for one Rampur could easily travel to another Rampur hundreds of kilometres away.

3. The PIN code solved this with a simple system. The first digit shows the postal region of the country; there are eight regions for ordinary mail, and the digit 9 is kept for the Army Postal Service. The second digit narrows it down to a sub-region, and the third to a sorting district. The last three digits point to the individual post office that will deliver the letter.

4. Because the code is made of numbers, a sorter does not need to read every language or know every village. Machines can read the numbers too, which has made sorting much faster. Online shopping companies and banks now use PIN codes to decide where they can deliver and to check addresses.

5. A wrong PIN code can still send a parcel on a long detour, so it is worth writing it carefully. The next time you write an address, remember that those six small digits carry a whole map of India inside them.

Answer the following questions based on the passage.

I. What problem did the PIN code mainly solve? (1)
(a) high cost of stamps (b) slow and confused sorting of mail
(c) shortage of post offices (d) lack of postmen

II. Why could a letter go to the wrong Rampur? (1)
(a) Many places had the same or similar names. (b) Postmen did not know the way.
(c) Letters were lost on trains. (d) Rampur had no post office.

III. Complete the sentence with a phrase from paragraph 1: The idea of the PIN code is credited to _____. (1)

IV. Complete the table using paragraph 3. (2)

Part of the PIN code	What it shows
First digit	(i) _____
Last three digits	(ii) _____

V. True or false? Support your answer from the passage: *The digit 9 is used for an ordinary postal region.* (1)

VI. Name one use of PIN codes today other than sorting letters. (1)

VII. How do numbers make sorting easier than names? Give two reasons. (2)

VIII. Explain the line "those six small digits carry a whole map of India inside them". (2)

IX. Find a word from paragraph 5 that means "a longer route taken to avoid something or by mistake". (1)

2. **8**

Read the passage given below.

1. At the start of the year, a school in Chandigarh asked its 180 Class IX students to choose one club to join. The clubs were new, and the teachers were curious to see which would be popular.

Club	Number of students
Music and Dance	52
Sports	46
Coding and Robotics	38
Reading and Debate	26
Heritage and Crafts	18

2. The Heritage and Crafts club had the fewest members, but by the end of the term it had organised a pottery workshop and an exhibition of hand fans that the whole school visited. Several students said they had never seen a potter's wheel before. Next year, the school plans to let each student join two clubs.

Answer the following questions based on the passage.

I. Which club was the most popular? (1)
(a) Sports (b) Music and Dance (c) Coding and Robotics (d) Reading and Debate

II. **Assertion (A):** The smallest club made a big impact on the school.
Reason (R): It had only 18 members. (1)
(a) Both A and R are true, and R explains A. (b) Both A and R are true, but R does not explain A.
(c) A is true, but R is false. (d) A is false, but R is true.

III. Complete the sentence: The Heritage and Crafts club organised a pottery workshop and _____ (1)

IV. Which statement is **not** supported by the table? (1)
(a) More students chose Sports than Coding and Robotics. (b) Every student joined a club.
(c) Reading and Debate had more members than Music and Dance. (d) 18 students chose Heritage and Crafts.

V. Using information from the passage, explain why the school might allow two clubs per student next year. (2)

VI. True or false? Give a reason: *All students had seen a potter's wheel before the workshop.* (1)

VII. What is the main idea of paragraph 2? (1)
(a) Small groups can achieve a lot. (b) Pottery is difficult.
(c) Exhibitions waste time. (d) Clubs should be cancelled.

Section B: Grammar and Writing

30 marks

3. Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct options. **4**

Dr Deepa Malik (i) _____ India's first woman Paralympic medallist. Before she became an athlete, she (ii) _____ a swimmer. Today she (iii) _____ young people to believe in themselves. She says that anyone (iv) _____ succeed with support and hard work.

(i) (a) is (b) are (c) were (d) be
(ii) (a) has been (b) had been (c) is (d) will be
(iii) (a) encourage (b) encourages (c) encouraging (d) encouraged to
(iv) (a) can (b) cans (c) could to (d) must to

4. Rearrange the words and phrases to form meaningful sentences. **3**
(i) a gift / on his own birthday / Grandpa / to everyone / gave
(ii) were made / pankhas / in different regions / from different materials
(iii) her father / the fusion group / to his surprise / enjoyed / the performance of

5. Change the following into reported speech. **3**
(i) Khetaram said, "Water is too precious to waste on washing."
(ii) Ravi asked Grandpa, "Shall we play chess?"
(iii) The mother said to Ming, "Count the cost before you plunge."

6. Write a notice in not more than 50 words. **4**
(A) You are Rhea/Raghav, secretary of the Literary Club of St. Paul's School, Dehradun. Write a notice about a letter-writing competition to mark World Post Day.

OR

(B) You are Sana/Samar, captain of the school sports team of Kendriya Public School, Patna. Write a notice inviting volunteers to help at an inclusive sports day for children with disabilities.

7. Write a letter in 120 to 150 words. **5**
(A) You are Anjali/Arjun of 9, Station Road, Varanasi. Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper on the need for more public libraries and reading rooms in your city.

OR

(B) You are Divya/Dev of 45, Model Town, Ludhiana. Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper about the importance of looking after elderly people who live alone.

8. Write an article for your school magazine in 120 to 150 words. **5**
(A) "Music Brings Us Together"

OR

(B) "Hard Work Has No Shortcut"

9. Write a story in 150 to 180 words. **6**
(A) Complete the story that begins: *Grandmother handed me an old, yellowed letter and said, "Read this. It changed my life." …*

OR

(B) Write a story that ends with the line: *"That was the day I learnt that a few kind words can mean more than a thousand."*

Section C: Literature

30 marks

10. Answer **any one** of the following. **5**
(A) *"I am touching the feet of a teacher, not my granddaughter …"*
(i) Who says this? (1)
(ii) Why was the listener "taken aback"? (1)
(iii) What gift did the speaker give the listener? (1)
(iv) What gift did the listener give in return, and why was it fitting? (1)
(v) The phrase "passed with flying colours" at the end of the story means (a) failed badly (b) succeeded very well (c) flew away (d) painted a flag (1)

OR

(B) *"Treating me like a baby!"*
(i) Who says this, and to whom? (1)
(ii) What had the listener just offered to do? (1)
(iii) Why had the speaker's daughter become so protective? Give one reason. (1)
(iv) What dilemma did the listener face? (1)
(v) What does the speaker's tone here show about him? (1)

11. Answer **any one** of the following. **5**

(A) *"...for one winner, there is a group of people who stood by him/her."*

(i) Name the chapter and its form (story, letter, play, etc.). (1)
(ii) What example does the writer use to make this point? (1)
(iii) According to the writer, what keeps a person going when stamina runs out? (1)
(iv) Name one historical event the writer mentions that changed people's destinies. (1)
(v) What does "put a wet blanket on your dreams" mean? (1)

OR

(B) *"Water is too precious to waste on washing ..."*

(i) Who says this? (1)
(ii) What does he find at his feet every evening? (1)
(iii) What protects him against the sandstorms? (1)
(iv) Why do families in his area depend so much on money orders? (1)
(v) What happened to the proposal to give his job to patwaris? (1)

12. Answer **any one** of the following. **5**

(A) Read the stanza and answer the questions.

I cannot remember my mother
only when from my bedroom window I send
my eyes into the blue of the distant sky,
I feel that the stillness of
my mother's gaze on my face
has spread all over the sky.

(i) Where does the speaker look in this stanza? (1)
(ii) What does he feel when he looks there? (1)
(iii) Which line is repeated at the start of each stanza? (1)
(iv) What does the image of the sky suggest about the mother's love? (1)
(v) Through which sense does the speaker feel his mother's presence in this stanza?
(a) smell (b) sight (c) hearing (d) touch (1)

OR

(B) *"The first step is the hardest / There is no turning back"*

(i) Name the poem. (1)
(ii) Why is the first step the hardest? (1)
(iii) What, according to the poem, is "not how we grow"? (1)
(iv) What does the poet say we need for our future to be on track? (1)
(v) Write one pair of rhyming words from these lines or the poem. (1)

13. Answer **any five** of the following in 40 to 50 words each. **10**

(i) What was the novel *Kashi Yatre* about, and why did the grandmother relate to it?
(ii) How did Sentila finally make as many pots as her mother?
(iii) Why were pankhas used in temples and royal courts in ancient times?
(iv) How did the boys encourage Shruti in Act I of *Twin Melodies*?
(v) Why does Dr Deepa Malik say sports can change attitudes towards disability?
(vi) What does the poem *Words* say about people who use many words but do little?
(vii) What does the speaker in *A Friend Found in Music* find in music?

14. Answer **any one** of the following in 120 to 150 words. **5**

(A) *Carrier of Words* calls Khetaram "the lone face of the state" in a remote desert. Describe his work and explain why people trust him so much.

OR

(B) In *Follow That Dream*, the mother neither tells her daughter to give up nor promises that the road will be easy. What advice does she give, and why is it sensible?

***** End of question paper *****

Solutions

Answers show what an examiner looks for. Accept any answer that is correct and expressed in the student's own words.

Section A

1. I. (b) II. (a) III. Shriram Bhikaji Velankar
IV. (i) the postal region of the country (ii) the individual post office that delivers the letter
V. False. "...there are eight regions for ordinary mail, and the digit 9 is kept for the Army Postal Service."
VI. Online shopping companies and banks use them to decide where they can deliver, or to check addresses.
VII. Sorters need not read every language or remember every village, and machines can read numbers, which makes sorting faster.
VIII. Each digit narrows the location step by step, from region to sub-region to district to post office, so the code works like a map that leads a letter to the exact place.
IX. detour

2. I. (b) II. (b): both are true, but having few members does not explain the impact; its activities do.
III. an exhibition of hand fans
IV. (c)
V. The smallest club did valuable work that the whole school enjoyed, and many students had missed experiences such as seeing a potter's wheel. With two clubs each, students could try more activities, and smaller clubs would get more members.
VI. False. Several students said they had never seen a potter's wheel before.
VII. (a)

Section B

3. (i) (a) is (ii) (b) had been (iii) (b) encourages (iv) (a) can

4. (i) Grandpa gave a gift to everyone on his own birthday.
(ii) Pankhas were made from different materials in different regions.
(iii) To his surprise, her father enjoyed the performance of the fusion group.

5. (i) Khetaram said that water was too precious to waste on washing.
(ii) Ravi asked Grandpa if they should play chess.
(iii) The mother told (advised) Ming to count the cost before she plunged.

6. **Format (1), content (3).**
Model answer (A):

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL, DEHRADUN
NOTICE

1 October

Letter-Writing Competition

To mark World Post Day, the Literary Club is holding a letter-writing competition on 9 October at 11 a.m. in Room 12. Students of Classes VIII to X may write a letter (150 to 200 words) to a family member. Paper will be provided. Register with the undersigned by 6 October.

Rhea
Secretary, Literary Club

7. **Format (1), content (4).**
Points for (A): few public libraries, mostly in the city centre; books are costly; students and senior citizens need quiet reading spaces; libraries build reading habits and give free access to newspapers and the internet; suggestions: neighbourhood reading rooms, mobile libraries, extended hours, book donations; appeal to the municipal corporation.
Points for (B): many elderly people live alone as children move away; risks of falls, missed medicines, loneliness (as in *Vitamin-M*); suggestions: neighbourhood check-ins, helplines, senior citizens' clubs, involving them in community life with respect, not treating them as helpless; appeal to readers and residents' associations.

8. **Points for (A):** music crosses age, language and region; school bands and fusion groups bring together different instruments and traditions (as in *Twin Melodies*); music relieves stress and builds friendship; conclusion.
Points for (B): real achievement takes years of effort (the mother in *Follow That Dream* says ten years); examples of athletes and artisans; shortcuts such as copying bring empty results; setbacks are part of growth; conclusion.

9. **Content (3)** and **expression (3)**. For (A), the letter's contents should be invented by the student and should clearly explain how it changed the grandmother's life. For (B), the story must build to the given last line naturally, for example a lonely or nervous person helped by a short, sincere remark.

Section C

10. **(A)** (i) The grandmother, Krishtakka (Avva). (ii) Elders never touch the feet of youngsters; it is the young who touch the feet of elders. (iii) Frock material. (iv) A copy of *Kashi Yatre*, which she could now read for herself. (v) (b)

(B) (i) Grandpa says it to Ravi. (ii) To go and buy the Tamil newspaper for him. (iii) He had taken a double dose of medicine, got lost once, and lain outside all night after a fall at home (any one). (iv) Grandpa would feel hurt if Ravi went with him, but his mother would be furious if he let Grandpa go alone. (v) He is proud and independent and resents being treated as helpless.

11. **(A)** (i) *Follow That Dream*; a letter. (ii) Winners at the Academy Awards always thank a host of people. (iii) The prospect of success. (iv) The Japanese invasion during World War II. (v) To discourage or dampen someone's hopes.

(B) (i) Khetaram. (ii) A small sand dune. (iii) His khaki turban and uniform. (iv) Farming gives too little, with famine common, so families survive partly on money sent by relatives. (v) It was summarily rejected; the villagers felt patwaris could not do the job.

12. **(A)** (i) Into the blue of the distant sky. (ii) That his mother's still, loving gaze has spread all over the sky. (iii) "I cannot remember my mother". (iv) It is vast, calm and always present around him, even though he cannot remember her. (v) (b) sight

(B) (i) *Believe in Yourself*. (ii) It means leaving comfort behind and facing fear and uncertainty. (iii) Staying in comfort to maintain the status quo. (iv) To believe in ourselves. (v) back/track (or see/be, fear/near, quo/grow).

13. Any five, about 40 to 50 words each:
(i) It was about an old woman who longed to go to Kashi but gave her savings for an orphan girl's wedding. The grandmother had never been to Kashi either, so she saw herself in the heroine and badly wanted to know what happened next.
(ii) When Arenla said she was unwell and left her to work alone, Sentila began reluctantly, then found her rhythm "like a sprinter". Using what she had learnt by watching, she made pot after pot, just one short of her mother's tally.
(iii) In temples they were used to fan the deities, and in royal courts to fan kings. Their designs and

fine materials, such as silk, brass and silver, made them signs of honour and beauty.
(iv) They read out the newspaper's praise of her, joked to lift her mood, and told her to speak to her father honestly, saying he would understand even if he scolded her a little.
(v) When people watch the strength, skill and competitive spirit of para-athletes, their preconceived ideas break down, and they see that persons with disabilities can be as capable as anyone else.
(vi) Words are like showy plants that blossom to the root but bear no fruit; many words often satisfy least when put to the test, while a few sincere words mean far more.
(vii) Music is an ocean that pulls him, a rhythm that moves him, therapy when he is sad, and a friend when no one else seems to care; it has been there in his happiest times too.

14. (**A**) Key points: Khetaram has served Somarad for about fifteen years; he walks long distances through soft sand near the border where vehicles cannot go; heat above 50 degrees, sandstorms, a mailbag of up to 28 kilos; deliveries within 24 hours of dispatch from Jodhpur; he is the only link between remote hamlets and the outside world; families depend on money orders he delivers; the villagers rejected the idea of replacing GDS with patwaris; trust comes from his reliability, honesty and years of service; he is "warmly received".

(**B**) Key points: follow your dream, but first test your passion and conviction; count the cost in years, money and sacrifice; world-class skill needs about ten years of focused effort; build and value a support network; be ready for an uphill road; circumstances may change dreams, and new dreams are just as worthy, like her own dream of publishing; the advice is sensible because it is honest and balanced, encouraging without false promises.