Future Topper

Annual Examination Practice Paper 1

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. Not very long ago, the grains on most Indian plates were rice and wheat. Yet for thousands of years before that, people across the country ate jowar, bajra, ragi and other small grains that we now group together as millets. In many villages they were the everyday food, made into rotis, porridge and snacks.

2. Millets are hardy plants. They grow in poor, dry soil and need far less water than rice. Many of them ripen quickly and can survive long spells without rain, which makes them a safe crop for farmers in areas where the monsoon is uncertain. Because they need few chemicals, they are also kinder to the soil.

3. Over the second half of the twentieth century, as rice and wheat became cheaper and easier to buy, millets slowly disappeared from city kitchens. Many people began to think of them as "poor people's food". Farmers, in turn, grew fewer of them because there were fewer buyers.

4. Today, millets are making a comeback. Doctors and nutritionists point out that they are rich in fibre and minerals, and that they release energy slowly, keeping a person full for longer. At India's suggestion, the United Nations declared 2023 the International Year of Millets, and many schools, hotels and food companies began to add millet dishes to their menus.

5. The challenge now is to make millets part of daily life again, not just a fashionable trend. Cooks are trying out new recipes, from ragi dosa to bajra pizza bases. Farmers need fair prices and buyers they can count on. If both ends of the chain work together, these old grains may once again become the everyday food they used to be.

Answer the following questions based on the passage.

I. Which word best describes millets as plants, according to paragraph 2? (1)
(a) delicate (b) hardy (c) costly (d) rare

II. Why did farmers grow fewer millets in the late twentieth century? (1)
(a) The soil became too poor. (b) There were fewer buyers.
(c) The government banned them. (d) They needed too much water.

III. Complete the sentence with a phrase from paragraph 3: Many people began to see millets as _____. (1)

IV. Complete the table with information from the passage. (2)

Benefit for farmers	Benefit for people who eat them
(i) _____	(ii) _____

V. True or false? Support your answer with a line from the passage: *Millets were first grown in India in the twentieth century.* (1)

VI. What did the United Nations do to promote millets? (1)

VII. Why does the writer say the challenge is to make millets "part of daily life again, not just a fashionable trend"? (2)

VIII. What must farmers and cooks each do for millets to return to Indian plates? (2)

IX. Find a word from paragraph 2 that means "not certain; that cannot be depended on". (1)

2. **8**

Read the passage given below.

1. Before the half-yearly exams, the student council of a school in Bhopal asked its Class IX students how many hours they usually slept on school nights. Doctors suggest that teenagers need about eight to ten hours of sleep. The council wanted to see how close its students came.

Hours of sleep on a school night	Number of students (out of 150)
Less than 6 hours	21
6 to 7 hours	54
7 to 8 hours	48
8 hours or more	27

2. Students who slept less said they stayed up late finishing homework or scrolling on their phones, and then had to wake early for the school bus. Several said they felt sleepy in the first two periods. The council has asked teachers to spread out homework deadlines and has started a poster campaign called "Screens Off by Ten".

Answer the following questions based on the passage.

I. What was the purpose of the survey? (1)
(a) to choose exam dates (b) to find out how long students slept on school nights
(c) to count how many students had phones (d) to plan the school bus routes

II. **Assertion (A):** Only a small group of students get the sleep doctors suggest.
Reason (R): Only 27 of the 150 students sleep eight hours or more. (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: Students who slept less blamed late homework and _____. (1)

IV. Which statement is **not** supported by the table? (1)
(a) The largest group sleeps 6 to 7 hours. (b) 21 students sleep less than 6 hours.
(c) Most students sleep 8 hours or more. (d) Exactly 150 students answered.

V. Using the table, explain why the council felt it needed to act. (2)

VI. True or false? Give a reason: *The council asked students to stop using phones completely.* (1)

VII. Choose a suitable title for the passage. (1)
(a) Our School Bus (b) Are We Sleeping Enough? (c) Exams Made Easy (d) A Day Without Phones

Section B: Grammar and Writing

30 marks

3. Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct options. **4**
Khetaram is (i) _____ only postman of the Somarad post office. He (ii) _____ letters across the desert for many years. Even when the sand is hot, he (iii) _____ not stop. The villagers say they (iv) _____ trust anyone else with their money orders.
(i) (a) a (b) an (c) the (d) no article
(ii) (a) carries (b) has been carrying (c) carry (d) is carried
(iii) (a) does (b) do (c) did (d) doing
(iv) (a) cannot (b) would not to (c) must not to (d) need

4. Rearrange the words and phrases to form meaningful sentences. **3**
(i) won / at the Rio Paralympics / a silver medal / Deepa Malik / in shot put
(ii) the nine runners / the finish line / holding hands / crossed
(iii) a letter / to her daughter / about following dreams / the mother / wrote

5. Change the following into reported speech. **3**
(i) Shruti said, "I will always take my art seriously."
(ii) Nabin asked Shruti, "Which concert is this?"
(iii) The coach said to the athletes, "Believe in yourselves."

6. Write a notice in not more than 50 words. **4**
(**A**) You are Tara/Tarun, cultural secretary of Shanti Vidya Niketan, Lucknow. Write a notice announcing an inter-house music competition that welcomes both classical and fusion entries.

OR

(**B**) You are Ishaan/Isha, head of the Eco Club of Modern School, Indore. Write a notice inviting students to join a cleanliness drive at a nearby park on a Sunday.

7. Write a letter in 120 to 150 words. **5**
(**A**) You are Meera/Manav of 7, Park Street, Kolkata. Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper about how many public places in your city are hard to use for persons with disabilities, and suggest changes.

OR

(**B**) You are Pooja/Pranav of 31, Gandhi Nagar, Nagpur. Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper about the problem of loud music played late at night, and its effect on students and the elderly.

8. Write an article for your school magazine in 120 to 150 words. **5**
(**A**) "Sport for All: Making Games Inclusive"

OR

(**B**) "Is the Handwritten Letter Still Worth Writing?"

9. Write a story in 150 to 180 words. **6**
(**A**) Complete the story that begins: *The race had barely begun when the smallest runner stumbled and fell …*

OR

(**B**) Write a story about a student who is afraid to tell a parent about a dream they want to follow, and what happens when they finally do.

Section C: Literature

30 marks

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

(A) *"I underestimated the power of our own music."*

(i) Who says this, and to whom? (1)

(ii) What had the speaker earlier called the group's music? (1)

(iii) Who helped the speaker change his mind, and how? (1)

(iv) What did the speaker offer the group after hearing them? (1)

(v) Choose the quality the speaker shows here: (a) stubbornness (b) humility (c) jealousy (d) fear (1)

OR

(B) *"Even a single delivery is tiring, as I have to cover 20 km for it."*

(i) Who is the speaker, and what is his job? (1)

(ii) Name the area where he works. (1)

(iii) What is the most his mailbag is allowed to weigh? (1)

(iv) Why is the temperature recorded as 49.9 degrees on very hot days? (1)

(v) What does the speaker do when the heat is too severe? (1)

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

(A) *"...disability is not a limitation; it's a unique strength waiting to be unleashed."*

(i) Who says this? (1)

(ii) In which event and at which Games did she win a silver medal? (1)

(iii) What was her biggest challenge after her illness, according to her? (1)

(iv) Name one way she works for inclusivity. (1)

(v) The word "unleashed" here means (a) tied up (b) released (c) hidden (d) lost (1)

OR

(B) *"By all means follow that dream."*

(i) Who writes these words, and to whom? (1)

(ii) According to the writer, how long must one pursue a field to reach world-class standard? (1)

(iii) What does the writer say separates greatness from the ordinary? (1)

(iv) Give one reason, from the letter, why some people's dreams remain dreams. (1)

(v) What dream has the writer herself been chasing? (1)

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

(A) Read the stanza and answer the questions.

A little said, and truly said,
Can deeper joy impart
Than hosts of words, which reach the head,
But never touch the heart.

(i) Name the poem and the poet. (1)
(ii) What kind of words, according to the poet, give deeper joy? (1)
(iii) What is the difference between words that "reach the head" and words that "touch the heart"? (1)
(iv) Write the rhyming pairs in the stanza. (1)
(v) Elsewhere the poet compares words to "summer birds". Why? (1)

OR

(B) *"One by one they all turned round and went back to help him."*
(i) Name the poem. (1)
(ii) Who are "they", and whom did they help? (1)
(iii) What had happened to him? (1)
(iv) How did the race end? (1)
(v) What quality do the runners show? (1)

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

(i) Why did the narrator's grandmother touch her feet on Saraswati Puja day?
(ii) Why did Arenla want Sentila to learn weaving instead of pot making?
(iii) How did Grandpa trick Ravi in *Vitamin-M*?
(iv) Why was Shruti afraid to tell her father about the fusion concert?
(v) Why are Gramin Dak Sewaks allowed to work only five hours a day?
(vi) What does the mother in *Follow That Dream* say about the support network behind every winner?
(vii) What message does the poem *Believe in Yourself* give about comfort and growth?

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

(A) Both *The World of Limitless Possibilities* and *Nine Gold Medals* challenge the way society sees persons with disabilities. Discuss.

OR

(B) *Twin Melodies* shows a clash between tradition and new ideas within a family. How is it resolved, and what does it teach us?

***** 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. (b) III. poor people's food
IV. (i) They grow in poor, dry soil with little water and survive long dry spells, so they are a safe crop (or: they need few chemicals and are kind to the soil). (ii) They are rich in fibre and minerals and keep a person full for longer.
V. False. "...for thousands of years before that, people across the country ate jowar, bajra, ragi ..."
VI. At India's suggestion, it declared 2023 the International Year of Millets.
VII. Fashions come and go. For millets to really return, people must eat them regularly at home, and farmers must be able to depend on steady demand, not a short burst of interest.
VIII. Cooks must create tasty new recipes that people enjoy, and farmers need fair prices and reliable buyers so that growing millets is worth their while.
IX. uncertain

2. I. (b) II. (a) III. scrolling on their phones
IV. (c)
V. Only 27 of the 150 students sleep eight hours or more. The other 123 sleep less than doctors suggest, and 21 sleep under six hours, so most students are short of sleep.
VI. False. It ran a campaign asking students to switch screens off by ten, not to stop using phones altogether.
VII. (b)

Section B

3. (i) (c) the (ii) (b) has been carrying (iii) (a) does (iv) (a) cannot

4. (i) Deepa Malik won a silver medal in shot put at the Rio Paralympics.
(ii) The nine runners crossed the finish line holding hands.
(iii) The mother wrote a letter to her daughter about following dreams.

5. (i) Shruti said that she would always take her art seriously.
(ii) Nabin asked Shruti which concert that was.
(iii) The coach told (advised) the athletes to believe in themselves.

6. **Format (1):** school name, NOTICE, date, heading, writer's name and designation. **Content (3):** event, date, time, venue, who can take part, how to register.

Model answer (A):

SHANTI VIDYA NIKETAN, LUCKNOW
NOTICE

2 December

Inter-House Music Competition

An inter-house music competition will be held on 15 December at 10 a.m. in the school auditorium. Each house may send one group of up to six students. Classical, folk and fusion pieces are all welcome; each piece must be under five minutes. Send names to the undersigned by 8 December.

Tara
Cultural Secretary

7. **Format (1)** and **content (4)** as in a formal letter to the editor.
Points for (A): few ramps and lifts, broken pavements, no tactile paths or signs in Braille, inaccessible buses and toilets; persons with disabilities are kept out of everyday life; suggestions: ramps and lifts in public buildings, low-floor buses, accessible toilets, audio signals at crossings, consulting disabled citizens; reference to inclusivity and the idea of "ability beyond disability"; appeal to the civic authorities.
Points for (B): loudspeakers at functions late into the night; students cannot study or sleep before exams; the elderly and the sick are disturbed; noise rules about time limits are often ignored; suggestions: enforcing time limits, lower volumes, police helpline, awareness among organisers; appeal.

8. **Points for (A):** sport builds confidence and health for everyone; examples of para-athletes such as Deepa Malik; barriers: lack of facilities, coaches and attitudes; suggestions: inclusive school sports days, adapted equipment, mixed teams, training for coaches; conclusion that sport should welcome every child.
Points for (B): quick messages are convenient, but handwritten letters are personal and lasting; they can be kept and reread, like the mother's letter in *Follow That Dream*; in remote areas, the post still carries money orders and letters, as *Carrier of Words* shows; writing letters improves expression; conclusion: worth writing on special occasions.

9. **Content (3)** and **expression (3)**. For (A), a strong answer develops the moment of the fall, the choice of the other runners, and the meaning of the ending (compare *Nine Gold Medals*) in the student's own words. For (B), it shows the fear, the conversation, the parent's reaction, and a believable resolution.

Section C

10. **(A)** (i) Nabin Sharma, Shruti's father, to Shruti (with Leela present). (ii) He had sneered at it as "phoo" music, noise that hardly needed practice. (iii) His wife Leela reminded him that he himself had gone against his family to play the violin, a Western instrument. (iv) The use of the school's music room for practice. (v) (b)
(B) (i) Khetaram; he is a Gramin Dak Sewak, the only postman of the Somarad branch post office. (ii) The Thar desert near Barmer, Rajasthan, close to the India-Pakistan border. (iii) 28 kilos. (iv) Because 50 degrees Celsius would mean a state holiday. (v) He postpones deliveries till after sundown.

11. **(A)** (i) Dr Deepa Malik. (ii) Shot put, at the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games. (iii) The way society saw her: people underestimated her abilities. (iv) She holds disability sports awareness sessions in schools and colleges, or gives equipment to para sportspersons, or empowers women through outdoor sports (any one). (v) (b)
(B) (i) The mother (Irene Chua) writes to her daughter, Ming. (ii) At least ten years. (iii) How much effort and sacrifice people invest to realise their dream. (iv) They never go beyond wishful thinking, or they trade the dream for security, or circumstances such as war or family needs change their lives (any one). (v) Publishing her book.

12. **(A)** (i) *Words* by Charles Swain. (ii) A few words said sincerely. (iii) Words that reach the head are understood but leave no feeling; words that touch the heart move and comfort us. (iv) said/head, impart/heart. (v) Like summer birds, words come and go quickly and leave "empty air"; they do not last or satisfy.
(B) (i) *Nine Gold Medals*. (ii) The eight other runners; they helped the smallest runner. (iii) He stumbled at the start and fell on the asphalt. (iv) All nine joined hands and walked to the finish line together, to a standing ovation. (v) Kindness, compassion and team spirit.

13. Any five, about 40 to 50 words each:
(i) She was honouring her teacher. Her granddaughter had taught her to read with great affection, so she could now read any novel and was independent. She said the scriptures teach that a teacher must be respected, whatever the teacher's age or gender.
(ii) Pot making was exhausting: the clay came from a riverbank sixteen kilometres away, pounding it was tedious, and a batch took months but earned only a few rupees. Weaving paid more, was cleaner, and could be done indoors in any season.
(iii) He said he was going to the corner shop, then spent the day at the park, tea stall and barber shop. At the barber shop he gave his yellow cap to a stranger, so Ravi followed the wrong man onto a bus while Grandpa went home.
(iv) Her father was very strict and believed only classical Hindustani music was worth playing. She feared he would think playing the violin to Western tunes was a desecration, and she did not want him to think she did not value his opinion.
(v) Being a GDS requires another means of livelihood. Short hours let them do other work, and the job, with the right to serve till 65, gives an assured income. This helps India Post keep a large workforce in remote areas.
(vi) She points out that when winners at the Academy Awards speak, they thank many people. Behind every winner there is a group who stood by them, so no dream is achieved alone.
(vii) Staying in our comfort zone is easy, but it is not how we grow. We must face the future, take the hard first step, and believe in ourselves to stay on track.

14. (**A**) Key points: Dr Malik turned paralysis into a "world of limitless possibilities"; she broke records and stereotypes; the biggest barrier was society's attitude; Paralympics change how people see disability; she works for inclusivity and dignity. In the poem, the runners at the Special Olympics show that winning together matters more than beating others; the nine gold medals and the standing ovation celebrate compassion. Both texts ask us to see ability, not limitation, and to treat everyone with respect and equal opportunity.

(**B**) Key points: Shruti loves both classical music and her fusion group; her father believes only classical music is worthy and forbids the concert; she has hidden her practice, which creates mistrust; her mother reminds Nabin that he too broke with his family's tradition by choosing the violin; Nabin hears the group, recognises the raga in their music, and offers support; Shruti promises to take her art seriously. Lessons: honest communication, respect for elders' values, openness to new ideas, and the fact that tradition and innovation can live together.