

CBSE Class 10 – English Language & Literature (184)

Practice Paper – Set 1 (Board Level)

Time: 3 Hours | Max Marks: 80

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (20 MARKS)

A1. Unseen Passage 1 (10 Marks)

Read the passage carefully.

Many students believe that studying for long hours guarantees good marks. However, research and experience show that the quality of study matters far more than quantity. Focused study for shorter periods, supported by good planning, helps the brain absorb and retain information. Breaks between study sessions reduce fatigue and improve concentration. Another powerful habit is active recall—testing yourself instead of repeatedly rereading notes. When students explain a concept in their own words, they learn it deeply. Good sleep, balanced food, and regular physical activity also play a key role in learning. In the end, smart study strategies build confidence and lead to stronger performance in exams.

Answer the following questions.

1. What do many students mistakenly believe? (1)
 2. According to the passage, what matters more than quantity of study? (1)
 3. Why are breaks useful during study? (1)
 4. What is “active recall”? (2)
 5. How does explaining a concept in your own words help? (2)
 6. Mention any **two** healthy habits that support learning. (2)
 7. Find a word from the passage that means “ability to keep attention on something”. (1)
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A2. Unseen Passage 2 (10 Marks)

Read the passage carefully.

In many parts of the world, plastic waste has become a serious environmental threat. Single-use plastics such as bags, straws, and packaging are used for a few minutes but remain in nature for hundreds of years. They block drains, harm animals, and pollute water bodies. Many sea animals mistake plastic for food, causing injury and death. One of the best solutions is reducing plastic at the source. People can carry cloth bags, use refillable bottles, and choose products with minimal packaging. Governments and companies are also

promoting alternatives and improving recycling systems. When individuals make small changes consistently, the collective impact becomes powerful.

Answer the following questions.

1. What makes single-use plastic dangerous? (1)
 2. Mention any **two** harmful effects of plastic waste. (2)
 3. What do sea animals often mistake plastic for? (1)
 4. What is the best solution suggested in the passage? (1)
 5. Give any **two** actions individuals can take to reduce plastic use. (2)
 6. How can small individual changes create a powerful impact? (2)
 7. Find a word from the passage that means “shared by a group”. (1)
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SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20 MARKS)

B1. Formal Letter (10 Marks)

You are **Ashish/Aditi**, a student of Class 10, The Thrive Public School, Kolkata. Write a letter to the **Principal** requesting **extra remedial classes in Mathematics** for board preparation. Mention the need, expected schedule, and benefits.

(Write in proper format: Sender’s address, date, receiver’s address, subject, salutation, body, closing.)

B2. Grammar (10 Marks)

(i) Fill in the blanks (1×4=4)

Choose the correct option.

1. By the time we reached the station, the train _____.
(a) left (b) has left (c) had left (d) leaves
2. She is good _____ mathematics and science.
(a) in (b) at (c) on (d) for
3. If I _____ more time, I would help you.
(a) have (b) had (c) will have (d) has
4. The teacher asked us _____ quietly.
(a) sit (b) sitting (c) to sit (d) sat

(ii) Editing (1×3=3)

Identify the error and write the correction.

1. He don't like to waste time.
2. The boys was playing in the ground.
3. She is more smarter than her sister.

(iii) Rearrangement (1×3=3)

Rearrange to form meaningful sentences.

1. a / discipline / success / to / is / key
 2. reading / habit / a / is / very / useful
 3. always / truth / speaks / a / person / honest
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SECTION C: LITERATURE (40 MARKS)

C1. Reference to Context (10 Marks)

Read the extract and answer.

“But I can get a hair-dye,” said Mrs Hall. “I’ll change the colour of my hair.”

1. Who is Mrs Hall and where is she? (2)
 2. Why does she talk about hair-dye in the context? (2)
 3. Which chapter is this extract from? (1)
 4. What does this reveal about Mrs Hall’s nature? (2)
 5. Write the meaning of the word “dye” as used here. (3)
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C2. Short Answer Questions (4×3=12 Marks)

Answer any **four** in about 30–40 words each.

1. What made Lencho write a letter to God? (A Letter to God)
 2. How did the snowfall change the poet’s mood? (Dust of Snow)
 3. Why did Hari Singh decide to return to Anil? (The Thief’s Story)
 4. What is the main idea of the poem “Fire and Ice”?
 5. Why did Valli find the bus journey so exciting? (Madam Rides the Bus)
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C3. Long Answer Questions (2×6=12 Marks)

Answer **any two** in 120–150 words each.

1. Describe Lencho's character and the lesson the story teaches about faith and reality. (A Letter to God)
 2. Explain how honesty and trust transform Hari Singh in "The Thief's Story".
 3. How does "Dust of Snow" show that small moments can create big changes in our life?
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C4. Long Answer (1×6=6 Marks) – Footprints Without Feet

Answer in 120–150 words.

Explain how Griffin's actions show both intelligence and misuse of power. (Footprints Without Feet)

□ ANSWER KEY / MARKING POINTS (Set 1)

Section A – Answers (Key points)

A1

1. Studying long hours guarantees good marks.
2. Quality of study.
3. Breaks reduce fatigue and improve concentration.
4. Active recall means testing yourself instead of rereading notes.
5. It helps deeper understanding and strong retention.
6. Any two: good sleep, balanced food, regular physical activity.
7. "concentration"

A2

1. Used briefly but remains for hundreds of years.
 2. Any two: blocks drains, harms animals, pollutes water bodies.
 3. Food.
 4. Reducing plastic at the source.
 5. Any two: cloth bags, refillable bottles, minimal packaging.
 6. Small changes collectively create a big impact.
 7. "collective"
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Section B – Answers (Key points)

B1 (Formal Letter – marking points)

- Proper format (addresses/date/subject/salutation/closing)
- Clear request + reason (board prep difficulty)
- Suggested schedule & benefit
- Polite tone + correct language

B2

(i) 1–(c) had left, 2–(b) at, 3–(b) had, 4–(c) to sit

(ii) 1. don't → doesn't

2. was → were

3. more smarter → smarter

(iii)

1. Discipline is a key to success.
 2. Reading is a very useful habit.
 3. An honest person always speaks truth.
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Section C – Answers (Key points)

C1

1. Mrs Hall is the landlady/innkeeper at the inn.
2. She suspects something strange and tries to justify/cover unusual appearance; context relates to Griffin/disguise.
3. “Footprints Without Feet” (chapter involving Griffin and the inn).
4. She is curious, practical, suspicious, and talkative.
5. Dye: a colouring substance used to change colour (hair colour). (*marks for meaning in context*)

C2 (Sample points)

(Provide brief, correct points matching NCERT; 3 marks each—content + relevance + expression)

C3/C4

(Use structured answers: intro + events + inference + message; 6 marks—content, organization, language)