

X STANDARD – ENGLISH

Common Quarterly Examination – 2025

Answer Key

PART – I

Vocabulary and Grammar — $14 \times 1 = 14$

Q.No.	Answer
1	c) gather
2	a) domestically
3	d) wealthy
4	b) willing
5	b) ignored
6	d) disturbing
7	a) burglars
8	d) –ful → handful
9	a) India Meteorological Department
10	c) come across
11	b) walking stick
12	d) from
13	b) is pouring
14	a) but also

Note on Q.8: The question says “prefix”, but -ful is actually a suffix. Hand + ful = handful. So d) –ful is the intended answer. The questions and options are reproduced from the uploaded paper.

PART – II

SECTION – I: Prose

Answer any three — $3 \times 2 = 6$

15. Why did the seagull's parents scold and threaten him?

The young seagull's parents scolded him because he was afraid to fly. They threatened to starve him if he did not make an attempt to fly.

16. Mention the special features of INSV Tarini.

INSV Tarini is a 55-foot sailing vessel, built indigenously in India. It promotes the use of renewable energy and collects meteorological, ocean and wave data and information on marine pollution.

17. Who were Aditya's ancestors?

Aditya's ancestors were the Zamindars of Bramhapur.

18. What did the narrator think when he heard the noise?

At first, the narrator thought that the noise might have been made by his father or his brother Roy. Then he suspected that it might be a burglar, and later thought it was a ghost.

The questions in this section are from the prose lessons represented in the paper.

SECTION – II: Poetry

Answer any three — $3 \times 2 = 6$

19. "Strong is she in her faith and beliefs."

a) What is she strong about?

She is strong in her faith and beliefs.

b) How does she deal with the adversities in life?

She faces adversities with persistence, courage and firm belief.

20. "So let the way wind up the hill or down..."

a) How is the way of life?

The way of life may have ups and downs and may be rough or smooth.

b) How should be the journey of life?

The journey of life should be joyful, whatever difficulties we face.

21. "There is a family nobody likes to meet..."

a) Where does the family live?

The family lives on Complaining Street, in the city of Never-Are-Satisfied.

b) Why is the street named 'Complaining Street'?

It is so named because the people living there are always dissatisfied and complaining about everything.

22. "At last by starvation and famine made bold..."

a) What made the cricket bold?

Starvation and famine made the cricket bold.

b) Why did the cricket drip and tremble?

It was wet and cold, and it was suffering from hunger during winter.

The poetry questions are reproduced in the uploaded paper.

SECTION – III: Grammar

Answer any three — $3 \times 2 = 6$

23. Change into the other voice.

Active: Rosy will solve the problem.

Passive: The problem will be solved by Rosy.

24. Change into indirect speech.

Direct: The doctor said to the patient, "Take two pills three times a day."

Indirect: The doctor advised the patient to take two pills three times a day.

25. Punctuate.

Mulan said, "You are too kind, Sire."

26. Change into a compound sentence.

If you buy two shirts, you will get one free.

Compound: Buy two shirts and you will get one free.

27. Rearrange the words.

a) Put on the new dress since today is your birthday.

b) If you apply for a loan, you will get it immediately.

The grammar questions are given in the uploaded paper at Q.23–27.

SECTION – IV: Compulsory

28. Guide the stranger to the Playground.

Possible answer:

Go straight from the place where you are. Reach the signal and turn right. Walk along the road past the Bus Stand. Continue straight and the Playground will be on your right.

Any clear set of directions correctly following the map may be accepted.

The question uses the route map printed on page 2 of the question paper.

PART – III

SECTION – I: Prose

Answer any two — $2 \times 5 = 10$

29. Describe the struggles undergone by the young seagull to overcome his fear of flying.

The young seagull was afraid to fly because he thought that his wings would not support him. His brothers and sister had already learnt to fly, but he remained alone on the ledge. His parents scolded him and threatened him, but he was still afraid. He spent nearly a day without food. He watched his parents feeding his brothers and sister, which increased his hunger. At last, his mother came towards him with a piece of fish. Maddened by hunger, he dived towards the fish. He fell outwards and downwards, but his wings instinctively spread open. He began to fly. Soon he learnt to skim over the sea and join his family. Thus, hunger, courage and instinct helped him overcome his fear.

30. Write in detail about the selection and training process which the TARINI crew underwent.

Thirty women applied for the expedition and six were selected, mainly on the basis of their survival skills. The crew was mentored by Commander Dilip Donde. Their training began with theoretical courses in navigation, communication and weather prediction. They also received practical training in repairing equipment and handling emergencies, including medical emergencies and rough weather. They underwent basic sail training at the Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre in Mumbai and at naval schools in Kochi. They also sailed on INSV Mhadei to Mauritius and Cape

Town. The crew was trained for nearly three years. This rigorous theoretical and practical training prepared them to handle the boat, manage resources and face the difficulties of a long ocean voyage.

31. "Man does change with time." What were the changes that came about in Aditya?

As a boy, Aditya was jealous of Sasanka Sanyal because Sanyal always performed better than him. He secretly took Sanyal's silver medal and never returned it. He even lied that he had lost it. After twenty-nine years, Aditya returned to his village as a mature and successful man. When he saw Sanyal, memories of his childhood wrongdoing returned. He became remorseful and decided to correct his mistake. He went to his ancestral house, searched the attic and found the medal. He even had it weighed by a jeweller. Finally, he met Sanyal and confessed his past mistake. He offered him money and returned the medal. Thus, Aditya changed from a jealous and dishonest boy into a mature, responsible and repentant man.

32. Narrate the extensive search operation made by the policemen in the house.

After the mother raised the alarm, the policemen arrived at the house. They broke open the front door and entered. They searched the downstairs rooms thoroughly, opening drawers and cupboards and looking behind furniture. They then proceeded upstairs in search of the supposed burglar or ghost. They searched the rooms and finally reached the grandfather's room. The grandfather, who had been sleeping, became angry when he saw the policemen. He mistook them for deserters from General Meade's army and attacked them with his fists. The policemen were confused and frightened. The whole incident became a comic and chaotic search, though there was actually no burglar or ghost in the house.

The four paragraph questions are listed in the paper as Q.29–32.

SECTION – II: Poetry

Answer any two — $2 \times 5 = 10$

33. Describe the journey of life as depicted in the poem by Henry Van Dyke.

Henry Van Dyke describes life as a journey that should be lived with courage, hope and happiness. The poet wants to move forward without hurrying or turning away from his goal. He does not want to mourn over the things lost in the past or fear what the future may bring. He wants to travel with a whole and happy heart from youth to old age. The path of life may go uphill or downhill and may be rough or smooth, but the journey should remain joyful. He wishes to seek new friendships, high adventures and a crown just as he did in his childhood. He hopes that the final turn of life's journey will be the best.

34. "Some cricket have four legs and some have two." Elucidate this statement from the poet's point of view.

Normally, a cricket has four legs. The poet humorously says that some crickets have two legs, referring to human beings who behave like the careless cricket. The cricket spends the pleasant months singing and enjoying itself without making any provision for winter. When winter comes, it has no food and suffers from hunger. Similarly, some people enjoy the present without planning for the future. They fail to save or prepare for difficult times. Thus, the poet uses the cricket as a metaphor for careless and thoughtless human beings. The statement teaches us to enjoy life but also to prepare wisely for the future.

35. Poetic appreciation

The weather is always too hot or cold;
Summer and winter alike they scold.
Nothing goes right with the folks you meet
Down on the gloomy Complaining Street.

a) Rhyming words:
cold – scold; meet – street

b) Rhyme scheme:
AABB

c) Figure of speech in the fourth line:
Personification – the street is described as "Complaining Street".

d) Alliterated words in the second line:
Summer – scold

The stanza and its four subquestions are given in Q.35 of the uploaded paper.

36. Paraphrase the stanza.

The poet warns people not to hurt a woman's pride and self-respect. A woman may be gentle and loving, but she can also be strong and fierce when someone disrespects her. She knows how to deal firmly with people who trouble or insult her. Therefore, people should treat women with love and respect and should never hurt their dignity.

SECTION – III: Supplementary Reader

37. Rearrange the sentences in coherent order.

The correct order is:

c → a → b → d → e

1. c) Dr. Somu was leaving for Alaska.
2. a) He wanted Dr. Krishnan to keep Zigzag with him.
3. b) The children Aravind and Maya supported their father.
4. d) Mrs. Krishnan had a horrified expression.
5. e) Dr. Krishnan pacified her by telling that Zigzag was a harmless and lovable bird.

This follows the sequence of events in Zigzag: Somu's departure → request to Krishnan → children's reaction → Mrs. Krishnan's reaction → Krishnan's explanation.

38. Read the passage and answer.

a) Why were the soldiers sick?

They were sick because a very bad fever had swept through the army.

b) What was the top job given to Mulan in the army?

She was made the General of the entire army.

c) Did the fever make Mulan also weak?

Yes. Mulan, too, became sick and weak.

d) What was the truth known by the doctor?

The doctor discovered that Mulan was a woman.

e) Why were the soldiers unhappy with Mulan?

They were unhappy because they discovered that their General was a woman and some of them believed that she had deceived them.

SECTION – IV: Writing

Answer any four — $4 \times 5 = 20$

39. Advertisement

MOBILE WORLD

SMARTPHONES – ACCESSORIES – RECHARGES

- Latest Smartphones
- Mobile Accessories
- All Network Recharges
- FREE SCRATCH GUARD ON EVERY MOBILE PURCHASE

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Salem.

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40. Complaint Letter

From
A Resident,
[Locality],
[City].

To
The Officer,
Public Works Department,
[City].

Sir/Madam,

Subject: Complaint regarding the poor maintenance of the Children's Park

I wish to bring to your notice the poor condition of the Children's Park in our locality. The park is not maintained properly. Garbage is scattered everywhere and the playground equipment is dirty and damaged. The surroundings have become unhygienic and unsafe for children.

I request you to take immediate steps to clean the park, remove the waste and repair the damaged facilities. Regular maintenance may also be arranged to keep the park clean and safe.

I hope you will take immediate action.

Yours faithfully,
A Resident

41. Notice

PARK CIRCUS RESIDENTS WELFARE ASSOCIATION
NOTICE

MEDITATION PROGRAMME

A meditation programme under the guidance of Dr. P. Ranjit will be conducted exclusively for the residents of Park Circus.

Date: Second Saturday of the following month

Time: 7.00 a.m. – 9.00 a.m.

Venue: Children's Park

The programme aims to help participants understand the self better.

Secretary

Park Circus Residents Welfare Association

42. Picture Paragraph

The picture shows buildings that have been severely damaged, probably due to an earthquake. Several buildings appear tilted or collapsed. The streets are filled with rubble and debris. Such disasters can cause great loss of life and property. People should be trained to follow safety measures during earthquakes and other natural disasters. We must also help affected people during such emergencies.

43. Notes / Summary

GAGANYAAN

1. Aim

- India's human spaceflight programme
- Send Indian astronauts – Vyomanauts – into space
- Achieve human spaceflight capability

2. Spacecraft & Launch

- Crew module for three astronauts
- Low Earth orbit
- GSLV Mk III launch vehicle
- Indigenous space technology

3. Objectives

- Demonstrate human spaceflight
- Conduct microgravity experiments
- Promote international cooperation

4. Astronaut Training

- Physical preparation
- Psychological preparation

- Technical training
- Space-travel readiness

5. Importance

- Promotes scientific research and technology
- Inspires young Indians towards STEM
- Enhances India's technological capability
- Supports future lunar and interplanetary missions

Summary:

Gaganyaan is India's ambitious human spaceflight programme to send Indian astronauts into low Earth orbit. It uses an indigenous crew module and GSLV Mk III launch vehicle. The mission aims to demonstrate human spaceflight, conduct experiments and promote international cooperation. Astronauts undergo rigorous physical, psychological and technical training. The programme will strengthen India's scientific and technological capabilities and inspire young people to pursue STEM careers. It also supports India's long-term ambitions in lunar, interplanetary and satellite exploration.

44. Identify and correct the errors

Given sentence	Correct sentence
a) Neither the doctor nor the nurse are available.	Neither the doctor nor the nurse is available.
b) His son-in-laws have come home.	His sons-in-law have come home.
c) A American lives near my house.	An American lives near my house.
d) My uncle is richest man in the village.	My uncle is the richest man in the village.
e) This is one of the cars which were stolen by the gang.	No correction needed.

Important: Q.44(e) is grammatically acceptable as written. "Which were stolen" refers to the plural noun cars. Hence it should not be unnecessarily changed to "which was stolen." The question paper nevertheless presents all five sentences under "Identify and correct the errors."

SECTION – V: Memoriter

45. Quote from memory

The required passage is:

In the dim past, nor holding back in fear
From what the future veils; but with a whole
And happy heart, that pays its toll
To Youth and Age, and travels on with cheer.
So let the way wind up the hill or down.

The lines belong to Henry Van Dyke's poem "Life."

PART – IV: Supplementary

46. Paragraph – Develop the hints

(a) The Tempest

Prospero was the Duke of Milan. His brother Antonio, with the help of the King of Naples, had usurped his dukedom and forced him and his daughter Miranda to leave Milan. Prospero and Miranda lived on an island, where Prospero used his magical powers to control the spirits. One day, Prospero created a storm and caused the ship carrying his enemies to be wrecked near the island. He wanted Miranda to marry Ferdinand, the son of the King of Naples. Prospero treated Ferdinand severely at first and tested him. Later, he brought his enemies before him. Antonio and the King of Naples realised their mistake. Antonio expressed true repentance and begged Prospero's forgiveness. Prospero forgave them and agreed to restore his dukedom. He also revealed Ferdinand to the delighted King of Naples. Thus, forgiveness and reconciliation brought the story to a happy ending.

OR

(b) The Aged Mother

The country of Shining was ruled by a cruel and despotic governor. He was afraid of anything that suggested failing health and strength. Therefore, he ordered that all aged people should be put to death. A poor farmer loved his aged mother dearly, but he had to obey the cruel order. With great sorrow, he carried his mother towards the summit of Obatsuyama, the mountain where old people were abandoned. During the journey, the mother secretly dropped twigs along the path so that her son could find his way back safely. When they reached the mountain, the son could not bear to leave her. He brought her back home and hid her. Later, the governor demanded that his subjects make a rope of ashes. The aged mother cleverly explained how it could be done. The governor was amazed by her wisdom. The farmer revealed the truth about his mother. The governor realised his mistake and abolished the cruel law against the aged.

PART – V: General Comprehension

47 (a) Nature Passage

a) What is the prime responsibility of man?

The prime responsibility of man is to preserve and protect Nature.

b) Whom does the earth belong to?

The earth belongs to our children.

c) When does man lose attachment with Nature?

Man loses his attachment with Nature when he becomes excessively involved in development and material progress and destroys forests and pollutes the environment.

d) What is the manifestation of man's greed?

The calamities, misfortunes, problems and destruction of people, animals and the environment are manifestations of man's greed.

OR

47 (b) Poem

1. What is the face of the moon compared to?

The face of the moon is compared to a clock in the hall.

2. Which creatures love to come out in the darkness?

The squalling cat, squeaking mouse, howling dog and the bat love to be out in the moonlight.

3. Where do the birds sleep?

The birds sleep in the forks of the trees.

4. On whom does the moon shine in the garden?

The moon shines on the thieves on the garden wall.