

Model Question Paper 1
Half-Yearly Examination 2026-27
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. This paper is divided into three sections: A (Reading), B (Writing and Grammar) and C (Literature).
2. All sections are compulsory.
3. Read the questions carefully before answering them.
4. Write neat, well-organised answers.

SECTION A: READING (20 Marks)

Passage 1 (Discursive/Unseen) — 10 Marks

Most teenagers can tell you the price of the latest phone or a pair of sneakers down to the last rupee, yet very few can explain the difference between a savings account and a fixed deposit, or why a loan taken today has to be repaid with interest tomorrow. This gap in everyday financial understanding, often called financial literacy, is something schools have traditionally paid little attention to — and it is beginning to cost young people dearly once they step into adult life.

Consider Ananya, a bright college student who, within her first year of getting a credit card, found herself struggling with a bill she could not pay off. No one had explained to her that spending beyond her means today meant paying considerably more later because of interest charges. Her story is far from unusual. Financial institutions report that a large proportion of first-time credit card users and young borrowers fall into debt not because they are careless people, but simply because no one ever taught them how money, interest and credit actually work.

Learning financial literacy early has very practical benefits. A teenager who understands the idea of budgeting learns to separate 'needs' from 'wants' and plan spending accordingly. One who understands how compound interest works will appreciate why starting to save even a small amount early is far more rewarding than saving a larger amount later in life. Someone who understands the risks of borrowing will think twice before taking on debt merely to keep up with friends' spending habits.

Fortunately, building financial literacy does not require complicated lessons. Simple, real-life practices work well: maintaining a monthly budget notebook, tracking pocket money, comparing prices before making purchases, and discussing family financial decisions openly at home. Some schools have begun introducing basic financial concepts into mathematics or life-skills classes, using relatable examples like planning a school trip budget or comparing mobile data plans, rather than abstract banking jargon.

As digital payments, online shopping and 'buy now, pay later' schemes become part of everyday life even for school students, the ability to make sound financial decisions is no longer a skill reserved for adults managing salaries — it is a life skill every teenager needs, just as much as reading and arithmetic.

1. According to the passage, what is 'financial literacy'? [1]
 - (a) The ability to earn a high income
 - (b) The understanding of everyday money matters such as saving, interest and credit
 - (c) The ability to use a smartphone for online shopping
 - (d) A subject taught only in college
2. Ananya's difficulty with her credit card bill arose mainly because: [1]
 - (a) She lost her card
 - (b) She did not understand how interest on unpaid credit card dues works
 - (c) She refused to pay her bills on purpose
 - (d) Her college did not allow part-time jobs

3. According to the passage, most young borrowers fall into debt because: [1]
- (a) They are careless by nature
 - (b) No one ever taught them how money, interest and credit actually work
 - (c) Banks trick them deliberately
 - (d) They earn too little money
4. The word 'compound' in the phrase 'compound interest' (paragraph 3) is closest in meaning to: [1]
- (a) Simple and single
 - (b) Accumulating or building up on itself over time
 - (c) Reduced or lessened
 - (d) Cancelled
5. According to the passage, why does starting to save even a small amount early work out better than saving a larger amount later? [2]
6. In your own words, explain why the writer feels financial literacy is 'no longer a skill reserved for adults' (last paragraph). [2]
7. Find a word from paragraph 4 that means the same as 'connected to daily life, practical' (referring to the kind of examples schools could use). [2]

Passage 2 (Case-based/Factual) — 10 Marks

Greenfield Public School began a 'Cycle to School' initiative three years ago to reduce traffic congestion outside its gates and encourage healthier habits among students living within a 3-kilometre radius. The school set up a supervised, covered cycle stand, ran short road-safety workshops for cyclists, and rewarded regular cyclists with a small badge at the end of each term.

A survey conducted by the school's Eco Club recorded the percentage of eligible students cycling to school over the three years of the programme:

Year	Students Cycling to School
Year 1 (programme launch)	12%
Year 2	27%
Year 3 (this year)	41%

Teachers reported a noticeable drop in the number of cars dropping students off during peak morning hours, and the school nurse noted fewer requests for the sick room from students who now cycle regularly. However, a small number of parents raised concerns about cycling on the increasingly busy main road leading to the school, and the Eco Club has now proposed painting a dedicated cycling lane in cooperation with the local municipal office.

8. Why did Greenfield Public School start the 'Cycle to School' initiative? [1]
- (a) To reduce traffic congestion and encourage healthier habits
 - (b) To reduce school fees
 - (c) To increase the number of school buses
 - (d) To close the cycle stand
9. Which of these was NOT mentioned as part of the initiative? [1]
- (a) A supervised, covered cycle stand
 - (b) Road-safety workshops
 - (c) A cash prize of Rs 5000 for cyclists
 - (d) End-of-term badges for regular cyclists

10. By how many percentage points did cycling to school increase from Year 1 to Year 3? [1]
(a) 15
(b) 29
(c) 41
(d) 12
11. What can be inferred about the rate of increase in cycling between the three years? [1]
(a) It increased by the same amount each year
(b) It slowed down over the years
(c) It increased by a larger number of percentage points in Year 2-3 (14 points) than Year 1-2 (15 points), i.e. remained roughly steady
(d) It decreased in Year 3
12. State two positive effects of the initiative noticed by the school, other than the rise in cycling numbers. [2]
13. Explain the concern raised by some parents, and the step proposed by the Eco Club to address it. [2]
14. Based on the passage, suggest one more measure the school could take to further encourage safe cycling. [2]

SECTION B: WRITING AND GRAMMAR (20 Marks)

Grammar (10 Marks)

Q15-Q18: Fill in each blank with the most appropriate option from those given.

15. Ravi ____ (must/might/need) submit his project by Friday; it is compulsory for all students. [1]
16. By the time the guests arrived, she ____ (had already finished/finishes/will finish) cooking dinner. [1]
17. You ____ (should/can/must) apologise if you have hurt someone's feelings — it is simply good manners. [1]
18. There is ____ (a/an/the) unusually large crowd outside ____ (a/an/the) stadium tonight. [1]

Q19-Q21: The following passage has one error in each numbered line. Write the incorrect word and the correction, as shown.

19. Every students in the class must complete the assignment by Monday. [1]
20. She have been practising the violin since she was six years old. [1]
21. He is one of the most tallest boys in our class. [1]

Q22-Q24: Rearrange the given words/phrases into meaningful sentences.

22. the / plants / children / watered / every morning [1]
23. should / before / medicines / always / a doctor / consulting / be taken [1]
24. had / left / the train / already / by the time / reached / we / the station [1]

Writing (10 Marks)

25. You are Aakash/Aakriti, residing at 24, Lake View Colony, Kochi. You have noticed that loudspeakers from a nearby marriage hall are used late into the night almost every week, disturbing students preparing for examinations and elderly residents. Write a letter to the Editor of a local newspaper, in about 100-120 words, drawing attention to this problem and suggesting what could be done about it. [5]
26. Study the following data on the average daily screen time (in hours) of students of a school, collected over four years, and write an analytical paragraph in 100-120 words: Year 1 - 2.5 hours; Year 2 - 3.2 hours; Year 3 -

4.0 hours; Year 4 - 4.6 hours. Your paragraph should describe the trend shown by the data, suggest a possible reason for it, and mention one likely consequence. [5]

SECTION C: LITERATURE (40 Marks)

Reference to Context (10 Marks)

Q27-29. First Flight — 'A Letter to God' [5 Marks]

Lencho, a farmer whose entire crop has just been destroyed by a sudden hailstorm, sits down that same night and writes a letter addressed directly to God, calmly and confidently asking for a hundred pesos so that he can sow his field again before the next season, fully convinced that his request will not go unanswered.

27. What had just destroyed Lencho's entire crop? [1]

- (a) A drought
- (b) A hailstorm
- (c) A fire
- (d) Locusts

28. What does Lencho's decision to write directly to God, and his confidence that his request will be granted, reveal about his character? [2]

29. Why did Lencho need exactly a hundred pesos, according to the situation described? [2]

Q30-32. First Flight — 'Fire and Ice' (poem) [5 Marks]

In this short poem, the poet reflects on two opposing forces — 'fire', linked to desire, and 'ice', linked to hatred — and considers which of the two, if the world were to end, would be responsible for its destruction, suggesting that both are equally capable of bringing about ruin.

30. In the poem, 'fire' is used as a symbol for: [1]

- (a) Desire
- (b) Hatred
- (c) Coldness
- (d) Peace

31. What does 'ice' symbolise in the poem, and how, according to the poet, could it also destroy the world? [2]

32. What central idea about human emotions does the poet convey through the comparison of fire and ice? [2]

Short Answer Type Questions (18 Marks)

First Flight [12 Marks]

Q33-Q36: Answer each of the following in 30-40 words. (3 marks each)

33. Why did Lencho's letter surprise the postmaster, and what did the postmaster decide to do about it? [3]

34. Explain the significance of the title 'Long Walk to Freedom' in the context of Nelson Mandela's life and message. [3]

35. What does Nelson Mandela mean when he says that the oppressor must also be liberated? [3]

36. Describe briefly the situation that made Anne Frank decide to keep a diary, and what she named her diary. [3]

Footprints without Feet [6 Marks]

Q37-Q38: Answer each of the following in 30-40 words. (3 marks each)

37. In 'The Thief's Story', why did Hari Singh ultimately decide not to run away with Anil's money? [3]

38. What made the surgery performed on Sir Roger de Coverley's ancestor in 'A Triumph of Surgery' unusual and humorous? [3]

Long Answer Type Questions (12 Marks)

Q39. First Flight [6 Marks]

Describe, in about 100-120 words, the qualities of Lencho's character as shown in 'A Letter to God', supporting your answer with details from the story.

OR

Describe, in about 100-120 words, the difficulties and dangers Anne Frank's family faced while living in hiding, based on 'From the Diary of Anne Frank'.

Q40. Footprints without Feet [6 Marks]

In about 100-120 words, describe how Horace Danby's carefully planned burglary in 'A Question of Trust' goes wrong, and what this reveals about his character.

OR

In about 100-120 words, describe how Ausable outwits Max in 'The Midnight Visitor', and what this reveals about his character.

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