

CBSE
Class IX English
Language and Literature

Maximum Marks: 70

Time: 3 hours

The question paper is divided into the following sections:

Section A:	Reading	20 marks
Section B:	Writing & Grammar	25 marks
Section C:	Literature	25 marks

SECTION A
READING

Q1. Read the following passage carefully:

The first two years of life are a critical 'window of opportunity'. In this period, it is possible to prevent the largely irreversible damage that follows early childhood under-nutrition. There are 805 million undernourished people in the world today. That means one in nine people do not get enough food to be healthy and lead an active life.

Hunger and malnutrition are in fact the number one risk to health worldwide—greater than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined. Three-quarters of all hungry people live in rural areas, mainly in the villages of Asia and Africa. An estimated 146 million children in developing countries are underweight—the result of acute or chronic hunger. Poverty trap, lack of investment in agriculture, natural calamities, war and displacement, unstable markets and food wastage are the major causes of for the presence of hunger in the world. Hunger leads to malnutrition which in turn causes diseases. Malnutrition is the largest single contributor to disease in the world, according to the UN's Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN).

Malnutrition at an early age leads to reduced physical and mental development during childhood. According to the World Bank, India is one of the highest ranking countries in the world for the number of children suffering from malnutrition. One of the major causes for malnutrition in India is gender inequality. Due to the low social status of Indian women, their diet often lacks in both quality and quantity. Women who suffer malnutrition are less likely to have healthy babies. In India, mothers generally lack proper knowledge in feeding children. Consequently, new born infants are unable to get adequate amount of nutrition from their mothers.

Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Bihar have very high rates of under-nutrition. Studies show that individuals belonging to Hindu, Jain or Muslim backgrounds in India tend to be more malnourished than those from Sikh or Christian backgrounds. The Akshaya Patra Foundation runs the world's largest NGO-run midday meal programme serving freshly cooked meals to over 1.3 million schoolchildren in government and government-aided schools in India. However, the challenge for all these programs and schemes is how to increase efficiency, impact and coverage.

I. On the basis of your reading of the above passage, answer the following questions:

- 1) What are the causes of the presence of hunger in the world?
- 2) How does hunger lead to malnutrition?
- 3) How does gender inequality lead to malnutrition in India?
- 4) What role does the Akshaya Patra foundation play?
- 5) Where are the majority of the hungry people inhabited?
- 6) Which religious communities in India tend to be less malnourished?
- 7) Find words from the passage that mean
 - a) prospect: _____
 - b) ample: _____
 - c) be deficient in: _____

Q2. Read the following passage carefully:

It is important that you recognise the signs of stress in your behaviour, and be healthy enough to enjoy your success. Stress can strike anytime, in a fashion that may leave you unaware of its presence in your life. While a certain amount of pressure is necessary for performance, it is important to be able to recognise your individual threshold. For instance, there are some individuals who accept competition in a healthy fashion. There are others who collapse into weeping wrecks before an exam, or on comparing marksheets and finding that their mates have scored better.

Whenever there is a change in the external environment such as temperature, pollutants, humidity and working conditions, it leads to stress. In these days of competition when a person makes up his mind to surpass what has been achieved by others, leading to an imbalance between demands and resources, it causes psycho-social stress. It is a part and parcel of everyday life.

Stress has a different meaning depending on the stage of life you're in. The loss of a toy or a reprimand from the parents might create a stress shock in a child. An adolescent who fails an examination may feel as if everything has been lost and life has no further meaning. In an adult, the loss of his or her companion, job or professional failure may appear as if there is nothing more to be achieved.

Stress can be seen in the attitude and behaviour of the individual, as muscle tension in various parts of the body, palpitation and high blood pressure, indigestion and hyperacidity and ultimately in self-destructive behaviour such as eating and drinking too much, smoking excessively, relying on tranquillisers, trembling, shaking, nervous blinking, dryness of throat and mouth and difficulty in swallowing. The professional under stress behaves as if he is a perfectionist followed by depression, lethargy, weakness for further work. Periodic mood shifts also indicate the stress status of students, executives and professionals.

Many illnesses actually originate from stress but are perceived as outcomes of unhealthy eating habits. Reports have indicated that young adults in their late 20s and early 30s are suffering from diabetes and gastrointestinal problems. Once an outcome of high cholesterol levels, heart disease too is caused because of a stressed lifestyle. Stress also triggers headaches, which if left untreated can lead to migraines as well.

Answer the following questions:

[12]

1. How do different people handle stress?
2. What causes psycho-social stress?
3. How is stress different at different age levels?
4. How does the body show that it is stressed?
5. Are illnesses associated with stress?
6. Find words from the passage that mean:
 - a) contaminant
 - b) sedative

SECTION B
(WRITING & GRAMMAR – 25 MARKS)

Q3. Write an article of about 100–200 words on the problem of space in your city. Give a suitable title to your article. [5]

Q4. Write a short story in about 150–200 words beginning with the following: [10]

Ravi slammed the door behind him and threw his satchel on the sofa...

Q5. Complete the passage by choosing the correct option from those given in brackets: [3]

The papers were neatly filed (a) _____ Maria, arranged alphabetically for Mr Henderson's convenience. Every morning he would sit with this file; marking names of companies or individuals (b) _____ would benefit from the Henderson Charity Fund. The charity was (c) _____ by his late daughter Martha, (d) _____ the money she won in (e) _____ international chess championship. Martha died in a freak accident. Her dying wish was to use all her prize money (f) _____ the needy, and that is what her father did.

(a) i. with ii. for iii. by iv. on

(b) i. which ii. that iii. while iv. who

(c) i. founded ii. find iii. found iv. finds

(d) i. by ii. from iii. for iv. with

(e) i. an ii. some iii. a iv. the

(f) i. to ii. for iii. with iv. at

Q6. In the passage given below, one word has been omitted in each line. Write the most appropriate missing word along with the word that comes before and the one which comes after against the correct blank number in your answer sheet. [4]

- | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|
| a) Milk is a perfect food. It should form essential | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| b) part of daily diet. Doctors advise never to | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| c) miss daily glass of milk. It is good for the people | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| d) of ages but it is especially needed for growing | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| e) children because of nourishing value. Milk | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| f) contains all necessary minerals and | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| g) vitamins for strong and healthy body. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| h) So drink glass of milk every day. | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Q7. Rearrange the following words and phrases to make meaningful sentences. The first one has been done as an example. [3]

E.g. feared by / snakes are / in our / worshipped / and / many / country

Ans. Snakes are worshipped and feared by many in our country.

1. Conserving nature / Indian societies / its own set / of traditional / with several / methods of / follows / cultures
2. Closed seasons / many communities / follow traditional practices / of forest dwellers / of maintaining / and fisher people
3. As no hunting / the wildlife population / its numbers / or fishing / during this time / can recoup / is allowed

SECTION C
(LITERATURE – 25 MARKS)

Q8. Read the given extract and answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option. [3]

And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow,
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;
There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,
And evening full of the linnet's wings.

1. Where does the poet feel he will find peace?

- i. In the bean rows
- ii. In the midnight glimmer
- iii. On the roadway
- iv. In Innisfree

2. The dominant figure of speech in the given lines is

i) simile ii) repetition iii) personification iv) metaphor

3. A word in the lines that means 'cloak' is

- i. linnet
- ii. glow
- iii. veils
- iv. glimmer

Q9. Answer any FOUR of the following questions in about 30–40 words each. [8]

- 1. How did Tommy describe the old kind of school?
- 2. How did the *shehnai* get its name?
- 3. What does the poet like to do when it rains?
- 4. Why does the world remember Einstein as a world citizen?
- 5. What did Saint Peter ask the old lady for? What was the lady's reaction?

Q10. How did Kezia's father behave in general at home?

[4]

Q11. How can one say that the character J. from the novel *Three Men in a Boat* is a hypochondriac?

OR

[10]

Describe the Lilliputians.

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Solution

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SECTION A
READING

Q1.

- 1) Poverty trap, lack of investment in agriculture, natural calamities, war and displacement, unstable markets and food wastage are the major causes of the presence of hunger in the world.
- 2) When an individual remains hungry and doesn't get enough food to eat, he is malnourished. Not eating enough food or staying hungry due to the lack of enough food leads to malnutrition.
- 3) Women in India have a low status due to which their diet often lacks both quality and quantity. This causes them to suffer from malnutrition.
- 4) The Akshaya Patra Foundation runs the world's largest NGO-run midday meal programme serving freshly cooked meals to over 1.3 million schoolchildren in government and government-aided schools in India.
- 5) Three-quarters of all hungry people live in rural areas, mainly in the villages of Asia and Africa.
- 6) According to studies, individuals belonging to the Sikh or Christian communities are less malnourished than those from Hindu, Jain or Muslim backgrounds.
- 7)
 - a) opportunity
 - b) adequate
 - c) lack

Q2.

- 1)** Different people deal with competition differently. Some people accept competition in a healthy fashion. However, there are others who collapse under the pressure of competition.
- 2)** Psycho-social stress is part and parcel of everyday life. In the competitive world, a person often tries to surpass what has been achieved by others. This leads to an imbalance between demands and resources and causes psycho-social stress.
- 3)** An individual experiences stress for different reasons according to his age. The loss of a toy or a reprimand from the parents might create a stress shock in a child. An adolescent who fails an examination may feel as if everything has been lost and life has no further meaning. In an adult, the loss of his or her companion, job or professional failure may appear as if there is nothing more to be achieved.
- 4)** Palpitation, high blood pressure, indigestion and hyperacidity are ways in which the body shows that it is under stress. All this aggravates to eating and drinking too much, smoking excessively, relying on tranquillisers, trembling, shaking, nervous blinking, dryness of throat and mouth and difficulty in swallowing.
- 5)** Stress ultimately leads to illnesses because of the imbalances in the body. Diabetes, gastrointestinal problems and heart disease are caused by stress.
- 6)**
 - a)** contaminant: pollutant
 - b)** Sedative: tranquillisers

SECTION B (WRITING & GRAMMAR)

Q3.

Space Crunch in the City By Anushka Gupta

A space problem means the lack of space for habitation purposes in big cities. Issues such as urbanisation, overpopulation and crowding cause space problems in cities.

If left unchecked, it can escalate and result in grievous situations such as overcrowding, lack of sanitation and diseases. It can also beget serious social problems such as real estate, mafia and crime.

The ones who are affected are not the rich, but the middle class and the poor. Overcrowding can leave the people deprived of basic amenities such as clean water, open spaces and parks. Congestion and pollution are exacerbated in due course.

The problem can be tackled by managing resources adeptly. The municipal corporations should encourage vertical expansion of cities to house the burgeoning population.

Q4.

A Lesson Well Learnt

Ravi slammed the door behind him and threw his satchel on the sofa. He flung his shoes to one corner of the living room and threw his socks to the other corner. Mother, who was in the kitchen, knew that the terror had returned from school. She came out hurriedly with a rolling pin in one hand and a ladle in the other.

“How many times have I told you not to scatter things in the living room after you come home, Ravi?”

Ravi didn’t bother to reply. All that Mother saw was his room door shutting on her face. Ravi was a difficult boy. Although he was only eight, he was really big for his age and was struggling with behaviour issues. However, that day Mother decided to teach Ravi a lesson for his good.

That evening when Ravi woke up after his nap, Mother didn’t keep his tea and evening snacks ready. She was not at home and had locked the kitchen door. The computer had no Internet connection, and the TV was child-locked. Ravi tried calling his mother but soon realised that the telephone was dead as well. He saw a note stuck to the main door. It read, ‘You will not get any food and you cannot watch TV or play computer games unless you clean up the mess and promise me that you will behave yourself. If you want me to return home, do as I say. Keep your satchel, shoes and socks where they should be. Fold your blanket and make your bed. If the cushions are strewn across the room, make sure they are

back in place. You have an hour to complete these tasks. I will return exactly in an hour. If I am convinced that you are a good boy, things will be back to normal.'

Mother's trick did the job. Ravi not only cleaned the mess he had created but also dusted the house and watered the plants. When Mother came home, he hugged her and apologised for his behaviour and promised to be a good boy for as long as he could.

Q5.

- a. iii. by
- b. iv. who
- c. i. founded
- d. iv. with
- e. i. an
- f. ii. for

Q6.

- a) form an essential
- b) of the daily
- c) miss the daily
- d) of all ages
- e) of its nourishing
- f) all the necessary
- g) for a strong
- h) drink a glass

Q7.

1. Indian society with several cultures follows its own set of traditional methods of conserving nature.
2. Many communities of forest dwellers and fisher people follow traditional practices of maintaining closed seasons.
3. During this time, the wildlife population can recoup its numbers as no hunting or fishing is allowed.

SECTION C (LITERATURE)

Q8.

1.

iv. In Innisfree

2.

ii) repetition

3.

iii. veils

Q9.

1. Tommy said that the old kind of school existed centuries ago. They had a teacher, who was a man. This teacher taught in a special building where all the kids assembled and learned the same things according to their respective ages.
2. A barber of a family of professional musicians decided to improve the tonal quality of the pungi. He made some modifications to the instrument and played it before royalty. Since it was first played in the Shah's chambers by a *nai* (barber), the instrument got its name *shehnai*.
3. When it rains, the poet is delighted to lie in bed with his pillow pressed to his face and to listen to the patter of the raindrops falling upon the roof of his cottage.
4. At Pashupatinath, there is a small shrine that protrudes from the stone platform on the river bank. The belief is that when it emerges fully, the goddess inside will escape, and the evil period of Kaliyug will end on the Earth.

5. Since the lady was baking cakes and Saint Peter was very hungry, he asked her to give him one from her stock of cakes. The lady made a small cake for him. As it was baking, she noticed that it seemed too big to give away, so she kneaded a smaller one. She found that this one is as big as the first one, and so, she took a really tiny piece of dough and rolled it thin as a wafer. Again, she couldn't part with it, and so, she put it on the shelf instead of giving it to Saint Peter.

Q10.

Kezia's father was a very dominating and authoritative person who commanded everyone, including her mother, around the house. It was as if everyone in the house was obliged to please him and be at his service. His general appearance, his hands and his neck, especially his mouth when he yawned, were big.

Q11.

A hypochondriac is a person who has an abnormal phobia about his health. While having concerns about one's health is perfectly normal, a hypochondriac is overanxious about his health and thinks that he has some or the other serious illness. In the novel, the three men are hypochondriacs, and they are chatting about their current diseases. Each of the men is sure that he is going to die from a serious disease. It is at this point that J. remembers how he once went to the British Museum to study about a treatment for his hay fever. After reading about diseases, he is sure that he was suffering from every illness known to man except for housemaid's knee. Back again with his friends, J. is still very sure that he suffers from every disease, but he is especially concerned about his 'liver condition'—the main symptom of which is 'a general disinclination to work of any kind'. All these instances help the readers conclude that the character J. is a hypochondriac.

OR

The Lilliputians are people about six inches in height. They belong to the fictional island of Lilliput. Swift portrays these little people as those who have the pretension and self-importance of men of normal height. They are shown to exhibit common human characteristics of meanness, viciousness, corruption, hypocrisy, deceit, envy, greed and

ungratefulness. The Lilliputians employ cruel methods to kill Gulliver. However, the Lilliputian king decides to only blind and starve Gulliver out of mercy.

Swift has used the Lilliputians to directly relate to the political environment of England during his time. It is a contrast between a common, naive man (Gulliver) and the cruel politicians (the Lilliputians).
