

**CBSE Board**  
**Class IX English**  
**Communicative**

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**Maximum Marks: 70**

**Time – 3 hours**

**The question paper is divided into the following sections.**

<b>Section A:</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>20 marks</b>
<b>Section B:</b>	<b>Writing &amp; Grammar</b>	<b>25 marks</b>
<b>Section C:</b>	<b>Literature</b>	<b>25 marks</b>

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**SECTION A**  
**(READING- 20 MARKS)**

**Q1. Read the following passage carefully:**

The Nalanda University, located in Nalanda, Bihar, is one of the oldest learning institutions in India. Its origins date back to the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup> centuries under the Gupta Empire. Nalanda was actually a Mahavihara or a large Buddhist Monastery, in Magadha, today known as Bihar. It was a centre of learning from the fifth century CE to c.1200 CE and therefore, historians characterise Nalanda as a university. It is said that Mahavira, the Jain tirthankara spent 14 years at Nalanda. Gautam Buddha is also believed to have delivered sermons at Nalanda.

Tibetan historian Taranath referred to Nalanda as ‘the mine of learning’. The insightful knowledge of the Nalanda teachers attracted scholars from China, Korea, Japan, Tibet, Mongolia, Turkey, Sri Lanka and South East Asia. Most of these scholars have left records of the ambience, architecture and learning of the university. In fact, the Chinese scholar Xuan Zang carried back hundred scriptures which were later translated into Chinese. Nalanda had dormitories for students and it is claimed to have accommodated over 10,000 students and 2,000 teachers. According to Tibetan sources, the library, Dharmaganja , comprised three large multi-storeyed buildings named Ratnasagara (Ocean of Jewels), the Ratnodadhi (Sea of Jewels), and the Ratnaranjaka (Jewel-adorned). Ratnodadhi was nine storeys high and stored the sacred manuscripts.

At the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, Nalanda was destroyed by an army of the Muslim Mamluk Dynasty under Bakhtiyar Khilji. Nalanda was abandoned and forgotten until it was excavated by the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The excavation unearthed eleven monasteries and six brick temples neatly arranged on grounds 12 hectares in area. A collection of sculptures, coins, seals, and inscriptions were also discovered in the ruins. Many of these are on display in the Nalanda Archaeological

Museum. The excavated ruins only occupy a smaller area than what Nalanda Mahavihara occupied in the medieval times. The period in which Nalanda ceased to exist was a time that the great universities of the western world came into being, marking the shift in knowledge production and dissemination from the East to the West.

**I. Complete the following sentences based on your reading of the text:** [3]

1. It is claimed that the ancient Nalanda University had dormitories that accommodated over \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Nalanda was destroyed by \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Nalanda was actually a \_\_\_\_\_.

**II. Fill in the blanks with ONE word only:** [4]

The scholars who visited Nalanda during the medieval period left records (a) \_\_\_\_\_ the university. A Chinese scholar carried back many manuscripts which were later translated (b) \_\_\_\_\_ Chinese. Tibetan sources cite the presence (c) \_\_\_\_\_ three large multi-storeyed buildings that housed the manuscripts. The antiquities collected during the excavation (d) \_\_\_\_\_ the ASI are on display in the Nalanda Archaeological Museum.

**III. Find a word in the passage that means the following:** [1]

1. source: \_\_\_\_\_
2. atmosphere: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q2. Read the following poem carefully:** [5]

**Words to Live By**

It's not how much you accomplish in life  
that really counts,  
but how much you give to other.  
It's not how high you build your dreams  
that makes a difference,  
but how high your faith can climb.  
It's not how many goals you reach,  
but how many lives you touch.

It's not who you know that matters,  
but who you are inside.  
Believe in the impossible,  
hold tight to the incredible,  
and live each day to its fullest potential.  
You can make a difference  
in your world.

**Answer the following questions by choosing the appropriate option from those given below:** **[5]**

1. This poem is about \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. things we accomplish in life
  - b. where your faith can take you
  - c. how you can believe in the impossible
  - d. how you can make a difference in the world
  
2. The phrase 'how much you give to other' suggests \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. how you can financially help the poor
  - b. if you can share what you have with others
  - c. how generous you are
  - d. how charitable you are
  
3. A word from the poem which means 'unimaginable' is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. impossible
  - b. incredible
  - c. accomplish
  - d. potential
  
4. The poem stresses on \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. achieving material pleasures in life
  - b. counting one's blessings
  - c. setting a good example
  - d. attaining your goals

5. The figure of speech used in the poem for emphasis is
- a. climax
  - b. simile
  - c. repetition
  - d. oxymoron

**Q3. Read the following passage carefully:**

**[7]**

One of the many things that distinguishes humans from other living beings is intelligence; their ability to choose between different options. There is no concrete agreement on what intelligence is. The idea of intelligence comes from the Latin verb *intelligere*, which means to comprehend or perceive.

Human intelligence is characterised by perception, consciousness, self-awareness, and volition. It is an intellectual process that enables humans to learn and form concepts. It helps them understand and reason and allows them to recognize patterns. It is because of intelligence that humans can grasp ideas, plan and solve problems. Intelligence also allows humans to use language for communication and gives them a chance to experience and think.

According to the developmental psychologist Howard Gardner, there are seven distinct types of intelligences. A person's logical-mathematical intelligence refers to his logical, mathematical and scientific ability. An individual with an affinity to words, both spoken and written is said to have a high linguistic intelligence. A person with the ability to solve problems related to navigation and visualization is said to have a high level of spatial intelligence. People with a good musical intelligence have the ability to coordinate their auditory actions with motor movements. Dancers, athletes, surgeons, etc, use their kinesthetic intelligence by using their body or parts of body to solve problems. Individuals who can see things from the perspective of others and express a sense of empathy are said to have a high level of interpersonal intelligence. Finally, a person who has a deep understanding of the self in regard to one's strengths and weaknesses has a high level of intrapersonal intelligence.

**Q1. Answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate alternative from the ones given.** [5]

I.

1. Human intelligence refers to the ability to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Latin verb *intelligere* means \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Human intelligence is an intellectual process that \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Dancers use their \_\_\_\_\_ when they use their body to express themselves.
5. A person with a higher spatial intelligence has the ability to solve \_\_\_\_\_.

II. Find words from the passage that mean

[2]

- a. likeness: \_\_\_\_\_
- b. harmonise: \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION B  
(WRITING & GRAMMAR– 25 MARKS)**

**Q3. Write an article in about 180 words on *E-Judiciary in India* for your school magazine.** [5]

**Q4. Write a short story with the following ending: She learnt a valuable lesson as she tried to cover one lie with another.** [10]

**Q5. Fill in the blanks with suitable parts of speech:** [3]

The Door to Hell is a natural gas field (a) \_\_\_\_\_ Derweze, Turkmenistan. It collapsed (b) \_\_\_\_\_ an underground cavern in 1971, becoming a natural gas crater. Geologists set it (c) \_\_\_\_\_ fire to prevent the spread of deadly methane gas, and it has been burning continuously (d) \_\_\_\_\_ then. The diameter of the crater is 69 meters, and its depth is 30 meters. The crater is a popular tourist attraction. (e) \_\_\_\_\_ the past five years 50,000 tourists have visited the site. The gas crater has a total area of 5,350 m<sup>2</sup>, the size of an American football field. The surrounding area is also popular (f) \_\_\_\_\_ wild desert camping.

**Q6. The following passage has not been edited. There is ONE error in each of the lines. Write the missing word against the correct blank number in your answer sheets. [4]**

	Correction
a) Deposits for sand	_____
b) in north America	_____
c) points to the fact that the	_____
d) region experience a hot	_____
e) dessert climate.	_____
f) Coral reeves and remnants	_____
g) of forests provides us	_____
h) With an piece of evidence.	_____

**Q7. Rearrange the following words and phrases to make meaningful sentences.[3]**

- a) into the fertile plains / forced families / to start / the drought / their lives anew / to move / further north
- b) makes one / of friends / feel good / in making / a lot / laughter / and helps
- c) cease asking / if my answers / you should / scary questions / frighten you

### **SECTION C (LITERATURE – 25 MARKS)**

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

A voice interrupted. “Two thousand, four hundred and forty feet per second,” It was the Professor.

1. Who is being referred to as 'Professor' in the above lines?
2. What happened during the question-answer session by the Sergeant?
3. How did the Professor gain so much knowledge?

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

1. With reference to the poem 'Oh, I wish I had looked after my teeth,' how will you take care of yourself so that you don't suffer like the poet?
2. What does the phrase 'exits and entrances' refer to in the poem 'The Seven Ages'?
3. What was Mrs Bramble proud of?
4. What does John say about himself since his last meeting with the author?

**Q10. Why has Khalil Gibran called the rain as divine?**

**[4]**

**Q11. What significant role did the Bishop's candlesticks play? How were they stolen? How did Bishop and Persome react when they learn that the candlesticks are stolen? What did the Bishop tell the Sergeant?**

**[10]**

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**SECTION A  
(READING-20 MARKS)**

**Q1.**

**I.**

1. 10,000 students and 2,000 teachers.
2. by an army of the Muslim Mamluk Dynasty under Bakhtiyar Khilji.
3. a Mahavihara, a large Buddhist Monastery, in Magadha, today known as Bihar.

**II.**

- a) About
- b) Into
- c) Of
- d) By

**III.**

- a) origin
- b) ambience



**Q2.**

1. how you can make a difference in the world
2. how generous you are
3. incredible
4. setting a good example
5. repetition

**Q3.**

I.

- a) to choose between different options.
- b) means to comprehend or perceive.
- c) that enables humans to learn and form concepts.
- d) kinesthetic intelligence

II.

- a) afftnity
- b) coordinate

**SECTION B**  
**(WRITING & GRAMMAR– 25 MARKS)**

**Q3.**

**E-Judiciary in India**  
by Samreen Ansari

E-Judiciary or e-courts in India will revolutionise the way justice is dispensed by employing the use of technology at various levels of the litigation process. These processes include electronic case filing, online case submission and evidence production. The main aim of starting this service in India is to speed up the judicial proceedings without cluttering the system. The e-judiciary manages cases automatically, provides online services, establishes the proper flow of information between courts and other government agencies, and lastly declutters the system by creating an easily accessible data grid. The e-court Mission Mode Project hopes to develop this efficient electronic system across India and all the union territories. Through this system, we can be assured that problems such as the lack of transparency and delay in dispensing justice can be addressed efficiently.

**Q4.**

She craved for acceptance and admiration from everyone around her. She never divulged anything from her private life. Instead, she would elaborately construct stories to make her life seem extremely interesting. A few of her close friends knew about her penchant for fibbing and stretching the truth. Despite their efforts, she never mended her ways.

Once she was regaling a few people at a party with her 'inside stories' about people in the entertainment industry. She brazenly lied about connections and how she knew about the private lives of the rich and the famous. One person asked her how she knew so much. She said that her father worked as an assistant director to a leading Indian movie maker. Someone in the room asked her, "Which movie did he work on?" She named some movie which had apparently been the film maker's biggest hit.

The surprised man said, "In that case, he might know Mr Desai. He was the set designer!" My friend broke into a cold sweat, but being an accomplished liar who might have found herself in similar situations before, she easily found a way out of it. She said, "Of course I know him! He is a dear friend of my father. His daughter and I grew up together."

The man said, "Then you should have recognised me. I am Mr Desai and I am a chronic bachelor." Muffled laughter emanated from the room and everyone could see her sweating profusely and trying to mask her nervousness by taking large gulps of water from a bottle. She wiped her sweat and left the party in haste. Her confidence as an accomplished liar was shattered as somebody beat her at her own game. She learnt a valuable lesson as she tried to cover one lie with another.

**Q5.**

- (a) in
- (b) into
- (c) on
- (d) since
- (e) in
- (f) for

**Q6.**

- a) of
- b) North
- c) point
- d) experienced
- e) desert
- f) reefs
- g) provide
- h) a

**Q7.**

- a) The drought forced families to move further north into the fertile plains to start their lives anew.
- b) Laughter makes one feel good and helps in making a lot of friends.
- c) If my answers frighten you, you should cease asking scary questions.

Or

You should cease asking scary questions if my answers frighten you.

### **SECTION C (LITERATURE – 25 MARKS)**

**Q8.**

- 1. Private Quelch, a trainee army officer, is being referred to as 'Professor'.
- 2. The Sergeant turned with his questions again and again to the Professor, and he answered all the questions.
- 3. The Professor borrowed training manuals and stayed up late at nights reading them. This way, he gathered all the knowledge.

**Q9.**

- 1. In order to not suffer like the poet, I will practice dental hygiene. I will avoid eating too many candies and chocolates as it will lead to cavities. I will get a dental check-up done at regular intervals so that cavities and other problems can be treated in time.
- 2. The phrase 'exits and entrances' refers to man's entry from one stage of his life to another. For instance, a boy enters into his teenage by exiting his school life.
- 3. Mrs Bramble was proud of her son. Harold was different from other children of his age. He was a child prodigy.
- 4. Since his last meeting with the author, John says that he had been on the line of 'general prosperity'. His salary had been raised twice, and he was receiving a commission and had even bought "a neat slice of real estate." His company was to

sell him some shares of stock the coming year. Once settled in life, he had even taken some time off from his plate glass business to have a romance.

**Q10.**

In the poem, the poet personifies the rain and says it is a divine gift from the Gods to nature. Nature accepts this gift as a blessing and uses it to nourish her fields and valleys. He describes the rain as being beautiful pearls that are plucked from the crown of Goddess Isthtar by the daughter of Dawn. The poet also says the rain is the dotted silver thread dropped from the heaven by the Gods. It is the messenger of mercy between the lovers, field and the cloud. It quenches thirst and cures ailments. The rain is like the tears of heaven. Owing to the above reasons, the rain acquires divine qualities.

**Q11.**

The candlesticks were a gift from Bishop's mother on her death bed. It was the memory that the Bishop had of his mother. One night, a convict who had escaped from the prison entered into the Bishop's house by force. The convict had spent a decade in the prison for stealing food for his ailing wife. His wife died when he was serving his sentence in the prison. When he escaped from the prison, he was seething over his personal loss and had become very bitter and cynical. When he came to the Bishop, the Bishop treated him like a fellow human and not a criminal. He was given food and shelter, and allowed to rest for the night. However, the convict was tempted to steal the silver candlesticks as he thought he could sell them and begin afresh. When the Bishop learnt that the candlesticks were stolen, he was very disappointed and heart-broken. However, his sister Persome was angry and wanted to report the theft to the police. She wanted to send the convict back to prison. The Bishop on the other hand, refused to send the convict back to the hell he had escaped from. Meanwhile, the convict was caught by the sergeant and was brought to the Bishop. Much to everybody's surprise, the Bishop called the convict his friend and said that the candlesticks were not stolen but were gifted by him to his friend (the convict). This act brought about a change of heart in the convict. When the convict received the candlesticks as a gift, they became a symbol of hope and life. The generosity and sympathy of the Bishop restored the convict's faith in humanity and gave him a chance to lead a steady life.

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