

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 – 20 MARKS)

Q1. Read the following passage carefully:

[8]

Kausani is situated at a height of 6,075 feet in the Central Himalayas. It is an unusually attractive little town. It covers just about 5.2 sq. kms. It lies to the north of Almora in Uttarakhand's picturesque Kumaon region.

Kausani provides a 300-km-wide breathtaking view of the Himalayas. It is the most striking aspect of this place. Snow-capped peaks are spread in a stately row. They stare at you in silvery white majesty. The most famous peak on view is Nanda Devi, the second highest mountain in India. It is situated at a height of 25,645 feet and 36 miles away as the crow flies. The other famous peaks on view are Choukhamba (23,420 feet) and Trishul (23,360 feet). Then there are also Nilkhamba, Nandaghunti, Nandaghat and Nandakot. On a clear day, the blue of the sky makes a splendid background to these peaks. At sunrise and at sunset, when the colour changes to a golden orange, the scene gets etched in your memory.

When Gandhiji visited this place in 1929, its scenic beauty held him spellbound. He named it the 'Switzerland of India'. He prolonged his two-day stay to fourteen days, making time to write a book, 'Anashakti Yoga'. The place where he was staying was originally a guest-house of the tea estate. It was renamed 'Anashakti Ashram' after the book.

Kausani is the birthplace of Sumitranandan Pant, India's poet laureate. Its natural surrounding inspired many of his poems. Its tea gardens mingle with dense pine forests and fruit orchards. The area is also host to many fairs and religious ceremonies. If Uttaranchal is the abode of gods, Kausani is God's own backyard. There is no traffic, no one is in a hurry. If serenity could be put on a canvas, the picture would resemble Kausani.

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

- (a) Where is Kausani situated?
- (b) What is the most striking aspect of Kausani?
- (c) Which is the most famous peak on view from Kausani?
- (d) How did Kausani influence Sumitranandan Pant?
- (e) When does the view of peaks become so memorable?
- (f) How can we say that Gandhiji was greatly charmed by the natural beauty of Kausani?
- (g) What makes Kausani a calm and quiet place?
- (h) Why do you think is Kausani known as 'God's own backyard'?

Q2. Read the following passage carefully:

Neem is very commonly seen in India. Scientifically known as *Azadirachta indica*, it belongs to the mahogany family Meliaceae. The tree can reach a height of 49–66 ft and is a fast-growing tree. The entire tree, i.e. the bark, leaves and flowers, has a lot of medicinal value as it helps in curing various diseases. The leaves and the bark of this tree are very effective in controlling infections, deworming and in disinfecting and healing wounds. The fresh leaves can be used by extracting the juice or a paste of the leaves can be taken along with a small piece of jaggery. In case of wounds, a few leaves can be boiled in water and then this water, when at tolerable temperature, can be used to wash the wounds. Two drops of neem oil can be used for applying on the wound. Neem also helps in relieving itch in case of allergic rashes. Neem water can be used in case of allergic reactions. The paste of neem seeds can be applied on the scalp and washed off after 10 minutes of application. It also helps in eliminating dandruff, boils on the scalp and prevents hair loss. Neem is very useful in jaundice. The juice can be given along with honey. Neem is very useful in case of fever. Fresh leaves can be taken with tulsi leaves or with honey. Neem water can be used to soak the feet in case of cracks on dry feet. Neem leaf powder is used for preserving grains and pulses. Neem is of special importance on New Year's Day as a symbol of good health and longevity.

Answer the following questions:

[12]

1. What is the medicinal value of neem?
2. What is the paste of neem seeds used for?
3. How does neem help grains and pulses?
4. Neem belongs to the _____ family is also known as _____.

5. What is neem a symbol of?
6. Which word in the passage is the adjectival form of 'tolerate'?

SECTION B
(WRITING & GRAMMAR – 25 MARKS)

Q3. Your maid's son secured a high percentage in the recent board exams. He thanked you for helping him with studies and sharing your notes. Write a diary entry about how you felt when you realised that someone had benefited because of the help you offered. [5]

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

The glass door came crashing down on Mijbil as it stood helplessly chained outside the hotel...

Q5. Complete the passage by filling in the blanks. [3]

The novel Uncle Tom's Cabin was published (a) _____ 1852. The novel is said to (b) _____ fuelled by the abolitionist movement, (c) _____ to have contributed materially to the tensions that finally led to the American Civil War. The novel (d) _____ the reality of slavery (e) _____ also asserting that Christian love can overcome something as destructive (f) _____ enslavement of fellow human beings.

Q6. The following passage has not been edited. There is ONE error in each of the first nine lines. Write the incorrect word and the correction as given in the example against the correct blank number in your answer sheets. Also underline the correct word you have supplied. [4]

	Incorrect	Correct
a. One reason off the loss of faith in the government's	_____	_____
b. words and deeds are the dwelling image of the entire	_____	_____
c. political class. A most obvious example of the latter's	_____	_____
d. cynicism and culpability is the increase number of	_____	_____
e. MPs with a criminal background which have been	_____	_____
f. entering parliament. Any the suggestions made by the	_____	_____
g. election but law commissions to debar at least those	_____	_____
h. candidates whose face prima facie charges.	_____	_____

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. stay healthy / special importance / for those / walking has / who want to
2. other muscles / legs and / strengthens / it / and tones / he lungs
3. the heart / of heart / diseases / more efficient / the risk / it / by making / decreases

SECTION C

(LITERATURE - 25 MARKS)

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

So hack and chop
But this alone won't do it.
Not so much pain will do it.
The bleeding bark will heal
And from close to the ground
Will rise curled green twigs,
Miniature boughs
Which if unchecked will expand again
To former size.

The phrase 'former size' refers to

- i. the big size of the tree
- ii. the sapling that was planted
- iii. the plant that is growing in the garden
- iv. none of the above

2. The figure of speech in the line 'The bleeding bark will heal' is

- i) antithesis ii) anticlimax iii) alliteration iv) repetition

3. A word from the lines that means 'branches' is

- i. bark
- ii. boughs
- iii. twigs
- iv. none of the above

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

1. Why was Kezia afraid of her father?
2. Why did Aurangzeb ban the playing of the *pungi*?
3. What reason did Lushkoff give to Sergei for telling lies?
4. How did Toto come to grandfather's private zoo?
5. Why does the disciple decide to stay in the Kingdom of Fools? Is it a good idea?

Q10. Do you think men who are hard on their kids are bad fathers? Substantiate your answer with reference to the story *The Little Girl*. [4]

Q11. Is *Three Men in a Boat* autobiographical? What elements of Jerome's life might have influenced the text?

OR [10]

In the land of Houyhnhnms, Gulliver was recognised by a horse and considered a guest. Discuss the character of the horse in the light of above statement.

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Solution

SECTION A
READING

Q1.

- (a)** Kausani is situated in the Central Himalayas at a height of 6,075 feet.
- (b)** The 300-km-wide breathtaking view of the Himalayas provided by Kausani is its most striking aspect.
- (c)** The most famous peak on view from Kausani is Nanda Devi.
- (d)** The natural surroundings of Kausani inspired Sumitranandan Pant to write poems.
- (e)** The view of the peaks becomes memorable when the colour changes to a golden orange.
- (f)** We are told that the beauty of the place left Gandhiji spellbound and it inspired him to name it the 'Switzerland of India'. He also extended his stay from two days to fourteen days. Therefore, we can conclude that Gandhiji was greatly charmed by the natural beauty of Kausani.
- (g)** There is no traffic in Kausani and the people too are not in a hurry to go anywhere; these two factors make it a calm and quiet place.
- (h)** Kausani is known for its majestic beauty and serenity. The cool climate and the natural beauty of the surrounding give the place a divine feel; therefore, it is known as 'God's own backyard'.

Q2.

1. The bark and leaves of the neem tree can be used in controlling infections, sterilising or deworming and in disinfecting and healing wounds. Neem extracts can also be used to eliminate itching allergic rashes.
2. The paste of neem seeds is useful in removing dandruff boils and in the prevention of hair loss.
3. Neem leaves are great preservatives. They can be used to preserve grains and pulses.
4. Neem belongs to the Meliaceae family is also known as *Azadirachta indica*.
5. The neem is given special importance on New Year's Day and regarded as a symbol of good health and longevity.

6. The word 'tolerable' used in the passage is the adjectival form of 'tolerate'.

SECTION B
(WRITING & GRAMMAR – 25 MARKS)

Q3.

4 August

Dear Diary,

When Akshay came home with sweets today, I was delighted to know that he scored 90% in the board exams. Six months ago, when his mother, our maid Lata brought him to us he was not ready to study at all. He said his house was in a slum area and it was impossible to study there even for some time. When I offered my help, he not only agreed to come home and study but also was enthusiastic about my engineering subjects. After the exams, he returned the stationery that he had borrowed from me and the notes that I had lent him. I am very happy to have helped a deserving person. I hope that Akshay succeeds in life.

Q4.

The Glass Door

The glass door came crashing down on Mijbil as it stood helplessly chained outside the hotel.

Every morning, Rahim, the security guard of the night shift, would take Mijbil home with him. Rahim found Mijbil a month ago in a lonely alley, scared and bitten by bigger dogs. He was a month old pup and too frail and weak when Rahim found him.

Rahim worked as a security guard at night for a five-star hotel in the city and would leave Mijbil with the watchman of the bar and restaurant on the opposite street. Mijbil would obediently stay chained beside the watchman, waiting for his master to take him home in the morning.

One night, there was a police raid in the bar and the police caught some smugglers who were planning to smuggle drugs into the city. As the police dragged the smugglers out of the bar one by one, a smuggler tried to resist the police. He pushed the officer aside and tried to escape only to dash against the glass entrance of the bar and be caught again by the police. The owner of the restaurant inspected the damage caused to the door and was heard saying that he would repair it soon.

Weeks passed but there was no sign of any repair. The door used to creak and shake with every opening and closing. Mijbil would always lie beside the door on the warm rug at the entrance. That morning when the waiter opened the door to throw away the garbage bag, there was a loud shattering noise. Next, people saw the door come crashing down on the watchman and Mijbil. The poor pup whined helplessly as it was chained. But what the

watchman did was exceptional. He fell on Mijbil covering him, while the glass shattered on his back.

It took awhile for Rahim to come to the scene. He thought that Mijbil must have died in the accident. So did the onlookers. But as people started clearing the shattered glass, they couldn't see the pup anywhere. They helped the watchman clean himself and made way for him to come to a safe spot. When he turned towards the onlookers, it was an overwhelming sight. Mijbil was tucked inside his coat safely. There was not even a scratch on him.

The watchman let Mijbil rush to his master, while the owner of the restaurant called for an ambulance and took him to the hospital.

It has been a month since the accident. Mijbil lies beside the watchman, who still has scars on his face. But the passersby often stop for some time and lend their ears to the wonderful story of how Mijbil was saved by the watchman.

Q5.

- a. in
- b. have
- c. and
- d. depicts
- e. while
- f. as

Q6.

- a) off - for
- b) is - are
- c) a - the
- d) increase - increasing
- e) which - who
- f) any - all
- g) but - and
- h) whose - who

Q7.

1. Walking has special importance for those who want to stay healthy.
2. It strengthens and tones the lungs, legs and other muscles.
3. It decreases the risk of heart disease by making the heart more efficient.

SECTION D (LITERATURE – 25 MARKS)

Q8.

1. i. the big size of the tree
2. iii alliteration
3. iii boughs

Q9.

1. Kezia was afraid of her father because she found him to be a very dominating and authoritative person who commanded everyone including her mother around the house. She always looked at him as someone who scolded her and told her to do things properly and in a certain manner.
2. The *pungi* produced such a shrill unpleasant sound that the word itself became synonymous with any reeded noisemaker. Owing to this, Aurangzeb banned the playing of the *pungi* at his royal residence.
3. The reason he gives to Sergei for his telling lies was that he formerly sang in a Russian choir but was sent away for drunkenness. However, he could not get along without lying as no one would give him anything if he told the truth.
4. Toto came to grandfather's private zoo when he bought him from a tonga-driver for a sum of five rupees. The tonga-driver used to keep the little red monkey tied to a feeding-trough, and the monkey looked so out of place there that Grandfather decided he would add the little fellow to his private zoo.
5. The disciple decided to stay in the Kingdom of Fools because he was delighted that everything cost a single duddu and everything was very cheap. All that he wanted was good and very cheap food. According to the Guru, staying there was not a good idea as they were all fools and so he felt this situation would not last long and was not sure about what they would do in the future.

Q10.

In the story *The Little Girl*, Kezia's father has been portrayed as a figure who is feared and avoided. The girl doesn't like to talk much to him as she finds him intimidating. However, at the end of the story, when the father takes Kezia into his arms and puts her to sleep as she is scared to sleep alone, we realise that men may be harsh and rude on the outside but will always be soft on the inside and protective as caring fathers.

Q11.

The three men in the novel are based on the author Jerome K. Jerome himself and two of his real-life friends. In his autobiography, Jerome mentioned that his honeymoon with his first wife is what inspired him to write the novel. They rowed the same route that the author (J) and his friends follow in the novel. Some aspects of J's life also influence the novel. Jerome belonged to the lower middle class and was working hard to make a living in the arts. He also had an exclusive outlook of social class and pretension. Both his insights into pretension and the party flashbacks might have been enthused by Jerome's own experiences with bourgeois pseudo-intellectuals.

The Master Horse is the first Houyhnhnm who discovers Gulliver. He was the one who saves him from the wrath of the Yahoos (humanoid creatures with beards). At first, he was suspicious of Gulliver since he resembled a Yahoo. But Gulliver's ability to communicate with him puts his doubts at ease. Gulliver is very impressed by the master and considers the Houyhnhnms to be superior creatures. The master is hospitable towards Gulliver and offers him milk to drink. Gulliver is awestruck by the master's domestic cleanliness, sincerity and practicality. He contrasts the crudeness and the slovenliness of the Yahoos with the sophisticated master horse. It is through him that Gulliver understands the difference between humans and beasts. The claim that humans are the most rational beings seems invalid to Gulliver after meeting him.
