

CBSE Board
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]

A country of fertile plains, high mountains and deserts, Syria is a diverse region with many ethnic and religious groups including Arabs, Greeks, Armenians, Assyrians, Kurds, Circassians, Mandeans and Turks.

However, Syria is currently listed as one of the least peaceful countries in the world because of the Syrian Civil War. In 2011, Syrians took to streets in peaceful demonstrations against Bashar Hafez al-Assad, the President of Syria. The government responded by torturing, killing and shooting at the protesters. The situation escalated to a civil war which is going on even today. The Syrian Civil War is an ongoing international armed conflict which has divided the country into territory occupied by the Assad regime, rebel fighters and Islamic extremists.

According to the UN, more than 7.6 million Syrians have been internally displaced in the war. More than 5 million people have fled to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and Kuwait. A few hundred thousand people have escaped to the European Union becoming refugees. The million others who are left in the country are in poor living conditions, with shortages of food and drinking water.

Once upon a time, Syria was a tourist destination, boasting of some of oldest cities on Earth like Damascus. Unfortunately, the war has affected 290 heritage sites, severely damaged 104, and completely destroyed 24 as of March 2015. Shelling, army entrenchment and looting at various tells, museums, and monuments has caused destruction of antiquities.

A painful account of the Syrian refugee crisis is the death of the three-year-old boy Aylan Al-Kurdi. The boy drowned after his boat capsized minutes after leaving a beach at Bodrum, Turkey. Although the boat was designed for eight people, there were sixteen people in the boat, trying to reach the Greek island of Kos. Kurdi washed up on a Turkish beach, and his image became a symbol of the world's responsibility regarding refugees.

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

- a) Syria has many ethnic and religious groups such as _____.
- b) _____ people have sought refuge in the European Union.
- c) As of March 2015, the war has affected _____.
- d) Syrians have fled to _____ because of the war.
- e) The Syrian Civil War had divided the country into _____.
- f) Aylan Kurdi became a symbol of _____.
- g) The word 'Indian' is a proper adjective from the noun 'India.' Find two such words from passage.
- h) Find words from the passage which mean
 - a. show
 - b. intensify

Q2. Read the following passage carefully:

According to Catholic catechism, practicing the seven Christian virtues protects one against temptation from the seven deadly sins. Lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy and pride are the seven deadly sins. Let us read about the seven virtues.

The virtue of chastity symbolizes courage and boldness. It means achieving moral wholesomeness and purity of thought through education and betterment. Practicing chastity keeps one away from lust. When a person is constantly mindful of others and one's surroundings by practicing self-control and moderation, he practices abstinence. In the absence of abstinence, over-indulgence overpowers your mind and leads to gluttony. A nobility of thought and actions comes to the person who practices liberality. However, a person who lacks the willingness to be generous is greedy and is indulging the third deadly sin.

Next in line comes diligence. This virtue involves working carefully, ethically and decisively. A person who cannot practice diligence in his day to day life entertains the sin of

sloth, thereby inviting sadness and depression in his life. Sloth leads to wrath, or extreme anger, rage, hatred, or a need for vengeance. However, a person who is consistently diligent in his actions develops the virtue of patience, thereby preventing oneself from being a victim of wrath. A patient person is someone who is forbearing and enduring, and resolves conflicts peacefully.

When a person practices the virtue of patience, he automatically exudes kindness, our next virtue. Kindness expects a person to show charity, compassion and sympathy without any prejudice. Finally, the virtue of humility shows that an individual is selfless and respectful of others as opposed to a person who is full of pride and envy.

Answer the following questions:

[12]

1. What does the virtue of diligence symbolise?
2. What leads to gluttony?
3. What qualities does a kind person portray? Which sin is the opposite of kindness?
4. Practicing the seven virtues protects against _____.
5. Chastity symbolises _____ through _____.
6. Find synonyms of the following words from the passage
 - a. revenge:
 - b. forgiving:

SECTION B
(WRITING & GRAMMAR- 25 MARKS)

Q3. Write an article in about 100-120 words on 'The Two Sides of Technology'. [5]

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

There was a lot of excitement in the air. The sound of crackers could be heard all around...'

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

Bajirao Ballal (Balaji) Bhat was a general who served as the Maratha Peshwa (a) _____ the fourth Chhatrapati Chhatrapati Shahu Raje Bhonsle. Bajirao is said to have fought (b) _____ 41 battles and won them all. He was famous (c) _____ rapid tactical movements in the battlefield. He followed Maratha traditional tactics (d) _____ encircling the enemy quickly, appearing from the rear of enemy, attacking (e) _____ the unexpected direction, distracting the enemy's attention, keeping the enemy (f) _____ balance, and deciding the battlefield on his own terms.

Q6. The following passage has not been edited. There is ONE word omitted in each of lines. Write the missing word in the space given. [4]

	Correct
a. Train to Pakistan is a brilliant and realistic	_____
b. story of political hatred and violence	_____
c. and after Partition of India. It narrates	_____
d. pathetic tale of individuals caught the swirl	_____
e. of Partition. The novel brings the centre	_____
f. stage the violence both sides of the border	_____
g. and as well as evil impact of Partition on the	_____
h. peace-loving Hindus, Muslims Sikhs.	_____

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

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

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

1. to twenty-six / indigenous tribes / is home / Arunachal Pradesh
2. international / it shares / with Bhutan / borders with/ Burma and Tibet

3. running north south / Himalayan ranges / is covered by / people/ with the Himalayan / most of the state

SECTION C

(LITERATURE - 25 MARKS)

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

Once Upon a Time

Once upon a time, son,
they used to laugh with their hearts
and laugh with their eyes:
but now they only laugh with their teeth,
while their ice-block-cold eyes
search behind my shadow.

There was a time indeed
they used to shake hands with their hearts:
but that's gone, son.
Now they shake hands without hearts:
while their left hands search
my empty pockets.

'Feel at home!' 'Come again':
they say, and when I come
again and feel
at home, once, twice,
there will be no thrice –
for then I find doors shut on me.

So I have learned many things, son.
I have learned to wear many faces
like dresses - homeface,
officeface, streetface, hostface,

cocktailface, with all their conforming smiles
like a fixed portrait smile.

And I have learned too
to laugh with only my teeth
and shake hands without my heart.
I have also learned to say, 'Goodbye',
when I mean 'Good-riddance';
to say 'Glad to meet you',
without being glad; and to say 'It's been
nice talking to you', after being bored.

But believe me, son.
I want to be what I used to be
when I was like you. I want
to unlearn all these muting things.
Most of all, I want to relearn
how to laugh, for my laugh in the mirror
shows only my teeth like a snake's bare fangs !

So show me, son,
how to laugh; show me how
I used to laugh and smile
once upon a time when I was like you.

– Gabriel Okara

1. The father also 'wears many faces' as he _____.

- i. wants to imitate others
- ii. wants to hide his feelings
- iii. wants to wear a portrait smile
- iv. doesn't like the face he has

2. The father yearns to laugh like _____.

i) a child ii) his son iii) other people iv) he used to when he was young

3. The father appeals to his son as _____.

- i. he doesn't laugh anymore
- ii. his laughter does not reflect his feelings
- iii. he is old and can no longer laugh like a child
- iv. he has forgotten how to laugh

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

- 1. What role did the women of Kalikuda play after the cyclone?
- 2. How did Behrman die?
- 3. What happened when the zip on the author's carry-on bags gave away?
- 4. How is the strength of the tree exposed?

Q10. Who among the three, Jerome, George and Harris are the best or worst at packing? [4]

Q11. Write down the character sketch of Lord Munodi [10]

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Solution**

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

Q1.

I.

- a) Arabs, Greeks, Armenians, Assyrians, Kurds, Circassians, Mandeans and Turks
- b) A few hundred thousand
- c) 290 heritage sites, severely damaged 104, and completely destroyed 24.
- d) Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and Kuwait
- e) territory occupied by the Assad regime, rebel fighters and Islamic extremists.
- f) the world's responsibility regarding refugees.
- g) i. Syrian; Syria
ii. Turkish: Turkey
- h) show: demonstration
intensify: escalate

Q2.

- 1. The virtue of diligence symbolises working carefully, ethically and decisively.
- 2. Lack of self-control and moderation leads to overindulgence and overpowers the minds to fall prey to gluttony.
- 3. A person practicing the virtue of kindness shows charity, compassion and sympathy without any prejudice.

4. temptation from the seven deadly sins.
5. courage and boldness, education and betterment.
6. revenge: vengeance
forgiving: forbearing

SECTION B
(WRITING & GRAMMAR– 25 MARKS)

Q3.

The Two Sides of Technology
By Vibha Salvi

Technology has penetrated deep into our everyday lives. We start the day by checking messages on our phones and by updating our social media profiles with our latest details. We rely on a wide array of electronic items in our everyday lives. The electronic revolution has made our lives easier. Today, it is difficult to imagine stepping out without a smartphone in our pocket. Communication has been enhanced thanks to e-mails and cellular technology. Household appliances like the vacuum cleaner, the microwave ovens and the washing machine have made chores easier. They are time-saving and more efficient than manual labour. However, there are many disadvantages of technology. Automation removes the need for human intervention. A lot of jobs are thus lost to robots. A machine may be accurate, but it can never replace the ingenuity of the human mind. Technology has made slaves out of us since we are too dependent on it. It leads to the stagnancy of our intellectual capabilities making drones out of us. Pollution is also on the rise and the fears of a nuclear holocaust are always lurking in our minds. We become too slothful when we rely on technology. If we do not wean ourselves off electronics, our natural faculties may cease to work. For example, depending too much on the calculator will cause our mathematical skills to stagnate and eventually not work. For its every merit, there is an equally appalling demerit. One should strike a fine balance by exploiting the benefits of technology without becoming dependent on it.

Q4.

There was a lot of excitement in the air. The sound of crackers could be heard all around. Manu rushed out in the hopes of catching a glimpse of the beautiful sight of the sparklers, lamps and crackers. A voice reprimanded him, "Manu! What did the doctor say? The fumes are bad for you. Go inside." Crestfallen, he watched his mother shut the door behind him. She added, "You stay here in this room till the ruckus stops." At that very moment, Manu heard a series of taps at his window. He opened it to find Raj at the other side. He had in his hands two unlit sparklers. Manu asked him curiously, "What are you doing here?" Raj replied, "Stick your hands out; I'll light you two sparklers." Manu did as he was told and put his hands outside the window. "Here, hold them," Raj said. Manu had a big smile on his face thinking about his best friend's sweet gesture. He made patterns in the air gleefully. Raj was happy to have made his friend laugh and smile again.

Q5.

- (a) to
- (b) over
- (c) for
- (d) of
- (e) from
- (f) off

Q6.

- a) a
- b) before
- c) the
- d) in
- e) to
- f) on
- g) the
- h) and

Q7.

1. Arunachal Pradesh is home to twenty-six indigenous tribes.
2. It shares international borders with Bhutan, Burma, and Tibet.
3. Most of the state is covered by the Himalayas with the Himalayan ranges running north south.

SECTION C

(LITERATURE – 25 MARKS)

Q8.

1. wants to wear a portrait smile
2. he used to when he was young
3. his laughter does not reflect his feelings

Q9.

1. A large number of women were orphaned due to the cyclone. Women were mobilised to look after them. Prashant persuaded the women to start working in the food-for-work programme.
2. Behram died of pneumonia as he was out all night in the rain and storm fixing the last leaf on the ivy creeper for Johnsy.
3. When the zip of the author's bag gave away, the side of the bag flew open and everything within it was scattered all around. In addition, the author's finger was gashed on the zip and it was bleeding profusely.
4. The tree is roped and tied so that the roots can be pulled out. When the roots are pulled out from the underground, the strength of the tree is exposed.

Q10.

All three friends, Jerome, George and Harris prove to be bad at packing things. Jerome volunteered to do the packing as he took pride in himself for his packing skills. He felt that he knew more about packing than any other living person. However, his packing skills were not up to the mark. He forgot to pack the boots; could not remember if he had packed his

toothbrush or not; and accidentally packed his spectacles. On each of these occasions, he had to unpack everything he had already packed.

When George and Harris began packing the hampers, they proved to be a lot worse than Jerome. Harris according to the author was the worst packer in the world. They broke a cup; packed heavy things on top of light items; put things behind them and then couldn't find them when they wanted them; stepped on things; and upset almost everything.

Q11.

Although Lord Munodi is a minor character, he plays an important role in the novel. He is the Governor of the town of Lagado, and a sort of a traditionalist who is not in favour of the reformers of the academy. Lord Munodi comes across as an example of someone who has practical intelligence. He rejects the unreliable theories of the inhabitants of his land and sticks to the old ways of running his estate. The inhabitants of Lagado are busy extracting sunbeams from cucumbers and eliminating all verbs and adjectives from their language. In contrast, Munodi has a strong house and a flourishing estate. The other tenants who have embraced the Academicians' absurd notions have ruined their houses, lands, and tenants. As opposed to the other Laputians and Lagadans, Lord Munodi takes Gulliver on a tour of the kingdom. He tells him about the advantages of his own estates without boasting about it. Thus, while showing kindness to strangers, Munodi is a figure of great common sense and humanity amidst the chaos and impractical stories of Lagado. He dismisses the misguided public policies and is a counterexample to the contemptuous treatment shown to Gulliver. Although he is a figure isolated from his community, Munodi is able to think critically about life and society.
