

Date: 11/12/2025**PRE BOARD EXAMINATION - II****Duration: 3 Hrs****Class: X****English (Set I)****Total Marks: 80****SECTION A: READING SKILLS (22 marks)****1. Read the following passage carefully:****12**

1. The monsoon season, stretching from June to September across southern Asia, brings intense rainfall that increasingly threatens millions of lives. In Bangladesh alone, nearly 60% of the population faces flood risks each year. Last year, heavy rains triggered flash floods that affected five million people. India and Pakistan are also experiencing worsening impacts: this year, 45% of India saw extreme rainfall, resulting in about 1,500 deaths, while Pakistan faced mass evacuations affecting two million people and more than 800 deaths. These events, expected outcomes of climate change, are now occurring more frequently and more intensely.

2. A new study published in *Nature* reveals that the official numbers of deaths caused by rainfall and flooding are likely major undercounts. Excess mortality — the number of deaths that exceed what would normally occur — is substantially higher than reported. This research adds to growing evidence that many more people are vulnerable to climate-related disasters than national statistics indicate. The findings come just as global leaders meet at the COP30 climate conference in Belém, Brazil, where negotiations on a loss-and-damage fund for climate-impacted nations are underway. Early reports suggest low expectations for progress, which is worrying given the worsening global situation.

3. One reason behind the undercounting is the way deaths are recorded. In many countries, only fatalities directly linked to water — such as drowning — are listed as flood-related. Indirect deaths, such as those caused by electrocution, infectious diseases, contaminated water, or collapsing structures, do not get classified as consequences of rainfall or flooding. Researchers argue that such gaps significantly distort the true human cost of extreme weather.

4. To address this, economists Tom Bearpark (Princeton University), Ashwin Rode (University of Chicago), and Archana Patankar (Green Globe Consulting, Mumbai) conducted a modelling study focusing on Mumbai. The city, India's financial center, is home to over a million people living in informal settlements. These densely packed, unsafe neighbourhoods lack essential services such as clean water, toilets, and electricity, making residents exceptionally vulnerable during storms.

5. The researchers estimated that from 2006 to 2015, Mumbai saw around 2,500 rainfall-related deaths annually, far higher than the official figures reported for the entire state of Maharashtra for a similar period. Their analysis also showed that young children, women, and residents of informal settlements were disproportionately affected.

6. These findings align with global research. A 2024 study by Rachel Young and Solomon Hsiang (University of California, Berkeley) found that between 1930 and 2015, tropical cyclones in the United States caused 7,000–11,000 excess deaths per year, compared with only 24 officially recorded annual deaths. Many uncounted fatalities resulted from poor access to healthcare or conditions such as cardiovascular complications and sudden infant death syndrome. The most vulnerable groups included infants, older adults, and Black Americans. Similar undercounting has been found in studies on extreme heat.

7. Accurate reporting of deaths is crucial. It helps families understand the causes of loss and enables governments to address systemic vulnerabilities. With nearly 25% of the world's

urban population living in informal settlements — a number rising since 2020 — improving living conditions is essential to reducing disaster-related risks.

8. At the same time, poorer nations need strong financial support to cope with climate impacts largely caused by emissions from wealthier countries. An expert group estimated that at least US\$250 billion per year will be required by 2030 to cover loss and damage. Considering the underestimated mortality, even this figure may be too low. These realities underscore the urgency for global leaders at COP30 to commit to meaningful emission reduction strategies and adequately fund vulnerable nations.

583 words / Adapted from Nature Journal (Environment – 12 November 2025)

I. Why is the monsoon season described as “a growing danger for millions”? (Paragraph 1) 1

- a) It brings gentle rainfall helpful for farming.
- b) It causes unpredictable rainfall with no major effects.
- c) It leads to severe floods that put many lives at risk.
- d) It mainly affects uninhabited areas.

II. Complete the following with the correct option from the brackets. 1

In the line “these events are now occurring more frequently and intensely,” the word ‘intensely’ suggests _____ (stronger effects / softer impacts / controlled changes).

III. Give two reasons why many deaths caused by heavy rains remain unreported. (30–40 words) 2

IV. What does the term “undercounts” mean in this context? (Paragraph 2) 1

Select the correct option:

It means the deaths are _____.

- a) wrongly grouped into different categories
- b) far fewer than the actual number
- c) checked several times
- d) too small to matter

V. Complete the following with the appropriate option. 1

The phrase “lack essential services” creates the image of a _____.

- a) safe home with all facilities
- b) place missing basic needs
- c) clean and organised settlement
- d) modern housing system

VI. What would be the most suitable title for paragraph 3? 1

- a) Why Rainfall Helps City Growth
- b) The Hidden Risks Faced by Urban Poor
- c) The Rise of New Employment in Cities
- d) Celebrating Monsoon Traditions

VII. Which phrase from paragraph 5 shows that Mumbai’s rainfall deaths are recorded inaccurately? 1

- VIII. Fill in the blank with the correct option. 2
- Paragraph 4 includes a _____ (warning / promise / celebration) about how vulnerable some groups are.
- IX. Why is the number of cyclone-related deaths in the US described as “much larger than reported”? (30–40 words) 2

2. Read the following. 10

SPIRIT OF UNITY

Indian Cinema Celebrating National Integration

FEATURED FILMS

'Chak De India' • 'Lagaan' • 'Mother India'

These iconic films transcend regional and religious boundaries to showcase the unifying power of a common goal. 'Chak De India' portrays a diverse women's hockey team overcoming prejudices of caste, religion, and region to represent India with pride. 'Lagaan' depicts villagers from different backgrounds uniting against colonial oppression through cricket, embodying collective resistance. 'Mother India' celebrates the resilience of rural India, highlighting universal values of sacrifice and dignity that bind the nation. Each film demonstrates how shared challenges and aspirations dissolve divisions, fostering brotherhood and national pride.

100 words approx. / MCB theme: Spirit of Unity

- I. Why is the tag 'Unity in Diversity' suitable for 'Chak De India' instead of 'Sports Drama'? 2
- II. Complete the following with the correct option. 1
- These films portray national integration through _____.
- a) individual heroism
 - b) shared goals and challenges
 - c) regional pride
 - d) competitive spirit
- III. State which of the following is True. 1
- a) 'Mother India' focuses primarily on urban development.
 - b) All three films are set in modern metropolitan cities.
 - c) 'Lagaan' depicts collective resistance against colonial oppression.

IV. What does the writer wish to convey by stating that these films "transcend regional and religious boundaries"? 1

V. What might be the most likely reason for highlighting the diverse hockey team in 'Chak De India'? 1

- a) To showcase different playing styles from various regions.
- b) To demonstrate that unity across diverse backgrounds leads to national success.
- c) To promote women's sports in India.
- d) To highlight the coach's training methods.

VI. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option from those given in the brackets. 1

The spirit of unity in these films emerges when citizens stand together for ____ (individual recognition / a common cause), regardless of their identities.

VII. If 'Chak De India' highlights sports as its medium, what does 'Mother India' most likely use as its medium to convey national integration? 1

- a) Military service
- b) Rural life and universal values
- c) Political movements
- d) Educational reform

VIII. What might be the most likely reason why 'Lagaan' uses cricket as the central theme while 'Chak De India' uses hockey? 2

SECTION B

WRITING SKILLS (22 marks)

3. Write an application, in not more than 50 words, requesting permission to use the school renewable-energy lab for installing and testing a student-built solar device. You are Arnab Mehta, Class X-B, Joint Secretary, Green Science Forum. 1x3=3

4. Write a factual description of your favourite sports equipment in not more than 100 words, highlighting its special features, design, and usefulness in the game. 1x4=4

5. Attempt **any one of the two**, (A) or (B), in 120 words 1x7=7

A. You are Rishika Suri, 41 Sunrise Enclave, Hillview. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily expressing concern about the rapid commercialization of eco-tourism sites. Highlight how irresponsible tourism harms ecosystems, affect local communities, and suggest measures to promote sustainable and responsible eco-tourism practices. Use your own ideas.

OR

B. You are Vedant Chauhan, 22 Harmony Street, New Lucknow. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily discussing the importance of unity in diversity in India. Explain how cultural differences strengthen the nation, the challenges posed by divisions, and suggest ways to foster harmony and understanding among people of varied backgrounds.

6. Attempt **any one of the two**, (A) or (B), in 150 words 1x8=8

A. Imagine you are Lola/Lyran of Class X. Write an article for your school magazine on the topic 'Laughing Is the Best Medicine: Why Humour Keeps Us Healthy,' highlighting how

laughter improves emotional well-being, strengthens social bonds, and reduces everyday stress. Use examples from the humorous poem of the muddle-headed man to illustrate how silly mistakes and light-hearted moments can brighten life. Explain why developing a sense of humour is essential for a balanced, cheerful lifestyle, and suggest simple ways students can include moments of laughter into their daily routines.

You may use your own ideas along with the given cues and your reading of MCB Unit 1: Laughter-the Best Medicine

- humour reduces tension, refreshes the mind
- laughing together builds friendships
- simple habits to stay cheerful
- ways to include humour in everyday routines

OR

B. Imagine you are Aditi Rao of Class X. Write an article for your school magazine on the topic ‘Space Travel: Beyond Adventure—A Test of Human Strength and Spirit,’ focusing on the real experiences of astronauts and what they reveal about life in space. Explain the physical challenges of zero gravity, the emotional impact of isolation, the need for fitness and discipline, and the scientific value of long-duration missions. Use examples from the experiences of the four women astronauts to highlight how space exploration pushes human limits and expands our understanding of the universe. Conclude by sharing your opinion on whether space travel is worth the risks and effort.

You may use your own ideas along with the given cues and your reading of MCB Unit 3: Space Travel.

- Long-duration missions: months in confined space, adapting to zero-g
- Fitness needs: daily cardio + resistance training; muscles, bones weaken
- Emotional aspects: isolation, teamwork, shared responsibility
- Memorable moments: Earth’s curvature, peaceful view from space
- Challenges: disorientation on return, crises like damaged spacecraft parts
- Inspiration: expanding human horizons, international cooperation

SECTION C

GRAMMAR (10 marks)

7. Fill in the blanks (i) – (iii) with the appropriate option from those in the brackets. 3x1=3

Urban biodiversity parks are an eco-friendly initiative and central to Delhi’s aim of (i) _____ (become / becoming / become) a greener and more sustainable city. In an educational context, nature learning often (ii) _____ (focused / focuses / focusing) on hands-on activities, allowing students to understand ecosystems better. Delhi now (iii) _____ (has regarded / regards / regarded) biodiversity parks as essential community spaces.

8. In the following paragraph, one word has been omitted in each line. In your answer sheets, remember to write the missing word along with the word that comes before and after it, as shown below. The first one has been done as an example. **4x1=4**

S. No	Text	Word Before	Omission	Word After
e. g	Clean air is vital our health.	vital	for	our
i	We must protect forests and conserve water for future.			
ii	This planet shared by millions of species.			
iii	Every small action help reduce environmental damage.			
iv	Communities working together create lasting change.			

9. Do as directed. **1+2 =3**

I Rearrange the following jumbled words/phrases in the given dialogue to create a meaningful sentence. **1**

RAVI: Priya, do you think education changes society?

PRIYA: (i) for / is / us / education / an / tool / to / empowered / become / important.

II. Report the conversation given below by filling in the blanks to complete the following paragraph. **2**

Meera: Did you see the new picture of the galaxy taken by the telescope?

Arjun: Yes! It showed hundreds of newly forming stars!

Meera asked Arjun (ii) _____. Arjun exclaimed (iii) _____ stars.

SECTION D: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (26 MARKS)

10. Read the given extract and answer the questions briefly, for any two extracts, of the three, given. **2X4=8**

A. It was Louisa Mebbin who drew attention to the fact that the goat was in death-throes from a mortal bullet-wound, while no trace of the rifle's deadly work could be found on the tiger. Evidently the wrong animal had been hit, and the beast of prey had succumbed to heart-failure, caused by the sudden report of the rifle, accelerated by senile decay. Mrs. Packletide was pardonably annoyed at the discovery; but, at any rate, she was the possessor of a dead tiger, and the villagers, anxious for their thousand rupees, gladly connived at the fiction that she had shot the beast. And Miss Mebbin was a paid companion. Therefore, Mrs. Packletide faced the cameras with a light heart, and her pictured fame reached from the pages of the Texas Weekly Snapshot to the illustrated Monday supplement of the Novoe Vremya. As for Loona Bimberton, she refused to look at an illustrated paper for weeks, and her letter of thanks for the gift of a tiger-claw brooch was a model of repressed emotions. The luncheon-party she declined. There are limits beyond which repressed emotions become dangerous.

(Mrs Packletide's Tiger)

- I. Why did the villagers “gladly connive at the fiction that she had shot the beast”?
- II. How did Mrs. Packletide’s reaction to the tiger’s death show her personality?
- III. Explain the phrase “the beast of prey had succumbed to heart-failure, caused by the sudden report of the rifle, accelerated by senile decay.”
- IV. What does Loona Bimberton’s reaction tell us about her?

B. When wasteful war shall statues overturn,
 And broils root out the work of masonry,
 Nor Mars his sword nor war's quick fire shall burn
 The living record of your memory.
 'Gainst death and all oblivious enmity

(Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments)

- I. What does the poet mean by “wasteful war shall statues overturn, / And broils root out the work of masonry”?
- II. How does the poet say the memory of the person will survive?
- III. Explain “‘Gainst death and all oblivious enmity / Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments.”
- IV. What is the poet trying to say about the power of poetry?

C. MRS. SLATER : Yes, he's gone. He was seventy-two a fortnight last Sunday. (She sniffs back a tear.)

MRS. JORDAN sits on the left of the table. MRS. SLATER on the right. HENRY in the armchair. BEN on the sofa with VICTORIA near him.)

BEN : (chirpily) Now, Amelia, you mustn't give way. We've all got to die some time or other. It might have been worse.

MRS. SLATER : I don't see how.

BEN : It might have been one of us.

HENRY: It's taken you a long time to get here, Elizabeth.

MRS. JORDAN : Oh, I couldn't do it. I really couldn't do it.

MRS. SLATER : (suspiciously) Couldn't do what?

MRS. JORDAN : I couldn't start without getting the mourning. (Glancing at her sister.)

MRS. SLATER : We've ordered ours, you may be sure. (Acidly) I never could fancy buying ready-made things.

MRS. JORDAN : No? For myself it's such a relief to get into the black. And now perhaps you'll tell us all about it. What did the doctor say?

MRS. SLATER : Oh, he's not been near yet.

MRS. JORDAN : Not been near?

(The Dear Departed)

- I. How does Ben try to comfort Mrs. Slater?
- II. What does Mrs. Slater's comment about "ready-made things" show about her?
- III. Why does Mrs. Jordan say, "I couldn't start without getting the mourning"?
- IV. What is implied when Mrs. Jordan asks, "What did the doctor say?" and Mrs. Slater replies, "Oh, he's not been near yet"?

11. Answer any five of the following six questions in about 30-40 words each. 5x2=10

- I. How does the writer Dhumaketu show the loneliness of the old man in the story 'The Letter'?
- II. What does the ghost's bureau reveal about the theme of inspiration in writing?
(A Shady Plot)
- III. What does the story reveal about Mrs. Packletide's character?
(Mrs. Packletide's Tiger)
- IV. What does the printed message from Sebastian Shultz reveal about the relationship between players and the game?
(Virtually True)
- V. What does the poem 'The Frog and The Nightingale' suggest about the consequences of excessive training and admiration?
- VI. How does the poet make the snake's movement appear graceful despite it fleeing danger?
(Snake)

12. Answer any one of the following two questions in about 150 words. 1x8=8

- I. Examine how the pursuit of ambition and the seizing of opportunities shape the characters' actions and life outcomes in 'Julius Caesar' and 'Patol Babu, Film Star'. How do the consequences of ambition differ in the political and personal spheres depicted in the two texts?

OR

- II. Compare how Shelley in 'Ozymandias' and Coleridge in 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' explore the themes of human pride and its consequences. How do the poets convey the transient nature of human power and the need for moral or spiritual humility?

END