

SECOND TERM EVALUATION 2024-25

Model question paper

Class IX

Subject: English

Time: 2-30 hrs

Total Marks: 80

Instructions

1. The first 15 minutes is 'cool-off time' to read the paper.
2. Answer questions as per the given instructions.
3. Consider the marks and time allocation for each section.

Part I: Reading Comprehension (20 Marks)

Passage (5x2=10 Marks)

Read the following excerpt and answer the questions below:

"The wind howled across the parched fields, carrying with it the hopes of farmers who had waited endlessly for the rains. The dark clouds overhead promised relief, but they lingered without release. In the distance, an old banyan tree stood resilient, its roots deeply embedded in the dry earth. Underneath its shade, a small group of children played, oblivious to the struggles of their elders. For the villagers, the rain was not just a natural phenomenon; it was life itself, a source of joy and sustenance that had eluded them for far too long."

1. What does the wind symbolize in the passage?
2. How do the villagers perceive the rain?
3. Identify a visual image used in the excerpt and explain its effect.
4. What contrast does the author draw between the children and the elders?
5. Suggest a suitable title for this passage.

Poetry (5x2=10 Marks)

Read the following poem and answer the questions:

*"When the rains finally arrive,
The thirsty earth comes alive.
Each drop sings a soothing tune,
Beneath the clouds, beneath the moon.
The rivers swell, the crops rejoice,
Nature speaks in a single voice.
Yet amidst the joy, a quiet plea,
For balance, for care, from you and me."*

6. Identify the rhyme scheme of the poem.
7. What does the rain symbolize in the poem?
8. Explain the metaphor in "Each drop sings a soothing tune."
9. How does the poet emphasize the importance of balance in nature?
10. Write a brief appreciation of the poem focusing on its theme of renewal and responsibility.

Part II: Writing Skills and Grammar (30 Marks)

Thoughts Writing (1x5=5 Marks)

11. Write your thoughts on the theme: "The significance of nature's balance in human life," inspired by *Waiting for the Rain*.

News Writing (1x5=5 Marks)

12. Imagine that Kerala has launched a campaign to conserve water during monsoons. Write a news report detailing the initiative and its expected impact.

Rearrange Jumbled Paragraphs (1x5=5 Marks)

13. Rearrange the sentences below to form a coherent paragraph:
 - a. The monsoon brings both joy and challenges to Kerala's villages.
 - b. Yet, the absence of rain often leads to despair among farmers.
 - c. The sound of rain is like a melody, filling the air with hope.
 - d. When the rains arrive, the fields turn green, and life seems to rejuvenate.

e. For the people of Kerala, the monsoon is more than just weather; it is a lifeline.

Profile Writing (1x5=5 Marks)

14. Based on the hints below, write a profile of **Anita Nair**:

- Birthplace: Kerala, India.
- Renowned as: Novelist, poet, and essayist.
- Major Works: *The Better Man*, *Ladies Coupe*, *Waiting for Rain*
- Awards: Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award, National Film Award (for screenplay).
- Style: Vivid imagery, deep emotional connections.

Grammar Task (5x1=5 Marks)

15. Fill in the blanks with suitable prepositions:

- The villagers waited anxiously _____ the first signs of rain.
- The monsoon clouds gathered _____ the horizon.
- The fields glistened _____ the fresh downpour.
- The rains arrived _____ much anticipation.
- The farmers worked tirelessly _____ their flooded fields.

Part III: Chapter-Based Questions (30 Marks)

Short Answer Questions (5x2=10 Marks)

Answer any five questions in 2-3 sentences each:

16. Why does the author of *Waiting for the Rain* compare the monsoon to a "prodigal son"?

17. What challenges did the villagers face due to the delayed monsoon?

18. How does *Waiting for the Rain* highlight the connection between humans and nature?

19. Why are the dabbawalas of Mumbai considered a model of discipline?

20. Explain the role of coding in ensuring the efficiency of the dabbawala system.

21. What lessons can modern businesses learn from the resilience of the dabbawalas?

Paragraph Question (2x5=10 Marks)

Answer any two in 80-100 words:

22. Discuss the emotional and cultural significance of the monsoon as portrayed in *Waiting for the Rain*.

23. Highlight the adaptability and teamwork of the dabbawalas during challenging situations.

24. Explain how the author of *Waiting for the Rain* uses sensory imagery to convey the essence of the monsoon.

Essay Question (1x10=10 Marks)

25. Write an essay on "Nature as a healer and a teacher," drawing insights from both *Waiting for the Rain* and the dabbawala system's harmonious relationship with their environment.

Answer Key

Part I: Reading Comprehension (20 Marks)

Passage (5x2=10 Marks)

1. *What does the wind symbolize in the passage?*
 - *The wind symbolizes anticipation and hope for the rains, which are crucial for the farmers' survival.*
 2. *How do the villagers perceive the rain?*
 - *The villagers see rain as essential to life, a source of joy and sustenance that they have been waiting for desperately.*
 3. *Identify a visual image used in the excerpt and explain its effect.*
 - *Visual Image: "An old banyan tree stood resilient, its roots deeply embedded in the dry earth."
Effect: This imagery conveys strength and perseverance amidst adversity, reflecting the villagers' determination to endure.*
 4. *What contrast does the author draw between the children and the elders?*
 - *The children play joyfully, unaware of hardships, while the elders are burdened with anxiety over the delayed rains and its impact on their livelihood.*
 5. *Suggest a suitable title for this passage.*
 - *"Hopes Beneath the Clouds"*
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Poetry (5x2=10 Marks)

6. *Identify the rhyme scheme of the poem.*
 - *The rhyme scheme is AABBCDD.*
7. *What does the rain symbolize in the poem?*
 - *Rain symbolizes renewal, life, and the interconnectedness of nature.*
8. *Explain the metaphor in "Each drop sings a soothing tune."*

- *The metaphor compares raindrops to a melody, emphasizing their life-giving and calming effect on the earth.*

9. *How does the poet emphasize the importance of balance in nature?*

- *The poet introduces a plea for care and responsibility, reminding us that while rain brings life, human actions must ensure balance in nature to sustain its benefits.*

10. *Write a brief appreciation of the poem focusing on its theme of renewal and responsibility.*

- *The poem celebrates the rejuvenating power of rain while subtly reminding us of our responsibility to maintain nature's balance. Its simple yet vivid imagery, such as "rivers swell" and "crops rejoice," conveys the harmony of natural cycles, making it both inspiring and thought-provoking.*

Part II: Writing Skills and Grammar (30 Marks)

Thoughts Writing (1x5=5 Marks)

Key Points:

- *Nature's balance is essential for survival and sustainability.*
- *Examples from *Waiting for the Rain*: Delayed monsoons disrupt life but emphasize the need for patience and respect for natural cycles.*
- *Lessons: Human actions should harmonize with nature to avoid imbalance and ensure its renewal.*

News Writing (1x5=5 Marks)

Key Points for the News Report:

- *Headline: Kerala Launches Campaign to Conserve Water During Monsoons*
- *Lead: Kerala government initiates "Monsoon Care" to promote water conservation.*

- *Body: Details of the campaign: Awareness drives, rainwater harvesting, community workshops.*
 - *Conclusion: Expected outcomes include increased water sustainability and community participation.*
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Rearrange Jumbled Paragraphs (1x5=5 Marks)

Correct Order:

e → a → c → d → b

Profile Writing (1x5=5 Marks)

Profile of Anita Nair:

*Anita Nair, born in Kerala, India, is a renowned novelist, poet, and essayist. Known for her vivid imagery and deep emotional connections, her major works include *The Better Man*, *Ladies Coupe*, and *Waiting for Rain*. She has received accolades such as the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award and the National Film Award for screenplay writing. Her style often explores themes of human relationships and emotional intricacies.*

Grammar Task (5x1=5 Marks)

1. a) for
 2. b) on
 3. c) with
 4. d) after
 5. e) in
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Part III: Chapter-Based Questions (30 Marks)

Short Answer Questions (5x2=10 Marks)

1. *Why does the author of *Waiting for the Rain* compare the monsoon to a "prodigal son"?*

- *The monsoon is compared to a prodigal son because it often arrives late but brings immense relief and blessings when it finally comes.*
2. *What challenges did the villagers face due to the delayed monsoon?*
- *The villagers faced drought, parched fields, and dwindling resources, threatening their livelihood and survival.*
3. *How does *Waiting for the Rain* highlight the connection between humans and nature?*
- *It shows how human lives are deeply reliant on natural phenomena like the monsoon, which symbolizes hope, sustenance, and cultural significance.*
4. *Why are the dabbawalas of Mumbai considered a model of discipline?*
- *They follow strict schedules, adhere to uniform rules, and ensure precision in their deliveries, showcasing exemplary discipline.*
5. *Explain the role of coding in ensuring the efficiency of the dabbawala system.*
- *The coding system helps sort, track, and deliver lunchboxes accurately, even in a complex urban setup.*
6. *What lessons can modern businesses learn from the resilience of the dabbawalas?*
- *Modern businesses can adopt teamwork, simplicity, and punctuality to achieve efficiency and customer satisfaction.*

Paragraph Questions (2x5=10 Marks)

7. *Discuss the emotional and cultural significance of the monsoon as portrayed in *Waiting for the Rain*.*
- *The monsoon symbolizes hope and renewal, deeply ingrained in the villagers' lives. It brings emotional relief after prolonged anxiety and holds cultural importance, marking a time of joy and celebration.*
8. *Highlight the adaptability and teamwork of the dabbawalas during challenging situations.*

- *The dabbawalas adapt to traffic, weather, and tight schedules through flawless teamwork. Their ability to coordinate without modern technology demonstrates resilience and efficiency.*
9. *Explain how the author of **Waiting for the Rain** uses sensory imagery to convey the essence of the monsoon.*
- *The author uses vivid imagery like "dark clouds gathering" and "parched earth drinking rain" to depict the monsoon's transformative power, evoking its emotional and physical significance.*
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Essay Question (1x10=10 Marks)

Key Points for the Essay:

- *Introduction: Nature as a healer and teacher provides life lessons and emotional rejuvenation.*
- *From **Waiting for the Rain**: The monsoon teaches patience and resilience, acting as a healer for parched lands and souls.*
- *From the **Dabbawala System**: Teamwork and harmony with the urban environment reflect how humans can adapt to natural and societal challenges.*
- *Conclusion: Emphasize the need to value and learn from nature's cycles for sustainable living.*