



विद्या सवर्धि साधिका

ANANDALAYA PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION

Class: X

Subject : English Communicative (101)

M.M : 80

Date : 02-01-2026

Time : 3 Hours

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions carefully and follow them:

- i. This question paper has 12 questions. All questions are compulsory.
- ii. This question paper contains three sections:
Section A: Reading Skills,
Section B: Writing Skills
Section C: Grammar
Section D: Literature.
- iii. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
- iv. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
- v. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION-A

Reading Section (22 Marks)

1. Read the passage carefully. (12)
 - a. In the modern workplace, the expectations placed on employees have expanded far beyond technical expertise. As organisations navigate a rapidly evolving global landscape, they increasingly recognise the value of soft skills, abilities that enable individuals to communicate effectively, collaborate smoothly, and manage emotions with maturity. These skills are now considered essential because workplaces have become more diverse, interconnected, and reliant on teamwork. The rise of technology has automated many routine tasks, but human qualities such as empathy, leadership, adaptability, and sound judgment remain irreplaceable. As a result, employers seek individuals who not only understand their jobs but can also contribute positively to the dynamic social environment of their organisations. The ability to think critically, express ideas clearly, and interact respectfully has therefore become a key indicator of professional success.
 - b. With changing workforce demographics and increasing dependence on digital communication, organisations face new challenges in preparing employees for real-world interactions. Research suggests that younger generations who have grown up with technology often struggle with face-to-face communication and interpersonal sensitivity. To bridge this gap, many organisations have begun adopting structured soft skills training programmes. These include role-playing activities, mentoring sessions, simulation exercises, and personalised coaching. Such strategies help employees practise managing emotional situations, resolving conflicts, and speaking confidently with customers. Emotional intelligence, an individual's ability to understand and manage emotions has emerged as a central component of these training initiatives. Managers with high emotional intelligence tend to create more supportive workplaces, guide their teams more effectively, and respond wisely to challenging situations. This, in turn, enhances overall workplace harmony and productivity.
 - c. The growing emphasis on soft skills reflects a deeper shift in how success is defined in the 21st century workplace. Technical skills alone are no longer enough to thrive in competitive environments. Employers now prioritise individuals who can adapt to change, collaborate with diverse groups of people, and communicate with clarity and confidence.

d. Soft skills not only strengthen organisational culture but also improve customer satisfaction and long-term efficiency. As industries continue to evolve, the ability to learn continuously, adjust to new demands, and maintain positive professional relationships will determine who excels. Regardless of one’s experience level, developing strong soft skills has become essential for building a rewarding and sustainable career. By investing in these abilities, individuals contribute not only to their own success. On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions.

- (i) According to Paragraph (a), why are soft skills considered irreplaceable in modern workplaces? (1)
- (A) They help employees avoid using technology.
(B) They involve human qualities that cannot be automated.
(C) They reduce the need for teamwork.
(D) They make employees independent of organisational structure.
- (ii) The word “interconnected” in Paragraph (a) refers to workplaces that are: (1)
- (A) functioning independently (B) isolated from global influences
(C) divided into separate groups (D) linked together through shared systems
- (iii) Based on Paragraph (b), why have organisations introduced structured soft skills training programmes? (1)
- (A) To replace technical training completely
(B) To reduce the need for face-to-face conversations
(C) To address communication gaps among the younger workforce
(D) To eliminate emotional intelligence from the workplace
- (iv) In Paragraph (d), the word “resilient” describes workplaces that are: (1)
- (A) dependent only on technology (B) capable of recovering and adapting
(C) quick to collapse during change (D) unable to handle pressure
- (v) How does the passage highlight the importance of emotional intelligence in leadership? (2)
- (vi) How does technology influence the development of soft skills among younger employees? (2)
- (vii) Complete the sentence using the correct option from the passage: Paragraph (c) (1)
Soft skills have become vital because organisations now prioritise employees who can _____
with diverse groups.
(A) collaborate (B) compete (C) isolate (D) substitute
- (viii) According to Paragraph (a), why is critical thinking considered a key indicator of professional success? (2)
- (ix) What challenge does Paragraph (b) mention regarding digital communication among younger employees? (1)

2. Read the passage carefully. (10)

a. In recent years, India’s medical tourism industry has witnessed remarkable growth. From just 0.43 million patients in 2016, the number rose to around 0.7 million by 2019. Today, more than 2 million foreign patients travel to India annually for medical treatment, coming from roughly 78 countries. The appeal lies in major cost savings as the medical procedures in India can be 60–80% cheaper than in the US or Europe, combined with world-class facilities and zero waiting lists. Many hospitals are accredited by global and national bodies, offering confidence and quality. Fuelled by these advantages and supportive government initiatives such as “Heal in India,” the sector earned about US \$6 billion in 2024. Projections suggest that revenue could be more than double to reach US \$13 billion by 2026.

- b. Parallel to the growth in medical tourism, India’s general tourism sector is steadily recovering from the pandemic’s impact. In 2020, foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) plummeted to just 2.74 million, but by 2022 they had rebounded sharply to 6.19 million. By 2023, FTAs reached 9.52 million, about 87% of pre-pandemic levels (2019’s 10.93 million). Among the major source countries in 2023 were Bangladesh, the USA, United Kingdom, Australia, and Canada. The resurgence in overall tourism boosts the country’s global standing as a travel and healthcare destination.
- c. Together, the rising tide of medical and general tourism paints a promising picture of India’s future on the world stage. With its unique blend of affordability, advanced technology, compassionate care, and rich cultural diversity, India is steadily transforming into a global hub where healing meets hospitality. As travellers continue to arrive for wellness, adventure, heritage, or hope, the nation stands poised to welcome the world with open arms. In this powerful convergence of health and tourism, India is not merely recovering, it is reimagining itself as a destination of trust, transformation, and timeless appeal.

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

- (i) Which factor has contributed most significantly to India attracting over 2 million medical tourists annually? (1)
- (A) High number of domestic patients (B) Shorter hospital stay for all treatments
- (C) Cost-effective medical procedures with global-quality facilities (D) Mandatory government-sponsored health packages
- (ii) The sharp rise in FTAs from 2.74 million in 2020 to 9.52 million in 2023 indicates: (1)
- (A) a decline in India’s tourism infrastructure (B) a gradual shift to domestic travel
- (C) sustained post-pandemic global travel recovery (D) reduction in leisure travel across the world
- (iii) The phrase “*Fuelled by these advantages*” paragraph (a) suggests that the growth in revenue is primarily driven by: (1)
- (A) increased taxation on international patients (B) government restrictions on foreign hospitals
- (C) strong demand created by cost savings and quality care (D) rising hotel charges during tourist seasons
- (iv) What does the word “plummeted” paragraph (b) mean in the context of FTAs dropping in 2020? (1)
- (A) Increased steadily (B) Fell sharply
- (C) Remained unchanged (D) Improved marginally
- (v) Correct the given statement; (1)
- India’s medical tourism growth is mainly due to rising treatment costs compared to Western countries.*
- (vi) What does the passage suggest about India’s global image due to medical and general tourism? (1)
- (vii) Why do patients from nearly 78 countries prefer India for medical treatment? Write your answer in 30–40 words. (2)
- (viii) India’s general tourism recovered significantly after the pandemic. Analyse any two reasons from the passage that indicate this recovery trend. (2)

SECTION-B

Writing Section (22 Marks)

3. Write an application, in not more than 50 words, requesting permission to use the school auditorium to conduct a rehearsal for an inter-school debate competition. You are Ananya/ Anmay, Class X, Secretary, Debate Club. (3)
4. Write a factual description of your favourite mode of transport in not more than 100 words, highlighting its key features and advantages. (4)

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

A. Recent studies have shown that the extensive use of plastics and synthetic materials has led to environmental pollution and health hazards. As Riya/Rishi Sharma, 45 Green Park, Jaipur, write a letter to the editor of a national daily highlighting the issue, its effects on humans and nature, and suggesting practical measures to reduce plastic and synthetic waste. Use the given hints, your own ideas and the concepts from Unit 3: Science.

- Synthetic materials and plastics harm the environment and affect human health.
- Problems caused by non-biodegradable waste, such as soil and water pollution.
- Reduce plastic and synthetic waste, such as recycling, using alternatives like bioplastics, or spreading awareness.

OR

B. The recent rise in lifestyle diseases such as obesity, hypertension and diabetes among teenagers has become a serious concern. As Anjana/Arjun, 78 Lake View Colony, Indore, write a letter to the editor of a national daily drawing attention to this growing problem. Use the given hints, your own ideas and the concepts from the Unit 1: Health and Medicine.

- Causes of lifestyle diseases among adolescents (poor diet, lack of exercise, excessive screen time, stress).
- Health issues impact students' physical and mental well-being.
- Promoting balanced diets, regular physical activity, health awareness campaigns, and routine medical check-ups.

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

A. You are Wahida/Saahil of Class X. Your school magazine is publishing a special issue on modern education. Write an article on the topic "Transforming Learning Through Digital Tools: A Pathway to Smarter Education." Use the given hints, your own ideas and the concepts from the Unit 2: Education.

- Digital tools such as online platforms, educational apps, and virtual classrooms are reshaping learning.
- Advantages for students and teachers, personalised learning, flexibility, accessibility, and interactive resources.
- Distraction, unequal access, and over-dependence on screens.
- Practical ways to use digital tools wisely and responsibly.

OR

B. You are Rita/Peter Macwan of Class X. Your school magazine is releasing an environment-themed edition. Write an article on the topic "Sustainable Living: A Student's Responsibility Toward a Greener Future." Use the given hints, your own ideas and the concepts from the Unit 4: Environment.

- Importance of sustainable living in protecting the environment.
- Key areas such as waste reduction, water conservation, clean energy use, and protecting biodiversity.
- Simple eco-friendly habits students can adopt carpooling, avoiding single-use plastics, planting trees, saving electricity, and recycling.
- Practical steps to integrate sustainability into daily routines at home and school.

SECTION-C

Grammar Section (10 Marks)

7. Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct form of the verb from the options given in brackets. (3)

During the annual science exhibition, students (i) _____ (present / presented / were presenting) innovative models on renewable energy. One of the models (ii) _____ (is appreciated / was appreciated / has appreciated) by all the teachers for its creativity. After the event, a visitor said to the students, "Your project is inspiring," which, in reported speech, becomes: The visitor told the students that their project (iii) _____ (was inspiring / is inspiring / had been inspiring).

8. Identify and correct the error in each line. The first one has been done for you.

		Mistake	Correction	
Climate change are affecting weather patterns across the globe.	Eg.	are	is	(4)
Scientists warns that extreme events will become more frequent.	(i)			
Every nation must take responsibility for reduce carbon emissions.	(ii)			
Innovations in green technology offers hope for a sustainable future.	(iii)			
Individuals can contributes by adopting energy-efficient habits.	(iv)			

9. Do as directed.

A. Rearrange the following jumbled words/phrases in the given dialogue to create a meaningful sentence. (1)

NEERAV: I'm planning a trip to Kerala next month. What is it famous for?

TRUSHA: Backwaters, / serene / lush greenery, / Kerala / its / and / traditional cuisine / for / is known / across India

B. Report the conversation given below by filling in the blanks to complete the following paragraph. (2)

Mother: Did you finish your homework?

Arjun: I will complete it in an hour.

The mother asked Arjun (i) _____. Arjun replied (ii) _____.

SECTION-D

Literature Section (26 Marks)

10. Read the given extract and answer the questions briefly, for any two extracts, of the three, given. (2x4=8)

A. *"Yet in both these boys I found a quality that was unexpected in the modern youth, their readiness to work, their willingness to sacrifice, and their unwavering sense of responsibility. They wore thin, worn-out clothes, and their faces were pale, yet there was a dignity in their manner and a seriousness about their purpose that commanded respect. They never complained, though life had dealt them severe blows. Instead, they faced every hardship with courage that far exceeded their age."*

(i) What contrast does the narrator draw between the boys and "modern youth"? (1)

(ii) How does the description of the boys' appearance contribute to the theme of dignity in adversity? (1)

(iii) What do the boys' actions reveal about their character, and how does this align with the title of the story? (1)

(iv) *"They never complained, though life had dealt them severe blows."* (1)

Explain how this line reflects a larger message about resilience and duty in the story.

B. *"But the stupid bird was vain,
And plunged eagerly again
And again, and sang as louder
As she could, and drowned the frog's
Hoarse voice with her melodious notes.
Devoid of confidence, full of doubt,
She now sang only to please her coach
Who sat smugly watching from the bog."*

(i) How does the phrase *"the stupid bird was vain"* affect the reader's perception of the Nightingale, and what does it reveal about her vulnerability? (1)

(ii) In what way does the frog's behaviour in the extract demonstrate manipulation and psychological control? (1)

- (iii) How does the line *“Devoid of confidence, full of doubt”* reflect the deeper theme of destructive criticism in the poem? (1)
- (iv) What contrast does the poet create between the frog and the Nightingale in this extract, and how does this contrast serve the moral of the poem? (1)

C. CALPURNIA: *“When beggars die, there are no comets seen;
The heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes.”*

CAESAR: *“Cowards die many times before their deaths;
The valiant never taste of death but once.
Of all the wonders that I yet have heard,
It seems to me most strange that men should fear;
Seeing that death, a necessary end,
Will come when it will come.”*

- (i) Why does Caesar dismiss the warnings given by Calpurnia and the augurers? (1)
- (ii) What does Decius Brutus interpret the blood from Calpurnia’s dream to mean? (1)
- (iii) Why does Antony shake hands with the conspirators after Caesar’s assassination? (1)
- (iv) What effect does Antony’s speech have on the Roman crowd? (1)

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

- (i) Coachman Ali waits for five long years at the post office despite ridicule from the clerks. How does his perseverance highlight a deeper message about human empathy and the emotional value of communication?
- (ii) How does the appearance of the ghost Helen highlight the conflict between human dependence on the supernatural and the loss of originality in creative work? Explain with reference to John Hallock’s situation.
- (iii) How does Patol Babu’s approach to his insignificant film role reflect his deeper values about work, self-worth, and artistic integrity? Explain how this shapes the message of the story.
- (iv) In what way does the poet contrast the destructive power of time with the enduring nature of verse, and how does this contrast deepen the poem’s message about immortality?
- (v) How does the ruined statue of Ozymandias highlight the irony of human pride and the impermanence of power? Explain using evidence from the poem.
- (vi) How does Brutus’s decision to join the conspiracy reflect his idealism, and in what way does this idealism contribute to the tragic consequences that follow?

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

A. The Mariner’s tale warns that harming nature ultimately harms humanity itself. In the present world, environmental degradation, climate change, and loss of biodiversity reflect the same disregard seen in the poem. Drawing parallels between the Mariner’s experience and modern environmental crises, discuss how the poem’s message becomes even more urgent today. What lessons should individuals and society learn from the Mariner to prevent future ecological disasters?

OR

B. “Dear Departed” exposes how materialism can destroy the basic values of love, respect, and family unity. In today’s world, families often face conflicts over property, inheritance, and financial gain. Drawing parallels between the ‘Slaters and Jordans’ behaviour and similar issues in modern families, discuss how the play urges us to redefine our values. What lessons should individuals and society learn about empathy, integrity, and compassion from this play?