



ANANDALAYA
PERIODIC TEST – 2
Class: IX

Subject : English Communicative (101)
Date : 10-09-2025

M.M : 80
Time : 3 Hrs.

General Instructions:

1. The Question Paper contains four sections.
2. Section A-Reading Section has two passages for comprehension.
3. Section B-Writing Section has four questions. Adhere to the word limit as per the instructions.
4. Section C-Grammar Section has three questions. Read the instructions carefully.
5. Section D-Literature Section has three questions. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A - Reading Section (20 Marks)

1. Read the passage given below.

- (a) Let's explore the anatomy of the word hardworking. What is hard work, and why is it held in esteem? If donkeys are tireless in labour, why don't we value their service? Do hardworking people always get the merit or income they deserve? Is the mantra 'Hard work is the key to success' still relevant today? Let us examine honestly whether hard work alone is enough, or if it must evolve into smart, sustainable effort. I'm your host, Harshada Pathare -let's begin this journey into fresh ideas that can redefine the way we work.
- (b) Many believe hard work means putting in a lot of energy and commitment. Others see it as consistent effort in doing assigned tasks. Yet, there is a better way, the Smart Way, redefining hard work. From childhood, I heard elders say hard work is the real wealth, essential for success. They convinced me to work hard and believe in the alchemy of hard work that turns sweat into gold. I believed this until I realized that hard work may or may not lead to success. The key to productivity and creativity is smart work, not just hard work. Working agilely empowers you, develops a disruptive mindset, and keeps optimism alive.
- (c) Smart work doesn't mean no hard work; sometimes, late nights and effort are needed. Smart work requires mastery over hard work, reflecting skills, competencies, and sacrifices. It also needs impeccable work ethics. Smart workers are passionate; they innovate, and redefine the barriers that hold us back.
- (d) The new formula, Smart work + Smart flexibility + Agile mindset, benefits business, people and the environment. Smart work requires deep knowledge, digital capabilities, and continuous learning. It's not a shortcut but an approach to make work simpler, sustainable, and error-free using technology and automation.
- (e) Work need not be tedious or stressful but simple and enjoyable. We are moving toward a culture of sustainability, productivity, and lasting success instead of burnout from hard work. The way ahead is smart, leading to inspiration and better returns. Let's move along this smarter path together.

-www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/redefining-hard-work

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

- (i) Fill in the blank. (1)
According to the passage, smart work is not a shortcut but a method to make tasks _____. (para d)
- (ii) What does the phrase in para (b) "*alchemy of hard work that turns sweat into gold*" symbolise? (1)

- (iii) Complete the sentence with the correct option. (1)
The author realised that hard work may or may not lead to success when _____. para (b)
(A) she observed her elders working (B) she began working herself
(C) she read about success stories (D) she studied about productivity
- (iv) What is the “new formula” introduced by the author? How does it benefit people and businesses? (2)
(Answer in 30-40 words)
- (v) Choose the most appropriate title for paragraph (e). (1)
(A) The Burden Created by Hard Work (B) The Culture That Leads to Burnout
(C) Towards a Sustainable Work Culture (D) Questioning the Myth of Productivity
- (vi) Select the correct option. (1)
Smart work requires mastery over hard work because it _____. para (c)
(A) demands less time and no sacrifices at all (B) combines effort, innovation and skills
(C) avoids late nights and long hours (D) depends only on automation
- (vii) Why does the speaker compare donkeys’ tireless labour with hardworking people? (1)
(A) To show that labour without recognition loses value
(B) To prove animals are more hardworking than humans
(C) To highlight that all labour is rewarded equally
(D) To suggest that effort always leads to income
- (viii) Why does the author argue in para (e) that the way ahead must be “smart” rather than simply “hard”? Answer in 30-40 words. (2)

2. Read the following passage carefully.

- (a) India is expected to exceed 900 million internet users by 2025, with growth driven by rural areas, according to IAMAI and Kantar, a market research firm. The report stated that 732 million people in India, accounting for almost 83 per cent of internet users, consume the internet to access over-the-top (OTT) audio and video content in addition to online communication, social media, and online gaming.
- (b) Speaking to Business Standard, Biswapriya Bhattacharjee, Director of B2B and technology at Kantar, said: “In 2021, we had predicted 900 million users in 2025. By 2030, we expect deeper internet usage, with users accessing more and more services. There will be a 15-20 per cent year-on-year growth in elite internet users,” he said. Elite users are those who access the internet for various services. The report surveyed over 90,000 people across 35 states and union territories of India. As per the report, users spend an average of 90 minutes daily accessing the internet. Both urban and rural users spend almost the same time online, at 94 per cent and 95 per cent respectively. In terms of the gender gap, male internet users were 53 per cent, and female users stood at 47 per cent. The report highlighted high internet penetration in southern states such as Kerala (72 per cent), Goa (71 per cent), and Maharashtra (70 per cent) compared to northern states, including Bihar (43 per cent), Uttar Pradesh (46 per cent), and Jharkhand (50 per cent).
- (c) Interestingly, the report revealed an increase in the number of users accessing the internet using someone else’s mobile. One in five users accessed the internet using a shared device, with rural shared device users rising 24 per cent since 2024. A total of 105 million online shoppers opted for cash-on-delivery option, while social media commerce witnessed a downturn. The study identified the variation in internet penetration levels to differences in digital infrastructure, accessibility, and awareness across states. In 2024, 98% of users went online in Indic languages (of or relating to the subcontinent of India) with 57% of urban users

preferring them. With artificial intelligence (AI) creating new opportunities for growth and innovation, the perception of AI usage is relatively higher in urban India, but rural communities are quickly catching up.

- (d) The report makes it clear that while the number of internet users in India is nearing saturation, the future lies in deeper, more diversified usage. A continued preference for cash-on-delivery, driven by trust issues around digital payments, along with the rising demand for native language content reflects evolving user behaviour. Looking ahead, regional language access, rural adoption, shared devices, and AI-driven innovation are expected to shape the country's digital landscape over the next decade.

-www.business-standard.com/india-to-exceed-900mn-internet-users-by-2025

- (i) Complete the sentence with the correct option. (1)
India is expected to cross ____ internet users by 2025.
(A) 500 million (B) 700 million (C) 900 million (D) 1 billion
- (ii) Why is the popularity of Indic languages significant for internet growth in India? (30-40 words) (2)
- (iii) According to the report, what percentages of India's internet users consume OTT content along with communication, social media, and gaming? (1)
- (iv) Suppose a company wants to promote AI-based services in India. How should it design its strategy based on the findings of this report? (1)
- (v) Internet penetration is higher in Kerala, Goa, and Maharashtra than in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. What does this tell us about these states? (1)
(A) They have weaker or less developed internet services.
(B) They have stronger internet growth and better digital literacy.
(C) People there are not interested in using the internet much.
(D) They have internet growth levels similar to northern states.
- (vi) Many people still pay cash when shopping online, and many use the internet in their local languages. What do these two facts tell us about how Indian people shop and use the internet? Answer in 30-40 words. (2)
- (vii) Fill in the blank meaningfully. (1)
(A) According to the report, _____ users access the internet using a shared mobile device.
(B) The survey for the report covered over _____ people across 35 states and union territories of India.
- (viii) Identify whether the following statements are True or False: (1)
(A) Urban and rural internet users in India spend almost the same time online daily.
(B) Female internet users in India outnumber male internet users.

SECTION B - Writing Section (24 Marks)

3. Answer the following question in 50 words. (4)
Your school's Literary Club is organising a special Skill Enhancement Workshop for Classes VIII to X. The workshop will focus on creative presentation skills such as anchoring, voice modulation, effective script writing, and techniques of on-screen delivery. As Riya Malhotra, Secretary, Literary Club, draft a notice informing students about this event. Include details like the date, time, venue and registration process.
4. Answer the following question in 100 words. (5)
Arjun and Meera are classmates who care deeply about the environment. Arjun believes that

protecting nature starts with small, everyday actions that everyone can do—such as planting trees, using products that are friendly to the environment, and cutting down on waste both at home and school. Meera agrees with Arjun but adds that bigger environmental problems like climate change, deforestation, and pollution require strong rules and cooperation between governments worldwide. They also talk about how young students can help by raising awareness among their friends and families. Write their conversation in a dialogue.

5. Answer ANY ONE question in 120 words. (7)

- (A) You recently watched a movie “Invictus”. It fictitiously shows how Nelson Mandela used leadership to bring South Africa together after years of division. He supported the Springboks rugby team, a symbol for white South Africans, believing their success could unite the country. Mandela inspires the team captain with a poem about strength and courage. The movie teaches values like forgiveness, hope, and teamwork. Mandela’s actions helped heal a broken nation and build a future of peace and unity called the ‘Rainbow Nation.’ Based on your learning from the movie and taking ideas from MCB Unit People, write a letter to your friend describing your understanding of leadership and its importance in the success of any team.

OR

- (B) You had signed up for a mystery project with a local institute focussing on promoting self-dependence. As part of the project, you received a toolkit for carpentry which included all necessary tools for beginner level projects. Your attempts to create simple items of daily use were successful. This motivated you to take up more challenging tasks through which you were able to develop your interest in carpentry skills. Write a letter to your friend describing this entire experience of a few months which helped boost not only your confidence but also the desire to try out newer things. Use your own ideas and take ideas from MCB Unit Adventure.

6. Answer ANY ONE question in 150 words. (8)

- (A) Urban flooding has become a growing concern in rapidly expanding towns and cities worldwide. Poor town planning plays a significant role in aggravating flood risks. Unregulated construction, especially on natural floodplains and wetlands, reduces the land’s ability to absorb rainwater, leading to increased surface runoff. Inadequate or clogged drainage infrastructure further worsens waterlogging during heavy rains. The loss of green spaces and permeable surfaces in cities prevents natural water infiltration, contributing to flash floods that damage property and endanger lives. Sustainable urban planning that integrates effective storm water management, preserves natural waterways, and incorporates green infrastructure such as parks and permeable pavements, is critical to controlling flood impact. By adopting smarter, nature-based solutions and enforcing strict zoning regulations, towns can reduce flood risks, protect urban populations, and promote resilient environments for the future.

Write a paragraph in 150 words on “Building Resilient Cities Against Flood Risks”. Use information given here as well as take ideas from MCB Unit Environment.

OR

- (B) In an era dominated by fast fashion, the traditional skills of darning, sewing, and repairing garments have sadly been forgotten. Once essential survival techniques, these crafts helped extend the life of precious clothing through careful mending. For example, darning was commonly used to repair holes in socks and sweaters, while patching helped fix worn-out knees in trousers. Today, many people lack the knowledge to fix holes or worn areas, leading to more waste and unnecessary purchases. However, the visible-mending movement is bringing this lost art back, celebrating repairs as both creative and sustainable acts. Many people now use colourful threads and decorative stitches to transform damaged clothing into unique statement

pieces. Experts encourage learning these skills to reduce textile waste and reconnect with mindful, eco-friendly clothing care. As fast fashion fades, reviving sewing and darning isn't just nostalgia- it's a crucial step toward environmental responsibility and preserving treasured garments.

Write a paragraph on "The Lost Art of Mending: Rediscovering Sewing and Darning Skills". Use information given here as well as take ideas from MCB unit Environment.

SECTION C - Grammar (10 Marks)

7. Do as directed.

A. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the words given in brackets: (4)

A strong desire to (a) _____ beyond the blue, to fly (b)_____ the heavens and touch the stars was what Kalpana dreamt about. Determined to the core, she finally (c) _____ in making her vision a reality. For this first India-born female astronaut, (d)_____ castles in the air had their foundation firmly embedded in reality.

- | | | | | |
|-------|-------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| (i) | (A) travels | (B) travel | (C) travelling | (D) travelled |
| (ii) | (A) at | (B) into | (C) on | (D) through |
| (iii) | (A) succeed | (B) succeeds | (C) succeeded | (D) succeeding |
| (iv) | (A) their | (B) her | (C) his | (D) your |

B. Rearrange the following words and phrases in meaningful sentences. (2)

- (i) great experience / young / gardening / and old / is a / for the
 (ii) with / nature / chance / it offers / to /work / a

C. The following paragraph has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Identify the error (4) and write its correction against the correct blank number.

Error Correction

- (i) The Indian team win the final match after a thrilling chase.
 (ii) Every player gave their best effort on the field.
 (iii) The captain said that teamwork was a key to success.
 (iv) Fans were celebrating the victory later into the night.

SECTION D - Literature (26 Marks)

8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

(A) *"In pursuit of his ambition he worked hard. We had to give him credit for that. He borrowed training manuals and stayed up late at nights reading them. He badgered the instructors with questions. He drilled with enthusiasm, and on route marches he was not only miraculously tireless but infuriated us all with his horrible heartiness. "What about a song, chaps?" is not greeted politely at the end of thirty miles. His salute at the pay table was a model to behold. When officers were in sight he would swing his skinny arms and march to the canteen like a Guardsman."*

(i) Identify the error and rewrite the statement correctly. (1)

The man avoided reading manuals at night because he disliked studying.

- (ii) The narrator describes him as both “miraculously tireless” and “horribly hearty.” How does this contrast help us understand the mixed feelings of admiration and irritation he inspired in others? (2)
- (iii) Find a word in the passage which means “to annoy someone by asking them repeatedly”. (1)

(B)

*“Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveller, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth
Then took the other, just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim”*

- (i) Why does the poet feel ‘sorry’ at the beginning of the poem? (1)
- (ii) What does the act of looking “as far as I could” suggest about human decision-making? (1)
- (iii) What is the significance of the poet’s action in the lines “And be one traveller, long I stood / And looked down one as far as I could”? How does this moment reflect the central theme of the poem? (1)
- (iv) Identify the figure of speech in the line “Two roads diverged in a yellow wood”. (1)
- (A) Simile (B) Metaphor (C) Personification (D) Alliteration

7. Answer ANY SIX questions in 30-40 words each.

- (i) Krishtakka relates well to the central character of the story ‘Kashi Yatre’. State two reasons for it. (2)
- (ii) Imagine Charles Hooper wrote in his personal diary after returning from the hospital. What would he have written about the first step he took after returning from the hospital? (2)
- (iii) Explain the line ‘I make the netted sunbeam dance against the sandy shallows’ from The Brook. (2)
- (iv) What is the central idea of the poem ‘The Solitary Reaper’? (2)
- (v) Define the role of rain as the ‘messenger of mercy’ in ‘Song of the Rain’. (2)
- (vi) Why is Gaston not interested in buying the villa in the beginning of the play? (2)
- (vii) How is the arrival of rain in contrast with its departure in ‘Song of the Rain’? (2)

8. Answer ANY ONE of the following question in 120 words. (6)

- (A) The Brambles are pleasantly surprised at Harold’s response to the truth being revealed to him. Write a dialogue between Mr. and Mrs. Brambles describing their responses to Harold gladly accepting his father’s profession.

OR

- (B) The Bishop’s treatment of the Convict was the turning point in his terrible life. Explain this statement with examples. Can this happen in real life too?