

CBSE
Class IX English
Communicative

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

Q1. Read the following passage carefully:

School used to be all about writing, whether it was the exercise books we wrote in or the notes we passed around. But not anymore. Now it's all about typing. Learning your QWERTY is almost as important as learning your ABC. So, when my daughter came home last year with cursive handwriting homework, I was nonplussed. Cursive writing was originally developed to make it easier for children to write with a quill. By joining up the letters, it kept the quill on the parchment and minimised ink blots. But my daughter writes with a laptop. I explained as much to her teacher at the next parents' day. But the teacher explained that research suggests that the process of writing information down on paper, by hand, has a more direct effect on the formation of memories in the learning process than typing. Taking notes in class is still the most effective way to learn. It's a better way to store the skills for written language in a child's brain than pressing keys. She went on to say, "But that doesn't mean that one should ditch computers. Children should be taught to touch-type early on. She just feels that learning is aided by the physical act of writing. Authors often write their first draft by hand. Whether it's to do with the pace of thought, or some kind of stimulation the physical act has, we don't know. But it's a fact."

The French would doubtless agree. They love their handwriting. Teachers in France believe that fluency with a pen 'unlocks the mind' and they spend more time on writing than reading between the ages of three and eight. We teach children the formation of letters and the appropriate joining strokes. But after a few years, we leave them on their own devices, just as the written workload starts to increase. That's when the bad habits set in.

But as proper writing becomes rarer, spending some time improving your handwriting is a good investment. In the future, sending a handwritten letter will be a display of affluence and class, which is why the sale of fountain pens is reviving.

I. Complete the following sentences based on your reading of the text: [6]

1. Cursive writing was originally developed to _____.
2. The advantage of writing information down on paper is that it has a more direct effect _____.
3. Although children are taught to write at an early age, they do not have legible handwriting when they grow older _____.
4. Learning your QWERTY means _____.
5. When his daughter came home with cursive handwriting book, the author felt _____.
6. Writing was given more importance in school once upon a time as _____.

II. Fill in the blanks with ONE word only: [1]

According to the author, the importance of the computer cannot be (a) _____, but handwriting is (b) _____ important as not only does it (c) _____ the learning, it also displays (d) _____.

III. Find a word in the passage that means the following: [1]

1. confused: _____
2. motivation: _____

Q2. Read the following poem carefully:

[5]

My teenybopper has a phone;
She really never is alone.
It beeps and jitters day and night,
Emitting tiny bluish light.

Her ringtone is the latest rage,
As other preteens text and page.
One-liner messages appear
That make her grin from ear to ear.

The latest crisis, who likes whom,
The rock star with the best perfume;
Such weighty matters cause her thrill
When chores demand her energies,
I simply text her, asking "Please!"
No alibis or missing word,
Because it's clear that she has heard.

And if my daughter goes outside
To visit friends, both far and wide,
Her curfew's easy to enforce
With her new cellular resource.

And elevate our monthly bill.

And yet, the silver lining glows,
For we have never come to blows.
I never have to raise my voice,
Because I have a high-tech choice.

If school assignments pile sky-high,
I exhale with a weighty sigh.
Like every modern mom who cares,
I simply telephone upstairs.

This beeping tether holds her close,
While helping her feel grandiose.
If separation e'er occurs,
My speed-dial links my heart to hers.

Our handy cell phones help us out.
Convenient, easy, with no doubt.
Yes, certainly, they have their place.
But can't we talk once, face to face?

Answer the following questions:

[5]

1. Why is the speaker's daughter never alone?
2. How does the speaker make sure that the assignments are completed?
3. Why can't the daughter make any excuse when she is asked for help by her mother?
4. How do you think cell phones have affected face-to-face communication?
5. Identify the figure of speech in 'If school assignments pile sky-high'.

Q3. Read the following passage carefully:

[7]

“Mum!” I shouted. “Are you okay?” I saw her little tent shuddering in the gale and listened closely for her response. Her voice was almost casual, “Oh, yes, I’m fine” That’s my mother. It was the first night of our cycling trip through the interior of Iceland – a region so remote and inhospitable that for centuries, according to legend, it was abandoned. The weather was decidedly hurricane-like, but Mum wasn’t concerned. Months ago, I told her about my plan to pedal across Iceland. “It will be really difficult,” I said. “The roads are unpaved and often washed out, and the wind is blowing constantly—sometimes so hard that it pushes you off the road.” There was silence for a moment. Then she asked, “Can I come?” “Sure,” I replied. “But like the rest of us, you have to train to do two 160 kilometres a day back-to-back,” “Wow,” she said, “I could never do that,” I had more faith in my mother’s physical abilities than she did.

I’d seen her raise six children and put in long hours doing physical labour on our small farm.

“Sure you can,” I told her, “Start tomorrow.” What really concerned me was what I perceived to be her frustrating humility: I thought her too self-deprecating about her attractiveness just because she had not completed college. I felt she underestimated her attractiveness just because she was not the type to wear make-up or fancy clothes. As I had grown into adulthood, the life I’d chosen seemed light years away from Mum’s quiet existence, still caring for her children and her children’s children. Sometimes, on a visit home, I’d describe some recent trip I’d taken, and her blue eyes would shine with interest. So, I couldn’t help thinking this trek might revitalise Mum, who had started to slow down in her 50s. It might spice up what I saw as her humdrum life. And it might be a boost to her tentative and retiring persona. Mum trained furiously, months in advance. As the trip roster was pared down to Mum, my good friend Allen and me, she stood as the most dedicated. Soon she was riding 80–100 kilometres per day, and was as strong a rider as Allen or I.

Q1. Based on your reading of the passage, complete the following sentences. [5]

- i. It would be difficult to pedal across Iceland as _____.
- ii. The narrator thought that his mother was stronger than me as _____.
- iii. The preparation for the cycling trip included _____.
- iv. As a grown up, the narrator realised that his life was _____.

Q2. Find words from the passage that mean the same as the following: [3]

- i. recognise
- ii. breath a new life into
- iii. dull

SECTION B Writing & Grammar

Q3. You spent a day at an orphanage as part of your school project. You met children from all age groups and learnt about their life in that institution. Write a diary entry in about 100 words about your visit. [5]

Q4. Write a short story in about 150–200 words with the help of the outline below. [10]

Master sent slave to market – slave came back frightened – said he saw a woman in the market – the woman was Death herself – she made threatening gesture at him – slave feared for his life – asked master to lend him his horse – he wanted to escape death – master obliged and lent him his horse – slave rode the horse to Bagdad – master went to the market to investigate – found Death there – he asked her why she threatened his slave – she said she didn't threaten – she was surprised to see him there – she had an appointment with him in Bagdad in the evening.

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

Psychological disorders (a)_____ problems that (b) _____ the mental health of a person. These problems (c) _____ the behavioural pattern of the person. They (d) _____ a great amount of distress for not only the person (e) _____ from these disorders but also for the person's near and dear ones. (f) _____ of the common psychological disorders are depression and anxiety.

- a) i. are ii. is iii. were iv. am
- b) i. effect ii. effectively iii affect iv. effect
- c) i. impacts ii. impact iii. impactful iv. impacted

- d) i. creative ii. created iii. create iv. creates
 e) i. suffering ii. suffer iii. suffered iv. suffers
 f) i. some ii. many iii. all iv. several

Q6. The following passage has not been edited. There is ONE error in each of the first nine lines. Write the incorrect word and the correction as given in the example against the correct blank number in your answer sheets. Also underline the correct word you have supplied. [4]

	Incorrect	Correct
The NGOs for the city have decided to	a. _____	_____
organising a one-day free camp	b. _____	_____
to creates awareness among people	c. _____	_____
regarding climate change but	d. _____	_____
it long-term effect on the lives of all.	e. _____	_____
This event is scheduled to be held with	f. _____	_____
the occasion of a 63 rd Republic Day	g. _____	_____
of the nation. The NGOs shall	h. _____	_____
organise road plays all in the city		

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

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

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

- a) for serving / the fast food joint / sticking out of the bun / with an iron nail / came under fire / a stale burger
 b) made a fool / by making / of himself / the party leader / incinerating statements
 c) cease asking / if my answers / you should / scary questions / frighten you

SECTION C

Literature

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

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

1. The poet shall be telling with a sigh that

- i. he wanted to take the other path
- ii. he wanted to take none of the roads
- iii. he was deciding which road to take
- iv. the path he chose has made all the difference

2. The emotion expressed in the above lines is that of

- i) apology ii) regret iii) satisfaction iv) anxiety

3. The roads are symbolic of

- i. difficulties in life
- ii. paths one takes passing through the forest
- iii. choices we make in life
- iv. career options we choose

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

- 1. For what was the author's grandmother dependent on her?
- 2. What is the poet's lament in the poem The Solitary Reaper?
- 3. What was John A. Pescud's opinion about bestsellers?
- 4. Why is the rain divine?
- 5. How could the poet have avoided going to the dentist?

Q10. How was Charles Hooper's appointment as Assistant Sales Manager a special and a befitting tribute to Duke? [4]

Q11. Explain the symbolism in the poem *The Road Not Taken* by Robert Frost. [10]

CBSE
Class IX
English Communicative
Solution

SECTION A
READING

Q1. Read the following passage carefully:

I.

1. make it easier for children to write with a quill.
2. on the formation of memories in the learning process than typing.
3. as the written workload starts to increase.
4. learning to type.
5. that it was unnecessary as she used a laptop more than writing.
6. students used to write both in their exercise books and while taking down notes.

II. Fill in the blanks with ONE word only:

According to the author, the importance of the computer cannot be (a) ignored, but handwriting is (b) equally important as not only does it (c) enhance learning it also displays (d) class.

III. Find a word in the passage that means the following:

1. confused: nonplussed
2. motivation: stimulation

Q2. Read the following poem carefully:

1. The speaker's daughter is never alone because she always has a phone with her which keeps beeping, vibrating and emitting light all the time.
2. The speaker is the mother of the 'teenybopper' and uses the cell phone to her advantage. Whenever her daughter's school work is pending, the speaker doesn't hesitate to call her even if they are in the same house and ask her to complete the tasks.

3. The mother smartly texts the daughter about the help needed on her cell phone. In this way, the daughter cannot make an excuse that she didn't hear her mother because everything is clearly written in the message.
4. Cell phones are no doubt convenient and easy but they do not show you the actual feelings of a person who is talking or texting. Thus, when we use cell phones to communicate, we might not be aware of the person's actual state of mind, which might make the communication ineffective.
5. Hyperbole

Q3. Read the following passage carefully:

Q1.

- i. The roads in Iceland were unpaved and washed out according to the author.
- ii. The narrator had seen her bring up six children and carry out physical labour in the farm he grew up in.
- iii. The training included back-to-back cycling for 160 kilometres every day.
- iv. The narrator's life was different from his mother's quiet existence.

Q2.

- i. Perceived
- ii. Revitalise
- iii. humdrum

SECTION B
WRITING & GRAMMAR

Q3. You spent a day at an orphanage as part of your school project. You met children from all age groups and learnt about their life in that institution. Write a diary entry in about 100 words about your visit.

23 July 2015
Thursday

Dear Diary,

Today was one of the best and worst days of my life. We went to Prem Daan, an orphanage near our school, as part of a school project. When the social worker took us through the whole place, I saw children from all age groups looking longingly at me and the other students. Some toddlers clung on to our teachers as they appeared to be parental figures. Some older children agreed to talk to us and told us about their orphan life. Most of the older children had become used to living without parents, but some still expressed a desire to have their own family.

Thank you, Almighty, for giving me a wonderful family and a secure home to live. I now know the value of my parents and siblings.

Q4. Write a short story in about 150–200 words with the help of outline below.

Once there lived a master and his slave. The master sent his slave to the market to buy provisions. He returned frightened for he had seen a woman in the market. She was Death herself and she had made a threatening gesture at him. The slave feared for his life and asked the master to lend him his horse since he wanted to escape death. The master obliged and let the slave go. The slave rode the horse all the way to Bagdad. The master then went to the market to investigate. He found death there standing in the market. He approached her and asked her why she threatened his slave. Death calmly replied that she didn't threaten him. In fact, she was surprised to see him there since she had an appointment with him in Samarra later in the evening.

Q5. Complete the passage by choosing the correct option from those given in brackets.

- a) are
- b) affect
- c) impact
- d) create
- e) suffering
- f) some

Q6. The following passage has not been edited. There is ONE error in each of the first nine lines. Write the incorrect word and the correction as given in the example against the correct blank number in your answer sheets. Also underline the correct word you have supplied.

	Incorrect	Correct
The NGOs for the city have decided to	a. for	in
organising a one-day free camp	b. organising	organise
to creates awareness among people	c. creates	create
regarding climate change but	d. but	and
it long-term effect on the lives of all.	e. it	its
This event is scheduled to be held with	f. with	on
the occasion of a 63 rd Republic Day	g. a	the
of the nation. The NGOs shall	h. shall	will
organise road plays all in the city		

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

- The fast-food joint came under fire for serving a stale burger with an iron nail sticking out of the bun.
- The party leader made a fool of himself by making incinerating statements.
- If my answers frighten you, you should cease asking scary questions.

OR

You should cease asking scary questions if my answers frighten you.

SECTION D

LITERATURE

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

- the path he chose has made all the difference
- satisfaction
- difficulties in life

Q9. Answer any FOUR of the following questions in about 30–40 words each.

- i. The author's grandmother was dependant on the author who would read out the weekly magazine *Karmaveera* to her.
- ii. The poet's lament in the poem *The Solitary Reaper* is that he cannot understand the song.
- iii. John A. Pescud disapproved of bestsellers and he felt all of them were alike. The novels appeared unrealistic to him as he thought reality was far from what happened in the books.
- iv. Rain is the result of God's grace and divinity. It freshens and revitalises the vegetation. In addition, rain has healing powers just like God. Therefore, it is appropriate to call the rain 'divine'.
- v. The poet should have eaten less of candies and sweets. This would have kept her teeth in good shape and she wouldn't have to visit the dentist.

Q10.

After the near fatal accident, Charles Hooper was paralysed and showed little enthusiasm to get better. It was Duke who showed exceptional feelings and put in efforts to make his master walk again. Duke persuaded Charles to take little steps, one at a time, and walk him. They started from their home and one day reached the porch of the house. Slowly and steadily, Charles resumed work again and got promoted to Assistant Sales Manager. Unfortunately, Duke succumbed to his injuries after a fatal accident. Indeed Charles Hooper's appointment was a tribute to his dog named Duke.

Q11.

Robert Frost uses nature and imagery in the poem *The Road Not Taken* to describe life. In the poem, the road symbolises the opportunities we get in our lives. However, it is up to us to make the best of what is given to us. Undoubtedly, it is very difficult to make decisions in life, especially when all the given options are either good or uncertain. We do choose one

option over the other, but always feel the regret of not having chosen the other option. The poet explains this very dilemma through his poem. No matter which way you choose, you will always wonder what would have happened if you had chosen the other path. In life too, there are parallel roads where we must pass through one path despite knowing that we can never return and take the second path.
