Examination Series Paper 04

FINAL PRODUCTION

Board: CBSE Class: 10 Code: 184 Session: 2026–27

English Language and Literature

Time allowed: 3 hours Maximum marks: 80

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Role: QP | Version: 3.0.0

Name: _____ Roll number: _____

General instructions

There are 11 main questions in three sections. All main questions are compulsory; follow the internal-choice instructions for each question.

Section A: Reading Skills — 20 marks. Section B: Grammar and Writing Skills — 20 marks. Section C: Literature Textbook — 40 marks.

Read each task carefully and follow its stated response length. Write answers in the answer booklet.

For one-mark reading and extract responses, answer briefly as directed. Write the two-mark short responses in 30–40 words.

Choose one option in each MCQ. For Questions 6 and 7, answer one complete extract; do not mix parts from A and B.

Section A Reading Skills

1 Reading comprehension [10 marks]

Read the discursive passage and answer all eight parts that follow.

(1) Translating a public message involves more than finding a matching word for each word on a page. A sign may guide visitors, invite a response or explain a rule. Its reader needs to understand what to do, and often needs to understand it quickly. A translation that preserves the order of every original word can fail if that order sounds unnatural in the new language. Fidelity therefore includes attention to the message's purpose, not merely to its visible arrangement.

(2) Suppose a community hall asks visitors to leave an aisle clear. The original message may use an expression that politely softens the request. Translating that expression literally could make the instruction sound optional, or strangely personal, in another language. A careful translator asks what relationship the notice establishes between the hall and its visitors. The aim is to retain an appropriate tone while making the action unmistakable. Neither unnecessary harshness nor accidental vagueness serves the original purpose.

(3) Local references create another difficulty. Regular users may understand a room's nickname, but newcomers may search for a name that appears nowhere on the doors. A translation can retain the familiar nickname while adding the official room number, if the organisation agrees. This is not an excuse to invent directions. It is a way to recognise that readers may arrive with different background knowledge. Sometimes the original message itself needs clarification before any responsible translation can be completed.

(4) Checking should involve people who know the intended audience, as well as people who know the languages. A phrase that seems elegant to an expert may puzzle a younger reader. Asking a reader to explain what a notice requires can reveal that problem more clearly than asking whether the wording sounds good. Numbers, dates and place names need separate checking because a small copying error can survive inside an otherwise fluent sentence. Smooth language is not proof that every detail is correct.

(5) Translators also need to know the limits of their role. If two versions of a rule disagree, choosing whichever sounds kinder does not settle the institution's policy. The disagreement should be referred to someone authorised to clarify it. Once the meaning is settled, the translator can decide how to express it clearly for another audience. Good translation combines judgement with accountability: it notices what words do, checks the details that action depends on, and makes uncertainty visible instead of hiding it beneath confident language.

1(I) Which idea most closely matches the writer's definition of fidelity?
(a) Copy the original word order regardless of use.
(b) Preserve the message's purpose as well as its meaning.
(c) Make every rule less demanding in translation.
(d) Replace local references with invented destinations. [1]

1(II) What TWO sources of knowledge should be involved in checking a translation? [1]

1(III) Find the ONE word in paragraph 2 meaning impossible to misunderstand. [1]

1(IV) In 30–40 words, explain why a polite expression may need different wording in translation. [2]

1(V) Which action best handles an unfamiliar room nickname?
(a) Remove all room references.
(b) Invent a shorter route to the room.
(c) Add its official room number with the organisation's agreement.
(d) Assume every visitor already knows the nickname. [1]

1(VI) TRUE or FALSE: A fluent sentence establishes that its copied dates and numbers are accurate. [1]

1(VII) In paragraph 5, accountability most nearly involves:
(a) accepting responsibility for choices and seeking authorised clarification.
(b) counting the number of words in every notice.
(c) always selecting the gentler of two conflicting rules.
(d) hiding uncertainty to avoid troubling readers. [1]

1(VIII) In 30–40 words, explain why translating two conflicting rules cannot itself resolve the policy disagreement. [2]

2 Reading comprehension [10 marks]

Read the case-based factual passage and answer all nine parts that follow.

(1) In this fictional school archive, each submitted audio entry must pass two checks before it can be considered by the selection panel. A consent form must have been received, and the audio file must open successfully. The checks are independent. Passing either one alone is insufficient. The table records the status of five entries at noon on Monday. It does not record the artistic quality of any recording or the reasons for a missing form or faulty file.

(2) An entry with both checks passed is eligible for consideration, but it has not automatically been selected. The panel makes its later selection from eligible entries. Students with an incomplete entry may correct it by noon on Wednesday. A failed file check means that the archive could not open the submitted file during its test; it does not prove that the recording never existed. Staff should describe the problem precisely so that a student knows what needs attention.

(3) The archive keeps a dated record of changes. When a new file arrives, staff test it again rather than simply assuming that resubmission solves the problem. If a consent form arrives later, only the consent field changes until another check establishes something further. The totals at the bottom count passed checks separately. They must not be added together to claim that six different entries have passed: the same entry can appear in both totals.

Entry	Consent received	File opens
A	Yes	Yes
B	Yes	No
C	No	Yes
D	No	No
E	Yes	Yes
Passed checks	3	3

2(I) Which entries are eligible at noon on Monday? [1]

2(II) What specifically prevents B from becoming eligible?
(a) Its consent form is absent.
(b) Its file failed to open.
(c) It has already been rejected for poor quality.
(d) It arrived after Wednesday. [1]

2(III) If C's consent arrives and its file status remains unchanged, what will its new eligibility status be? [1]

2(IV) Which conclusion follows from an entry being eligible?
(a) It has the highest artistic quality.
(b) It was selected before testing.
(c) Both preliminary checks have passed.
(d) Its student may ignore the deadline. [1]

2(V) In 30–40 words, explain why adding the two totals would produce a misleading count of different entries. [2]

2(VI) What is the final time for correcting an incomplete entry? [1]

2(VII) Why must a resubmitted audio file be tested again? [1]

2(VIII) Which entry currently needs BOTH fields to change before it can become eligible? [1]

2(IX) Which statement would go beyond the recorded evidence?
(a) A's two checks passed.
(b) The table includes five entries.
(c) D has two incomplete checks.
(d) B's recording never existed. [1]

Section B Grammar and Writing Skills

3 Grammar [10 marks]

Complete any TEN of the TWELVE grammar tasks, as directed.

3(I) Choose the present perfect form linking a past loss to its current consequence: I cannot enter my room because I _____ my key.
(a) lose
(b) was losing
(c) have lost
(d) had lost [1]

3(II) Complete with the future continuous of display: At ten tomorrow morning, our class _____ its models in the hall. [1]

3(III) Choose the determiner: This label is damaged. Please give me _____ one.
(a) another
(b) other
(c) many
(d) much [1]

3(IV) Correct the single error: A number of students has offered to help. Write Error→Correction. [1]

3(V) Report the statement with the present reporting verb supplied: Tara says, “I am ready.” Begin: Tara says that _____. [1]

3(VI) Choose the modal expressing lack of necessity: The school provides all materials, so you _____ bring your own.
(a) must not
(b) cannot
(c) may not
(d) need not [1]

3(VII) Supply the correct present form of be: The recording and its written transcript _____ both ready. [1]

3(VIII) Correct the single error in the reported question: He asked me where was the consent form. Write Error→Correction. [1]

3(IX) Choose the article: This is _____ oldest object in the exhibition.
(a) a
(b) an
(c) the
(d) some [1]

3(X) Choose the correct modal form for ability at a past age: By the age of eight, she _____ read both scripts fluently.
(a) can
(b) could
(c) must
(d) should [1]

3(XI) Complete with the simple present of believe: I _____ your explanation, but I still need the reference. [1]

3(XII) Report the statement with conventional demonstrative change: Priya said, “These sketches are mine.” Begin: Priya said that _____. [1]

4 Formal letter [5 marks]

Attempt either A or B. Write a formal letter in 100–120 words.

4(A) You are Kavya/Kavin of 12 Lake Street, Arunpur. A notice invites student volunteers to help catalogue the community reading room’s books during the winter break. Write an application stating relevant skills, availability and willingness to learn the agreed procedure. Use 100–120 words. [5]

OR

4(B) You are Arjun/Aruna, secretary of the Geography Society, Pine School, Arunpur. Write to Atlas Educational Supplies to order 40 blank outline maps and 20 school atlases. Specify the need for current editions, request price/delivery confirmation and ask for an itemised invoice. Use 100–120 words. [5]

5 Analytical paragraph [5 marks]

Attempt either A or B. Write an analytical paragraph in 100–120 words.

5(A) A fictional school is planning three garden zones. The table gives usable area and daily sunlight. For this task, herbs require at least four hours of sunlight and the selected shade plants require no more than two. Write an analytical paragraph in 100–120 words proposing suitable locations for both types and explaining what the data cannot establish. Do not invent further growing requirements. [5]

Zone	Area square metres	Sunlight hours
A	40	6
B	30	3
C	20	1

OR

5(B) A school expects to print 3000 pages and is comparing two fictional printers. A costs INR 4000 and INR 2 per page; B costs INR 6000 and INR 1 per page. Assume these are the only costs and both meet the same quality requirement. Write an analytical paragraph in 100–120 words comparing total cost, explaining the initial-price trap and noting a limit of the comparison. [5]

Section C Literature Textbook

6 Drama or prose extract [5 marks]

Read extracts A and B. Answer ALL parts of ANY ONE extract.

Extract A

Text and source: When I returned, there was an appalling spectacle. There was complete silence from the box, but from its airholes and chinks around the lid, blood had trickled and dried. I whipped off the lock and tore open the lid, and Mij, exhausted and blood-spattered, whimpered and caught at my leg.
(Mijbil the Otter)

6(A)(I) Which detail first makes the apparently silent box alarming?
(a) Blood has trickled from its openings.
(b) It has been freshly painted.
(c) Its label contains a spelling error.
(d) It stands beside a window. [1]

6(A)(II) What does “whipped off” suggest about the narrator’s action? [1]

6(A)(III) State ONE action through which Mij seeks contact with the narrator. [1]

6(A)(IV) In 30–40 words, explain how the narrator’s reaction differs from his earlier assumption that the box would help Mij become accustomed to travel. [2]

OR

Extract B

Text and source: How foolish people are when they own valuable things, Horace thought. A magazine article had described this house, giving a plan of all the rooms and a picture of this room. The writer had even mentioned that the painting hid a safe!
(A Question of Trust)

6(B)(I) What concealed object did the magazine article reveal? [1]

6(B)(II) Horace's criticism is ironic because he is using the information to:
(a) arrange a public tour.
(b) return a borrowed painting.
(c) assist the housekeeper with repairs.
(d) prepare a burglary. [1]

6(B)(III) In 30–40 words, explain why the magazine's combination of words and pictures is useful to Horace. [2]

6(B)(IV) Whose thought is directly represented by the opening judgement? [1]

7 Poetry extract [5 marks]

Read poetry extracts A and B. Answer ALL parts of ANY ONE extract.

Extract A

Text and source: The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree
(Dust of Snow)

7(A)(I) Which creature initiates the event in these lines? [1]

7(A)(II) Which sequence matches the stanza?
(a) The speaker shakes a tree and catches a bird.
(b) A crow shakes snow from a tree onto the speaker.
(c) Snow rises from the ground into the branches.
(d) A bird shelters beneath a tree after the snow melts. [1]

7(A)(III) What tree is named? [1]

7(A)(IV) In 30–40 words, explain how the small scale of the incident affects the poem's presentation of nature. [2]

OR

Extract B

Text and source: The fog comes
on little cat feet.
It sits looking
over harbour and city
(Fog)

7(B)(I) What does the pronoun "It" refer to? [1]

7(B)(II) "Little cat feet" primarily encourages readers to imagine movement that is:
(a) noisy and forceful.
(b) rapid and mechanical.
(c) soft and unobtrusive.
(d) fixed and motionless forever. [1]

7(B)(III) Which TWO places lie within the fog's apparent view? [1]

7(B)(IV) In 30–40 words, explain how "sits looking" changes the reader's relation to the fog. [2]

8 First Flight short response [12 marks]

Answer any FOUR of the FIVE First Flight questions in about 40–50 words each.

8(I) How does Mandela's account distinguish courage from a state of never feeling afraid? [3]

8(II) How does the shift from raindrops as coins to destructive hail change the economic meaning of the weather for Lencho? [3]

8(III) How does the description of Coorg accommodate both the relaxed visitor and the adventurous one? [3]

8(IV) Why does the young seagull's alarm on touching the sea matter even after he has learned to fly? [3]

8(V) What does the imagined possibility of a second destruction add to the argument of Fire and Ice? [3]

9 Footprints Without Feet short response [6 marks]

Answer any TWO of the THREE Footprints Without Feet questions in about 40–50 words each.

9(I) What makes Ebright's question about the gold spots on a monarch pupa more than a search for decorative detail? [3]

9(II) What do the successive orders to eat the supposed sandwich reveal about Omega and Iota? [3]

9(III) How does Hari's final smile differ from the appealing smile he deliberately uses earlier in The Thief's Story? [3]

10 First Flight long response [6 marks]

Answer either A or B from First Flight in about 100–120 words.

10(A) Explain how the images of ripe fruit and earthen vessels make the Buddha's argument about mortality accessible. Refer to The Sermon at Benares. [6]

OR

10(B) Assess how the comparison of branches to newly discharged patients shapes the movement out of the house in The Trees. [6]

11 Footprints Without Feet long response [6 marks]

Answer either A or B from Footprints Without Feet in about 100–120 words.

11(A) Discuss how concealment contributes to the cost of the lost necklace. Distinguish the actual decisions in the story from any alternative outcome you propose. [6]

OR

11(B) Compare Ramlal's concern for public honour with Bholi's understanding of dignity during the wedding crisis. Explain how their words expose different priorities. [6]