CBSE Class 9 English (Language and Literature)

Sample Question Paper 2026-27 (Set 1, Level R1)

Subject: English | **Class:** IX | **Textbook:** Kaveri **Time Allowed:** 3 Hours | **Maximum Marks:** 80

Prepared by Sunbeam World School for practice. Based on the CBSE Class IX curriculum 2026-27 and the prescribed NCERT textbook.

General Instructions

1. This paper is divided into **three Sections: A, B and C**.
2. **Section A** Reading Skills, 20 marks. **Section B** Writing Skills and Grammar, 30 marks. **Section C** Language through Literature, 30 marks.
3. Attempt **all** questions. Internal choice is given where indicated.
4. Observe the word limits given for each writing task.
5. Write the correct question number clearly against each answer.

Blueprint: Section-Wise Distribution

Section	Area	Marks
A	Reading Skills	20
B	Writing Skills and Grammar	30
C	Language through Literature	30
	Total	**80**

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (20 Marks)

Q1. Read the passage carefully. (10 marks)

1. Every year, millions of birds set out on journeys that would exhaust any human traveller. The Arctic tern makes the longest migration known to science, flying from its breeding grounds near the Arctic to the Antarctic and back, a round trip of roughly 70,000 kilometres. It does this every year of a life that may last thirty years, which means a single tern can cover a distance equal to three return trips to the Moon.

2. What guides them is still only partly understood. Birds appear to use several systems at once. Many navigate by the position of the sun during the day and by star patterns at night. Some are sensitive to the Earth's magnetic field, which gives them a sense of latitude. Others follow coastlines, rivers and mountain ranges, learning the route from older birds on their first journey.

3. Migration is not a decision a bird makes. It is triggered largely by changes in daylight hours, which cause hormonal changes that prompt the bird to feed heavily and store fat. A small warbler may double its body weight in a few weeks before departure, burning that reserve during a flight that can last several days without rest.

4. The risks are considerable. Storms blow birds off course, and exhaustion claims many over open ocean. In recent decades a newer danger has grown: the loss of stopover sites. Migrating birds depend on a chain of wetlands and forests where they rest and refuel, and when one link in that chain is drained or built over, the whole journey becomes harder. Conservationists now argue that protecting a single wetland in one country may decide whether a species survives in another, thousands of kilometres away.

Answer the following questions based on the passage.

(i) What makes the Arctic tern's migration remarkable? **(2)** (ii) State any two methods birds use to navigate during migration. **(2)** (iii) Explain why a warbler doubles its body weight before migrating. **(2)** (iv) What does the writer mean by "a chain of wetlands and forests"? **(2)** (v) Select the option that best describes the writer's attitude in paragraph 4. **(1)** (a) indifferent (b) concerned (c) amused (d) doubtful (vi) Find a word in paragraph 3 that means "a supply kept for future use". **(1)**

Q2. Read the passage carefully. (10 marks)

A survey of reading habits among 1,200 secondary school students produced the following results.

Activity	Students who do it daily	Students who do it weekly	Students who rarely do it
Reading a printed book	310	420	470
Reading news online	540	390	270
Reading on a phone or tablet	760	300	140
Visiting a library	95	280	825

The survey also found that students who read a printed book daily reported better concentration during study, while those who read mainly on phones reported more frequent interruptions. Interestingly, the total time spent reading was similar across both groups. The researchers concluded that what mattered was not how much students read but how undisturbed that reading was.

Answer the following questions.

(i) Which activity is done daily by the largest number of students? **(1)** (ii) How many students rarely visit a library? **(1)** (iii) Compare the daily readership of printed books with that of phones or tablets. **(2)** (iv) What was the researchers' main conclusion? **(2)** (v) What do students who read mainly on phones report? **(2)** (vi) Based on the data, suggest one step a school could take to improve reading habits. **(2)**

SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS AND GRAMMAR (30 Marks)

Writing Skills (20 Marks)

Q3. You are Rohan or Riya of Class IX, the Head Boy or Head Girl of Sunbeam Public School. Write a **notice** in not more than 50 words informing students about an inter-house science exhibition to be held next month. Include date, venue and how to register. **(3)**

Q4. Write a **letter to the editor** of a national daily in about 120 words, drawing attention to the poor condition of footpaths in your locality and the difficulty this causes schoolchildren and elderly residents. You are Arjun or Ananya, 15 Park Road, Varanasi. **(5) OR** Write a **formal email** to the principal of your school in about 120 words, requesting permission to organise a book donation drive for a nearby government school. Include your proposed dates and how students would participate.

Q5. Write a **magazine article** in about 140 words on the topic "Why Every Student Should Learn to Cook". Use the following cues: independence, nutrition, respect for household work, a life skill that lasts. **(5) OR** Write a **factual description** in about 140 words of your school library, covering its layout, the kinds of books it holds and the atmosphere inside it.

Q6. Write a **descriptive or narrative essay** in about 220 words on any **one** of the following. **(7)** (a) A day when everything went wrong (b) The place I go to when I want to be alone (c) An elderly person who changed the way I think

Grammar (10 Marks)

Q7. Fill in the blanks with the correct option. **(3)** (i) By the time we reached the station, the train _____ (already left / had already left / has already left). (ii) She is the _____ (more talented / most talented / talented) singer in the group. (iii) If it _____ (rains / rained / will rain) tomorrow, the match will be postponed.

Q8. Rewrite as directed. **(3)** (i) The gardener waters the plants every morning. **(Change to passive voice)** (ii) "Where have you kept my notebook?" asked Meera. **(Change to reported speech)** (iii) He is very tired. He cannot walk further. **(Combine using "too … to")**

Q9. Fill in the blanks with suitable prepositions or determiners. **(2)** (i) The meeting has been postponed _____ Monday. (ii) There isn't _____ sugar left in the jar.

Q10. Identify and correct the error in each sentence. **(2)** (i) Neither of the two answers are correct. (ii) He has been working here since five years.

SECTION C: LANGUAGE THROUGH LITERATURE (30 Marks)

Q11. Read the extract and answer the questions that follow. **(5)**

An extract of 6 to 8 lines from a prose text prescribed in Kaveri is to be inserted here by the teacher setting the paper.

(i) Who is the speaker, and whom is the speaker addressing? **(1)** (ii) What situation has led to these words? **(2)** (iii) What does the extract reveal about the speaker's character? **(1)** (iv) Find a word in the extract that means the opposite of "reluctant". **(1)**

Q12. Read the poetry extract and answer the questions that follow. **(5)**

A stanza from a poem prescribed in Kaveri is to be inserted here by the teacher setting the paper.

(i) Name the poem and the poet. **(1)** (ii) What image does the poet create in these lines? **(2)** (iii) Identify the figure of speech used and explain it briefly. **(2)**

Q13. Answer **any four** of the following in 40 to 50 words each. **(4 × 3 = 12)**

(i) Describe the central conflict faced by the main character in any one prose text you have studied, and how it is resolved. (ii) What message does the poet convey in any one poem from your textbook? Support your answer with a reference to the text. (iii) Describe a moment in any prose text where a character makes a difficult choice. What would you have done in their place? (iv) How does the setting of any one text contribute to its mood? (v) Choose any character from your textbook who changes over the course of the text. Explain the change and what causes it.

Q14. Answer **any one** of the following in about 100 to 120 words. **(6)**

(i) "A story stays with us because of what it makes us feel, not because of what happens in it." Discuss this statement with reference to any one prose text you have studied. **OR** (ii) Imagine you could interview the poet of any one poem in your textbook. Write the conversation you would have, bringing out what the poem means to you and what you would want to ask.

Q15. Answer in about 60 to 80 words. **(2)**

What, in your view, is the most important quality shown by any one character you have studied this year? Give one reason.

MARKING SCHEME

CBSE Class 9 English Sample Paper 2026-27 (Set 1)

Marks are shown in brackets. Award marks for content, expression and accuracy as indicated.

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (20)

Q1. (10) (i) It is the longest migration known, roughly 70,000 km round trip from Arctic to Antarctic, repeated annually for a life of up to thirty years, equal to three return trips to the Moon. **(2)** (ii) Any two of: navigating by the position of the sun by day; by star patterns at night; sensitivity to the Earth's magnetic field; following coastlines, rivers and mountain ranges; learning the route from older birds. **(2)**, 1 mark each (iii) The warbler stores fat as fuel **(1)** because the flight can last several days without rest and it must burn that reserve during the journey **(1)** (iv) It means the series of linked resting and refuelling sites along the route **(1)**; if one site is lost the whole journey is disrupted, as a chain fails when one link breaks **(1)** (v) (b) concerned **(1)** (vi) reserve **(1)**

Q2. (10) (i) Reading on a phone or tablet, done daily by 760 students **(1)** (ii) 825 students **(1)** (iii) 310 students read a printed book daily, compared with 760 on a phone or tablet **(1)**; phone or tablet reading is more than twice as common **(1)** (iv) What mattered was not how much students read but how undisturbed the reading was **(2)** (v) They report more frequent interruptions, though their total reading time is similar **(2)** (vi) Any sensible suggestion with a link to the data **(2)**, for example a daily silent reading period, since undisturbed reading improved concentration; or improving library access, since 825 students rarely visit.

SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS AND GRAMMAR (30)

Q3. Notice (3) Format: box, word NOTICE, name of school, date, heading, signature with name and designation **(1)** Content: event, date, venue, registration detail **(1)** Expression and word limit **(1)**

Q4. Letter to the editor (5) Format: sender's address, date, receiver's address, subject, salutation, complimentary close **(1)** Content: condition of footpaths, specific difficulty to schoolchildren and elderly, request for action **(2)** Expression, coherence and accuracy **(2) OR Formal email:** format with To, Subject, salutation and sign-off **(1)**; content covering purpose, proposed dates, student participation **(2)**; expression **(2)**

Q5. Article (5) Format: title and writer's name **(1)** Content: at least three cues developed **(2)** Expression, organisation and accuracy **(2) OR Factual description:** content covering layout, kinds of books, atmosphere **(3)**; expression **(2)**

Q6. Essay (7) Content and relevance to the chosen topic **(3)** Organisation: clear beginning, development and ending **(2)** Expression, vocabulary range and grammatical accuracy **(2)** Deduct up to 1 mark if the word limit is substantially exceeded or not met.

Q7. (3) (i) had already left (ii) most talented (iii) rains. One mark each.

Q8. (3) (i) The plants are watered by the gardener every morning. **(1)** (ii) Meera asked where I had kept her notebook. **(1)** (iii) He is too tired to walk further. **(1)**

Q9. (2) (i) till / until / to (accept "to Monday" or "until Monday") (ii) any. One mark each.

Q10. (2) (i) "are" should be "is": Neither of the two answers **is** correct. **(1)** (ii) "since" should be "for": He has been working here **for** five years. **(1)**

SECTION C: LANGUAGE THROUGH LITERATURE (30)

Note for the teacher setting this paper: Questions 11 and 12 require extracts from the prescribed Kaveri texts, which should be selected from the portion taught. Indicative mark splits are given below.

Q11. Prose extract (5) (i) Speaker and addressee correctly identified **(1)** (ii) Context explained accurately with reference to the text **(2)** (iii) One character trait, supported by the extract **(1)** (iv) Correct antonym from the extract **(1)**

Q12. Poetry extract (5) (i) Poem and poet **(1)** (ii) Image described in the student's own words **(2)** (iii) Figure of speech named **(1)** and explained **(1)**

Q13. Any four, 3 marks each (12) Content and textual accuracy **(2)** per answer Expression within the 40 to 50 word limit **(1)** per answer Award full marks for any defensible reading that is supported by the text.

Q14. Any one (6) Content, depth of engagement with the text **(3)** Organisation and development of the argument **(2)** Expression and accuracy **(1)** For option (ii), accept any interview format; reward imaginative but text-grounded responses.

Q15. (2) One quality named with a clear reason **(1)** Expression within the word limit **(1)**

End of marking scheme.