



CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

(An Autonomous Organization under the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India)

“Shiksha Kendra”, 2, Community Centre, Preet Vihar, Delhi-110 092.

CBSE/ACAD/ (H-I&R) 2010
All the Heads of Institutions
Affiliated to CBSE

22.10.2010
Circular No. 68

Subject: Changes in the Design of the Question Papers – Classes IX & X SA II in English Communicative and Language & Literature.

Dear Principal,

The design of the question papers in English – Communicative and English Language & Literature for Classes IX & X has undergone a few changes. The question papers will be set on the basis of the new design for the Summative Assessment II in the current academic session.

The Changes are as under.

**Question Paper Design SA 2
English Communicative
Classes IX & X
Code No. 101**

Section A--Reading: 20 marks (Questions 1-4)

In the existing scheme of the question paper students answer questions based on four unseen passages carrying five marks each –all the questions are MCQs.

The change proposed is that students be given two passages (carrying 5+5 marks) out of four which are based on MCQ responses. The other two should require effort on the part of the students to supply the responses.

In the proposed question paper scheme

- Students will be expected to attempt four passages carrying five marks each.
- Passage types will include literary, discursive or factual. **One** out of the four passages will be a **poem**.

- **Two out of four passages will have Multiple Choice Questions carrying 5+5=10 marks**
- **Two** out of four passages will have questions wherein students will be expected to supply the responses. This will carry 5+5=10 marks. Question types will be :
 - Sentence completion
 - Gap filling

Note: The weightage given to MCQs to be reduced from the existing 20 Marks in the Reading Section to 10 Marks

Section B--Writing: 20 marks (Questions 5-7)—No change

The writing section comprises three writing tasks as indicated below:

Q 5 A short answer question of upto **80 words** in the form of a **Biographical Sketch** (expansion of notes on an individual's life or achievements into a short paragraph)/**Data Interpretation, Dialogue Writing** or **Description** (People, Places, Events). **4 Marks**

The question will assess students' skill of expressing ideas in clear and grammatically correct English, presenting ideas coherently and concisely, writing a clear description, a clear account of events, expanding notes into a piece of writing or transcoding information from one form to another.

Q 6 A long answer question (minimum **120 words**) in the form of a formal letter/ informal letter or an email. The output would be a long piece of writing and will assess the use of appropriate style, language, content and expression.

8 Marks

Q 7 A long answer question (minimum **150 words**) in the form of a **diary entry, article, speech, story or debate.**

8 Marks

Students' skills in expression of ideas in clear and grammatically correct English, planning, organising and presenting ideas coherently by introducing, developing and concluding a topic, comparing and contrasting ideas and arriving at a conclusion, presenting an argument with supporting examples, using an appropriate style and format and expanding notes into longer pieces of writing and creative expression of ideas will be assessed.

Important Notes on Format and Word Limit:

- Format will not carry any separate marks and in most cases, format will be given in the question paper.
- The word limit given is the suggested minimum word limit. No candidate may be penalised for writing more or less than the suggested word limit. Stress should be on content, expression, coherence and relevance of the content presented.

Section C--Grammar: 20 marks-(Questions 8-12)

In the existing scheme of the question paper students answer five questions of four marks each –all MCQs that test various grammatical items in context.

The change proposed is that students be given two questions (carrying 4+4 marks) out of five which are based on MCQ responses. The other three should require effort on the part of the students to supply the responses.

In the proposed question paper scheme:

- This section will carry five questions of four marks each
- Out of five questions two questions (questions 8 and 9) carrying 4 marks each ie total eight marks will have MCQs .The test types for MCQs include:
 - Gap filling
 - Sentence completion
 - Dialogue completion
- **Question 10, 11, and 12** will be based on response supplied by students.

These test types which will not be tested as MCQs include

- ✓ Sentence reordering
- ✓ Editing
- ✓ Omission
- ✓ Sentence transformation

Note : The weightage given to MCQs to be reduced from the existing 20 marks in the grammar section to 8 marks

Section D--Literature-20 Marks (Questions 13-15)

*In the existing scheme of the question paper students answer questions based on two extracts out of three for reference to context (Prose/poetry or play) carrying **three marks each**(Total -6 Marks) -all MCQs.*

The change proposed is that students be given one extract for reference to context (carrying 3 marks) out of two which is based on MCQ responses. The other extract should require effort on the part of the students to supply the responses.

In the proposed question paper scheme:

Q13 A One out of **two** extracts for **reference to context** with **MCQs** (based on poetry / prose/drama) .The extract will carry **3 marks**.

B) One extract for **reference to context** (based on poetry / prose/drama) where students will be expected to supply the answer. **The extract will carry 3 marks.**

6 Marks

Q14. Four out of **five short answer** type questions based on prose, poetry or plays of **2 marks** each. The questions will not test recall but inference and evaluation.

8 Marks

Q15.One out of **two** long answer type questions to assess personal response to text by going beyond the text/ poetry / prose/drama. Creativity, imagination and extrapolation beyond the text and across two texts will also be assessed.

6 Marks

Note: The weightage given to MCQs to be reduced from the existing 06 Marks in the Literature Section to 3 Marks

Question Paper Design SA 2
English Language and Literature
Classes IX & X
Code No. 184

Section A--Reading: 15 marks (Questions 1-3)

In the existing scheme of the question paper students answer questions based on three unseen passages (total--500 words) carrying five marks each –all MCQs.

The change proposed is that students be given two passages (carrying 5+5 marks) out of three which are based on MCQ responses. One passage with questions carrying 5 marks should be such that it requires effort on the part of the students to supply the responses.

In the proposed question paper scheme

- Students will be expected to attempt three passages carrying five marks each.
- Passage types will include literary, discursive or factual. **One** out of the three passages will be a **poem**.
- **Two out of three passages will have Multiple Choice Questions carrying 5+5=10 marks**
- **One** out of **three** passages will have questions wherein students will be expected to supply the responses. This will carry 5marks. Question types will be :
 - Sentence completion
 - Gap filling

Note: The weightage given to MCQs to be reduced from the existing 15 Marks in the Reading Section to 10 Marks

Section B--Writing: 15 marks (Questions 4-6)—No change

Q 4 Letter Writing: One out of two letters (formal/informal/email) in not more than 100 words based on verbal stimulus and context provided.

Types of letter: Informal – personal, such as to family and friends.

Formal – letters to the Editor.

Email – formal letters to principal of the school or to the editor of a Newspaper or a Magazine.

6 Marks Q 5

Writing an article, speech or debate based on visual or verbal stimulus in not more than **120 words (One out of two).**

6 Marks

Q 6 Writing a short composition in the form of **dialogue writing/story or report** of minimum **80 words (One out of two).**

3 Marks

Section C--Grammar: 15 marks-(Questions 7-11)

In the existing scheme of the question paper Students answer five questions of three marks each –all MCQs.

The change proposed is that students be given two questions (carrying 3+3 marks) out of five which are based on MCQ responses. The other three should require effort on the part of the students to supply the responses.

In the proposed question paper scheme:

- This section will carry five questions of three marks each
- Out of five questions two questions (questions 7 and 8) carrying 6 marks will have MCQs of three marks each .The test types for MCQs include:
 - Gap filling
 - Sentence completion
 - Dialogue completion
- Question 9, 10, and 11(carrying 3 marks each ie total 9 marks) will be based on response supplied by students.

These test types which will not be tested as MCQs include

- ✓ Sentence reordering
- ✓ Editing
- ✓ Omission
- ✓ Sentence transformation (including combining sentences)

Note : The weightage given to MCQs to be reduced from the existing 15 marks in the grammar section to 6 marks

Section D--Literature-35 Marks (Questions 12-17)

In the existing scheme of the question paper students answer questions based on two extracts for reference to context (prose or play) of four marks each(Total -8 Marks) –all MCQs.

They also answer two out of three reference to the context stanzas carrying 3 marks each (total 6 marks) from a poem followed by MCQs to test local and global comprehension

The change proposed is that students be given two extracts for reference to the context (prose or play) (carrying 4 marks each). These extracts would require effort on the part of the students to supply the responses.

Two out of three extracts for reference to the context from poetry (carrying 3 marks each—total six marks)) which have questions for MCQ responses.

In the proposed question paper scheme:

Q12 a) and b) Two extracts for reference to context (based on **prose or play**). These extracts would require effort on the part of the students to supply the responses The extracts will carry (4 marks each) **8 Marks**

Q 13 Two out of three reference to context stanzas (based on poetry) followed by 3 **MCQs** to test local and global comprehension of the set text .**The extracts will carry 3 marks each.**

6 Marks

Q14. Three out of four short answer type questions based on prose or plays to test local and global comprehension of theme and ideas -- **2 marks** each. (40-50 words)

6 Marks

Q15. One out of two long answer type questions extrapolative in nature based on prose or play. (Upto 80 words).

5 Marks

Q 16 One out of **two** long answer questions from supplementary reader to interpret, evaluate and analyze character, plot or situations occurring in lessons to be answered in about 80 words.

4 Marks

Q 17 Two out of three short answer type questions based on factual aspects, interpretation and evaluation of a lesson. (40-50 words)

6 Marks

Note: The weightage given to MCQs to be reduced from the existing 14 Marks in the Literature Section to 6 Marks

This may be brought to the notice of the English teachers and the students of Classes of IX and X. The Sample Question Papers set on the changed design are available on the CBSE website: www.cbse.nic.in

P. Mani
Education Officer (H&L)

Copy to the respective Heads of Directorates, Organizations and Institutions as indicated below with a request to disseminate the information to all the schools under their jurisdiction:

1. The Commissioner, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, 18-Institutional Area, Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg, New Delhi- 110016.
2. The Commissioner, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, A-28, Kailash Colony, New Delhi.
3. The Director of Education, Directorate of Education, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Old Secretariat, Delhi- 110054.
4. The Director of Public Instrucions (Schools), Union Territory Secretariat, Sector-9, Chandigarh- 160017.
5. The Director of Education, Govt. of Sikkim, Gangtok, Sikkim- 737101.
6. The Director of School Education, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar-791111
7. The Director of Education, Govt. of A&N Islands, Port Blair- 744101.
8. The Director of Education, S.I.E., CBSE Cell, VIP Road, Jungle Ghat, P.O. 744103, A&N Islands.
9. The Secretary, Central Tibetan School Administration, ESS ESS Plaza, Community Centre, Sector 3, Rohini, Delhi- 110085

10. All the Regional Officers of CBSE with the request to send this circular to all the Heads of the affiliated schools of the Board in their respective regions.
11. The Education Officers/ AEOs of the Academic Branch, CBSE.
12. The Joint Secretary (IT) with the request to put this circular on the CBSE website.
13. The Library and Information Officer, CBSE.
14. E.O. to Chairman, CBSE

15. DO/ PA to Secretary, CBSE
16. PA to CE, CBSE
17. PA to Director (Acad.)
18. PA to HOD (AIEEE)
19. PA to HOD (Edusat)
20. PRO, CBSE.