

WINTER HOLIDAY HOMEWORK
CLASS-IX
SESSION- 2025-2026
SUBJECT- ENGLISH

“Learning never takes a holiday—it just finds new ways to grow.”

Dear Children

Your English Holidays Homework will be assessed as Written Assignment on the basis of the following criteria:

- Content
- Expression
- Accuracy

Parents are requested to encourage their ward to attempt the work prescribed by the English Teachers on the basis of MCB, Grammar, Reading Comprehension and Literature Reader.

I. MCB- Attempt the given exercises in the following units of MCB in your assignment notebook:

The Units are-

- a) Mystery
 - The Invisible Man
 - Harry Potter
- b) Children
 - We are the world
 - Life Skills
 - Children of India

II. Competency Based Worksheets

The attached worksheet integrates **reading comprehension, grammar, and literature** to help you strengthen your understanding of the text, improve language accuracy, and apply grammatical concepts in context. Attempt all questions carefully in your **assignment notebooks**.

(A) Reading Comprehension

Passage 1

Vaccines are medicines designed to train the immune system to recognise and fight specific infections. When germs such as viruses or bacteria enter the body for the first time, the immune system may take days to respond fully. During that delay, the germ can multiply and cause illness. Vaccination reduces this delay by preparing the immune system in advance.

The immune system uses white blood cells to identify substances that do not belong in the body. Many germs have molecules on their surface called antigens. When immune cells detect these antigens, they create antibodies—proteins that bind to the antigens and help neutralise the germ. After the infection is controlled, the immune system keeps “memory” cells that remember the antigen. If the same germ enters again, these memory cells can respond faster, usually preventing severe disease.

Different vaccines train the immune system in different ways. Some vaccines use an inactivated (killed) germ or a weakened form of the germ. Others use only a part of the germ, such as a protein. mRNA vaccines work differently: they provide instructions (mRNA) that tell body cells to briefly make a harmless piece of a germ’s protein. The immune system then learns to recognise it. The mRNA does not enter the cell nucleus, and the body breaks it down after a short time. Vaccines can protect individuals and also reduce the spread of infections in a community. When fewer people are infected, there are fewer opportunities for a germ to move from person to person. This indirect protection is important for people who cannot be vaccinated due to age or medical reasons. However, indirect protection depends on high vaccination coverage and how easily the germ spreads.

Like any medicine, vaccines can cause side effects. Most are mild and temporary, such as pain at the injection site, low fever, or fatigue. Serious side effects are rare, and health systems monitor safety through reporting and investigation. Vaccination programs often update recommendations based on scientific studies, disease trends, and safety data.

Q1. Based on the passage answer the following questions

1. The primary purpose of vaccines is to
 - a) cure an infection instantly
 - b) train the immune system before exposure
 - c) replace antibodies in the blood
 - d) stop the immune system from reacting

2. The passage states that the immune system may take days to respond fully during
 - a) a repeat infection
 - b) the first exposure to a germ
 - c) vaccination itself
 - d) a mild fever

3. “Antigens” are best described as
 - a) medicines that kill germs
 - b) molecules on germs that immune cells recognise
 - c) memory cells stored in bones
 - d) proteins that destroy white blood cells

4. “Memory cells” help because they
 - a) stop germs from forming antigens
 - b) respond faster during future exposure
 - c) replace vaccines completely
 - d) prevent all fever after infection

5. Which statement about mRNA vaccines is supported by the passage?
- a) mRNA stays in the body permanently
 - b) mRNA enters the nucleus to change DNA
 - c) mRNA provides instructions to make a harmless protein piece
 - d) mRNA directly kills viruses
6. The phrase “indirect protection” refers to
- a) protection only after illness
 - b) community-level reduced spread that helps vulnerable people
 - c) protection only in rural areas
 - d) protection gained by antibiotics
7. Indirect protection depends on
- a) only one person being vaccinated
 - b) high vaccination coverage and how easily the germ spreads
 - c) side effects being severe
 - d) vaccines being taken daily
8. Most vaccine side effects mentioned are
- a) dangerous and permanent
 - b) mild and temporary
 - c) caused by memory cells failing
 - d) signs that vaccines do not work
9. Health systems monitor vaccine safety mainly through
- a) ignoring reports unless serious
 - b) reporting and investigation systems
 - c) school attendance records
 - d) temperature checks only
10. Which of the following is a claim that is directly supported by evidence in the passage?
- a) Vaccines are the only way to stay healthy.
 - b) Serious side effects are rare, and safety is monitored.
 - c) All infections can be eliminated by vaccination.
 - d) Vaccines have no side effects at all.

Passage 2: Cities That Breathe Water

As climate change accelerates, cities across the world are struggling with extreme weather conditions. Rising global temperatures have intensified two major urban problems: severe heat islands, where concrete and asphalt trap heat, and sudden flash floods caused by intense rainfall. For decades, cities relied on traditional “grey infrastructure” such as concrete drains, underground pipes, and paved surfaces to manage rainwater. While effective in the past, these systems are now proving inadequate in the face of unpredictable and heavy storms.

In response to this growing crisis, urban planners and environmental experts are embracing the concept of the Sponge City. Unlike conventional cities that push rainwater away as quickly as possible, a Sponge City is designed to absorb, store, filter, and reuse rainwater. Through features such as permeable pavements, green roofs, rain gardens, and restored wetlands, these cities imitate the natural water cycle that existed before urban development. When rainfall occurs, instead of rushing into clogged drains, water seeps into the ground. Soil and plant roots naturally filter pollutants, improving water quality. The absorbed water can later be reused for irrigation, landscaping, and even for replenishing underground aquifers, helping cities combat water scarcity.

However, developing a Sponge City involves more than simply adding greenery. It demands a fundamental shift in urban engineering and planning. Roads, buildings, and drainage systems must be redesigned to work alongside biological systems. Critics argue that such transformations require high initial investments and continuous maintenance, making them challenging for developing nations with limited resources.

Despite these concerns, supporters highlight the long-term advantages. Sponge Cities reduce flood damage, lower urban temperatures, improve air quality, enhance biodiversity, and create healthier living environments. Economically, they can significantly reduce the cost of disaster recovery caused by floods. For modern city planners, the challenge is no longer whether change is necessary, but how quickly cities can replace rigid concrete landscapes with flexible, nature-based solutions.

Q1. Based on the passage answer the following questions

1. What major environmental challenges are modern cities facing due to climate change?
 - a) Increased snowfall and drought
 - b) Heat islands and flash flooding
 - c) Air pollution and earthquakes
 - d) Population decline and food shortage

2. Why is traditional grey infrastructure considered inadequate today?
 - a) It occupies too much land
 - b) It cannot cope with intense and unpredictable rainfall
 - c) It is illegal in many countries
 - d) It encourages water conservation

3. What is the primary goal of a Sponge City?
 - a) To decorate cities with greenery
 - b) To move water away rapidly
 - c) To manage rainwater by absorbing and reusing it
 - d) To replace cities with forests

4. Which of the following features helps a city absorb rainwater?
 - a) Concrete highways
 - b) Underground tunnels
 - c) Permeable pavements
 - d) Steel rooftops

5. How does soil contribute to the Sponge City concept?
 - a) By increasing construction costs
 - b) By blocking underground water flow
 - c) By naturally filtering pollutants from rainwater
 - d) By preventing plant growth

6. What challenge do critics associate with Sponge Cities?
 - a) Lack of public interest
 - b) Difficulty in maintaining concrete structures
 - c) High initial cost and maintenance requirements
 - d) Reduced water availability

7. Which long-term benefit of Sponge Cities is mentioned in the passage?
 - a) Faster transportation
 - b) Increased industrial growth
 - c) Reduced flood-related economic losses
 - d) Elimination of all natural disasters

8. What skill is essential for planners designing Sponge Cities?
 - a) Expertise only in architecture
 - b) Ability to integrate natural systems with urban design
 - c) Knowledge of highway construction
 - d) Focus on short-term profits

9. What does the phrase “rigid concrete landscapes” suggest?
 - a) Artistic city designs
 - b) Flexible urban spaces
 - c) Inflexible, non-porous city structures
 - d) Temporary buildings

10. What is the author’s overall attitude toward Sponge Cities?
 - a) Doubtful and critical
 - b) Neutral and detached
 - c) Supportive and forward-looking
 - d) Indifferent to environmental issues

(B) Integrated Grammar

Q1. Edit the following sentences. Each line has an error. Write the incorrect word and the correct word in your assignment notebook.

(A)

- a) We are go to attend a workshop tomorrow. ____
- b) The train will arrives at 6 p.m. today. ____
- c) I go to meet my friend next evening. ____
- d) She is finish her homework tomorrow. ____
- e) They will going to play the match on Sunday. ____
- f) Our school is organise a farewell next week. ____

(B)

- a) I will meet you on the Monday. ____
- b) He have submitted the form yesterday. ____
- c) She is going to buy an oranges tomorrow. ____
- d) The match start at 5 p.m. tomorrow. ____
- e) There are little students in the class today. ____
- f) The teacher will checking our notebooks tomorrow. ____

Q2. Rearrange the words to form meaningful sentences.

- a) to / library / the / went / I / yesterday
- b) playing / were / park / the / children / in / the
- c) always / on / time / he / comes
- d) should / we / save / water / every / day
- e) a / bought / new / she / dress / yesterday
- f) very / was / movie / the / interesting
- g) doing / my / I / homework / am / now
- h) will / next / visit / we / Monday / the / museum
- i) was / because / absent / he / ill / he / was
- j) the / match / tomorrow / start / will / at / 4 p.m.

Q3. Read the following conversations and complete the passages that follow by converting them into reported speech.

(i) Dialogue:

Friend: "Congratulations on winning the dance competition! You were outstanding!"

Anita: "Thank you! I had practised for weeks, and I'm still nervous about the next round."

Friend: "Don't worry. You deserve this. Keep practising every day, and don't skip your rehearsals."

Anita: "I won't. I'll continue practising daily, and I'm going to join a weekend workshop too."

Paragraph : The friend congratulated Anita _____ (1) winning the dance competition and said that she _____ (2) outstanding. Anita thanked _____ (3) and said that she _____ (4) practised for weeks, but she _____ (5) still nervous about the next round. The friend told her _____ (6) worry and added that she _____ (7) deserved it. The friend advised her _____ (8) keep practising every day and _____ (9) skip her rehearsals. Anita replied that she _____ (10) and added that she _____ (11) continue practising daily. She also said that she _____ (12) going to join a weekend workshop too.

(ii) Dialogue:

Coach: "Rohan, why are you late again? You said yesterday, 'I will come early tomorrow.'"

Rohan: "I'm sorry, sir. The bus broke down this morning. Could you allow me to join practice now?"

Coach: "Fine, but don't repeat it. Reach on time from next week."

Rohan: "I will. I'm going to set an alarm and leave home earlier."

Paragraph : The coach asked Rohan why he _____ (1) late again and reminded him that he _____ (2) said the previous day that he _____ (3) come early _____ (4). Rohan apologised and said that the bus _____ (5) down that morning. He asked the coach _____ (6) allow him to join practice _____ (7). The coach agreed but warned him _____ (8) repeat it and instructed him _____ (9) on time from the following week. Rohan assured him that he _____ (10) and added that he _____ (11) going to set an alarm and leave home earlier.

(iii) Dialogue:

Mother: "Meera, have you finished your homework yet? Don't waste time on your phone."

Meera: "Not yet, Mom. I was revising Maths, but I'll finish it in an hour."

Mother: "Good. Submit it tomorrow, and remember to carry your project file as well."

Meera: "Alright. If I get time tonight, I'll also revise English."

Paragraph: Mother asked Meera whether she _____ (1) finished her homework _____ (2) and told her _____ (3) waste time on her phone. Meera replied that she _____ (4) not finished it yet and said that she _____ (5) revising Maths, but she _____ (6) finish it in an hour. Mother then told her _____ (7) submit it _____ (8) and reminded her _____ (9) carry her project file as well. Meera agreed and added that if she _____ (10) time that night, she _____ (11) also revise English.

(C) Literature: Best Seller

i. Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions in 40- 50 words based on reading of the story.

- Why does the novelist devote three pages to America's uncrowned sovereigns?
- What is pointed out by the protagonist of the novel? Why?
- Why did Pescud feel that the bestsellers were unrealistic?
- What was John . A. Pescud's opinion about best sellers? Why?
- Explain the sentence " Life has no geographical bounds"
- What fault, according to Pescud, did "The Rose Lady and Trevelyan" suffer from?
- Give two reasons to show that Jessie was very proud of her family?
- What were John A. Pescud's views on life and ethics?

ii. Long Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions in 100-120 words based on reading of the story.

- What estimate do you form of John A . Pescud on the basis of your reading the story, "Bestseller"?
- Bring out the element of irony in the story, "Bestseller".
- Compare John from "The Best Seller" with any other character from a story you have read who follows his/her passion. How are they similar or different in terms of dreams and struggles?

iii. **Multiple Choice Questions**

1. What is the primary setting for most of O. Henry's story "Bestseller"?
 - a) A quiet library
 - b) A transcontinental train
 - c) A publisher's office
 - d) A New York bookstore

2. Who is the narrator of "Bestseller"?
 - a) John A. Pescud, a traveling salesman
 - b) A famous author
 - c) The train conductor
 - d) A literary critic

3. What popular novel does John Pescud criticize at the beginning of the story?
 - a) The Scarlet Letter
 - b) The Lady of the Tressels (a fictional bestseller)
 - c) The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
 - d) Treasure Island

4. What does Pescud claim about the plots of popular bestsellers?
 - a) They are highly original.
 - b) They are too short.
 - c) They are unrealistic and formulaic.
 - d) They are based on true events.

5. What is the ironic twist in Pescud's own personal story that he narrates?
 - a) He ended up living a plot very similar to the bestseller he mocked.
 - b) He is actually the author of the bestseller he criticized.
 - c) He lost all his money chasing a woman.
 - d) He finds out his wife never loved him.

6. What does Pescud discover about Jessie's family when he follows her to Virginia?
 - a) They are poor farmers.
 - b) They are wealthy, aristocratic landowners.
 - c) They are criminals in hiding.
 - d) They own a plate-glass factory.

7. What is Pescud's profession?
 - a) Writer
 - b) Lawyer
 - c) Plate-glass salesman
 - d) Railroad executive

8. What is the central irony O. Henry is highlighting in "Bestseller"?
 - a) That books are more valuable than real life.
 - b) That people mock sentimental stories while often living them out themselves.
 - c) That salesmen are better storytellers than authors.
 - d) That trains are the best place to read.

9. How does Pescud describe his own marriage and life at the end?

- a) As a boring, practical affair.
- b) As full of adventure, just like a novel.
- c) As perfectly happy, conventional, and successful—in his own house with a plot of grass.
- d) As a great tragedy.

III. Note: Revise the entire syllabus taken up before the winter break and complete pending work/worksheets if any.

We wish you all a safe, cozy and healthy winter vacations.