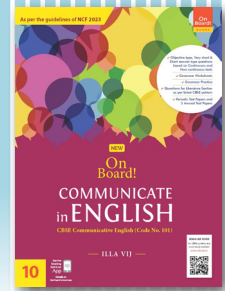


# COMMUNICATE in ENGLISH

CBSE Communicative English (Code No. 101)



## SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER

### English - Communicative

Time allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80

#### General Instructions:

1. 15-minute prior reading time allotted for Question-paper reading.
2. The Question Paper contains **Four** sections – READING SKILLS, WRITING SKILLS, GRAMMAR and LITERATURE TEXTBOOK.
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

#### Section A READING SKILLS

22 marks

#### 1. Read the following passage carefully.

1. Born in Khwarezm in Central Asia, now in Uzbekistan, in 973 CE, Al Biruni was an astronomer, anthropologist, mathematician, historian and geographer. Al Biruni lived during a period of political turmoil. He had as his patrons more than six different princes, none of whom were able or wise rulers, and were known for their war-mongering habits. Al Biruni, therefore, was always on the lookout for new patrons or escaping wars.
2. Around the year 996 CE, he sought the patronage of the Samanid dynasty, which ruled the vast areas of land, including what is now eastern Iran and much of Afghanistan. However, Al Biruni's stay with the Samanids was short-lived. In 998 CE, the entire kingdom of the Samanids was annexed by the brutal Mahmud of Ghazni. Mahmud demanded that Al Biruni join his court. This time Al Biruni could not escape. He worked in Ghazni till the end of his life. This association was significant for Al Biruni accompanied Mahmud on his campaigns into India, the result of which is that we have one of the most comprehensively written books on India of that time.
3. It is very likely that Al Biruni was an unwilling companion of the ruthless Mahmud, but he made good use of the occasion to write down his observations about India. His book is by far the most important of his larger works on any subject, and it earned him recognition as a keen ethnographer, anthropologist

and historian. Its title, *Taqīq mā li-l-hind min maqūlah maqbūlah fī al-‘aql aw mardhūlah* (‘Verifying All That the Indians Recount, the Reasonable and the Unreasonable’), shows how interested Al Biruni was in recording as truthfully as possible all that he could gather about the customs, religion and science of India.

4. Al Biruni described the festival of Diwali in these words, ‘When the sun marches in Libra, it is called Dibali. Then people bathe, dress festively, go to the temples to give alms and play merrily with each other till noon. In the night, they light a great number of lamps in every place so that the air is perfectly clear.’
5. Al Biruni was interested in every aspect of Indian scholarship and learnt Sanskrit. He wrote, ‘The most commonly known alphabet is called Siddhamatrika, which is by some considered as originating from Kashmir, for the people of Kashmir use it. But it is also used in Varanasi. This town and Kashmir are the high schools of Hindu sciences. The same writing is used in Madhyadesa, i.e. the middle country, the country all around Kanauj, which is also called Aryavarta.’
6. On the myths of Indian astronomy, he wrote, ‘They say that the thunder is the roaring of Airavata, the elephant of Indra, the ruler of Heaven, when it drinks from the pond of Manasa ... the rainbow is the bow of Indra, as our common people consider it as the bow of Rustam.’

**1.1 Answer the following questions, based on the passage above. 12**

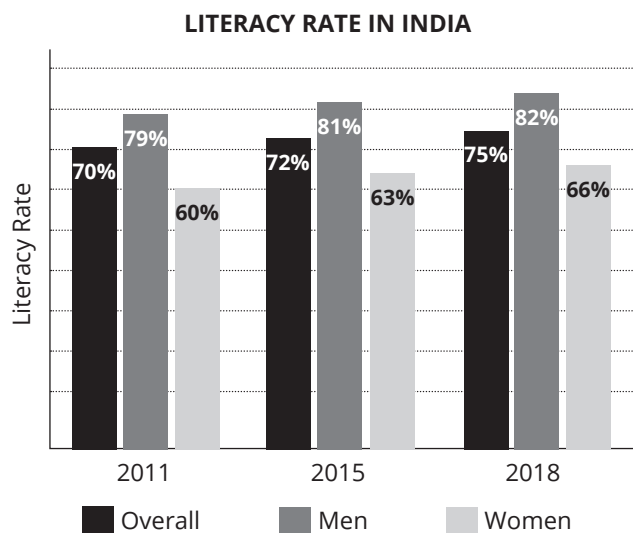
- i. Complete the sentence with appropriate information. 1  
Al Biruni was always on the lookout for new patrons or escaping wars because \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. Select the reason why Al Biruni joined the court of Mahmud of Ghazni. 1
  - a. Since Ghazni had annexed the entire area, it was right of Al Biruni as his subject to work for him.
  - b. Al Biruni had no other place to run away to, and hence could not refuse Ghazni’s demand.
  - c. Al Biruni knew Ghazni was a brutal man and would kill him if he tried to escape from the kingdom.
  - d. Al Biruni was aware that he would be left in peace to study as long as he was under Ghazni’s protection.
- iii. ‘All’s well that ends well.’ With reference to this quote, discuss in about 30–40 words, the best thing that came out of Al Biruni’s association with Mahmud of Ghazni. 2
- iv. Al Biruni was known as an ethnographer and anthropologist since he 1
  - a. travelled to different kingdoms.
  - b. wanted to be described as such.
  - c. observed and wrote about various cultures and their customs.
  - d. studied astronomy as well as other sciences.
- v. Read the following assertion carefully and then write whether it is true or false. 1  
Al Biruni was happy to travel to India with Mahmud of Ghazni because he wanted to write a book about India.

- vi. Which of the following information about Al Biruni and his work is not available in the passage given? 1
- He was deeply interested in astronomy.
  - He learned Sanskrit to understand Indian scholarship better.
  - He did a comparative examination of Indian culture and his own.
  - He is often called the Founder of Indology.
- vii. What information did Al Biruni give about Kashmir? With information given in the passage, write your answer in about 30–40 words. 2
- viii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
- Al Biruni's records are important for Indian history because \_\_\_\_\_
- ix. Substitute the underlined word in the following sentence with a word/phrase from Paragraphs 1–2, that means the same. 1
- The artist sought the sponsorship of rich industrialists.
- x. After which paragraph of the passage, would the following paragraph most likely be placed? 1

*As translated by Edward Sachau, Al Biruni wrote that, "Other alphabets are the Malwari, used in Malwashau, in Southern Sind, towards the sea-coast; the Saindhava, used in Bahmanwa or Almansura; the Karnata, used in Karnatadesa, whence those troops come which in the armies are known as Kannara; the Andhri, used in Andhradesa the Dirwari (Dravidi), and used in Dirwara-esa (Dravi-adesa)."*

## 2. Read the following passage carefully.

- According to a report published by UNESCO, India has the highest population of illiterate adults at 287 million. This constitutes about 37% of the world's adult illiterate population.
- Literacy in India has more than doubled over the last five decades due to concerted efforts by the government and the civil society. However, there is still a long way to go. It is an unhealthy pattern that the literacy of males is always more than that of females in India, whether it be in rural or urban areas. The gap is closing, albeit very slowly. See the graph below.



### WHO IS AN ADULT LITERATE?

According to the National Literacy Mission (NLM), an adult literate is a person, 15 years of age and above, who can

- ❖ read aloud at a speed of 30 words/minute
- ❖ read with understanding road signs, posters and newspapers
- ❖ copy with understanding 7 words per minute
- ❖ take dictation at the rate of 7 words per minute
- ❖ read and write numbers from 1 to 100
- ❖ do simple addition, subtraction, multiplication and division

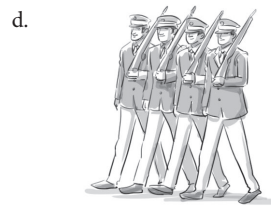
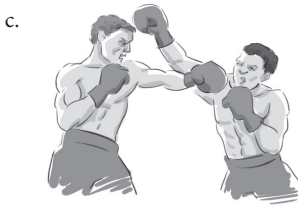
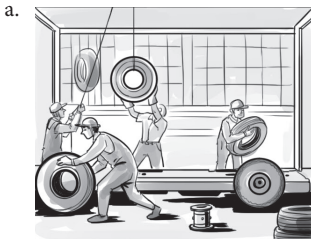
3. In India's journey towards literacy, some of the most promising states have been Kerala, Lakshadweep and Mizoram. Kerala has consistently maintained the position of being the most literate state in the country, with literacy rate averaging 92.5% over the last two decades. In 2013, Tripura sprang a surprise by upstaging Kerala. Though it could not hold the first position for long, it still remains one of the best performing states.
4. One of the most important steps taken by the Government of India towards adult literacy was the National Literacy Mission (NLM). It was launched in 1988 to impart functional literacy to persons in the age group 15–35 years in a time-bound manner. Its aim was to achieve an overall literacy of 75% by 2007. The results of NLM were encouraging. However, regional and gender disparities continued to persist. To address these, the Government of India launched Saakshar Bharat in 2009. It sought to achieve 80% literacy with a special focus on women's literacy so that the gap between male and female literacy could be reduced.
5. When compared to the literacy rates of neighbouring countries, India scores over some and lags behind others. And it still has some way to go before it reaches the world average. See the following table:

Country	Literacy rate (2015)
China	96.4% ↑
Sri Lanka	92.6% ↑
Myanmar	93.7% ↑
<b>World Average</b>	<b>86.3%</b>
<b>India</b>	<b>81%</b>
Nepal	64.7% ↓
Bangladesh	61.5% ↓
Pakistan	58% ↓

2.1 Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

10

- i. For which remarkable feat should the government and civil society be lauded? 1
- ii. Select the picture which does not show 'concerted' efforts (Paragraph 1). 1



- iii. Read the following statements about the graph. Identify the incorrect statement. 1
  - a. From 2011 to 2015, male literacy rate increased by 2%.
  - b. From 2015 to 2018, overall literacy rate grew by 2%.
  - c. From 2011 to 2018, female literacy rate grew consistently by 3%.
  - d. In 2015 and 2018, the difference between male and female literacy remained the same.
- iv. Select the correct option to fill the blank and complete the analogy. 1  
As per their literacy rates given in the graph  
India : Sri Lanka :: Bangladesh : \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Pakistan
  - b. Nepal
  - c. China
  - d. Myanmar
- v. Complete the given sentence with reference to the text given. 1  
The unhealthy pattern is seen in the literacy of males and females in India is \_\_\_\_\_
- vi. For which two reasons is Kerala known as the most literate state in the country? Justify your answer in about 30–40 words with information given in Paragraph 2. 2
- vii. The Indian state that managed to upstage Kerala in 2013 with respect to the literacy rate was 1
  - a. Mizoram.
  - b. Tripura.
  - c. Karnataka.
  - d. Tamil Nadu.
- viii. For what reasons did the Government of India launch Saakshar Bharat? Write your answer in about 30–40 words. 2

**Section B**  
**WRITING SKILLS**

22 marks

3. You have decided to take on an additional post-school extra-curricular activity which requires you to stay back at school for longer hours. Write an email, in about 50 words, to the school administration requesting them to arrange for transportation for you. 3
4. Your friend has gifted you a lovely bag on your birthday. It is a multi-purpose bag, just the kind that you had been wanting for a long time. You can carry books, stationery, your laptop and other essentials in it. Describe the bag in about 100 words. 4
- 5a. It is disconcerting to see little children carrying heavy bags to school which cause physical ailments such as neck and back pain. Write a letter in about 120 words to the Editor of a leading daily raising this issue and highlighting the need to sensitise school authorities regarding this problem. 7

OR

- 5b. You are Arshiya, who has seen the advertisement of a vacuum cleaner in a newspaper. Write a letter in not more than 120 words placing an order and requesting the company for a demonstration of the product at your home. 7
- 6a. You recently visited 'Career Fest' and were delighted to see a large array of career opportunities for the youth. Write an article titled 'Career Opportunities Galore' in about 150 words. 8

OR

- 6b. A large section of the young generation has become very materialistic and brand-conscious. Write an article, in about 150 words, titled 'You are Unique.' You may use the ideas given below. 8
- Create own style
  - Not get carried away by branded products
  - Keep in mind affordability and culture

**Section C**  
**GRAMMAR**

10 marks

7. Complete the tasks A–C, as directed. 10
- [A] Fill in the blanks (i)–(iii) with the appropriate option from those in the brackets. 3
- For (i) \_\_\_\_\_ (one/their/a) species that had only a (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ (some/few/many) decades ago invented flying machines, humankind has developed space travel rather rapidly. This has (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ (encourage/encouraging/encouraged) humans to aspire for more.
- [B] The following paragraph has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Write the error and its correction in the space provided. 4

	<i>Error</i>	<i>Correction</i>
One morning I finished some business at the bank		
i. and was returning in pick my motorbike which I had left	_____	_____
ii. in the parking lot outside. Suddenly he realized that I had	_____	_____
iii. lost the bike key. Upset I searched about it in the bank.		
A bank	_____	_____
iv. employee tried to help me find it, and in vain.	_____	_____
[C] Do as directed.		3
I. Rearrange the following jumbled words/phrases in the given dialogue to create a meaningful sentence.		1
What makes you feel thankful every morning?		
I guess, the promise of a new day. How about you?		
(i) I / FOR / USUALLY / AM / BREAKFAST/THANKFUL		
II. Report the dialogues to complete the paragraph that follows.		1 + 1
Brother: I do not want to attend your cricket tournament tomorrow.		
Sister: You are such a terrible brother!		
Brother: Of course, I am! It is because I've got a sibling like you.		
The brother declared that he did not want to attend his sister's cricket tournament the following day. The sister accused (ii) _____ The brother retorted that (iii) _____		

## Section D

### LITERATURE TEXTBOOK

26 marks

**8. Read the given excerpts and answer the questions briefly, for any two excerpts, of the three, given.** **4 + 4 = 8**

- [A] 'God save thee, ancient Mariner,  
From the fiends that plague thee thus!—  
Why look'st thou so?'  
i. Who is the speaker?  
ii. What had the ancient mariner done?  
iii. How did the ancient mariner look?  
iv. What does the word 'plague' mean here?
- [B] Abel: It seems to me that neither of you has any cause to feel proud about the way you've treated me.  
Mrs. Slater: If I've done anything wrong. I'm sure I'm sorry for it.  
Mrs. Jordan: And I can't say more than that, too.  
Abel: It's a bit late to say it, now. You neither of you cared to put up with me.  
Mrs. Slater and Mrs. Jordan: No, no grandfather.  
Abel: Aye, you both say that because of what I've told you about leaving my money. Well, since you don't want me, I'll go to someone who does.  
Ben: Come Mr. Merryweather, you've got to live with one of your daughters.

Abel: I'll tell you what I've got to do. On Monday next I've got to do three things. I've got to go to the lawyer's and alter my will; and I've got to go to the insurance office and pay my premium; and I've got to go to St. Philip's Church and get married.

- i. Why did Abel feel his daughters did not have 'any cause to feel proud' about how they had treated him?
  - ii. How do you think the sisters must have been feeling at that moment?
  - iii. In which ways did Abel show that, unlike his daughters, he did not care about social conventions?
  - iv. What does Abel's decision at the end tell us about the person he was?
- [C] I had no idea, but at that time it did not worry me at all. You see, I had often been like that before and in the end things had always come my way—I didn't in the least know how or why. It had all been rather mysterious. You understand I didn't specialize in ghost stories, but more or less they seemed to specialize in me. A ghost story had been the first fiction I had written. Curious how that idea for a plot had come to me out of nowhere after I had chased inspiration in vain for months! Even now whenever Jenkins wanted a ghost, he called on me. And I had never found it healthy to contradict Jenkins. Jenkins always seemed to have an uncanny knowledge as to when the landlord or the grocer was pestering me, and he dunned me for a ghost. And somehow I had always been able to dig one up for him, so I had begun to get a bit cocky as to my ability.
- i. Why was Hallock not worried about getting inspiration for his story?
  - ii. For what reason had Hallock never declined Jenkin's request for a ghost story even when he was not inspired to write one?
  - iii. Identify the sentence which shows that Hallock was considered to be a good writer of ghost stories.
  - iv. State the writing style 'Hallock' uses as the narrator of the story.

**9. Answer any five of the following six questions in about 30–40 words each. 2 x 5 = 10**

- i. Give a description of the experiences the mariners underwent in 'the silent sea.'
- ii. Why was John disturbed with Lavinia's new purchase?
- iii. Briefly describe the character of the mob in *Julius Caesar*.
- iv. How has the poet built the imagery of a hot day in the poem 'Snake'?
- v. How does the story 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' give hope to the readers?
- vi. In 'Virtually True,' why did the newspaper article "Miracle Recovery" catch Michael's attention?

**10. Answer any of the following two questions in about 150 words. 8**

- [A] For some people work satisfaction is more vital than the money earned through the work. These people derive greater pleasure from their work than the ones who work largely for money. Give your viewpoint on such an attitude with reference to Patol Babu.

**OR**

- [B] One thoughtless action of an unscrupulous person can lead to uncountable moments of misery. How has this been brought to light in *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*?