Maharashtra HSC English 2025

Suggested Answers

Use this guide with the original question paper. The theory paper had 80 marks and a duration of 3 hours.

These are suggested answers, not an official marking scheme. Writing samples are examples; other relevant answers may also be acceptable.

Prose and Language Study

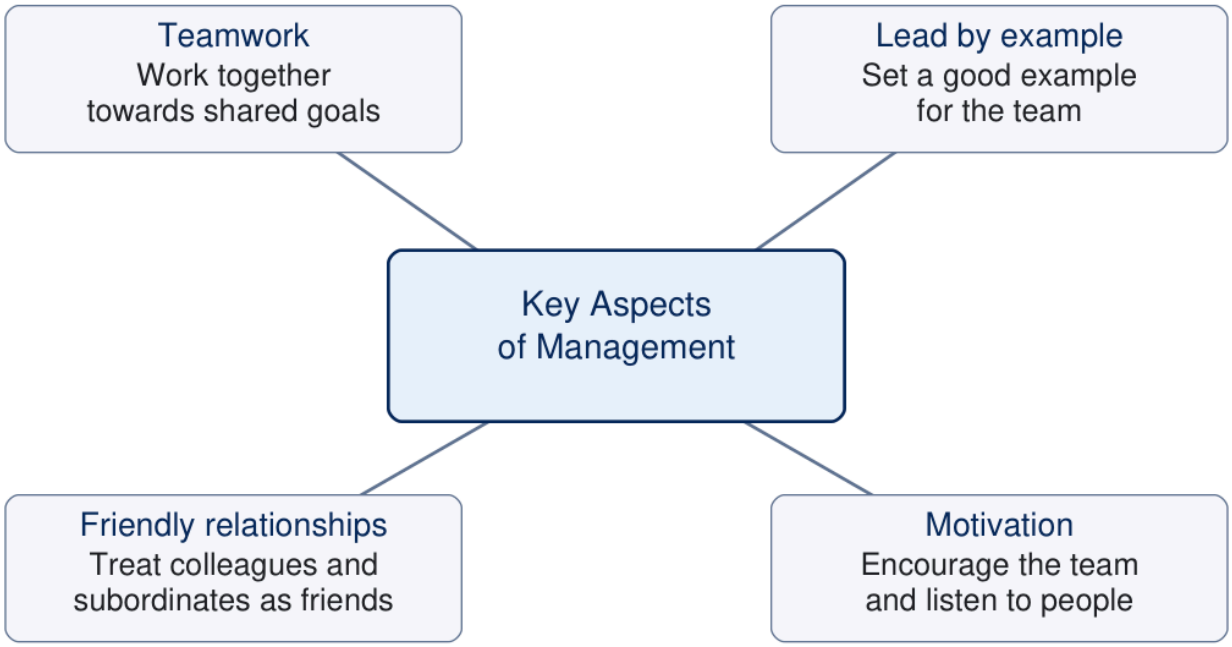
Q1 A1

(2), (4), (1), (3)

The narrator first led multinational software companies and learnt lessons while managing them. He then turned down job offers to become a writer. His books later changed readers' lives.

Q1 A2

Teamwork; leading by example; treating colleagues and subordinates as friends; motivating the team.



These four points come from the narrator's account of managing software companies. Listening, setting targets and delegating work are other management skills he mentions. The answer must come from this passage, not a general management formula.

Q1 A3

See the completed table.

Success as a writer	Supporting detail
Books	He wrote about 34 Marathi books. Most became bestsellers, with tens of thousands of copies sold for each.
Effect on readers	His books brought positive changes to thousands of readers' lives.

He values the effect on readers more than sales or money.

Q1 A4

I think passion matters more than wealth because it gives us a reason to keep working, even when progress is slow. Money is necessary for everyday needs, but it cannot make every job satisfying. I would choose work I care about while also planning carefully for my financial needs.

Q1 A5(i)

(b) I have passed from IIT.

The present perfect uses *have* or *has* with the past participle. Here, *I* takes *have*, followed by *passed*.

Q1 A5(ii)

(b) Though I made a few mistakes, I learnt a lot about motivation.

Though I made a few mistakes is a subordinate clause. It keeps the contrast expressed by *but* in the original sentence.

Q1 A6

(a) subordinates; (b) colleagues; (c) an egoistic person; (d) multinational.

Q1 B1(1)

(i) Nandini asked Raj where he had gone during the holidays last year.

This is the correct choice among the printed options. An indirect question uses statement word order: *where he had gone*, not *where had he gone*. In a free rewrite, *last year* would usually become *the previous year*; the answer here follows the option in the paper.

Q1 B1(2)

(iv) What became a natural choice?

Tree planting is the subject and the required answer. Replacing it with *what* gives the question directly; *did* is not needed.

Q1 B1(3)

(ii) Unless children play any games, they will become dull and lazy.

Unless means *if not*, so the extra negative is removed. The clause after *unless* uses *play*; *will become* remains in the main clause.

Q1 B2

She is shorter than her brother.

Shorter is already a comparative form. Adding *more* repeats the comparison.

Unseen Prose, Summary and Mind Map

Q2 A1

(b) and (c)

The passage explains how technology changes work and why people need to keep learning throughout their lives. It is not mainly a biography of Nandan Nilekani, and online education is only one part of its discussion.

Q2 A2

See the completed flow chart.

High rate of automation in jobs

↓

Repetitive jobs disappear

↓

AI and machine learning grow

↓

Deep learning develops

↓

Neural networks use data to make machines smarter

This order follows the final paragraph. These changes make future jobs hard to predict, creating the need to keep learning and relearning.

Q2 A3

Lifelong learning means continuing to learn after gaining a degree. It can happen in short periods, whenever and wherever a person needs a new skill, including online.

Nilekani links this learning to changes in technology and work. He does not mean returning to a campus for another long course every time a new skill is needed.

Q2 A4

Online education helps people study without travelling to a classroom. Recorded lessons let students revise at their own pace, while working people can learn new skills after work. However, reliable internet and a suitable device are necessary. Practical work and direct discussion may still need classroom support.

Q2 A5(1)

(ii) The example of iPhone was shared by him.

The original verb, *shared*, is in the simple past. Its passive form is *was shared*, with the object becoming the subject.

Q2 A5(2)

(iii) The constant change must require constant learning and relearning.

Must is the modal used for obligation in the supplied options. *May* and *might* express possibility. The original *will* does not express obligation here.

Q2 A6

(1)–(b), (3)–(a), (4)–(e). The remaining intended pair appears to be (2)–(c), but the paper's wording is inconsistent.

Entrepreneur matches a person who starts or organises a business; *predict* means saying what will happen; and *automation* means using automatic equipment to do work. Definition (c) describes *capitalism*, not *capitalisation*. It should not be learnt as the meaning of capitalisation.

Q2 B

Learning as Work Changes

Technology is changing quickly, with more services now aimed at consumers. Automation has removed repetitive jobs, while artificial intelligence, machine learning and neural networks are changing how work is done. Since future jobs are difficult to predict, a degree cannot end a person's education. People need to learn and relearn throughout life, often in short periods, online or wherever a new skill is needed.

Q2 C

Developing English Language Skills



Poetry and Appreciation

Q3 A1

See the completed table.

Idea	Lines from the poem
Independence	(1) Healthy, free, the world before me, (2) The long brown path before me leading wherever I choose.
Self-reliance	(1) Henceforth I ask not good-fortune, I myself am good-fortune, (2) Strong and content I travel the open road.

Q3 A2

The speaker finds the earth sufficient and is content with the life and freedom available to him. He does not need the distant stars brought closer to feel fulfilled.

The lines show satisfaction with the present world. They also support his confidence in choosing his own path.

Q3 A3

Liberty lets a person think, speak and make choices. Without it, someone may be alive but unable to shape their own life. That is why the comparison with a body without a soul is powerful. Freedom also brings responsibility: our choices should not take away another person's rights.

Q3 A4

Repetition.

The words *no more* are repeated. This stresses the speaker's decision to stop complaining and putting things off. It is not anaphora: the repeated words do not begin the successive clauses.

Q3 A5

I choose the road beneath the sky,
And let my quiet dreams climb high.
No borrowed voice will speak for me;
I find my own and set it free.

Q3 B

Have You Earned Your Tomorrow

Edgar Guest's poem asks us to judge a day by the kindness we showed others. A cheerful greeting, a helpful act or a few encouraging words can make someone else's life better. The repeated questions invite honest self-examination rather than praise for the speaker.

The extract uses rhyming couplets, such as *way/today* and *through/you*, giving each stanza an aabb pattern. Its simple words and direct questions make the message easy to follow. The contrast between selfish behaviour and helpful actions brings out its central idea. I like the poem because it makes kindness seem practical: we do not need money or fame to help someone feel less alone.

Writing Skills

Q4 A(I)

11 February 2025, 5.30 p.m.

Hi Mahesh,
I have to leave for my native place this evening because an urgent family matter needs my attention. I will not be able to join you for the movie at 8.30 p.m. I tried calling you several times, but the calls did not connect. Please cancel my ticket if possible. Sorry for changing our plan at short notice. I will call once I reach.
Shubham

Q4 A(II)

Painting helps me notice details that I might otherwise miss: a changing shadow, a crowded street or a quiet expression. After completing my diploma in Fine Arts, I want to study canvas painting in greater depth through a bachelor's degree.

My diploma introduced me to drawing, colour, composition and different painting materials. I learnt to accept criticism and revise work instead of treating a first attempt as final. I now want regular studio practice and thoughtful feedback from teachers and other artists.

I hope to develop a body of paintings based on everyday life in my community. This course would help me strengthen my technique, explain my choices and build the discipline needed to work as an artist.

Q4 A(III)

Asha: English helps us communicate with people who do not speak our home language. It is useful when we study or travel.

Rohan: I agree. Many books and online lessons are available in English, so knowing it gives us more ways to learn.

Meera: But fluency should not be confused with intelligence. Someone can have good ideas and still be learning the language.

Kabir: That is why we need practice without fear of being laughed at. Conversations and reading can help.

Asha: We should also value our own languages. Learning English does not mean leaving them behind.

Rohan: So English is a useful skill, but respect for other languages and speakers matters just as much.

Q4 B(I)

To: poet@example.com
Subject: Invitation to inaugurate our poetry recitation competition

Dear Ms Rao,

On behalf of the Literary Association of Sunrise Junior College, I invite you to inaugurate our poetry recitation competition on World Poetry Day, 21 March 2025. The programme will begin at 10 a.m. in our college auditorium in Pune.

Students from Classes 11 and 12 will recite poems in English and Marathi. We would be grateful if you could open the programme and speak briefly about your writing. Your guidance would encourage students who are beginning to write poems of their own.

Please let us know whether you can attend.

Yours sincerely,
Ananya Patil
Secretary, Literary Association
Sunrise Junior College

Q4 B(II)

A Visit to the City Library

By the College Magazine Editor

Our junior college organised a visit to the city library to mark World Reading Day. Forty students accompanied by two teachers took part in the visit.

The librarian welcomed the group and explained how books were arranged by subject. Students learnt to use the catalogue, locate a book and apply for membership. They also visited the reference section, newspaper room and children's reading area.

During a short discussion, students shared their favourite books and asked how to choose something beyond their usual reading interests. Each student then spent time reading a book of their choice.

The visit ended with a vote of thanks. Several students decided to return and borrow books during the holidays.

Q4 B(III)

The name and interview details below are imaginary.

Field	Sample details
Name of interviewee	Kavya Rao
Area of success/Reputation	Playback singing
Date/Venue/Time	11 February 2025; college auditorium; 11 a.m.
Duration	30 minutes

1. **Early motivation:** What first made you want to become a singer?
2. **Professional development:** How has your training shaped the way you sing today?
3. **Inspiration/Idols:** Which singer has influenced you the most, and why?
4. **First recording:** What do you remember most clearly about your first recording?
5. **Strengths:** Which quality has helped you most in your singing career?
6. **Best performance:** Which performance means the most to you, and what made it special?
7. **Achievements:** Which achievement are you proudest of?
8. **Mission/Vision:** What would you like to achieve through your music in the coming years?

Q4 C(I)

Soldiers and Farmers: The Real Heroes

Respected judges, teachers and my dear friends,

We often notice the people on our screens before those whose work makes our daily lives possible. Today, I want to speak about soldiers and farmers.

Soldiers protect the country, often serving far from their families in difficult conditions. Farmers work through changing weather and uncertain harvests to produce the food we eat. Their work is different, but both carry responsibilities on which many others depend.

Respect should go beyond a slogan. We can begin by avoiding food waste, learning about the challenges farmers face and treating service personnel and their families with care.

Let us recognise their contribution through informed, responsible actions, not only words on special occasions.

Thank you.

Q4 C(II)

Good morning, respected guests, teachers, parents and students. Welcome to our programme honouring this year's HSC toppers.

To begin, I invite the college choir to present the welcome song. Thank you for that lovely performance.

I now request our chief guest and principal to light the lamp and open the programme.

Today we celebrate our students' hard work and the support they received from teachers and families. May I invite the chief guest to felicitate the toppers as their names are announced?

Congratulations to every student. We wish you well as you take your next step.

Finally, I invite our student representative to propose the vote of thanks. Thank you all for joining us.

Q4 C(III)

Fortune Favours the Brave

Good opportunities are easier to use when we are willing to act. A student who enters a speaking competition may be nervous, but staying away guarantees that the chance will be missed. Courage begins with taking that first sensible step.

Being brave does not mean ignoring danger. Calculated risks involve preparation, advice and an honest look at what could go wrong. Success is never certain, but careful action gives us a chance to learn.

Failure can also strengthen us when we examine our mistakes and try again. Each attempt builds confidence and makes fear easier to manage. Fortune may offer an opening; courage and effort help us make use of it.

Q4 D(I)

Inception: A Story That Keeps You Thinking

Christopher Nolan's *Inception* follows Dom Cobb, played by Leonardo DiCaprio, who steals information by entering dreams. His new assignment is harder: he must plant an idea instead. The film connects this task with Cobb's wish to return to his children and his struggle with guilt.

DiCaprio gives the character an uneasy mix of skill and vulnerability. Hans Zimmer's music adds tension, while the shifting dream worlds make the action visually striking. The story asks the viewer to pay close attention; its rules can feel complicated at first.

I enjoyed the way the film combines an unusual plot with an emotional problem. I would recommend it to viewers who like discussing a film after it ends.

Q4 D(II)

Solar Energy: Making Use of Everyday Sunshine

Sunlight is a renewable source of energy. Solar panels turn it into electricity without burning fuel while they operate. Using this power can reduce the electricity a home draws from the grid and lower its bill.

That does not mean every rooftop installation gives the same result. Roof space, shade, sunlight and the size of the system all matter. The cost of installation and later maintenance should also be considered.

Government support can make eligible systems more affordable, but subsidy rules must be checked before a purchase. A household should compare suitable options and understand the terms.

Solar energy is a practical choice where the site and costs make sense. Planning carefully is more useful than expecting instant savings.

Q4 D(III)

Make Safety Everyone's Responsibility

Every woman has the right to study, work and travel without fear. Respect for that right must shape our behaviour at home, in college, at work and in public places.

Speak against harassment. Listen when someone asks for help, and do not blame the person who has been harmed. Colleges and workplaces should make complaint channels clear, protect privacy and explain how support can be reached.

Safer public transport, well-lit streets and prompt responses to complaints need collective effort. Government safety initiatives and support services are useful only when people know how to access them.

Let us challenge disrespectful behaviour and support those who report it. Safety should never depend only on women restricting their own lives.

Novel

Q5 A(I)(a)

Novella.

Theme, plot and conflict are elements of a novel. A novella is a form of fiction, not an element.

Q5 A(I)(b)

George Orwell.

The other three are Indian novelists writing in English; Orwell was a British writer.

Q5 A(I)(c)

Rajmohan's Wife.

It is an Indian English novel by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay. The other works belong to the British English novel tradition.

Q5 A(I)(d)

Utopian.

Terror, haunted buildings and the supernatural are associated with Gothic fiction. Utopian fiction describes an imagined ideal society.

Q5 A(II)(a)

True. Detective fiction is a subgenre of crime fiction.

It focuses on investigating and solving a crime.

Q5 A(II)(b)

False. The Tale of Genji was written by Lady Murasaki Shikibu.

Miguel de Cervantes wrote *Don Quixote*.

Q5 A(II)(c)

True. The main character is called the protagonist.

The story's main action centres on this character.

Q5 A(II)(d)

False. An autobiographical novel draws on the author's life.

A picaresque novel follows the adventures of a roguish main character, often from a lower social class.

Q5 B(I)

November 15 was the day of the Students' Council's half-yearly report at Greenslade School. The pupils organised and ran the programme. Class representatives explained what they had learnt, and pupils questioned a panel of teachers. The occasion showed their growing confidence, responsibility and ability to express themselves.

Q5 B(II)

Fernman used a human skeleton to challenge racial prejudice. He said it was female, but he could not tell its nationality or skin colour. The demonstration showed that people share the same basic human structure despite outward differences. His presentation supported the class's theme of human brotherhood.

Q5 C(I)

The wager at the Reform Club starts Fogg's journey around the world. His fellow members doubt that he can complete it in eighty days. The club is also the destination he must reach before the deadline. His timely return there resolves the wager and brings the journey to its close.

Q5 C(II)

Passepartout visits the clergyman to arrange Fogg and Aouda's wedding. He discovers that they have gained a day by travelling east around the world. Fogg can still reach the Reform Club before the deadline. Passepartout rushes back, allowing Fogg to win the wager and later marry Aouda.

Q5 D(I)

The letter asks Miss Morstan to meet its writer at seven that evening, by the third pillar from the left outside the Lyceum Theatre. She may bring two friends if she feels uneasy, but no police. The unknown sender says she has been wronged and promises her justice.

Q5 D(II)

Dr. Watson is Holmes's companion and the narrator. He is observant, courteous and sympathetic. He notices Miss Morstan's distress and readily agrees to accompany her. Unlike Holmes, who keeps emotion apart from his reasoning, Watson responds warmly to people. His support makes him a dependable friend during the investigation.