

Marking Scheme links are on each paper

Pre-Board Sample Papers

**CBSE EXAM 2024** 20 Sets

Class : 12th

Sub : English Core



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**Sample Paper 1**  
**Class XII Exam 2023-24**  
**English-Core (301)**

**Time Allowed : 3 Hrs.**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
  2. Attempt question based on specific instructions for each part.
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**SECTION A-READING SKILLS**

**22**

**Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages**

**1. Read the following text.**

**12**

1. The arts which admit of exact reproduction are such that the disciple is on the same level as the creator, and so it is with their fruits. These are useful to the imitator, but are not of such high excellence as those which cannot be transmitted as an inheritance like other substances. Among these, painting is the first. Painting cannot be taught to him on whom nature has not conferred the gift of receiving such knowledge, as mathematics can be taught, of which the disciple receives as much as the master gives him.
2. It cannot be copied, as letters can be, in which the copy equals the original. It cannot be stamped, in the same way as sculpture, in which the impression is in proportion to the source as regards the quality of the work. It does not generate countless children, as do printed books.
3. It alone remains noble, it alone confers honour on its author and remains precious and unique, and does not beget children equal to itself. And it is more excellent by reason of this quality than by reason of those which are everywhere proclaimed. Now do we not see the great monarchs of the East going about veiled and covered up from the fear of diminishing their glory by the manifestation and the divulcation of their presence? And do we not see that the pictures which represent the divine deity are kept covered up with inestimable veils?
4. Their unveiling is preceded by great sacred solemnities with various chants and diverse music. When they are unveiled, the vast multitude of people who are there flocked together, immediately prostrate themselves and worship. They invoke those whom such pictures represent that they may regain their lost holiness and win eternal salvation, just as if the deity were present in the flesh.
5. This does not occur in any other art or work of man. If you say that is owing to the nature of the subject depicted, rather than to the genius of the painter, the answer is that the mind of man could satisfy itself equally well in this case, were the man to remain in bed and not make pilgrimages to places which are perilous and hard to access as we so often see is the case.
6. But if such pilgrimages continually exist, what is then their unnecessary cause? You will certainly admit that it is an image of this kind, and all the writings in the world could not succeed in representing the semblance and the power of such a deity.
7. Therefore, it appears that this deity takes pleasure in the pictures and is pleased that it should be loved and revered, and takes a greater delight in being worshipped in that rather than in any other semblance of itself. By this reason, it bestows grace and gifts of salvation according to the belief of those who meet together in such a place.

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**SOLUTIONS**

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

- i. Select the option that agrees with the information given in the passage. 1
- (a) Painting and mathematics are at par, when it comes to learning.
  - (b) Painting can only be taught to one who is capable of receiving this knowledge.
  - (c) Painting cannot be taught except as a form of imitation.
  - (d) Paintings cannot be transferred as an inheritance.
- ii. Which is the statement that shows the writer aimed to change the general outlook about painting, correctly? 1
- (a) It cannot be stamped in the same way as sculptures can in which the impression is in proportion to the source.
  - (b) As sculptures are closest to painting and yet there is a fundamental difference.
  - (c) It cannot be copied as letters can be.
  - (d) It does not generate countless children in the way printed books can.
- iii. Share evidence from the text, in about 40 words to support the view that the writer's writing style is descriptive in nature. 2
- iv. Complete the sentence appropriately with a characteristic or its description. 1
- They invoke those whom such pictures represent that they may regain \_\_\_\_.
- v. Select the option that is similar in meaning to 'pilgrimages'. 1
- (a) A journey
  - (b) A holy expedition
  - (c) A trip
  - (d) An expedition
- vi. Explain, in about 40 words, why was the unveiling of painted images is unique? 2
- vii. In the line, "... Therefore this deity takes pleasure in the pictures and bestows grace and gifts of salvation to those who meet together in such a place." What does the word 'pleasure' refer to? 1
- viii. What is the core idea that displays the most likely reason for including the line, "It alone confers honour on its author and remains precious and unique and does not beget children equal to itself."? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- ix. Read the five headlines (1) to (5) given below : 1
- (1) Art is a passion.
  - (2) Art is in blood.
  - (3) Art cannot be inherited.
  - (4) Art can never be copied.
  - (5) Art is a chanting.
- Identify the option that displays the headline/s that correspond/s with the occurrences in the passage.
- (a) Only (1)
  - (b) Only (2)
  - (c) Both (3) and (4)
  - (d) (1), (2) and (5)

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**SOLUTIONS**

**2. Read the following text.****10**

1. A large majority of the elderly in India does not get long-term and palliative care, revealed a study conducted for the United Nations. The survey of more than 10,000 respondents across Northern, Southern, Western, Eastern and Central India during May-June 2018, showed that 62.1% of the elderly did not get such care. More than half of these people, 52.4%, said they primarily need traditional family support, says a study by Age well Research and Advocacy Centre.
2. Older people in India often face problems such as disability, restricted mobility, loneliness, poverty and lack of awareness on accessing old-term care. With a fast growing population of older people, the ever-increasing gap between generations and the fast and demanding lifestyle of young people, for a majority of older people, life is still a struggle for independence.
3. “According to 64% of elderly respondents, loneliness, marginalisation and isolation are the most critical issues faced by bedridden, elderly patients as they cannot visit, meet or interact with their relatives, friends and neighbours,” said Himanshu Rath, founder of Agewell Foundation.
4. The elderly have to compromise and make adjustments in their lifestyle according to the wishes of the younger members of their families to ensure they are cared for, the study revealed. It highlighted that 67.6% of the elderly being taken care of their family members have to look after the children of the families. They have to perform tasks such as babysitting in return for proper care and support.
5. “Around 73.7% said they have to take care of the house and other properties of their younger family members to ensure long-term and palliative care in old age”, the study report said. “Over 75% of respondents have to limit their personal social interactions as their family members direct them to do so, otherwise their family members can avoid providing their basic needs of food and medicines.” Most elderly respondents (68.5%) said breaking up of the joint family system is one of the biggest factors for the challenges they face in getting long-term palliative care.
6. Healthcare equipment such as wheelchairs, relief material such as adult diapers and care-giving service should be provided on a regular basis to destitute older people, who are bedridden and suffering from acute mobility issues, the report said.  
“Though providing long-term and palliative care to older persons comes in the purview of family responsibilities in India, it is observed that older persons, who are financially independent, have a high net worth or hold property entitlements, are treated comparatively well by their family members” said Rath.
7. “Managing home care for the elderly is a massive challenge as multiple service providers-nursing agencies, physiotherapists and medical suppliers-are small scale and unorganised and, therefore, provide incomplete care,” he said. “In India, health insurance coverage is essentially limited to hospitalisation. The concept of geriatric care has remained a neglected area of medicine so far in the country.”

**Answer the following questions, based on given passage.**

- i. List two essential requirements for older people suffering from mobility issues. 2
- ii. Select the option that displays the reason behind financially independent elderly being better off. 1
  - (a) They are seen as one to be revered.
  - (b) They are treated with much more care and respect.
  - (c) They have money to meet their financial needs.
  - (d) They have medical expenses.

Continue on next page.....

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- iii. According to the passage, what do you think is the primary need of all the elderly people in India? 1
- iv. Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option. 1  
According to the study, long-term and palliative care comes under the purview of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) government responsibilities  
(b) liabilities  
(c) social responsibilities
- v. Select the option that displays the most likely reason for stating that older people who live with family are no better. 1  
It is so because  
(a) they have additional burden of responsibility  
(b) they have no one who loves or cares for them  
(c) they also suffer from loneliness  
(d) All of the above
- vi. State a point to challenge the given statement : 2  
Joint Family System along with the need for private space has brought challenges to the long term elderly care.
- vii. Complete the given sentence with an appropriate inference from the last paragraph of the passage. 1  
The concluding paragraph of the passage makes a clear case for \_\_\_\_\_.
- viii. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE. 1  
In order to get proper case and support, the old people have to adjust their lifestyle as per the wishes of their children.

### SECTION B- CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

18

*Note : All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.*

3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4
- A. You are the Secretary of your School Literary Association. Write a notice in not more than 50 words for your school notice board, giving details of the proposed inauguration of the Literary Association of your school. You are 'XYZ' of Jain Vidyashram, Cuddalore.
- Or
- B. You lost your wristwatch in your school auditorium. Write a notice in not more than 50 words for your school notice board giving a detailed description of the watch. You are Anirudh/Arundhati of class XII of Springfield School, Pune.

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**SOLUTIONS**

**4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4**

- A. You are the President, Literary Society of Sunshine International School. Draft an invitation to author, Ms Manjul Bajaj requesting her to conduct a workshop on creative writing in your school. You are Romi/Rohit of Zenith Public School.

Or

- B. Write a formal reply accepting an invitation to be present in the birthday celebrations of your friend, Suresh's daughter, who lives at 1231, Chattarpur, Delhi. You are Abhishek Khanna.

**5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A. Write a letter in about 120-150 words for the post of the Librarian in Vision Senior Secondary School, Calicut. Also, enclose your Bio-data with it. You are Radhika/Rajeev from 21, Cherry Road, Madurai.

Or

- B. Write a letter to the Editor, Deccan Times, Bangalore about the inadequate parking facilities in the Commercial Street, M.G. Road, which is causing a lot of inconvenience to the people. Offer your suggestions. You are Anoop/Ritu, 24 Hennus Road, Bangalore.

**6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A. On the occasion of Teacher's Day, the Honourable PM of India had an interactive session with students from all over the country through satellite link. Your school also made special arrangements for the students to view the telecast. Write an article in about 120-150 words for your school magazine giving details of the talk and its impact on you. You are Akshay/ Akshita of Brightland Public School.

Or

- B. You are Mridul/Mridula, an HT correspondent. You witnessed a protest rally by a youth organisation. Mentioning the purpose of rally, places covered and reaction of public, write a report in 120-150 words for your newspaper.

**SECTION C- LITERATURE****40****7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

- A. ...I looked again at her, wan,  
pale  
as a late winter's moon and felt that  
old  
familiar ache, my childhood's fear,  
but all I said was, see you soon,  
Amma,  
all I did was smile and smile and  
smile

*(My mother at Sixty-six)*

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**SOLUTIONS**

- i. What is the speaker's emotional state when looking at her mother? 1  
(a) Empathetic and understanding (b) Nostalgic and longing  
(c) Confused and disoriented (d) Fearful and apprehensive
- ii. What does the use of the word "but" at the beginning of the line, 'but all I said..', suggest? 1
- iii. Select the word that WILL NOT complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
The description of the mother as "wan, pale / as a late winter's moon" creates a vivid image of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) frailty (b) sensitivity  
(c) vulnerability (d) mortality
- iv. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE. 1  
The poetic device used in the line, 'pale as a winter's moon' is the same as the one used in the line, 'the winter wind wistfully wailed at night:
- v. What message do these lines highlight, in the context of familial relationships, and the speaker's sense of anxiety and fear at the prospect of losing her mother? 1
- vi. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
The repetition of the word, 'smile' suggests that \_\_\_\_\_.

Or

- B. Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,  
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.  
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;  
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.  
*(Aunt's Jennifer's Tiger)*
- i. How are Aunt Jennifer's tigers described? 1  
(a) As sober and serene (b) As cruel and menacing  
(c) As bold and fearless (d) As sleek and slender
- ii. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract. 1  
The tigers are describes as having a green colour.
- iii. Fill in the blank with reference to the extract. 1  
The word from the extract which means 'to move or leap about' is \_\_\_\_\_.
- iv. The fact that Aunt Jennifer is creating the tigers shows her. 1
- v. Identify the phrase from the extract, suggests the following. 1  
Aunt Jennifer's tigers are not real.

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**SOLUTIONS**

- vi. Choose the option that displays the same poetic device as used in the last line of the extract. 1
- |                         |                                   |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (a) Life is a ride      | (b) Tiger tiger burning bright    |
| (c) As cunning as a fox | (d) Accurate estimate of the work |

**8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 4**

- A. He said I was unhappy. That made my wife kind of mad, but he explained that he meant the modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry and all the rest of it and that I just want to escape. Well, who doesn't? Everybody I know wants to escape, but they don't wander down into any third level at Grand Central Station. But that's the reason, he said, and my friends all agreed. Everything points to it, they claimed. My stamp collecting, for example; that's a 'temporary refuge from reality.' Well, maybe, but my grandfather didn't need any refuge from reality.

*(The Third Level)*

- i. Why didn't Charley's grandfather need refuge from reality? 1
- ii. Why did Sam's verdict make Charley's wife 'mad'? 1
- iii. Select the option that signifies the condition of people of the 'modern world' mentioned in the extract. 1
- |            |                  |
|------------|------------------|
| (a) afraid | (b) anxious      |
| (c) unsure | (d) All of these |
- iv. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
- Sam's explanation to the reaction of Charley's wife was \_\_\_\_\_ in nature.

**Or**

- B. Will the West Antarctic ice sheet melt entirely? Will the Gulf Stream ocean current be disrupted? Will it be the end of the world as we know it? Maybe. Maybe not. Either way, Antarctica is a crucial element in this debate – not just because it's the only place in the world, which has never sustained a human population and therefore remains relatively 'pristine' in this respect; but more importantly, because it holds in its ice-cores half-million-year-old carbon records trapped in its layers of ice.

*(On the Face of It)*

- i. What does the phrase 'May be. May be not' in the extract indicate? 1
- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| (a) Uncertainty | (b) Foretelling |
| (c) Suspicion   | (d) Despair     |
- ii. Find a word in the extract which is a synonym of 'perfect'. 1
- iii. Why does Antarctica holds importance? 1
- iv. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
- The questions asked by the narrator signify \_\_\_\_\_.

**Click the Following Button to See the Free MS/Solutions**

**SOLUTIONS**



**9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

- A.** Poor man! It was in the honour of this last lesson that he had out on his fine Sunday clothes, and now I understood why the old men of the village were sitting there in the back of the room. It was because they were sorry, too, that they had not gone to school more. It was their way of thanking our master for his forty years of faithful service and of showering their respect for the country that was theirs no more. While I was thinking of all this, I heard my name called. It was my turn to recite. What would I not have given to be able to say that dreadful rule for the participle all through, very loud and clear, and without one mistake? But I got mixed up on the first words and stood there, holding on to my desk, my heart beating, and not daring to look up.

*(The Last Lesson)*

- i. List any two details M. Hamel discussed in the given extract. 1
- ii. How did M. Hamel react to this show of 'non-performance'? 1
  - (a) He let the iron ruler talk.
  - (b) He ignored his pupil's lack of commitment.
  - (c) He didn't utter a harsh word in response.
  - (d) He let Franz be free and sent him out.
- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
The old men of the village on the back benches were \_\_\_\_\_.
- iv. Pick out an evidence from the extract given that helps one infer his way of showing patriotic love for his land and language. 1
- v. Who is the 'Poor man'? 1
- vi. Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the given extract? 1
 

(a) Honour to the village people	(b) Respect for human beings
(c) Faithful services of M. Hamel	(d) Too late for school

**Or**

- B.** Unaware of what his name represents, he roams the streets with his friends, an army of barefoot boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon. Over the months, I have come to recognise each of them.  
 "Why aren't you wearing chappals?" I ask one.  
 "My mother did not bring them down from the shelf," he answers simply.  
 "Even if she did, he will throw them off," adds another who is wearing shoes that do not match.  
 When I comment on it, he shuffles his feet and says nothing. "I want shoes," says a third boy who has never owned a pair all his life. Travelling across the country I have seen children walking barefoot, in cities, on village roads. It is not lack of money but a tradition to stay barefoot, is one explanation.

*(Lost Spring)*

**Click the Following Button to See the Free MS/Solutions**

**SOLUTIONS**

- i. What is the writer's purpose in allowing the boys to speak for themselves via dialogue, as opposed to only a writer's commentary ? 1
- ii. The line, "It is not lack of money but a tradition to stay barefoot" can be best classified as : 1  
(a) A theme (b) An opinion  
(c) A fact (d) A plot point
- iii. Explain any one possible inference that can be drawn from the line, "an army of barefoot boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon". 1
- iv. Identify the line from the text that bears evidence to the fact that the writer's association with the boys is not a recent one. 1
- v. Based on the context provided in the extract, select the most likely comment that the writer would have made, based on the boy's reaction to the mismatched shoes. 1  
(a) "I like your shoes. What matters is that they protect your feet?"  
(b) "Don't worry about your shoes, you can wear a matching pair later."  
(c) "Why are your shoes mismatched? That's not a good look"  
(d) "Have you chosen to mismatch your shoes?"
- vi. Complete the sentence with ONE word. 1  
The phrase "he answers simply", suggests that the boy's response to the writer's question about why he wasn't wearing chappals was \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words.  $5 \times 2 = 10$
- i. How is the bangle industry of Firozabad a curse for the bangle makers?  
(*Lost Spring*)
- ii. What did the gift of the rattrap signify?  
(*The Rattrap*)
- iii. The poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' is replete with symbols. Interpret any two symbols used in the poem.  
(*Aunt Jennifer's Tigers*)
- iv. What different images does the poet use to convey the idea of her mother's old age?  
(*My Mother at Sixty-Six*)
- v. What tempted Franz to stay away from school?  
(*The Last Lesson*)
- vi. Why did Gandhiji feel that taking the Champaran case to the court was useless?  
(*Indigo*)

**11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.  $2 \times 2 = 4$**

i. “But Sadao searching the spot of black in the twilight sea that night, had his reward”. What was the reward?

*(The Enemy)*

ii. How did ‘The World’ help Charley to confirm his doubts regarding the existence of a third level?

*(The Third Level)*

iii. What considerations influenced the Tiger King to get married?

*(The Tiger King)*

**12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. **5****

A. Why do you think Gandhiji considered the Champaran episode to be a turning-point in his life?

*(Indigo)*

**Or**

B. The story ‘The Rattrap’ is both entertaining and philosophical. Discuss.

*(The Rattrap)*

**13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. **5****

A. What is the bond that unites old Mr. Lamb and Derry, the boy? How does the old man inspire the boy?

*(On the Face of It)*

**Or**

B. ‘We too are Human Beings’ highlights high caste - low caste discrimination in society. How do low caste people suffer on account of this? What advice is given to Bama to overcome this problem?

*(Memories of Childhood)*

□□□□□□

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**SOLUTIONS**

**Sample Paper 2**  
**Class XII Exam 2023-24**  
**English-Core (301)**

**Time Allowed : 3 Hrs.**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
  2. Attempt question based on specific instructions for each part.
- 

**SECTION A-READING SKILLS**

**22**

**Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages**

**1. Read the following text.**

**12**

1. This is the largest Malay house on the peninsula. It is built of wood painted green and white, with bold floral designs on a white background around some of the circular windows and a very large porch for followers to wait in, up a ladder of course.
2. Really the upper class of Malay houses show some very good work. The thatch of the steep roof is beautifully put on and between the sides of finely woven checked matting interspersed with lattice work and bamboo work, the shady inner rooms with their carved doorways and portieres of red silk, the pillows and cushions of gold embroidery laid over the exquisitely fine matting on the floors, the light from the half-shaded windows glancing here and there as the breeze sways the screens, there is an indescribable appropriateness to the region.
3. I waited for the elephant in a rambling empty house and Malays brought pierced coconuts, buffalo milk and a great bouquet of lotus blossoms and seed-vessels, out of which they took the seeds and presented them on the grand lotus leaf itself.  
Each seed is in appearance and taste like a hazel-nut, but in the centre, in an oval slit, the future lotus plant is folded up, the one vivid green seed leaf being folded over a shoot and this is intensely bitter.
4. The elephant at last came up and was brought below the porch of the house. They are truly ugly beasts, with their grey wrinkled, hairless hides, the huge ragged 'flappers' which cover their ears and with which they fan themselves ceaselessly, the small mean eyes, the hideous trunk which coils itself snakishly round everything, the formless legs, the piggish back, with the steep slope down to the mean, bare tail, features so unlike any other familiar and friendly beast.
5. Before I came out from England, I dreamt of howdahs and cloth-of-gold trappings, but my elephant had neither. In fact there was nothing grand about him but his ugliness. I dropped into one of two baskets on either side of his back from the porch, a young Malay lad dropped into the other and my bag was tied on behind with more ropes.
6. My ride was not comfortable. One sits facing forwards with the feet dangling over the edge of the basket. This edge soon produces a sharp ache or cramp and, when one tries to get relief by leaning back on anything, the awkward rolling position is so painful that one reverts to the former position till it again becomes intolerable.

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**SOLUTIONS**

7. After we had travelled two hours, the baskets slipped down very dangerously and needed adjustment. We were forced to dismount while the pack was adjusted. Then, while the elephant was still sitting, the driver jumped on the elephant's back and giving me his hands hauled me up over the head, after which the creature rose gently from the ground and we went on our journey.
8. Soon the driver abandoned the elephant for a gossip and a smoke, leaving the animal to go its own way for a mile or more. The elephant turned into the jungle, where he began to rend and tear the trees and going to a mud-hole, he drew what water there was out of it and squirted it with a loud noise over himself and his riders, soaking my clothes with it. When he turned back to the road again, he several times stopped and seemed to stand on his head by stiffening his trunk and leaning upon it and when I hit him with my umbrella he uttered the loudest roar I ever heard. My Malay fellow-rider jumped off and ran' back for the driver, at which the baskets both came down on my side of the elephant.
9. On the driver's return I had to dismount again and this time the elephant was allowed to go and take a proper bath in a river. He threw large quantities of clear water over himself and took up plenty more with which to cool his sides as went along. Thick as the wrinkled hide of an elephant is, a very small insect can still draw blood from it and so, like the water buffalo, he wisely plastered himself with mud from the river's edge for protection.

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

- i. Select the option that explains the reason why the light in the inner room kept changing? 1  
(a) Because of the movement inside the room  
(b) Because of the changing direction of the sun  
(c) Because of the winds that were swaying the screen  
(d) Because the screens were being repaired
- ii. The writer would agree with the given statements based on paragraph eight, except. 1  
(a) The elephant did not like being hit.  
(b) The driver of the elephant did not want the elephant to run away.  
(c) The speaker was not amused by the water thrown by the elephant.  
(d) The driver of the elephant needed to rest.
- iii. Share evidence from the text in about 40 words that the author had previously regarded riding on an elephant as a luxurious means of travel. 2
- iv. Complete the sentence appropriately with an appropriate inference, with respect to the following. 1  
The writer has described the features of the elephant in paragraph 4 in order to highlight the \_\_\_\_.
- v. Select the option that means the same as 'moves', from the words used in Paragraph 2. 1  
(a) Glancing (b) Matting  
(c) Interspersed (d) Sways
- vi. The writer did not enjoy the elephant ride. Based on your reading of the passage, list the reasons, in not more than 40 words, for such an attitude. 2

**Click the Following Button to See the Free MS/Solutions**

**SOLUTIONS**

- vii. In the line “...so, like the water buffalo, he wisely plastered himself with mud from the river’s edge for protection” the author calls him wise. Explain. 1
- viii. List two ways in which the Malay houses are appropriated for the region. Answer in about 40 words. 2
- ix. What was the author’s expectations regarding the elephant ride? 1
- (1) Exciting
  - (2) Doubtful
  - (3) Scornful
  - (4) Prejudiced
  - (5) tentative
- Codes:
- (a) Only 1
  - (b) 1 and 2
  - (c) Only 4
  - (d) 3 and 5

**2. Read the following text.**

**10**

1. Competition, deregulation, and intervention are all crucial to South Africa’s Road to a true broadband infrastructure. As of this year, SA had some 67,000 ADSL subscribers. This represents about 0.4% of the worldwide total, and supports the statement that SA remains, and will remain, way behind the rest of the world for a long time to come.
2. Broadband penetration in households varies globally, with Korea being the world leader with a penetration of 68%, the USA having 28%, and the UK 16%. SA shamefully has a broadband household penetration of 0.3%. The question posed here is why South Africa is so far behind... The answer lies not, in the unavailability of the technology, but simply in the pricing. Many people think that Telkom’s ADSL solution is one-step closer to a true broadband solution in this country. However, many industry specialists disagree.
3. “Telkom’s ADSL offerings are great; however, they just cost too much, and are not viable solutions for many home users,” says Dave Gale, business development manager at Storm. “South Africa’s broadband costs may be the butt of global jokes, but to local users, especially individuals, schools, small businesses and current ADSL users, the affordability factor just makes one’s blood boil,” says Michelle Branco; product-marketing manager at Internet Solutions.
4. According to Elia Tsouros, an executive at UUNET, the broadband penetration in SA is abysmal compared to that of other countries. One contributing factor is Telkom’s pricing structure, and, the fact that SA is so large, and has such a distributed population. The ramifications are vast - a slowing down of broadband uptake; a barrier for educational institutions; limitation for learners to gain access to the Internet; poor response times for researchers; limited business and marketing opportunities and the list goes on. The absence of a wholesale facilities leasing regime for ADSL in South Africa makes it difficult for ISPs to get a significant portion of the ADSL revenue. ISPs are not entitled to ADSL line rentals at wholesale prices, and thus subscribers have to rent the line directly from the incumbent, Telkom. This then further negates the opportunity for ISPs to bundle value-added offerings, such as video and voice services with the ADSL line. Coupled with the high cost of line rentals is that of international bandwidth. Telkom international bandwidth charges on the SAT-3 cable are very high, and it is common knowledge that even though both Telkom and British Telecom’s purchase their bandwidth from the same supplier; Telkom marks up its costs by 80%, and British Telecoms by only 20%.

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**SOLUTIONS**

5. Roman Hogh, product development manager at M-Web Business, says that Icasa should have the power to audit how much Telkom charges for the cable.

**Answer the following questions, based on given passage.**

- i. Suggests two possible reasons in about 40 words behind the statement, ‘SA remains, and will remain, way behind the rest of the world for a long time to come.’ 2
- ii. Which hindrances contribute to the broadband infra of SA? 1
- (a) Huge population (b) Competition, interference and irregularity
- (c) Unaffordability of telecom (d) Lack of video services
- iii. Justify the statement, ‘a barrier for educational institutions : What does the speaker want to convey? 1
- iv. Select the correct statement. 1
- (a) Small businesses and the common users can afford broadband width easily.
- (b) In the absence of getting revenue, ISP’s have to pay the rent directly for the Telkom.
- (c) Telkom and the British Telecom purchase the bandwidth from the same supplier.
- v. Which of the following country has become the second most powerful country in terms of computation? 1
- (a) India (b) Korea
- (c) USA (d) South Africa
- vi. Based on the understanding of the above extract, suggest any similarity or dissimilarity between Telkom and British Telecom. Answer in about 40 words. 2
- vii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
- As the population of SA is so large, the perception of broadband has become \_\_\_\_\_ when we compare to rest of the countries.
- viii. State TRUE or FALSE. 1
- The title, ‘What caused the decline of South Africa, is appropriate for this passage.

**SECTION B- CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS**

**18**

*Note : All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.*

- 3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4**

- A. As librarian of Crescent International School, Gwalior, draft a notice in not more than 50 words asking all students and teachers to return the library books they have borrowed, two days before the commencement of the examination.

**Or**

- B. Your school is organizing a SPICMACAY programme on the occasion of the World Dance Day wherein the renowned Bharatanatyam dancer, Geeta Chandran would be giving a lecture demonstration. As the President, Cultural Society of your school, draft a notice in about 50 words, informing the students about the same. You are Rakhsita/Rohit of MVN Public School.

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**SOLUTIONS**

**4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4**

- A. As Secretary of the Literary Club of St. Anne's School, Ahmedabad, draft a formal invitation in not more than 50 words for the inauguration of the club in your school.

**Or**

- B. You are Amit Dubey. You have received an invitation from the Director, Health Services, Punjab who has invited leading medical practitioners of the state to attend a workshop on 'child care' on 25 July, 20xx at 9 a.m. in New Hope Hospital, Ambala. Draft a reply to the invitation in 50 words.

**5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A. You have seen an advertisement in a national newspaper for the post of Senior Teacher in English at Sunrise Global School, Noida. You are Karuna, M-114, Mall Road, Delhi. You are MA (English), B.Ed. from Delhi University and yet to have any teaching experience. Write a job application in 120-150 words to the principal.

**Or**

- B. Write a letter to the Editor, 'The Hindu' about the mosquito menace due to stagnant water in your locality. Give suggestions to improve the situation. You are Raman/Renu, living in Rajaji Nagar, Tirunelveli.

**6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A. It is very important to take significant actions to save our planet. Write an article in about 120-150 words for your school magazine on how can we save and protect our planet. You are Akshay/Akshita of Graham Public School, Indore.

**Or**

- B. As part of an Entrepreneurship project the commerce students of your school recently launched a product called oatlicious. They not only set up a company to produce the product but also designed its advertising and marketing strategy. Write a report in about 120-150 words for your school magazine giving details of the enterprise and its launch. You are Akshay/Akshita of Graham Public School, Indore.

**SECTION C- LITERATURE****40****7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

- A. What I want would not be  
confused with inactivity.  
Life is what it is about;  
I want no truck with death.  
If we were not so single-minded  
about keeping our lives moving,  
and for once could do nothing,  
Perhaps a huge silence  
might interrupt this sadness  
Of never understanding ourselves  
And of threatening ourselves with death.

*(Keeping Quiet)*

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**SOLUTIONS**



- i. Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract? 1  
 (a) Power of war (b) Power of violence  
 (c) Power of silence and thought (d) Power of disputes
- ii. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract. 1  
 The poet wants to have no association with death as death is the end of life.
- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
 The poet asks to \_\_\_\_\_ in the whole extract of the poem.
- iv. The literary device used in the line, “what I want should not be confused with total inactivity” is \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- v. Based on the poem rhyme scheme, evident in lines 3 to 7, of the given extract, which word would rhyme with line 2? 1

Captivity

naste

haste

- vi. Select the option that is NOT true about the punctuation mark used in the line 3 of the given extract. 1  
 (a) Creates a sense of anticipation and expectation for the reader.  
 (b) Encourages the reader to continue reading seamlessly without any pause.  
 (c) Creates a sense of continuity and flow that connects the line with the second one.  
 (d) Encourages a revisit to the ideas in the preceding line.

Or

- B. Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen  
 Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.  
 They do not fear the men beneath the tree;  
 They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.

*(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)*

- i. Why are the tigers called 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers'? 1
- ii. Match the following correctly : 1

(i)	Prance	(a)	to walk with long steps in a direction.
(ii)	Pace	(b)	move about in a predatory manner.
(iii)	Stride	(c)	to move quickly with exaggerated steps.
(iv)	Prowl	(d)	to walk up and down in a small area many times.

- (a) (i)-c, (ii)-d, (iii)-a, (iv)-b  
 (b) (i)-d, (ii)-a, (iii)-b, (iv)-c  
 (c) (i)-b, (ii)-a, (iii)-d, (iv)-c  
 (d) (i)-a, (ii)-c, (iii)-b, (iv)-d

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**SOLUTIONS**

- iii. Why are Aunt Jennifer's tigers prancing across the screen? 1
- (a) Because they are real animals.
- (b) Because they love her.
- (c) Because they are showing their actions.
- (d) Because they are the product of her imagination.
- iv. Name the poet of the given extract. 1
- v. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE. 1
- "The Tigers are seen prancing on the screen. They are yellow like topaz (a precious stone)."
- vi. What is the meaning of the word 'denizens'? 1
- 8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 4**
- A.** She crouched close to the sleeping face of the young American. It was a piteously thin face she thought, and the lips were twisted. The man was suffering whether he knew it or not. Watching him, she wondered if the stories they heard sometimes of the sufferings of prisoners were true. They came like flickers of rumour, told by word of mouth and always contradicted.
- (The Enemy)*
- i. The above extract has been taken from \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- ii. Which word in the above extract is the synonym of 'confute'? 1
- (a) Flicker (b) contradict
- (c) Twisted (d) Rumour
- iii. The young American was wounded because he had been \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- iv. The wounded person who came to the house belonged to \_\_\_\_\_. 1

**Or**

- B.** Now, I don't know why this should have happened to me. I'm just an ordinary guy named Charley, thirty-one years old, and I was wearing a tan gabardine suit and a straw hat with a fancy band; I passed a dozen men who looked just like me. And I wasn't trying to escape from anything; I just wanted to get home to Louisa, my wife.
- (The Third Level)*
- i. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
- This incident took place while he was \_\_\_\_\_.
- ii. What did Charley want? 1
- (a) He wanted to lead a stressfree life.
- (b) He wanted to lead a normal life with his wife.
- (c) He wanted to live in the third world.
- (d) He did not want anything.

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**SOLUTIONS**

- iii. Why did Charley not want to escape anything? 1
- iv. What is the writing style of the narrator? 1

**9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

- A.** Listening to them, I see two distinct worlds—one of the family, caught in a web of poverty, burdened by the stigma of caste in which they are born; the other a vicious circle of the sahu-kars, the middlemen, the policemen, the keepers of law, the bureaucrats and the politicians. Together they have imposed the baggage on the child that he cannot put down. Before he is aware, he accepts it as naturally as his father. ... a flash of it in Mukesh I am cheered. “I want to be a motor mechanic” he repeats.

*(Lost Spring)*

- i. Who is being burdened under the baggage of two worlds? 1
- ii. The phrase ‘stigma of caste’ here refers to the \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- (a) poor families living in the slums
- (b) the untouchables living in Firozabad
- (c) grief stricken life of the bangle makers
- (d) children unable to get proper food and clothes
- iii. Pick out the word from the given extract that means the same as ‘Brutal’. 1
- iv. Mukesh’s dream that he wanted to be a motor mechanic, suggest that \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- (a) he is completely different from all the members of his family
- (b) he is just like other boys of his place
- (c) he is passionate about driving
- (d) he has to work to earn his livelihood.
- v. Who is the narrator of the given extract? 1
- vi. What is meant by the word ‘baggage’ here? 1

**Or**

- B.** As he walked along with the money in his pocket he felt quite pleased with his smartness. He realised, of course that at first he dared not continue on the public highway, but must turn off the road, into the woods. During the first hours this caused him no difficulty. Later in the day it became worse, for it was a big and confusing forest which he had gotten into. He tried, to be sure, to walk in a definite direction, but the paths twisted back and forth so strangely! He walked and walked without coming to the end of the wood and finally he realised that he had only been walking around in the same part of the forest. All at once he recalled his thoughts about the world and the rattrap. Now his own turn had come.

*(The Rattrap)*

- i. Why is the peddler’s decision to avoid the highway good for him? 1

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**SOLUTIONS**

- ii. Select the correct option to fill in the blank. 1  
 \_\_\_\_\_ caused him no difficulty during the early hours.  
 (a) Finding the food to eat (b) Looting the wealth of the rich  
 (c) Carrying the money he had (d) Walking in the woods
- iii. How had the peddler fallen prey to a rattrap? 1
- iv. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that the protagonist had fallen prey to the rattrap. 1
- v. Based on the above extract, choose the option which states the state of the mind of 'he' in the extract? 1  
 (a) Confident and happy (b) Exhausted and hopeless  
 (c) Fearful and strange (d) Proud and arrogant
- vi. Complete the given sentence appropriately. 1  
 The 'smartness' in the given extract refers to \_\_\_\_\_.

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words.  $5 \times 2 = 10$

- i. How and why was M. Hamel dressed differently that day?  
*(The Last Lesson)*
- ii. Mention any two long term consequences of the drowning incident on Douglas.  
*(Deep Water)*
- iii. According to Keats what moves away the pain and suffering from human life?  
*(A Thing of Beauty)*
- iv. What does the poet realise with pain? Why does the poet 'put that thought away' and look outside?  
*(My Mother at Sixty-Six)*
- v. What is the 'childish longing' of the folk who had put up the roadside stand? Why is it 'in vain'?  
*(A Roadside Stand)*
- vi. Sophie was dreaming of so many things in her life. What were they?  
*(Going Places)*

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.  $2 \times 2 = 4$

- i. Why are the youngsters called the future policy makers of the earth?  
*(Journey to the end of the Earth)*
- ii. Which actions of the people would Bama watch keenly in the bazaar?  
*(Memories of Childhood)*
- iii. Would it be proper to call the Maharaja 'penny-wise, pound foolish'? Give reasons for your answer.  
*(The Tiger King)*

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**SOLUTIONS**

**12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5**

**A.** What did the French teacher tell his students in his last French lesson? What impact did it have on them? Why?

*(The Last Lesson)*

**Or**

**B.** Why did Gandhiji consider freedom from fear more important than legal justice for the poor peasants of Champaran?

*(Indigo)*

**13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5**

**A.** What efforts were made by Dr. Sadao and Hana to save the life of the injured man?

*(The Enemy)*

**Or**

**B.** Discuss the qualities of Mr. Lamb which made him overlook the deformity of Derry.

*(On The Face of It)*

□□□□□□

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**SOLUTIONS**

**Sample Paper 3**  
**Class XII Exam 2023-24**  
**English-Core (301)**

**Time Allowed : 3 Hrs.**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
  2. Attempt question based on specific instructions for each part.
- 

**SECTION A-READING SKILLS**

**22**

**Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages**

**1. Read the following text.**

**12**

1. The art of conversation, like any art, is a skill of elegance, nuance and creative execution. I happen to believe that there is an art to everything we do, and why not? Without flair and panache most things become a drudgery. Why settle for drudgery when you can have art?
2. When it comes to the art of conversation, we've all met people who seem to have the knack for it. They can talk to anybody about anything and they seem to do it with complete ease. And while it's true that there are those who are born with the gift of the gab, luckily for the rest of us, conversation skills can be developed and mastered.
3. Conversation is a form of communication; however, it is usually more spontaneous and less formal. We enter into conversations for purposes of pleasant engagement in order to meet new people, to find out information and to enjoy social interactions. As far as types of conversation, they vary anywhere from intellectual conversations and information exchanges to friendly debates and witty banter.
4. While there is more to having good conversation skills than being a comedian, a dramatic actor, or a great story teller, it is not necessary to become more gregarious, animated, or outgoing.
5. Instead, you can develop the ability to listen attentively, ask fitting questions, and pay attention to the answers – all qualities essential to the art of conversation. With diligent practice and several good pointers, anyone can improve his or her conversation skills.
6. People who are genuinely interested in others are usually interesting themselves. Why? Because they are more open to learning about and understanding new things. Showing interest also encourages the other person to be relaxed and share information more freely. Display attentiveness by keeping good eye contact and listening actively.
7. If you happen to be shy and need time to warm up before you share your own views, you can ask open-ended questions or encourage the other person to elaborate on their insights. This kick-starts the conversation and before you know it you are engaged in a good conversational flow.
8. To start a conversation, go up to someone and introduce yourself. It is both polite and necessary to start off things smoothly.
9. When the occasion calls for it, you can offer a handshake and then smile and make eye contact. Being friendly puts the other person at ease and opens the door for him or her to introduce themselves.

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**SOLUTIONS**

10. The art of conversation, like any skill, takes practice. Period. Do not expect to be adept after your first few attempts. It will take practice as well as exposure to many different social situations.

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

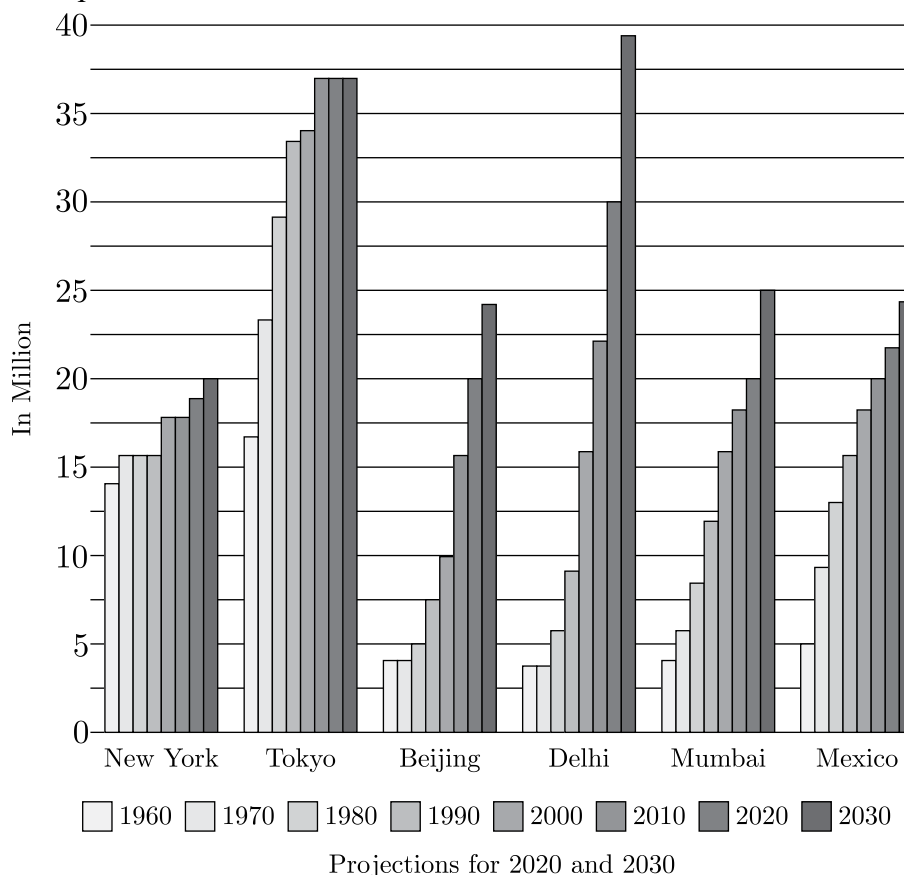
- i. Select the option that classifies the narrator's idea of not being settled to drudgery. 1  
(a) Conversation is a form of art.  
(b) Without flair and panache most things become drudgery.  
(c) Art overcomes drudgery.  
(d) Whatever we do is drudgery.
- ii. Which quality is not essential to the art of conversation? 1  
(a) Paying attention to the answers. (b) Asking fitting questions.  
(c) Ability to listen attentively. (d) Writing
- iii. Share evidence from the text, in about 40 words to support the view that the narrator's writing style is descriptive in nature. 2
- iv. Complete the sentence appropriately with its description. 1  
Shy people may start open-ended questions or encourage the other person \_\_\_\_\_.
- v. Select the option that is similar in meaning to 'witty'. 1  
(a) dull (b) humorous  
(c) boring (d) scratchy
- vi. Explain the reason, in about 40 words, showing interest in others leads to interesting conversation. 2
- vii. In the line "... with diligent practice and several good pointers, anyone can improve his or her conversational skills". What does the word 'diligent' imply? 1
- viii. "...conversations and information exchanges to friendly debates and witty banter." What does the author want to say? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- ix. Read the five statements (1)–(5) given below. 1  
(1) A good listener always listens to other person attentively.  
(2) A person who is interested in others will always listen to others.  
(3) Being a comedian or actor, a person needs to be a good listener.  
(4) Showing interest in others also encourages the other person to be relaxed and share information more freely.  
(5) A person should speak politely.  
Identify the option that displays the statements that DOES/DO corresponds with the listening ability of a person.  
(a) Only (1) (b) Only (2)  
(c) Both (1) and (2) (d) (3), (4) and (5)

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**SOLUTIONS**

**2. Read the following text.****10**

1. Politics and now Pollution keep Delhi forever in the news, but a third P (Population Growth) has gone missing from the discourse on the capital: population growth, which has soared during the last two decades and its disastrous fallout.
2. Already, India's capital city is the world's second most populous urban agglomeration. The future is even more frightening: a United Nations report released in mid-2018 says Delhi could be the world's most populous city by 2028 with 37.2 million people. That is eight million more in just 10 years.
3. According to the report called World Urbanisation Prospects 2018 by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the population of Delhi and its immediate neighbourhood is now estimated to be 29 million, second only to Tokyo with 37 million people. But Delhi will zoom past Tokyo, whose population is projected to decline to 36.8 million by 2028.
4. Will Delhi be worth living in? Can the city state of Delhi escape the pressures put on it by an ever expanding National Capital Region (NCR), which touches as far as Alwar now? Are we prepared at all for this population explosion?

**Figure : Population Growth in Major Global Cities**

5. In a small office in Delhi's India Habitat Centre, a group of urban planners – all belonging to the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) – have just started collecting baseline data on land, housing, transport, environment, heritage, water, among others, for Master Plan for Delhi (MPD) 2041. "Our deadline for preparing the Master Plan is 2021. But unlike its earlier editions, it won't be a flat 20 year plan. This one will be divided into various achievables, say, for every five years," says Nilesh Rajadhyaksha, lead coordinator of MPD and urban specialist in NIUA.

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**SOLUTIONS**



The NIUA – an autonomous research and advisory body that comes under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs – has been roped in by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to undertake this colossal strategy plan for Delhi 2041. The current master plan, MPD-2021, which was notified in 2007 and was prepared by an in-house team of the DDA, would expire in 2021.

6. The concern is that a sense of urgency to fix Delhi is missing. Many crucial elements of MPD-2021 still remain on paper, with just two years left for the plan to expire. AK Jain, former commissioner-planning in DDA and key architect of MPD-2021, gives a long list of what have not been implemented. The master plan talks about brownfield redevelopment of rehabilitation colonies such as Lajpat Nagar, Old Rajendra Nagar and Mukherjee Nagar, which were originally meant for Partition refugees.
7. Nothing has been done on that front so far. Nor for the redevelopment of 45 resettlement colonies such as Ambedkar Nagar and Trilokpuri, which were developed during Emergency to rehabilitate slum dwellers. The rejuvenation of the Yamuna is also on the plan, but the river remains severely polluted in the Delhi stretch.
8. Will Delhi be liveable? Jain is not very hopeful. He says Delhi won't be a highly liveable city even if the master plan is implemented in its entirety. "Delhi is part of the National Capital Region (NCR). So, Delhi's development can't happen in isolation," he explains.

**Answer the following questions, based on given passage.**

- i. Based on reading of the text, state a point to challenge the statement. Answer in about 40 words. 2  
Many important respects of MPD-2021 have been implemented.
- ii. The urban planners are collecting data based on \_\_\_\_\_. 1  
(a) transport (b) land  
(c) heritage (d) All of these
- iii. Based on the given graph, choose the option that lists the statements that are true. 1  
(a) Beijing and Delhi will see a decline in population growth.  
(b) The population of Tokyo is 'expected to remain the same over 10 years.'  
(c) The population of New York had grown exponentially.
- iv. What problem will prevail even if the Master Plan is implemented in its entirety? 1
- v. Whom had the Delhi development Authority hired to look into the development of Delhi? 1  
(a) NIUA (b) The Urban Planner  
(c) MHUA (d) All of these
- vi. Describe the crucial issue related to Master plans created for Delhi. Answer in about 40 words. 2
- vii. Complete the following sentence based on the information given in the passage. 1  
The given passage wants to drive attention to \_\_\_\_\_.  
viii. State TRUE or FALSE. 1  
Currently, Delhi is the third most polluted city in the world.

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**SOLUTIONS**

**SECTION B- CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS****18**

*Note : All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.*

**3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4**

- A. You lost your wallet in the school playground. Write a notice for your school notice board giving all the necessary details.

**Or**

- B. As Teacher Co-ordinator of the Quiz Club of AMM School, Pune, draft a notice in not more than 50 words informing students of the inter-class quiz contest asking them to register their names with the Secretary of the Club within a week.

**4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4**

- A. You are Riya/Ryan living at 40, Krishna Colony, Manali. You decided to hold a lunch party to congratulate your grandparents on their golden wedding anniversary. Draft a formal invitation in not more than 50 words to all family members to attend a grand lunch at home.

**Or**

- B. Draft a formal reply accepting an invitation to be present on the occasion of the wedding of Ankush S/o Mr & Mrs Shankar of 24, Green Park Road, Kanpur. You are Vikram Gaur of Raja Ki Mandi, Agra.

**5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A. Two main parks in your locality have suffered from neglect on the part of local authorities. They have virtually been taken over by undesirable elements. As a result the residents have stopped going to the parks. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the editor of a local newspaper expressing your concern about the problems the neglect has created and suggest measures to reclaim the parks for children. You are Gautam/ Gauri of 2, Gobind Enclave, Meerut.

**Or**

- B. You are Anand/Arti of 14, Model Town, Delhi. You have seen an advertisement in The Hindu for the post of Chief Chef in a 5-Star Hotel. Apply for the job with complete bio-data. Write in 120-150 words.

**6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A. You are Jay/Jaya, studying in Shyamala Memorial Hall, Trichy. Some students of our school attend a first aid training camp for a week at Red Cross Headquarter of our state. Write a report for your school magazine in 120-150 words on the events of the campo and your participation and performance.

**Or**

- B. Visiting new places and meeting new people enhance our understanding and knowledge besides being a source of great pleasure. Write an article in 120-150 words on 'Travel, a Source of Knowledge and Pleasure. You are Gopal/Govindi.

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**SOLUTIONS**

**SECTION C- LITERATURE****40****7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

- A.** I looked again at her, wan, pale as a late  
winter's moon and felt that old familiar ache,  
my childhood's fear, but all I said was, see you soon, Amma,  
all I did was smile and smile and smile...

*(My Mother at Sixty-Six)*

- i. Name the poet of the above stanza. 1
- ii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
Poet's mother is likened to a 'late winter's moon' because \_\_\_\_\_.
- iii. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract. 1  
The poet is ached by the fact that her mother is no longer young.
- iv. Identify the figure of speech used in the given lines, "pale as a late winter's moon." 1  
 (a) Alliteration (b) Metaphor  
 (c) Simile (d) Hyperbola
- v. What is the "old familiar ache" of the poet? 1  
 (a) Ageing and decaying of her mother (b) Seeing happy children  
 (c) Leaving the country (d) Leaving her mother alone
- vi. Do you think that the poet was hopeful of seeing her mother again? 1

**Or**

- B.** "When Aunt is dead,  
her terrified hands will lie.  
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.  
The tigers in the panel that she made  
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid."

*(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)*

- i. What makes the tigers proud and unafraid? 1  
 (a) They represent Aunt's repressed desires for freedom and power.  
 (b) They symbolise authority and are 'topaz denizens of green'.  
 (c) They embody the grandeur and supremacy of animals in the wild.  
 (d) They are a product of Aunt's imagination and colonial experience.
- ii. Identify the phrase from the extract, that suggests the following. 1  
Aunt Jennifer was entrapped in her marriage.

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- iii. Which of the following CAN NOT be inferred from the given extract? 1
- (a) Even in death, Aunt Jennifer cannot escape patriarchal subjugation.
- (b) Aunt Jennifer feels oppressed and constricted in her marriage.
- (c) Aunt Jennifer's tigers will keep her alive in everyone's memory.
- (d) Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance as a lasting symbol of her desires.
- iv. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
- The theme associated with the extract is \_\_\_\_\_.
- v. State whether TRUE or FALSE. 1
- Aunt Jennifer's tigers are an art from which will survive.
- vi. Will Aunt Jennifer ever be able to escape the oppressive society? 1
- 8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 4**
- A.** Derry : [Panic] I've got to go.  
 Mr. Lamb : Not on my account. I don't mind who comes into the garden. The gate's always open. Only you climbed the garden wall.  
 Derry : [Angry] You were watching me.  
 Mr Lamb : I saw you. But the gate's open. All welcome. You're welcome. I sit here. I like sitting.  
*(On the Face of It)*
- i. "Mr Lamb : Not on my account." Based on this line, do you think Mr. Lamb was angry with Derry? 1
- ii. What does the statement "Only you climbed the garden wall." mean? 1
- (a) Mr. Lamb wanted Derry to be punished.
- (b) Everyone got permission before entering into the garden.
- (c) Derry was the only person to sneak in through the wall.
- (d) Derry doesn't know the location of the gate.
- iii. How did Derry enter the garden? 1
- iv. Do you think Derry has the right to be angry at Mr. Lamb? 1

**Or**

- B.** His father had taken him often to the islands of those seas, and never had he failed to say to the little brave boy at his side, "Those islands yonder, they are the stepping stones to the future for Japan."  
 "Where shall we step from them?" Sadao had asked seriously.  
 "Who knows?" his father had answered. "Who can limit our future? It depends on what we make it"  
*(The Enemy)*
- i. Who did 'the little boy' refer to? 1

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**SOLUTIONS**

- ii. What does the speaker mean by 'stepping stone'? 1
1. Means of advancement
  2. Means of progression
  3. Means of disorganization
  4. Means of paucity
- (a) only 1  
(b) 1 and 2  
(c) only 3  
(d) 3 and 4
- iii. Pick out the word/s that best describe/s the word 'yonder' as used in the passage. 1
1. Distant
  2. Accessible
  3. Proximate
  4. Non-adjacent
  5. Adjoining
  6. Far-flung
- iv. "Where shall we step from them?" Sadao had asked seriously. 1  
Replace the word 'seriously' as given in the above line with an appropriate word.
9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6
- A. ... But Gandhi was vehemently opposed. He said, "You think that in this unequal fight it would be helpful if we have an Englishman on our side. This shows the weakness of your heart. The cause is just and you must rely upon yourselves to win the battle....  
"He had read our minds correctly:" Rajendra Prasad comments, "and we had no reply ... Gandhi in this way taught us a lesson in self-reliance":  
Self-reliance, Indian independence and help to sharecroppers were all bound together.  
(Indigo)
- i. Gandhi taught the sharecroppers a lesson of self-reliance so that 1
- (a) they could believe in themselves and be self-dependant.
  - (b) they learn and follow civil disobedience
  - (c) they understand that British could not be trusted
  - (d) they get to know to fight amongst themselves only.
- ii. Pick out the word from the given extract which means same as 'fiercely'. 1
- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
Rajendra Prasad who was a lawyer later on became \_\_\_\_\_.
- iv. Why did Gandhiji vehemently opposed the idea of taking help from Charles freer Andrews? 1

- v. Assertion (A) : Gandhi was vehemently opposed to letting Andrews help him in Champaran. 1  
Reason (R) : Because Gandhi was always suspicious of new people who offered help.  
(a) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.  
(b) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.  
(c) A is true but R is false.  
(d) A is false but R is true

- vi. “He had read our minds correctly.” Rajendra Prasad commented. What is the sentiment exposed here? 1

Or

- B. Once upon a time there was a man who went around selling small rattraps of wire. He made them himself at odd moments, from the material he got by begging in the stores or at the big farms. But even so, the business was not especially profitable, so he had to resort to both begging and petty thievery to keep body and soul together. Even so his clothes were in rags, his cheeks were sunken, and hunger gleamed in his eyes.

(The Rattrap)

- i. The peddler had to resort to both begging and thievery. 1  
What does the above sentence demonstrates?
- ii. Through peddler’s appearance it is signified that he was a/an 1  
(a) unfortunate man (b) thief  
(c) beggar (d) crofter
- iii. Complete the sentence with one word. 1  
The peddler’s rattraps were made of \_\_\_\_.
- iv. Who is the author of this chapter? 1  
(a) Louis Fischer (b) Salman Rushdie  
(c) Selma Lagerlof (d) Alphonse Daudet
- v. What does the idiom ‘keep body and soul together’ mean? 1
- vi. What does the word ‘rags’ indicate? 1

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words.  $5 \times 2 = 10$

- i. Franz reached school late. Yet, M. Hamel did not scold him. Why? (The Last Lesson)
- ii. What is the childish longing that the poet refers to? Why is it vain? (A Roadside Stand)
- iii. Explain Douglas’ statement, “The instructor was finished. But I was not finished:” (Deep Water)
- iv. What do celebrities dislike most about interviews? (The Interview)

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**SOLUTIONS**

v. What makes human beings love life in spite of all the troubles they face?  
(*A Thing of Beauty*)

vi. How does the poet describe Aunt Jennifer's tigers?  
(*Aunt Jennifer's Tigers*)

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.  $2 \times 2 = 4$

i. Why is Antarctica the place to go to if we want to study the earth's past, present and future?  
(*Journey to the end of the earth*)

ii. What did Annan say about his community to the narrator?  
(*Memories of Childhood*)

iii. Why did Charley run away from the third level?  
(*The Third Level*)

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. **5**

A. Why should child labour be eliminated and how? Explain on the basis of Lost Spring.  
(*Lost Spring*)

Or

B. Choose a quiet corner and keep still physically and mentally for about five minutes. Do you feel any change in your state of mind?  
(*Keeping Quiet*)

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. **5**

A. The actual pain or inconvenience caused by a physical impairment is often much less than the sense of alienation felt by the person with disabilities. What is the kind of behaviour that the person expects from others?  
(*On the Face of It*)

Or

B. How did the Tiger King manage to retain his kingdom?  
(*The Tiger King*)

□□□□□□

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**SOLUTIONS**

**Sample Paper 4**  
**Class XII Exam 2023-24**  
**English-Core (301)**

**Time Allowed : 3 Hrs.**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
  2. Attempt question based on specific instructions for each part.
- 

**SECTION A-READING SKILLS**

**22**

**Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages**

**1. Read the following text.**

**12**

1. Many of us believe that 'small' means 'insignificant'. We believe that small actions and choices do not have much impact on our lives. We think that it is only the big things, the big actions and the big decisions that really count. But when you look at the lives of all great people, you will see that they built their character through small decisions, small choices and small actions that they performed every day. They transformed their lives through a step-by-step or day-by-day approach. They nurtured and nourished their good habits and chipped away at their bad habits, one step at a time. It was their small day-to-day decisions that added up to make a tremendous difference in the long run. Indeed, in matters of personal growth and character building, there is no such thing as an overnight success.
2. Growth always occurs through a sequential series of stages. There is an organic process to growth. When we look at children growing up, we can see this process at work: the child first learns to crawl, then to stand and walk and finally to run. The same is true in the natural world. The soil must first be tilled and then the seed must be sowed. Next, it must be nurtured with enough water and sunlight and only then will it grow, bear fruit and finally ripen and be ready to eat.
3. Gandhi understood this organic process and used this universal law of nature to his benefit. Gandhi grew in small ways, in his day-to-day affairs. He did not wake up one day and find himself to be the 'Mahatma'. In fact, there was nothing much in his early life that showed signs of greatness. But from his mid-twenties onwards, he deliberately and consistently attempted to change himself, reform himself and grow in some small way every day. Day-by-day, hour-by-hour, he risked failure, experimented and learnt from mistakes. In small and large situations alike, he took up rather than avoiding responsibility.
4. People have always marvelled at the effortless way in which Gandhi could accomplish the most difficult tasks. He displayed a great deal of self-mastery and discipline that was amazing. These things did not come easily to him. Years of practice and disciplined training went into making his successes possible. Very few saw his struggles, fears, doubts and anxieties or his inner efforts to overcome them. They saw the victory, but not the struggle.
5. This is a common factor in the lives of all great people: they exercised their freedoms and choices in small ways that made great impact on their lives and their environment. Each of their small decisions and actions, added up to have a profound impact in the long run. By understanding this principle, we can move forward with confidence in the direction of our dreams. Often when our 'ideal goal' looks too far from us, we become easily discouraged, disheartened and pessimistic. However, when we choose to grow in small ways, taking small steps one at a time, performing it becomes easy.

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**SOLUTIONS**



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

- i. Gandhiji followed a process of growth. Which of the following is the third step in this process? 1  
(a) Experimentation (b) Learning from mistakes  
(c) Risking failure (d) Attempt to change
- ii. The main idea in the first paragraph is that 1  
(a) overnight success is possible for all of us  
(b) small actions and decisions are important in one's life  
(c) big things, big actions and big decisions make a person great  
(d) personal changes are not important
- iii. What is the one common thing that Gandhiji did in small and large situations? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- iv. Complete the following sentence with reference to the extract. 1  
The phrase \_\_\_\_\_ in the first paragraph means 'to steadily give up bad habits'.
- v. Select the option that conveys the opposite of 'unintentionally' from words used in paragraph 3. 1  
(a) Organic (b) Consistently  
(c) Risked (d) Deliberately
- vi. Comment on the writer's reference to the way in which great people transform their lives. Answer in about 40 words. 2
- vii. Describe the 'universal law of nature' mentioned in the passage. Answer in about 40 words. 2
- viii. What did Gandhiji try to do after he was 25 years old? 1
- ix. Pick the option that correctly lists the tone of the writer with reference to the passage. 1  
1. Sympathetic  
2. Encouraging  
3. Wonder  
4. Regret  
5. Matter of fact  
Codes  
(a) Only 3 (b) Only 4  
(c) Only 2 (d) 1 and 5

**2. Read the following text. 10**

1. The United States Postal Service (also known as USPS, the Post Office, informally known as the P.O., or the U.S. Mail) is the third largest employer in the United States, after the Department of Defence and Walmart. It employs over 785,000 workers in over 14,000 U.S. postal facilities.

Continue on next page.....

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**SOLUTIONS**

2. The Postal Service has certainly grown and changed since 1775 when the first Postmaster General - Benjamin Franklin - was named to head the Post Office Department, the forerunner of the current USPS. At that time, members of the Second Continental Congress agreed that the Postmaster General headquarters, or most important offices, would be stationed in Philadelphia, and that the Postmaster would be paid \$1,000 a year for his or her service.
3. As the country grew westward, it became necessary for the railroad system to carry the mail. The Railway Mail Service (RMS) was initiated in 1862. The RMS workers sorted mail on the train, and became some of the fastest workers in the system. They sorted about 600 pieces of mail per hour. All the mail had to be sorted before the train reached the first stop, since some of the mail was destined for that first stop on the route.
4. By 1918, the Post Office took over air mail from the U.S. Army. The first airplanes used in U.S. air mail were surplus planes from World War I. The Post Office started with only four pilots flying these leftover planes in August 1918, but by the end of that year, the Post Office had hired 36 more pilots. By 1920, over 49 million air mail letters had been delivered.
5. The Post Office has used alternate methods of transmission during its history. It owned and operated the first telegraph lines from 1884 to 1887 - when the lines were privatized. It utilized "V-Mail" (Victory Mail) during World War II when U.S. military mail was put on microfilm in the U.S. and printed near its destination, in order to save space on military transport. During the 1980s, Electronic Computer Originated Mail, called ECOM, was used for some bulk mailings. Computer generated mail was printed near its destination, and bore a blue ECOM logo on its special envelopes.
6. In 1970, the Postal Reorganization Act, signed by President Richard Nixon, replaced the Post Office Department (a Cabinet-level department) with the independent US Postal Service. The independent US Postal Service has streamlined its workload and modernized operations. Today's multi-line optical character readers (MLOCs) can read the entire address on an envelope, print a barcode on the envelope, and sort the mail at the rate of nine letters per second. The zip code +4, a four digit code added to the end of the existing 5-digit code, has decreased the number of times a piece of mail needs to be handled.
7. Special barcode sorters assign an 11-digit zip code to each address, apply a barcode to each letter, and sort the mail in order of delivery. The Postal Service has installed automated customer-service equipment in lobbies, and is planning to automate even more of its work, including more machines which will process parcels and forwarded mail. The price of a first-class stamp-recently approved at 44 cents and good for up to one-ounce domestic mail- seems relatively inexpensive compared to its predecessor; the first U.S. postage stamp, issued in 1847. The first stamps, adorned with a picture of Benjamin Franklin, sold for 5 cents apiece. They were used for letters weighing less than one ounce with a travel distance of less than 300 miles. By way of comparison, pay records available for the 1890s indicate that a typical year's pay for a schoolteacher was around \$500, or 10,000 times the price of a stamp. Stamp prices then seem relatively high when compared to today's average teacher pay, in the \$40,000 per-year range, or about 1,000,000 times the price of a postage stamp!

**Answer the following questions based on the passage above.**

- i. How did the mail sorting work in RMS? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- ii. The railway mail service was established in 1
  - (a) 1884
  - (b) 1980
  - (c) 1862
  - (d) 1775

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**SOLUTIONS**

- iii. How did the RMS become some of the fastest workers in the service? 1  
(a) By using pigeons  
(b) By sorting the mail on the train before every stop  
(c) By inviting people to sort the mail.
- iv. What was the system of transporting mail called? 1
- v. Who was the first Postmaster General? 1
- vi. The second largest employer in the US is 1  
(a) Walmart  
(b) Department of Defense  
(c) United States Postal Service  
(d) Domino's
- vii. How does the independent US Postal service work Answer in about 40 words. 2
- viii. State TRUE or FALSE. 1  
The price of first-class stamp-recently approved at 5 cents apiece.

### SECTION B- CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

18

*Note : All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.*

3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4
- A. Water supply will be suspended for eight hours (10 am to 6 pm) on 6th of March for cleaning of the water tank. Write a notice in about 50 words advising the residents to store water for a day. You are Karan Kumar/Karuna Bajaj, Secretary, Janata Group Housing Society, Palam Vihar, Kurnool.
- Or
- B. You are Mahender, Sports Captain, St. John's School, Lucinow. Write a notice in 50 words for the school notice board informing students about an Inter School Football match to be played in your school. Invite them to watch and cheer the teams.
4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4
- A. The literary club of your society is putting up the play 'Macbeth. As secretary of the club, draft an invitation inviting the famous writer Rohit Sharma to be the guest of honour at the function. Write the invitation in about 50 words. You are Gaurav/Garima.
- Or
- B. You have been invited as a judge for a debate competition by New Hope public School. Draft a formal refusal in about 50 words.

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**SOLUTIONS**

**5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A. Write a letter to Editor of local daily, New Delhi about water scarcity in you locality suggesting ways to improve the condition of water supply. You are Bobby/Babita of Ghaziabad.

**Or**

- B. As a regular commuter by bus from Noida to Delhi, you have been witnessing rash driving by the bus drivers daily without an exception. Write a letter to the Editor, 'The Times of India' drawing the attention of the General Manager, Delhi Transport Corporation to this problem. You are Priti/Prakash, 15, Udyog Vihar, Noida.

**6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A. Incessant rain has caused irrecoverable damage in your area. As an active participant in the flood relief programme, write a report in 120-150 words on the different flood relief measures carried out. You are Krishan/ Krishna.

**Or**

- B. Accidents happen when people violate traffic rules. Careless drivers cause suffering to themselves and to others. Write an article in 120-150 words on "Safe Driving".

**SECTION C- LITERATURE****40****7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

- A. And such too is the grandeur of the dooms  
We have imagined for the mighty dead;  
All lovely tales that we have heard or read:  
An endless fountain of immortal drink,  
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.

*(A Thing of Beauty)*

- i. Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract? **1**
- (a) The immortality of art and literature
  - (b) The power of imagination
  - (c) The beauty of nature
  - (d) The inevitability of death
- ii. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract. **1**
- By referring to the dead as "mighty", the poet emphasizes their importance and the power they exerted on the people.

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**SOLUTIONS**

- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
The “endless fountain of immortal drink” is an apt analogy for the tales of the mighty dead because \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- iv. The use of the word “brink” in the extract suggests that the immortality that is being poured onto us is on the verge of overflowing. This creates a powerful image of \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- v. Based on the poem rhyme scheme, evident in lines 2-5, of the given extract, which word would rhyme with line 1? 1  
said think tombs
- vi. Select the option that is NOT true about the lack of punctuation at the end of line 1 in the extract. 1  
(a) Encourages a revisit to the ideas in the preceding lines.  
(b) Encourages the reader to continue reading seamlessly without any pause.  
(c) Creates a sense of anticipation and expectation for the reader.  
(d) Creates a sense of continuity and flow that connects the line with the second line.

Or

- B. “Fishermen in the cold sea  
would not harm whales  
and the man gathering salt  
would look at his hurt hands.”

(Keeping Quiet)

- i. What do the given lines tell us about mankind? 1  
(a) Selfish nature (b) Greed  
(c) Materialism (d) All of these
- ii. What does the poet expect of the fisherman? 1
- iii. What figure of speech has been used in the first line of the stanza or in words ‘Cold Sea’? 1  
(a) Personification (b) Metaphor  
(c) Transferred epithet (d) Simile
- iv. State whether the given statement is TRUE and FALSE. 1  
The selfish nature of man is leading to environmental degradation.
- v. How is ‘keeping quiet’ going to help the man who works as ‘salt gatherer’? 1
- vi. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
The tone of the poet in the given lines is \_\_\_\_\_.

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**SOLUTIONS**

**8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 4**

- A.** In the afternoon the second thing happened. Hana, working hard on unaccustomed labour, saw a messenger come to the door in official uniform. Her hands went weak and she could not draw her breath. The servants must have told already. She ran to Sadao, gasping unable to utter a word. But by then the messenger had simply followed her through the garden and there he stood. She pointed at him helplessly. Sadao looked up from his book ....

“What is it?” he asked the messenger and then he rose, seeing the man’s uniform. “You are to come to the palace,” The man said. “the old General is in pain again.” “Oh”, Hana breathed, “is that all?”

*(The Enemy)*

- i. Give one reason for the following. 1  
The messenger had come to Sadao’s house
- ii. The above extract has been taken from 1  
(a) Going Places  
(b) The Enemy  
(c) The Third Level  
(d) Lost Spring
- iii. The phrase ‘unaccustomed labour’ means \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- iv. What was Hana’s fear in the given extract? 1

**Or**

- B.** Have you ever been there? It’s a wonderful town still, with big old frame houses, huge lawns, and tremendous trees whose branches meet overhead and roof the streets. And in 1894, summer evenings were twice as long, and people sat out on their lawns, the men smoking cigars and talking quietly, the women waving palm-leaf fans, with the fire-flies all around, in a peaceful world. To be back there with the First World War still twenty years off and World War II over forty years in the future... I wanted two tickets for that.

*(The Third Level)*

- i. The author wants two tickets to a place which he refers to in the last two lines of the extract. Which year does he wish to go back to? 1
- ii. At the beginning of the extract, the author addresses the question to \_\_\_\_\_. 1  
(a) Louisa, Charley’s wife  
(b) Sam Weiner, Charley’s psychiatrist  
(c) the reader  
(d) nobody in particular as it’s a rhetoric question
- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
‘Tremendous trees whose branches meet overhead and roof the streets’ is an example of \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- iv. How has life been described in the given extract? 1

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**SOLUTIONS**

**9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

- A.** To do anything else would mean to dare. And daring is not part of his growing up. When I sense a flash of it in Mukesh I am cheered. "I want to be a motor mechanic," he repeats: He will go to a garage and learn. But the garage is a long way from his home. "I will walk," he insists. "Do you also dream of flying a plane?" He is suddenly silent. "No," he says, staring at the ground.

*(Lost Spring)*

- i. What was Mukesh supposed to be if not his dream to be a motor mechanic? 1
- ii. "I will walk" this line shows Mukesh's. 1
- (a) disappointment
- (b) determination
- (c) shyness
- (d) helplessness
- iii. With whom was the speaker sharing his dream? 1
- iv. Did Mukesh sound unreasonable? 1
- (a) Maybe
- (b) No
- (c) Yes
- (d) Can't be determined
- v. Why did the writer ask, "Do you also dream of flying a plane?" 1
- vi. What can we understand from the line, "And daring is not part of his growing up:?" 1

**Or**

- B.** Then I started down a third time. I sucked for air and got water the yellowish light was going out. Then all effort ceased. I relaxed. Even my legs felt limp; and a blackness swept over my brain. It wiped out fear; it wiped out terror. There was no more panic. It was quiet and peaceful. Nothing to be afraid of. This is nice... to be drowsy... to go to sleep... no need to jump... too tired to jump... it's nice to be carried gently... to float along in space... tender arms around me... tender arms like Mother's... now I must go to sleep... I crossed to oblivion, and the curtain of life fell.

*(Deep Water)*

- i. The author ends the given paragraph about the seemingly long struggle of little Douglas with the words 'and the curtain of life fell.' How does he involve the reader into it? 1
- ii. The line, 'After a while, Douglas gave up being anxious and fearful in water' can be best classified as: 1
- (a) an effect
- (b) a cause
- (c) a fact
- (d) an opinion

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**SOLUTIONS**

- iii. Infer from the given extract, the author shows gradation of various stages of fear. 1
- iv. Identify the line from the given extract that bears evidence to the fact that the author was now not much afraid. 1
- v. The author has used this figure of speech with this meaning in- tender arms around me ... tender arms like Mother's ... 1
- (a) metaphor, softness
- (b) simile, comfort
- (c) repetition, anxiety
- (d) paradox, the arms don't belong to his mother
- vi. Complete the sentence in ONE word. 1
- When the curtain of life fell, Douglas surrendered before death and with \_\_\_\_\_ crossed to oblivion.

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words.  $5 \times 2 = 10$

- i. Is the society in any way affected by Aunt Jennifer's death?  
(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)
- ii. Why did Gandhiji feel that it was useless for the peasants to go to law courts?  
(Indigo)
- iii. For Franz, what was much more tempting than going to school and why?  
(The Last Lesson)
- iv. What different image does the poet use to convey the idea of her mother's age?  
(My Mother at Sixty-Six)
- v. At the crofter's home, why did the peddler feel very happy?  
(The Rattrap)
- vi. How can suspension of activities help?  
(Keeping Quiet)
11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.  $2 \times 2 = 4$
- i. How did the gardener react when Dr. Sadao told him about the wounded American soldier?  
(The Enemy)
- ii. If you were to give a different ending to the story, "On the Face of It" how would you end it?  
(On the Face of It)
- iii. What is common between Zitkala-Sa and Bama?  
(Memories of Childhood)

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**SOLUTIONS**



**12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5**

**A.** Why is the Champaran episode considered to be the beginning of the Indian struggle for independence?  
(*Indigo*)

**Or**

**B.** The government and other social service agencies appear to help the poor rural people but do them no good. Pick out the words and phrases that the poet uses to show their double standards.  
(*A Roadside Stand*)

**13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5**

**A.** What benefits did Derry reap from his association with Mr. Lamb?  
(*On the Face of It*)

**Or**

**B.** Why is Antarctica the place to go to, to understand the earth's past, present and future?  
(*Journey to the End of the Earth*)

□□□□□□

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**SOLUTIONS**

**Sample Paper 5**  
**Class XII Exam 2023-24**  
**English-Core (301)**

**Time Allowed : 3 Hrs.**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
  2. Attempt question based on specific instructions for each part.
- 

**SECTION A-READING SKILLS**

**22**

**Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages**

**1. Read the following text.**

**12**

1. No student of a foreign language needs to be told that grammar is complex. By changing word sequences and by adding a range of auxiliary verbs and suffixes, we are able to communicate tiny variations in meaning. We can turn a statement into a question, state whether an action has taken place or is soon to take place, and perform many other word tricks to convey subtle differences in meaning. Nor is this complexity inherent to the English language. All languages, even those of so-called 'primitive' tribes have clever grammatical components. The Cherokee pronoun system, for example, can distinguish between 'you and I, 'several other people and I' and 'you, another person and I. In English, all these meanings are summed up in the one, crude pronoun 'we. Grammar is universal and plays a part in every language, no matter how widespread it is. So the question which has baffled many linguists is - who created grammar?
2. At first, it would appear that this question is impossible to answer. To find out how grammar is created, someone needs to be present at the time of a language's creation, documenting its emergence. Many historical linguists are able to trace modern complex languages back to earlier languages, but in order to answer the question of how complex languages are actually formed, the researcher needs to observe how languages are started from scratch. Amazingly, however, this is possible.
3. Some of the most recent languages evolved due to the Atlantic slave trade. At that time, slaves from a number of different ethnicities were forced to work together under colonizer's rule. Since they had no opportunity to learn each others' languages, they developed a make-shift language called a pidgin. Pidgins are strings of words copied from the language of the landowner. They have little in the way of grammar, and in many cases it is difficult for a listener to deduce when an event happened, and who did what to whom. Speakers need to use circumlocution in order to make their meaning understood. Interestingly, however, all it takes for a pidgin to become a complex language is for a group of children to be exposed to it at the time when they learn their mother tongue. Slave children did not simply copy the strings of words uttered by their elders, they adapted their words to create a new, expressive language. Complex grammar systems which emerge from pidgins are termed creoles, and they are invented by children.

Continue on next page.....

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**SOLUTIONS**

4. Further evidence of this can be seen in studying sign languages for the deaf. Sign languages are not simply a series of gestures; they utilise the same grammatical machinery that is found in spoken languages. Moreover, there are many different languages used worldwide. The creation of one such language was documented quite recently in Nicaragua. Previously, all deaf people were isolated from each other, but in 1979 a new government introduced schools for the deaf. Although children were taught speech and lip reading in the classroom, playgrounds, they began to invent their own sign system, using the gestures that they used at home. It was basically a pidgin. Each child used the signs differently, and there was no consistent grammar. However, children who joined the school later, when this inventive sign system was already around, developed a quite different sign language. Although it was based on the signs of the older children, the younger children's language was more fluid and compact, and it utilised a large range of grammatical devices to clarify meaning. What is more, all the children used the signs in the same way. A new creole was born.
5. Some linguists believe that many of the world's most established languages were creoles at first. The English past tense-ed ending may have evolved from the verb 'do' It ended' may once have been 'It end-did. Therefore it would appear that even the most widespread languages were partly created by children. Children appear to have innate grammatical machinery in their brains, which springs to life when they are first trying to make sense of the world around them. Their minds can serve to create logical, complex structures, even when there is no grammar present for them to copy.

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

- i. Why did the narrator say that it is impossible to say who created grammar? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- ii. Complete the following sentence appropriately. 1  
The language created by children of slaves with complex grammar system is called \_\_\_\_.
- iii. All the following sentences about Nicaragua sign language are true EXCEPT : 1  
(a) The language incorporates signs which children used at home.  
(b) The language is based on speech and lip reading.  
(c) The language has been created since 1979.  
(d) The language was perfected by younger children.
- iv. Sign language is not simply a series of gestures because 1  
(a) they were basically pidgin  
(b) they incorporated the same grammatical system found in spoken languages  
(c) they were developed from the English language  
(d) children developed it with lip reading system
- v. What was the main disadvantage of the sign language used in the schools for deaf in 1979? 1
- vi. Which word in para 3 have the same meaning as "extrapolate"? 1  
(a) Complex  
(b) Opportunity  
(c) Evolved  
(d) Deduce

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**SOLUTIONS**

- vii. “Some of the most recent languages evolved due to the Atlantic slave trade:’ Justify this statement in about 40 words. 2
- viii. How do children play a role in the creation of a language? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- ix. The pidgin language was created so that \_\_\_\_\_. 1
1. colonisers can speak to the slaves
  2. slaves can learn new languages
  3. slaves with different languages could communicate with one another
  4. to improve existing language of the land owners
  5. slaves with different languages could not communicate with one another.
- (a) only 1 (b) 2 and 5
- (c) only 3 (d) 3 and 4

## 2. Read the following text. 10

1. Travel today, whether for purposes of business or leisure, takes up 25-30% of the annual budget of family, according to a survey conducted in 2021.
2. Today, it is trending to spend money on experiences rather than consumables. Travel is no longer looked at as just visiting a new place. It underlines an ethos, a culture, a pandora’s box full of surprises. People who love to travel enjoy relaxation, new cultures, foreign food or incredible landscapes different from their normal surroundings. Some people enjoy the motion of travelling, being on a boat, plane, train or bus. The list is endless and the reasons range from simple to complex. The study further revealed changing trends in travel tourism. While some are serious travellers who fall under the category of medical tourism, a large percentage are splurging on pleasure travel. When questioned on why, what are the benefits or purpose, the responses can be categorized under a few common headings.
3. Those who do it for fun, for a sense of adventure, to take on risks and challenges are the 18-30 year-olds. While the 30-40 years bracket couple fun with education, a thirst for knowledge and experience-to see beautiful places, explore cultures and cuisines. They believe that an ever-changing environment is stimulating, refreshing and brings endless learning opportunities. Those between the 40-50 years travelled to expand their minds and challenge perspectives. They want a break from their soul-destroying lifestyles. The 60 years and above were the NOW travellers-they feel they might drop dead the day before they retire or be too old and unfit to travel, or take on, physical challenges. The in-between 50-60 years adopt the best of both worlds.
4. The survey concluded that travel has become an integral part of people’s lives, and it provides us our greatest stories, our most cherished moments and countless learnings that broaden our horizons and above all teach us about ourselves and others.

Age-wise distribution of holiday-goers in percentages				
Age	Adventure	Education	Relaxation	Now Travellers
Below 20	39	38	6	17
20 – 30	44	28	12	16
30 – 50	25	24	30	21
Above 50	8	10	40	42

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**SOLUTIONS**

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

- i. Infer two purposes of travelling as mentioned in the given paragraph. Answer in about 40 words. 2
- ii. Which of the following options displays the most likely reason for people to make travel budgets? 1
- (a) Undertake journeys that give relaxation, adventure or knowledge.
  - (b) Learn about new people and their language.
  - (c) Buy the latest designs in the market.
  - (d) In order to gain relief from work pressure.
- iii. Do you think the researchers of the survey aimed to popularize a particular type of tourism? 1
- iv. Identify the adventurous traveller from the following three travellers. 1
- (a) Roshni – I love to capture photographs while travelling.
  - (b) Reshma – I love to travel with tight travelling budgets.
  - (c) Roshan – I love to explore isolated places full of challenges.
- v. Which of the following is an example of an opportunity for a sense of adventure? 1
- (a) Hiring a taxi or cab
  - (b) Being a tourist
  - (c) Trying new things full of difficulties
  - (d) Advance booking of the travel tickets
- vi. How might the differences in purpose of travellers between adventure and education impact the age groups offered by researchers in survey? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- vii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
- The similarities in the percentage of people belonging to below 20 age group who are interested in adventure and educational travelling may be due to \_\_\_\_\_.
- viii. State TRUE or FALSE. 1
- The title, “Travelling for Fun”, is appropriate for this passage.

**SECTION B- CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS****18**

*Note : All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.*

**3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4**

- A. You lost your wristwatch in your school auditorium. Write a notice in not more than 50 words for your school notice board giving a detailed description of the watch. You are Anirudh/Arundhati of class XII of Springfield School, Pune.

**Or**

- B. Your school is celebrating Grandparents’ Day next week. Write a notice in 50 words to be put up on the school notice board informing students of the celebration and requesting them to be present with their grandparents. You are Samir/Suman, Head Boy/Head Girl ABC Sen. Sec. School, Delhi.

**Click the Following Button to See the Free MS/Solutions**

**SOLUTIONS**

**4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4**

- A. Modern Public School, Delhi is organising an inter school music competition. You have decided to invite noted classical musician. Mohan Gandhi as the judge and guest of honour. Draft a formal invitation for him in 50 words. You are Neeraj/Neetu, Cultural Secretary.

**Or**

- B. As the principal of a reputed college, you have been invited to inaugurate a Book Exhibition in your neighbourhood. Draft a reply to the invitation in not more than 50 words, expressing your inability to attend the function. You are Tarun/Tanvi.

**5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A. You are Raj/Rati, 115, Ram Nagar, Noida. Read the advertisement given below and write a letter to the advertiser, applying for the job. Also give your detailed resume, which you would send along with your letter of application for the job. (120-150 words)

Wanted experienced Post Graduate Teacher in Chemistry to teach Classes XI and XII in a reputed ICSE affiliated residential school. Fluency in English is a must. Working knowledge of computers is preferable; salary commensurate with experience and expertise. Please apply to : Box No. 205, C/O The Hindu, Noida.

**Or**

- B. You have realised the necessity of education and financial independence of women for their family, society and in turn for the nation. Write a letter to the Editor, 'The National Times' highlighting your ideas on the importance of education of women leading to a better status for them. You are Tarun/Taruna, B-7/9, Mall Road, Delhi (120-150 words)

**6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A. You are Anurag/Anjali, a reporter with a national daily. You have heard that a multistorey building near the main railway station has collapsed causing panic in the area. You rush to the site of the accident along with your team. Write a report in 120-150 words mentioning the time and place of the accident, number of casualties, the cause of the accident and the rescue operation conducted by the authorities.

**Or**

- B. There is a vast pool of women talent in our country. Given encouragement and opportunities, women can excel in every field. They are contributing to the nation's progress as scientists, doctors, entrepreneurs, sports persons, etc. There is no limit to what they can achieve. Write an article in 120-150 words on "Women Empowerment". You are Ram/Roma.

**SECTION C- LITERATURE****40**

**7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

- A.** Now we will count to twelve  
And we will all keep still.  
For once on the face of the Earth  
Let's not speak in any language  
Let's stop for one second  
And not move our arms so much.

*(Keeping Quiet)*

- i. Why is the poet asking the people not to speak? 1  
(a) It creates noise.  
(b) The poet doesn't like talkative people.  
(c) It gives the people time to introspect their actions.  
(d) There are less chances of infection.
- ii. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE. 1  
The poet wants us to do nothing and remain inactive for one second.
- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
"Not move our arms" in the given extract refers to \_\_\_\_.
- iv. During counting to twelve, the poet wants us to remain \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- v. In the given extract, the poet has used \_\_\_\_\_. 1  
(a) metaphor  
(b) blank verse  
(c) heroic couplet
- vi. Select the option that is NOT true. 1  
(a) During this moment, we will forget our differences and experience a strength of togetherness.  
(b) When we stop for a second, we get an opportunity to introspect our follies.  
(c) We will realize the harm we are causing to the world with our words and actions.  
(d) We should always remain lazy.

**Or**

- B.** When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie  
still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.  
The tigers in the panel that she made  
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.

*(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)*

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**SOLUTIONS**

- i. Identify the figure of speech in 'terrified hands'. 1  
 (a) Transferred epithet (b) Imagery  
 (c) Hyperbole (d) Synecdoche
- ii. Which issue is the poet addressing through this poem? 1
- iii. The rhyming scheme of the poem is \_\_\_\_\_. 1  
 (a) aaab (b) acad  
 (c) aabb (d) abca
- iv. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE. 1  
 'Difficulties faced by women' is what the poet wants to deliver through this poem.
- v. Aunt Jennifer's life is ringed with ordeals. 'Ringed' has a significant meaning here. What is it? 1
- vi. Complete the sentence given below. 1  
 Aunt Jennifer faced ordeals from the oppressive male \_\_\_\_\_ society.

**8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 4**

- A. Friends everywhere. People come in .....everybody knows me. The gate's always open. They come and sit here. And in front of the fire in winter. Kids come for the apples and pears. And for toffee. I make toffee with honey. Anybody comes. So have you.

*(On the Face of It)*

- i. Why Mr. Lamb always keeps gate of his garden open? 1
- ii. What does the phrase 'gate's always open' show about the speaker? 1
- iii. The extract shows the speaker to be \_\_\_\_\_. 1  
 (a) overthinker (b) genial  
 (c) pessimistic (d) None of these
- iv. Name the writer of the given extract. 1

**Or**

- B. Yes, I've taken the obvious step: I talked to a psychiatrist friend of mine, among others. I told him about the third level at Grand Central Station and he said it was a waking dream wish fulfillment. He said I was unhappy. That made my wife kind of mad, but he explained that he meant the modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry and all the rest of it and that I just want to escape. Well, who doesn't? Everybody I know wants to escape, but they don't wander down into any third level at Grand Central Station.

*(The Third Level)*

**Click the Following Button to See the Free MS/Solutions**

**SOLUTIONS**



- i. Why did the narrator go to a psychiatrist? 1
- ii. What is 'waking dream wish fulfillment' according to the psychiatrist in the lesson? 1
- (a) Charley's finding, of a Third Level at Grand Central Station.
- (b) Charley's realisation of his wish to visit Galesburg Illinois.
- (c) Charley's escaping into his daydreaming everyday.
- (d) Charley's post stamp collecting habit.
- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
- The third level, according to Charley, was \_\_\_\_.
- iv. What does the psychiatrist explain to Charley? 1

**9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

- A. It seemed a long way down. Those nine feet were more like ninety, and before I touched bottom my lungs were ready to burst. But when my feet hit bottom I summoned all my strength and made what I thought was a great spring upwards. I imagined I would bob to the surface like a cork. Instead, I came up slowly. I opened my eyes and saw nothing but water - water that had a dirty yellow tinge to it.

*(Deep Water)*

- i. Why did the nine feet deep pool seem ninety to Douglas? 1
- ii. The expression "I imagined I would bob to the surface like a cork" implies that 1
- (a) Frightened, Douglas was not able to shout for help.
- (b) Douglas accepted his failure and ultimate death.
- (c) Though Douglas was frightened he was not out of his wits.
- (d) Douglas was afraid to die.
- iii. Pick the word from the given extract which means to 'make a quick, short movement up and down. 1
- iv. What does the speaker mean by I summoned all my strength? 1
- (a) That he called up his strength. (b) That he accumulated his strength.
- (c) That he gathered his strength. (d) All of these
- v. Where did the given event take place? 1
- vi. 'It seemed a long way down. What was the author referring to? 1

**Or**

- B. He was involved, he told the court, in a 'conflict of duties'- on the one hand, not to set a bad example as a lawbreaker; on the other hand, to render the 'humanitarian and national service' for which he had come. He disregarded the order to leave, not 'for want of respect for lawful authority, but in obedience to the higher law of our being, the voice of conscience.' He asked the penalty due.

*(Indigo)*

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**SOLUTIONS**

- i. List any two details about Gandhiji discussed in the extract. 1
- ii. Why did Gandhiji call fighting for the rights of the poor farmers 'national service'? 1
  - (a) Because he wanted all sharecroppers throughout the country to unite against the landlords.
  - (b) Because the plight of the sharecroppers was the same throughout the country.
  - (c) Because the sharecroppers of Champaran were leading the fight.
  - (d) Because the sharecroppers refused to be convinced by the commission.
- iii. What was the consequence of the court proceeding? 1
- iv. Pick evidence from the extract that helps one infer that Gandhiji disobeyed the authority. 1
- v. Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the extract? 1
  - (a) Gandhiji – an authoritarian
  - (b) Gandhiji – a humanitarian and nationalist
  - (c) Gandhiji – a lawbreaker
  - (d) Gandhiji – a political activist
- vi. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
The 'conflict of duties' refers to \_\_\_\_\_.

**10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words.  $5 \times 2 = 10$**

- i. Why did the author appear to be doing nothing at the studios?  
(*Poets and Pancakes*)
- ii. Why was Edla happy to see the gift left by the peddler?  
(*The Rattrap*)
- iii. Why are the young trees described as 'sprinting'?  
(*My Mother at Sixty-Six*)
- iv. Describe the endless fountain of immortal drink.  
(*A Thing of Beauty*)
- v. Why did Aunt Jennifer choose to embroider tigers on the panel?  
(*Aunt Jennifer's Tigers*)
- vi. What does the title 'Lost Spring' convey?  
(*Lost Spring*)

**11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.  $2 \times 2 = 4$**

- i. Why did the Maharaja decide to get married?  
(*The Tiger King*)
- ii. Why did Zitkala-Sa resist the cutting of her hair?  
(*Memories of Childhood*)
- iii. What indicates that Dr. Sadao's father was a very traditional and conventional man?  
(*The Enemy*)

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**SOLUTIONS**

**12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5**

**A.** Describe the difficulties the bangle makers of Firozabad have to face in their lives.

*(Lost Spring)*

**Or**

**B.** Imagine a child from the farmer's family migrates to the city for their education. As the child, write back to your family telling them whether you would or would not want to turn into a city-person. Use the context of the poem "A Roadside Stand" in mind to pen down this letter.

**13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5**

**A.** In which section of the play does Mr Lamb display signs of loneliness and disappointment? What are the ways in which Mr Lamb tries to overcome these feelings?

*(On the Face of It)*

**Or**

**B.** How did the Tiger King stand in danger of losing his Kingdom? How was he able to avert the danger?  
*(The Tiger King)*

□□□□□□

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**SOLUTIONS**

**Sample Paper 6**  
**Class XII Exam 2023-24**  
**English-Core (301)**

**Time Allowed : 3 Hrs.**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
  2. Attempt question based on specific instructions for each part.
- 

**SECTION A-READING SKILLS**

**22**

**Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages**

**1. Read the following text.**

**12**

1. Very often, we do not take the first step towards a good cause because we say to ourselves, “The task is so big. What can I do alone?” So nothing gets done. There is much talk about environmental protection, air pollution and saving our forests. Do we really care? If we do, here are a few things we can do to make our surroundings more pleasant.
2. It is good to adopt a two-uses-attitude! By putting an article to a second use, we are giving it a longer lease of life and using up less raw material from nature. One of the worst things we do is the abuse of paper. The clean sides of envelopes can be used to write small notes, lists and reminders around the house. The more paper we use, the more trees will have to be cut down. For the same reason, we should avoid the use of paper napkins or paper plates. Cloth napkins are just as good, for they can be washed and used over and over again.
3. Another area which needs the most urgent attention is effective garbage disposal. People who are conscious about it follow rules and laws strictly. As a result, their neighbourhoods are clean and beautiful. Similarly, each one of us can contribute to a cleaner environment. All kitchen waste should be collected separately. Those of you who have green fingers can turn this into valuable manure. Dig a pit and put the kitchen waste into it. When the pit is a little over half full, cover it up with mud. Let nature do the rest. Within three or six months, we will have a good garden manure. It can also be done as a community project by digging a large pit in the colony. Do take help of all the members, for nothing succeeds like co-operation.
4. A lot of people don't care about the environment because they don't understand the adverse effect that society has on it. It is important to convince people to care about the environment. The first step would be to convince people to change by providing simple alternative solutions and ways of doing things. The internet is a powerful tool and a group on social media of like-minded people can be formed. People can share environmental stories and issues, as well as pool in solutions and alternatives to educate one another. With the current state that our planet is in, it is imperative that people actively care about the environment and most importantly to act now.

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**SOLUTIONS**

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

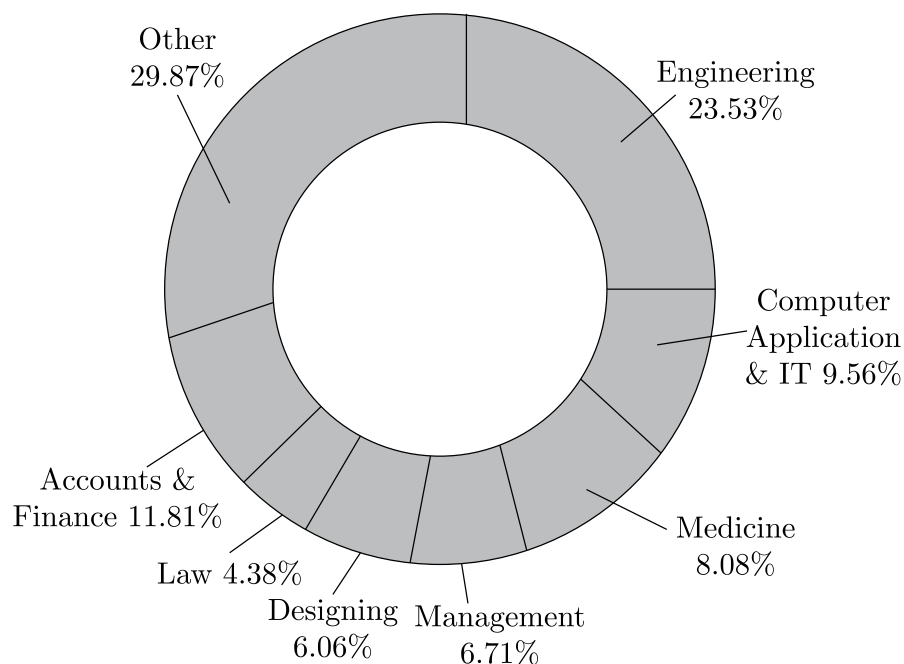
- i. Select the option that classifies the reason for not taking first step towards a good cause. 1  
(a) Because we feel that we are not responsible for that task.  
(b) Because we feel that nothing gets done anyhow.  
(c) Because we feel that the task is too big and we cannot do anything alone.  
(d) Because we feel that it is not our work to fulfill the task.
- ii. What is the significance of two-uses attitude in the given extract? 1  
(a) Putting less material from nature.  
(b) Putting an article to a second use giving it a longer lease of life.  
(c) Putting an article to a second person.  
(d) Putting the task apart itself.
- iii. Share evidence from the text, in about 40 words, to support the view that the writer's writing style is descriptive in nature. 2
- iv. Complete the sentence appropriately with a characteristic or description. 1  
The internet is a \_\_\_\_\_ and a group on social media of like-minded people can be formed.
- v. Select the option that is similar in meaning to the word 'succeeds'. 1  
(a) happy (b) lost  
(c) triumph (d) sad
- vi. Explain in about 40 words, what procedure should one adopt for kitchen? 2
- vii. In the line, "...a lot of people don't care about the environment because they don't understand the adverse effect that society has on it." What does the word 'adverse' mean here? 1
- viii. How does the following impact the reader? 2  
'There is much talk about environmental protection, air pollution and saving our forests'.  
Answer in about 40 words.
- ix. Read the five options (1)–(5) given below. 1  
(1) More paper-less cutting of trees  
(2) Ineffective garbage disposal  
(3) Internet– a powerless tool  
(4) Adopt a two-uses attitude  
(5) Make unpleasant surrounding  
Identify the option that DOES/DO corresponds with the passage.  
(a) (1) and (2) (b) Only (4)  
(c) (3) and (4) (d) Only (5)

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**SOLUTIONS**

**2. Read the following text.****10**

1. The average age of India will be just 27 in 2020, which means that the majority of the country will comprise young students and youth. But even now with the clock ticking, the unemployment crisis is raging the country and the main reason behind this problem is that there are a huge number of youth passing out from schools and colleges every year and there are many new career options and job roles being added to various industries as well.
2. However, the youth do not have the kind of skills the new industries want which results in a wide skill gap. A recent survey by Mindler, an online career-counseling platform, has proved that the majority of Indian students are aware of just seven career paths, even though there are 250 career options that can be pursued in India - most new and in-demand.
3. The survey on the awareness of career options among Indian students in the age group of 14-20 was conducted among 10,000 participants. The responses collected in the survey showed that a staggering 93% of the students who participated in the survey were aware of just seven career options -- law, engineering, medicine, accounts and finance, design, computer applications and IT, and management.



**Figure :** Common Career Options Considered by Students

4. According to researchers, India has a variety of 250 career options available across 40 domains covering 5,000 job types. This shocking lack of awareness among Indian students regarding their future career options can spell a death knell for the economic bonus that could have come to India due to its demographic dividend the time period where its population is young and earning.
5. Thus, if parents and teachers can build their own awareness regarding new career options coming up, then they can be a very helpful part in their child's career decisions rather than being one of those parents who push their child into one of the most common careers simply because they are unable to understand which area would be the perfect fit for their child.
6. If parents utilise the available technology and tools available, they can become more aware of which careers will help their children grow the most and career counselling can help both parties get the desired satisfaction.

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**SOLUTIONS**

**Answer the following questions, based on given passage.**

- i. Do you think the researchers of the study aimed to change the students outlook towards the new career options? Support your answer with reference to the text. (Answer in about 40 words) 2
- ii. What is the main essence of the passage? 1
- (a) Only 7 professional field are popular in India.
- (b) There is a lack of awareness regarding new professions available.
- (c) Parents must be involved in the process of career selection.
- (d) There is a huge gap between education and employment opportunities.
- iii. Which two fields, according to the survey, was most popular among students? 1
- iv. Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option. 2
- Career counselling can help both the students and \_\_\_\_\_ to get satisfactory results
- (a) survey team
- (b) parents
- (c) teachers
- v. How can parents become more aware? 1
- (a) By providing career counselling to their children
- (b) By talking to their children
- (c) By using the available tools and technology
- (d) By finding which career options are the best fit for their children.
- vi. Based on the reading of the text, state a point to challenge the given statement. 1
- Parents need not be aware of the upcoming career options.
- vii. Complete the sentence appropriately 1
- Lack of awareness among Indian students regarding their future career options is affecting our country badly since \_\_\_\_\_.
- viii. State TRUE or FALSE. 1
- The youth of today do have the kind of skills the view industries want.

**SECTION B- CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS****18**

*Note : All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.*

3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4
- A. You are Vijay Dhawan, a student of Florence Nightingale Convent, Rohtas Nagar, Aurangabad. Your school is planning an Inter-House poster making competition to conclude the week-long Environment Week. As the secretary of the school's cultural association, write a notice in about 50 words informing students of classes IX-XII about the competition.

**Click the Following Button to See the Free MS/Solutions**

**SOLUTIONS**

**Or**

- B.** In a few days, the country will be celebrating its Independence Day. The Prime Minister will hoist the national flag of the country from the ramparts of the Red Fort and address the nation. Massive arrangements for seating and security are in the offing. The Delhi Traffic Police will be making traffic diversions on the big day in order to avoid inconvenience to the travellers and commuters, it has issued a public notice about the same. Reproduce the notice. You are Jayram Patil of Chanakya Puri, New Delhi.

**4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4**

- A.** You are Nidhi Aggarwal, Secretary of the Literary Club called Shakespearewala of your school. The literary club has produced some great theatre actors in the past and has a phenomenal repertoire of dramas. Now, it is putting up the famous Shakespeare play 'The Taming of the Shrew'. The principal of your school has asked you to draft an invitation inviting the famous writer Mr. Ruskin Bond to be the Chief Guest at the event. Write the invitation in not more than 50 words. Invent necessary details as required.

**Or**

- B.** Your friend, P.V. Nithish, has invited your family to attend the wedding of his sister, Jaya. You have your board examination on the day of the wedding. Since, south Indian weddings are traditionally morning events, you will not be able to attend the event. Write a formal reply in about 50 words to the family expressing your regret. You are Sushmitha Nair, M-114, Fort Road, Chennai.

**5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A.** After passing the secondary school examination, a candidate has to make a very difficult choice from a number of streams available to him for further studies at senior secondary level. There is no valid mechanism to assess the suitability of a candidate for a particular stream. The aggregate percentage is deemed sufficient to decide the stream of a candidate. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily emphasizing the need for educational counsellors for guidance in this matter in each school. You are Rishi Negi of Koregaon, Pune, Maharashtra.

**Or**

- B.** You are Asit/Aarti Hempal of 14, West Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi. You have seen the following advertisement in The Hindustan Times for the post of Chief Chef in a Five Star Hotel. Apply for the job with complete biodata. Write a cover letter also.

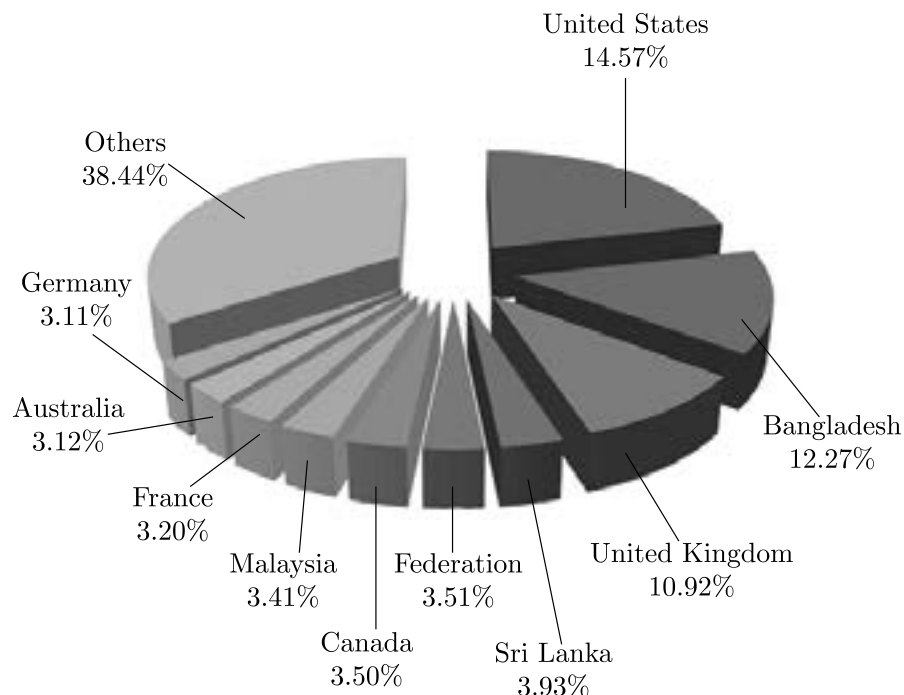
**6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A.** India is emerging as one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world. The number of tourists has definitely picked up after the pandemic. The bar graph given below shows the criteria or parameters that play a decisive role for a foreign visitor in choosing and finalizing the country where he is going to spend his money and time. The government of India is making sustained efforts in projecting India as a great tourist destination but the citizens also need to understand their duties. Utilising this bar graph, write an article on "India as the popular choice of foreign visitors" as Lakshya Sen.

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**SOLUTIONS**





Or

- B. Some students of the Senior Wing of St Mary's School, Safdarjang Enclave, New Delhi, collectively authored a book, 'School Memorabilia' that recounts episodes from their school days, anecdotes and the legacy of the school alumni who achieved legendary success in their respective fields. As student reporter for The Hindustan Times' PACE programme, write a report in 120-150 words.

### SECTION C- LITERATURE

40

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6

- A. "But after the airport's  
Security check, standing a few yards  
away, I looked again at her, wan, pale  
as a late winter's Moon."

(My Mother at Sixty-Six)

- i. Choose the option that displays the same poetic device as used in the last line of the extract. 1
  - (a) Life is full of ups and downs.
  - (b) The lanky lad troubled all.
  - (c) As white as snow
  - (d) Nature is god's gift to us.
- ii. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE with reference to the extract. 1  
When the poet looks at her mother again, she is trying to be hopeful.
- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
The poet looked at her mother again in order to \_\_\_\_.
- iv. The line 'I looked at her, wan and pale as a late winter's moon' indicates that \_\_\_\_\_. 1

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**SOLUTIONS**

- v. Answer in one word. 1  
The figure of speech used in the lines 'the young trees sprinting is \_\_\_\_.
- vi. What were the reasons for mother's pale face? 1  
(a) Her old age (b) Her depleting energy  
(c) Her illness (d) Both (a) and (b)

Or

- B. Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,  
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green,  
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;  
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.  
Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool  
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.  
The massive weight of uncle's wedding band  
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.

(Aunt Jennifer's Tiger)

- i. What quality of Uncle can be inferred through the lines given in extract? 1  
(a) Confident (b) Courageousness  
(c) Compassionate nature (d) Dominating nature
- ii. What are the tigers in the extract symbolic of? 1
- iii. Select the word that WILL NOT complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
Aunt Jennifer's fingers have \_\_\_\_ a lot due to her oppression.  
(a) drained (b) strengthened  
(c) weakened (d) sluggish
- iv. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE. 1  
The poetic device used in the line, 'uncle's wedding hand' is the same as the one used in the line, 'all that glitters is not gold.
- v. What message do the last four lines of the given extract highlight, in the context of feminism? 1
- vi. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
Denizens of the 'world of green' refer to \_\_\_\_.

**8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 4**

- A. Because he was perfecting a discovery which would render wounds entirely clean, he had not been sent abroad with the troops. Also, he knew, there was some slight danger that the old General might need an operation for a condition for which he was now being treated medically, and for this possibility Sadao was being kept in Japan.

(The Enemy)

- i. Why was Dr Sadao not sent with the troops? 1

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**SOLUTIONS**

- ii. What kind of a person was Dr Sadao's father? 1  
 (a) A jealous man (b) Traditional man  
 (c) A patriotic person (d) Both (b) and (c)
- iii. The General referred to in the given extract is \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- iv. How does the general help Dr Sadao? 1

**Or**

- B. Students on Ice, the programme I was working with on the Shokalskiy, aims to do exactly this by taking high school students to the ends of the world and providing them with inspiring educational opportunities which will help them foster a new understanding and respect for our planet. It's been in operation for six years now, headed by Canadian Geoff Green, who got tired of carting celebrities and retired, rich, curiosity-seekers who could only 'give' back in a limited way. With Students on Ice, he offers the future generation of policy-makers a life-changing experience at an age when they're ready to absorb, learn and most importantly, act.

*(Journey to the End of the Earth)*

- i. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
 Students on Ice is \_\_\_\_\_ headed by Geoff Green.
- ii. Characterise the celebrities based on your understanding of the extract. 1
- iii. Select the most suitable title for the extract. 1  
 (a) High School Students (b) Adventure in Antarctica  
 (c) Students on Ice Programme (d) Wanderlust
- iv. Why did Green start his Students on Ice programme? 1

**9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

- A. Food is more important for survival than an identity. "If at the end of the day we can feed our families and go to bed without an aching stomach, we would rather live here than in the fields that gave us no grain," says a group of women in tattered saris when I ask them why they left their beautiful land of green fields and rivers. Wherever they find food, they pitch their tents that become transit homes. Children grow up in them, becoming partners in survival. And survival in Seemapuri means rag-picking. Through the years, it has acquired the proportions of a fine art. Garbage to them is gold. It is their daily bread, a roof over their heads, even if it is a leaking roof But for a child it is even more.

*(Lost Spring)*

- i. List any two details about the ragpickers discussed in the extract. 1
- ii. The phrase 'transit homes' refer to the dwellings that are \_\_\_\_\_. 1  
 (a) temporary and mobile (b) inadequate and fleeting  
 (c) fragile but lasting (d) unhygienic but permanent
- iii. Pick evidence from the extract that helps one infer that ragpicking has attained the position of a skill. 1

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**SOLUTIONS**

- iv. Complete the sentence appropriately 1  
For a child, garbage \_\_\_\_.
- v. What does the term ‘Garbage to them is gold’ mean? 1
- vi. Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the extract? 1
- |                                     |                                       |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| (a) Love for other country          | (b) Ragpicking – an art               |
| (c) Food not important for survival | (d) The living standard of ragpickers |

**Or**

- B. The players who played the crowd were the responsibility of the office boy (Even the make-up department of the Gemini Studio had an ‘office boy’!). On the days when there was a crowd shooting, you could see him mixing his paint in a giant vessel and slapping it on the crowd players. The idea was to close every pore on the surface of the face in the process of applying make-up. He wasn’t exactly a ‘boy’; he was in his early forties, having entered the studios years ago in the hope of becoming a star actor or a top screen writer, director or lyrics writer.

*(Poets and Pancakes)*

- i. What was the responsibility of the ‘office boy’? 1
- ii. On a day of crowd shooting, the office boy would be \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- iii. Which of the following expresses the office boy’s age? 1
- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| (a) 10-20 years old | (b) 20-30 years old |
| (c) 30-40 years old | (d) 40-50 years old |
- iv. Rationalise, to support the given opinion. 1  
A hierarchy existed in the Gemini Studios.
- v. Complete the sentence with one word. 1  
The line “...players who played the crowd were the responsibility of the office boy...” can be best classified as \_\_\_\_.
- vi. Why was the office boy disappointed? 1
- |                                     |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (a) Could not succeed as a director | (b) Could not become a lyric writer |
| (c) As he could not become a star   | (d) All of these                    |

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words. 5 × 2 = 10

- i. ‘We realise the worth of something either before acquiring it or after losing it.’ Explain this with reference to ‘The Last Lesson’. 1
- (The Last Lesson)*
- ii. What are we single-minded about and what are its consequences? 1
- (Keeping Quiet)*
- iii. How is the ragpicker’s name Saheb-e-Alam an ironical contradiction to his reality? 1
- (Lost Spring)*
- iv. What is the time projected by the poet in “her terrified hands will lie, Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by”?

*(Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers)*

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**SOLUTIONS**

- v. Why did Edla still entertain the peddler even after she knew the truth about him?  
(*The Rattrap*)
- vi. Are Mukund and Eco on the same page when it comes to their views about Eco's work? How can you substantiate your response with reference to 'The Interview'?  
(*The Interview*)

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.  $2 \times 2 = 4$

- i. 'Take care of the small things and the big things will fall into place.' Elucidate the relevance of this statement in context of the environment in the Antarctica.  
(*Journey to the End of the Earth*)
- ii. Why did Charley suspect that Sam had gone to Galesburg?  
(*The Third Level*)
- iii. Only an untouchable would know the pain of being one. Dalit consciousness cannot be illustrated as poignantly by people from other castes. Do you agree with the statement with reference to Bama's life?  
(*Memories of Childhood*)

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. **5**

- A. Our scriptures tell us that determination and perseverance are cardinal virtues of a good human being. Raj Kumar Shukla was determined as well as persevering because owing to these two traits, he succeeded in taking Gandhiji to Champaran. Gandhiji, in turn, had these characteristics too. Do you agree with the comparison? How can young students today use these two qualities to make successful careers for themselves?  
(*Indigo*)

Or

- B. I went to the pool when no one else was there...in came a big bruiser of a boy...he yelled, "Hi, skinny, how'd you like to be ducked?" Later, the boy said, "But I was only fooling."  
The youth today is characterized by a total absence of concern for others. They also act without thinking how their deeds may have long lasting effect on others. Write a note in about 120-150 words to be published in a youth magazine on the need for inculcating regard for the fellow beings.  
(*Deep Water*)

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. **5**

- A. Satire employs irony, sarcasm, ridicule, etc. in exposing and criticising follies and vices in men. The story 'The Tiger King' criticizes self-seeking Kings who wilfully exploit both nature and their subjects for selfish interests and by a twist of fate are also paid in the same coin.  
Can we relate this thought with instances in modern life too? Write your analysis in about 120-150 words.  
(*The Tiger King*)

Or

- B. Both 'The Third Level' by Jack Finney and the story 'The Adventure' by Jayant Narlikar in class XI interweave fantasy and reality. How do they compare and contrast with each other? Does Sophie in 'Going Places' belong to the same category of people as Charley and Prof. Gaitonde?

□□□□□□

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**SOLUTIONS**

**Sample Paper 7**  
**Class XII Exam 2023-24**  
**English-Core (301)**

**Time Allowed : 3 Hrs.**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
  2. Attempt question based on specific instructions for each part.
- 

**SECTION A-READING SKILLS**

**22**

**Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages**

**1. Read the following text.**

**12**

1. Given the standing of some of its institutions of higher learning, the IITs and IIMs, India is a potential knowledge power. Realising the potential, however, is not going to be easy. The impressive strides made by Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) notwithstanding, universal access to quality school education- a minimum necessary condition for any progress towards making India a knowledge society', as the 2006 report of the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) puts it-remains a distant goal.
2. There is as yet no legislation at the national level to affirm the right to education, a fundamental right under the Constitution. The number of school buildings for elementary and secondary education falls far short of requirements and so does the number of qualified teachers. The pressure on government budgets, which forces governments to hire teachers on contract paying a pittance of a salary, is playing havoc with quality. While the incursion of the private sector in the field is providing some competition, mechanisms to enforce the required standards are lacking.
3. Not that there are no national standards or standards-enforcing agencies. We have the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to bring out textbooks in various subjects for school education. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) conducts examinations for schools affiliated to it across the country. The states too have their school boards to conduct exams and enforce minimum standards. How even the standards vary widely. In their anxiety to show spectacular performance, some states are overly lenient-in marking answer papers.
4. Questions arise even over the standards applied by CBSE. Going by the number of students securing 90% or more in their higher secondary exam, it would appear India is on the brink of a knowledge revolution. The numbers are so large that the cut-off point for admission to top colleges is now above 90%. However, admissions to IITs and medical colleges are not based only on CBSE or State Board Exam results. Leading undergraduate colleges offering non-professional degree courses hold their own admission tests. Obviously, Higher Secondary School results are not taken to be a reliable index of the quality of a student's learning capability or potential.
5. The numbers seem to be growing every year. The standards applied by Higher Secondary Boards like CBSE seem to have been diluted to the point that leaves a big gap between what students learn at school and what they have to face on entering institutions of higher learning.

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**SOLUTIONS**

6. In an attempt to remedy the situation, NCERT had recently commissioned experts to rewrite textbooks on economics. Though not entirely free from blemishes, these new texts should go some way in helping beginners get acquainted with the basic concepts in the subject and their applications.
7. Not surprisingly, their introduction is facing roadblocks. Teachers do not like to be compelled to look at textbooks they are not familiar with. Those who revel in seeing students score 90% are reluctant of ushering in something that may stop the rush of such scores.

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

- i. Complete the sentence by choosing an appropriate option. 1  
Governments have to hire teachers on contract basis due to \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) the guidelines issued by the Central Government  
(b) abundance of teachers in an area  
(c) the non-availability of regular teachers  
(d) the pressure on government budgets
- ii. What is the tone of writer when he remarks “India is on the brink of a knowledge revolution?” 1  
(a) Imaginativeq (b) Optimistic  
(c) Sarcastic (d) Presumptuous
- iii. List the reason in about 40 words, as why India is referred as a potential knowledge power. 2
- iv. Complete the given sentence with an appropriate inferences with respect to the following. 1  
The main factor that has affected the quality of education is \_\_\_\_\_.
- v. Select the option that conveys the opposite of ‘plenty’ from words used in Paragraph 2. 1  
(a) Looking (b) Mechanisms  
(c) Incursion (d) Pittance
- vi. Why do leading undergraduate colleges hold their own admission tests? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- vii. Based on the information given in the last paragraph, why do you think that teachers are opposing the introduction of new textbooks? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- viii. State the feelings of the writer with reference to the topic concerned in the passage. 1
- ix. The writer would not agree with the following statements based on Paragraph 4 EXCEPT 1  
(1) a large number of students score more than 90% in their higher secondary school exams.  
(2) the cut-off point for admission to top colleges is above 85%.  
(3) admissions to IITs are based only on CBSE or state board results.  
(4) higher secondary school exam results are taken to be a reliable index of the quality of a student’s learning capabilities.  
(5) a large number of students score less than 90% in their higher secondary school exams.  
(a) Only (1) (b) Only (2)  
(c) (1) and (3) (d) (1), (4) and (5)

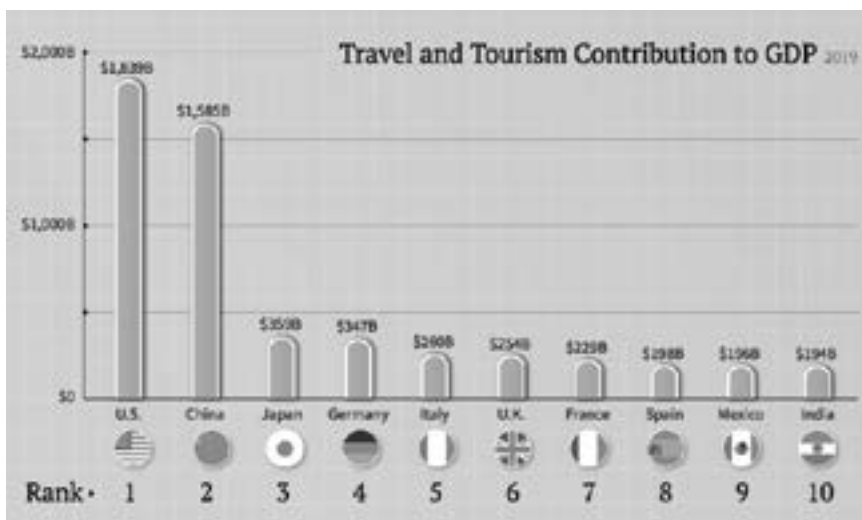
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**SOLUTIONS**



**2. Read the following text.****10**

1. Inbound tourism the world over was closed for two years. India was no exception and this has taken its toll on the tourism economy. The DefExpo 2022 scheduled to be held in Gandhinagar has been postponed citing the Russia-Ukraine war. It may be but it points to a larger picture of the Indian hospitality industry losing out due to such postponement.
2. So, let's put a perspective on this thinking. In 2019, which was a normal year for tourism arrivals, India received over 10.9 million foreign tourists as per government data. On average, foreign tourists spend seven nights in India and this means at least fifty million room nights were consumed in India, at a conservative level, the bulk of this spending is in star-rated hotels in India. They are bigger spenders and consume services of local guides, dine in the hotels and pay a higher room rent compared to domestic tourists.
3. The year 2020 was a washout for inbound into India, there was a slight recovery in 2021 but nothing economically significant. Is domestic tourism the panacea of the tourism economy in India? At the most, it can act as a band-aid to the tourism economy.
4. Indian domestic tourists do not spend much on destination shopping as they are on a tight budget with inflation eating into their savings. They avoid spending on good hotels too. For the last two years, all hotels-be they top or average ones, have slashed their rates as were in 2017-18. Only deep-pocketed hotels are going to survive because around 40% of hotels closed shop by early 2021 and the situation has only worsened. Even hotels in metros are charging rates prevalent in 2017-18.
5. Domestic tourists book last-minute scouting for discounts whereas foreign visitors lock their rates at least six months in advance. It's the foreign tourists that drive the tourism economy as they consume all forms of services when visiting India and no amount of domestic numbers can make up for the shortfall in terms of value. This is the best time for the government to open its doors fully to international tourism. To encourage tourism, the goods and service tax (GST) on tour operators should be levied at about 1.8% instead of the current 5%.



6. Despite its rich treasure trove and high rankings in cultural and natural resources as well as price competitiveness, India still ranked 34th in the 'Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index 2019' and could only capture 1.24% of the world's international tourist arrivals. The country's share is evidently a fraction of its potential. We, regrettably, have failed to realize the true impact of Tourism and convert our natural advantages into potential economic benefits.

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**SOLUTIONS**



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

- i. Infer that the foreign tourists are bigger spenders in comparison to domestic tourists. Answer in about 40 words. 2
- ii. Select the option that proves that hospitality industry had been facing a deep turmoil in the last two years and it is not over yet. 1
- (a) The DefExpo 2022 was postponed due to Russia-Ukraine war.
- (b) Most hotels are offering pre-2019 rates in desperation.
- (c) Around 40% of hotels have closed shop.
- (d) Only hotels with deep pockets will be able to tide over the tough times.
- iii. Based on the reading of the text, state a point to challenge the given statement. 1
- Domestic tourists are on a tight budget scouting for discounts till the last moment but tour operators are in a better position to serve the cause of tourism industry.
- iv. Identify the domestic tourist from the following three tourists. 1
- (a) Rakesh – WOW! I love this scene.
- (b) Lokesh – I will stay here forever now.
- (c) Pranjol – I will be here just for a month only.
- v. Which of the following should not be in the list if India has to reap potential economic benefits in tourism sector? 1
- (a) GST @ 5 per cent (b) highly-rated cultural resources
- (c) competitiveness prices (d) highly-appreciated natural resources
- vi. Why do domestic tourists not spend excessively on destination shopping? (Answer in about 40 words) 2
- vii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
- India's share of world's international tourist arrivals is \_\_\_\_\_ proportional to its actual potential.
- viii. State TRUE or FALSE. 1
- Foreign tourists splurge more on star-rated accommodation and services.

**SECTION B- CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS****18**

*Note : All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.*

3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4
- A. You are Manak/Meera, the Head Boy/Girl of St. Giri Public School, Mathura. Write a notice in about 50 words informing the students about the debate competition in the school on the topic 'School Uniforms Should be Banned'.
- Or**
- B. You are Health Secretary, Students Council Citizens Public School, Ram Bagh, Varanasi. The Council has decided to start from the second of October a week-long cleanliness drive around the school. Draft a notice in about 50 words asking the Class XI students to enrol for the drive.

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**SOLUTIONS**

**4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4**

- A. Sakshi, the secretary of the English Literature Society of St. Francis Convent Senior Secondary School, Gurugram, has to organise an Interschool Extempore competition for students of classes IX-XII. You wish to invite Rajat Sharma, the eminent media personality to preside over the function to be held on 30 September, 20xx, at 11:00 a.m. Write the letter of invitation in 50 words.

**Or**

- B. Mr and Mrs Tiwari want to invite all their friends and acquaintances to the wedding of their granddaughter Deepika. Design an invitation card for the wedding inventing the necessary details, in 50 words.

**5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A. Sunflower Public School, Jaipur, requires 2 sports coaches (one male and one female). Each should be a degree holder in Physical Education as well as an SAI certified coach in athletics. Write an application in 120-150 words along with your resume. You are Prateek/Payal, House No. 109, Azadpur, Delhi.

**Or**

- B. You are Rajat/Raveena, a resident of Gwalior. You feel students should use the Internet mostly for gaining knowledge rather than wasting time merely on entertainment. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the Editor of The Economic Times pointing out how schools can control students net surfing at school and enable them to use the Internet fruitfully.

**6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A. As a newspaper reporter, write a report of a train accident, the site which you visited. Your report should be in 120-150 words.

**Or**

- B. You are Preeti/Pranay. You feel that India, with its rich and varied heritage, linguistic and cultural diversity, is an excellent destination for tourism. Promoting tourism will surely promote our economy. Write an article titled, 'Promoting Tourism is Promoting Ourselves', in 120-150 words, specifying the advantages of promoting tourism and how it can be accomplished.

**SECTION C- LITERATURE****40****7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

- A. Those who prepare green wars,  
wars with gas, wars with fire,  
victory with no survivors,  
would put on clean clothes  
and walk about with their brothers  
in the shade, doing nothing.

*(Keeping Quiet)*

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**SOLUTIONS**

- i. What does the phrase “victory with no survivors” mean? 1
  - (a) The bloodshed caused by the result of wars.
  - (b) Nobody would be able to celebrate the victory of wars.
  - (c) Degradation of human life.
  - (d) Both (a) and (b)
- ii. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract. 1  
Pablo Neruda mentions that fisherman fish for whales resulting in violence against the environment.
- iii. Which of the following, poetic devices has been used in ‘clean clothes’? 1
  - (a) Oxymoron (b) Alliteration
  - (c) Metaphor (d) Assonance
- iv. Complete the sentence with an appropriate word(s), with reference to the extract. 1  
The world presented in the given lines can be said to be \_\_\_\_.
- v. What do ‘green wars’ refer to? 1
- vi. Identify the phrase from the extract, that suggests the following. 1  
The poet does not promote inactivity or death but wants fraternity.

**Or**

**B.** And  
looked out at  
Young Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling  
out of their homes, but after the airport’s  
security check, standing a few yards  
away, I looked again at her, wan, pale  
as a late winter’s moon and felt that old  
familiar ache...

*(My Mother at Sixty-six)*

- i. What is the poet’s emotional state when she looked out of the window? 1
  - (a) Fearful (b) Apprehensive
  - (c) Nostalgic (d) Confused
- ii. What does the use of the phrase ‘old familiar ache’ actually hide? 1
- iii. Select the word that WILL NOT complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
The expression ‘merry children’ brings in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (a) weakness (b) happiness
  - (c) vigour (d) playfulness
- iv. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE. 1  
The poetic device used in the expression, ‘Wan pale, as a late winter’s moon’ is the same as ‘My thoughts were like grey clouds that evening’.

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**SOLUTIONS**

- v. Why has the poet capitalised ‘Young Trees’? 1
- vi. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
In ‘And looked out at Young Tress sprinting, the merry children spilling,’ the figures of speech used are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
8. **Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.** 4
- A. “Not by you, but by someone who does not know him. I have my own private assassins. Suppose I send two of them to your house tonight or better, any night. You need know nothing about it. It is now warm – what would be more natural than that you should leave the outer partition of the white man’s room open to the garden while he sleeps?”  
(*The Enemy*)
- i. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
There is a need to assassinate ‘him’ because \_\_\_\_\_.
- ii. List the speaker’s purpose behind getting the white man assassinated. 1
- iii. The given lines indicate characteristic/s about the General. These characteristics are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. 1  
(a) Humanist and patriotic (b) Ignorance and self-centered  
(c) Care and kindness (d) Both (a) and (c)
- iv. Who hatched the plan to kill the white man? Was it successful? 1

**Or**

- B. The Maharaja and the dewan held deliberations over this issue. As a result, a telegram was despatched forthwith to a famous British Company of jewellers in Calcutta. ‘Send samples of expensive diamond rings of different designs.’ Some fifty rings arrived. The Maharaja sent the whole lot to the British officer’s good lady.  
The king and the minister expected the duraisani to choose one or two rings and send the rest back. Within no time at all, the duraisani sent her reply: ‘Thank you very much for your gifts.’ In two days, a bill for three lakh of rupees came from the British jewellers. The Maharaja was happy that though he had lost three lakh of rupees, he had managed to retain his kingdom.  
(*The Tiger King*)
- i. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
The narrator’s purpose of using the phrase ‘good lady’ in this extract was \_\_\_\_\_.
- ii. In the given extract, what emotions does the Maharaja have when he sent diamond rings to the British’s good lady? 1  
(a) Humiliation (b) Selfish act  
(c) Fear of losing his kingdom (d) Unease
- iii. On which issue did the Maharaja and dewan hold deliberations? 1

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**SOLUTIONS**

- iv. What does the line, “Within no time at all, the duraisani sent her reply: ‘Thank you very much for your gifts’ “ mean? 1

**9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

- A. Poor man! It was in honour of this last lesson that he had put on his fine Sunday clothes, and now I understood why the old men of the village were sitting there in the back of the room. It was because they were sorry, too, that they had not gone to school more. It was their way of thanking our master for his forty years of faithful service and of showing their respect for the country that was theirs no more. While I was thinking of all this, I heard my name called. It was my turn to recite. What would I not have given to be able to say that dreadful rule for the participle all through, very loud and clear, and without one mistake? But I got mixed up on the first words and stood there, holding on to my desk, my heart beating, and not daring to look up.

*(The Last Lesson)*

- i. List any two sensory details present in the extract. 1
- ii. How did the teacher react to this show of ‘non-performance’? 1
- (a) He let the iron ruler talk.
- (b) He ignored his pupil’s lack of commitment.
- (c) He didn’t utter a harsh word in response.
- (d) He let Franz be free and sent him out.
- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
- The presence of the old men of the village on the back benches shows that \_\_\_\_.
- iv. Pick out an evidence from the extract that helps one infer his way of showing patriotic love for his land and language. 1
- v. Why does the narrator use the term ‘Poor man’ about M. Hamel? 1
- vi. Which of these idioms best encapsulates the scenario at this moment in the story? 1
- (a) Too good to believe
- (b) Too many cooks spoil the broth
- (c) Too little, too late
- (d) Too cool for school

**Or**

- B. And afterwards you wait there alone in the arcade for a long while, standing where he stood, remembering the soft melodious voice, the shimmer of green eyes. No taller than you. No bolder than you. The prodigy. The innocent genius, the great Danny Casey. And she saw it all again, last Saturday—saw him ghost past the lumbering defenders, heard the fifty thousand catch their breath as he hovered momentarily over the ball, and then the explosion of sound as he struck it crisply into the goal, the sudden thunderous eruption of exultant approbation.

*(Going Places)*

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**SOLUTIONS**

- i. What does the author wish to portray through the words 'And she saw it all again'? 1
- ii. The lines, "No taller than you. No bolder than you," can be best classified as : 1  
 (a) A theme (b) An opinion  
 (c) A fact (d) A plot point
- iii. Explain ANY ONE possible inference that can be drawn from the lines, "The prodigy. The innocent genius, the great Danny Casey." 1
- iv. Identify the line from the text that bears evidence to the fact that Danny Casey was too agile for the opponents. 1
- v. Based on the context provided in the extract, which of the following conclusion matches the prodigy's success as a professional football player? 1  
 (a) He was called an innocent genius.  
 (b) He could deftly move past the lumbering defenders and shoot crisp goals.  
 (c) A crowd of fifty-thousand regularly cheered him.  
 (d) He was shy and soft-spoken.
- vi. Complete the sentence with ONE word. 1  
 The word that matches 'lumbering' perfectly in the given context is \_\_\_\_\_.

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words.  $5 \times 2 = 10$

- i. Why were M. Hamel's words like a thunderclap to Franz? *(The Last Lesson)*
- ii. Mention the hazards of working in the glass bangles industry. *(Lost Spring)*
- iii. What impression do you get of Douglas from the chapter 'Deep Water'?
- iv. Interpret the symbols found in the poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers'.
- v. What, according to Pablo Neruda, would be the ultimate end of man if the present scenario of wars continued? *(Keeping Quiet)*
- vi. Keats feels that Nature binds us to the Earth. How does he justify this statement? *(A Thing of Beauty)*

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.  $2 \times 2 = 4$

- i. What do you infer from Sam's letter to Charley? *(The Third Level)*
- ii. Comment on the ending of the play 'On the Face of It'.
- iii. How did the Dewan manage to get the hundredth tiger for the Maharaja? *(The Tiger King)*

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**SOLUTIONS**

**12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5**

**A.** The peddler believed that the whole world is a rattrap. How did he himself get caught in the same?  
(*The Rattrap*)

**Or**

**B.** Why is the Champaran episode considered to be the beginning of the Indian struggle for Independence?  
(*Indigo*)

**13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5**

**A.** Both Derry and Lamb are victims of physical impairment, but much more painful for them is the feeling of loneliness. Comment.  
(*On the Face of It*)

**Or**

**B.** In India, the so-called lower castes have been treated cruelly for a long time. Who advised Bama to fight against this prejudice, when and how?  
(*Memories of Childhood*)

□□□□□□

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**SOLUTIONS**

**Sample Paper 8**  
**Class XII Exam 2023-24**  
**English-Core (301)**

**Time Allowed : 3 Hrs.**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
  2. Attempt question based on specific instructions for each part.
- 

**SECTION A-READING SKILLS**

**22**

**Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages**

**1. Read the following text.**

**12**

1. From the moment a baby first opens its eyes, it is learning. Sight and sensation spark off a learning process which will determine in large measure, the sort of person it will become. Language stands head and shoulders over all other tools as an instrument of learning. It is the language that gives man his lead in intelligence over all the other creatures. No other creature can assemble a list of ideas, consider them, draw conclusions and then explain his reasoning. Man can do all this because he possesses language. And if thought depends on language, the quality of an individual's thought will depend on that person's language-rudimentary or sophisticated, precise or approximate, stereotyped or original.
2. Very young babies are soothed by human voice uttering comforting words close to them. This essentially-emotional response provides early evidence that feeling is an important component of language learning. Children learn to use language in interaction with other human beings and this learning proceeds best against a background of affectionate feedback from the person who is closest to them. This is seen to perfection in the interaction between parent and a baby: eyes locked together, the adult almost physically drawing 'verbal' response from the baby, both engulfed by that unique experience of intimate and joyful connecting, which sets the pattern of the relationship between two people.
3. Thus, long before they can speak, children are involved in a two-way process of communication, which is steadily building a foundation on which their later use of language will be based. Constantly surrounded by language, they are unconsciously building structures in their minds into which their speech and reading will later fit grammatical constructions, tense sequences and so on. The forms of these structures will depend on the amount and complexity of speech they hear. Fortunate are those children who listen to articulate adults, expressing ideas and defending opinions. They will know, long before they can contribute themselves and understand, that relationships are forged through this process of speaking and listening; that warmth and humour have a place in the process, as have all other human emotions.
4. Using books is the most important means of ensuring a child's adequate language development. None of us can endlessly initiate and maintain speech with very small children; we run out of ideas or just get plain sick of it. Their lives are confined to a limited circle and they do not have enough experience to provide raw material for constant verbal interaction.

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**SOLUTIONS**



5. Parents and children who share books share the same frame of reference. Incidents in everyday life constantly remind one or the other of a situation, a character, an action, from a jointly enjoyed book, with all the generation of warmth and well-being that is attendant upon such sharing. All too often, there is a breakdown of communication between parents and children when the problems of adolescence arise. In most cases, this is most acute when the give-and-take of shared opinions and ideas have not been constantly practised throughout childhood. Books can play a major role in the establishment of this verbal give-and-take because they are rooted in language.
6. Young children's understanding greatly outruns their capacity for expression as their speech strains to encompass their awareness, to represent reality as they see it. Shades of meaning which may be quite unavailable to the child of limited verbal experience are startlingly talked to toddler. All the wonderful modifying words-later, nearly, tomorrow, almost, wait, half, lend, etc. begin to steer the child away from the simple extremes of "Yes" and "No" towards the adult world of compromise from the child's black and white world to the subtle shades and tints of the real world. The range of imaginative experience opened up by books expands the inevitably limited horizons of children's surroundings and allows them to make joyful, intrigued, awestruck acquaintance with countless people, animals, objects and ideas in their first years of life.
7. Books also open children to new points of view, besides their own as they unconsciously put themselves into other people's places-if that could happen to him, it could happen to me: This imaginative self-awareness brings apprehensions and fears as well as heightened hopes and joys.
8. In books, children can experience language which is subtle, resourceful, exhilarating and harmonious; languages that provide the human ear (and understanding) with a pointed and precise pleasure, the searing illuminating impact of good and true words.

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

- i. What makes a man superior over all the other creatures? 1
  - (a) Their body-language
  - (b) Their language
  - (c) Their way of observing things
  - (d) Their skills
- ii. What are the most important means of ensuring a child's adequate language development? 1
  - (a) Two-way process of communication
  - (b) Providing raw material for constant verbal interaction
  - (c) Maintaining speech
  - (d) Using books
- iii. How can language distinguish between human beings and others? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- iv. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1

The parents can't rely only on constant verbal interactions because \_\_\_\_\_.
- v. What are the advantages of books mentioned in the above passage? 1
  - (a) It enables children to see things from other's point of view.
  - (b) It creates self awareness in children.
  - (c) Expose children to a wide range of vocabulary.
  - (d) All of these

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**SOLUTIONS**

- vi. How do children develop language? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- vii. What is an important component of language learning? 1
- viii. What role do books play? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- ix. Read the given headlines and identify the option that does not correspond with the message of the passage. 1
1. Develop new viewpoints through book.
  2. Sight and sensation - The spark of learning.
  3. No role played by adults in children's language acquisition.
  4. Communication - A two way process.
  5. Walk faster - show some hustle.
- (a) 1 and 2 (b) 2, 3 and 4  
(c) Only 3 (d) 2, 3 and 5

**2. Read the following text. 10**

1. The first Indian woman physician Anandibai Joshi, graduated in 1886. Starting from that single figure, about 125 years later, Indian women have started to outnumber men in admissions to medical colleges and the trend continues to grow stronger by the year, particularly over the last five years. During this period, India has produced 4500 more female doctors than male ones.
2. In India women constituted 51% of the students joining medical colleges, cornering 23,522 seats in 2014-15, compared to 22,934 men. In fact, in the neighbouring countries such as Pakistan and Bangladesh there are much higher portions of women in medical colleges, with figures standing at 70% and 60% respectively.
3. According to the medical journal Lancet, only 17% of all allopathic doctors and 6% of those in rural areas are women. This is less than one female allopathic doctor per 10,000 population in rural areas, whereas the ratio is 6:5 in urban areas.
4. According to a paper on women in medicine published in the journal 'Indian Anthropologist' by sociologist Dr Mita Bhadra, the gender gap persists at the postgraduation and doctoral levels. The percentage of women doctors here is around one-third of male doctors. She also observed that positions of leadership in academics and administration are still mostly occupied by men.
5. In Pakistan, though 70% of medical students are women, only 23% of registered doctors were females because a large number of those who graduated never took to practising. The trend of more women joining the medical profession is welcomed in all these countries as female doctors are seen as committed and caring. A paper on women in medicine published by Dr Rakesh Chaddha and Dr Mamta Sood of the psychiatry department of AIIMS noted that medicine has been a male-dominated profession because it demands long working hours that are disadvantageous to women who, even today, struggle to juggle career and family responsibilities.
6. Earlier, though women were largely restricted to fields such as obstetrics, gynaecology and paediatrics, this is changing now. There has always been a preponderance of women in pre-clinical subjects like anatomy, physiology and biochemistry and paraclinical subjects like pharmacology, pathology and microbiology, right from the 70s. In departments headed by women, the women faculty was 49% as

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**SOLUTIONS**

compared to just 19% in those headed by men, says Dr Chaddha, giving the example of the neurology department at the AIIMS, which saw a lot of women faculty joining when the HOD was a woman. 'It is probably because the head of the department becomes a role model and more women are encouraged to join,' said Dr Chaddha.

7. There are skews within the medical profession in most parts of the world with some medical specialties, such as surgery and other disciplines requiring emergency duty with irregular hours being male-dominated. Even in the United Kingdom, though women account for 56% of those opting for medical education, 49% are public health and only 8% are surgeons, according to a Royal College of Physicians expert.
8. Among the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development countries (OECD), across ten of them, predominantly from the erstwhile Eastern Bloc, the proportion of female physicians is more than 50%, ranging from a high 73.8% in Estonia to 50.2% in Spain. In two non-OECD countries, Latvia and Lithuania, females accounted for over 74% and 70% of physicians. In contrast, only one in five doctors in Japan and Korea were women. In the United States it is one in three, confirming the fact that the disproportion among women and men doctors is a universal phenomenon.

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

- i. Infer the purpose of the survey as mentioned in the given extract. Answer in about 40 words. 2
- ii. What is the number of women joining the medical profession in Pakistan and Bangladesh? 1
  - (a) It equals women doctors in India.
  - (b) It is growing faster than the doctors in India.
  - (c) It is much lower than the figures in India.
  - (d) It is higher than the figures in India.
- iii. How does the woman HOD impact faculty? 1
- iv. Identify the surgeon from the following three. 1
  - (a) Roshan: People come to me in fever.
  - (b) Latasha: I work over tooth of the people.
  - (c) Suraj: I perform surgeries.
- v. By how much did the female doctors have outnumbered the male doctors in 125 years in India? 1
 

(a) 4500	(b) 4300
(c) 4000	(d) 2383
- vi. At what level did the gender gap persist in the extract? What did Dr Mita Bhadra observe? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- vii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
Pharmacology, pathology and microbiology are termed as \_\_\_\_\_.
- viii. State TRUE or FALSE. 1  
The title, "Studying is disadvantageous to women" is appropriate for the given passage.

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**SECTION B- CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS****18**

*Note : All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.*

**3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4**

- A. You are Amit/Amita, Head Boy/Girl of your school (Zenith Public School). Write a notice for your school notice board requesting for entries from students for Britannia Quiz Contest to be held in your school.

**Or**

- B. Gandhi Education Society, a charitable organization, is coming to your school to distribute books for the needy students. As Head Boy/Head Girl, write a notice asking such students to drop the list of books they need in the box kept outside the Principal's office. You are Akhilesh/Abhilasha of Modern Public School, Ghaziabad. Give all necessary details.

**4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4**

- A. You are Radhika Sinha, D/O Dinesh Sinha of Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi. Your father wants you to draft a formal invitation to be sent on the occasion of your brother, Akshat Sinha's marriage. Prepare the invitation with all necessary details.

**Or**

- B. You are Rahul/Radhika of Krishna Nagar, Chennai. You have been invited to attend the wedding of your uncle's daughter/your cousin. Send a reply confirming your acceptance to the invitation in not more than 50 words.

**5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A. You are Akhilesh/Abhilasha of Amar Colony, Ghaziabad. The road near your house was washed away in the previous monsoon rains and has not been repaired since then. As a result, people living in the colony are facing a lot of problems. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the editor of a national daily drawing the attention of the authorities concerned to the grave situation in the colony.



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**Or**

- B.** You are Prem/Parul, 16, TT Nagar, Bhopal. You would like to apply for the post of the Marketing Manager in a reputable firm in Mumbai. Write a letter to the Public Relations Officer, Chaitanya Enterprises, Mumbai, applying for the job. Write the letter in 120-150 words giving your biodata.

**6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A.** Healthy environment is the utmost necessity of our life and use of plastic bags certainly affects the quality of our life. Write an article on 'Plastic Bags as Curse of Modern Life' in 120-150 words to be published in a magazine. You may use the cues given below along with your own ideas. You are Raghav/Rekha.

Plastic bags-a threat to environment  
 Most adverse effect on our health  
 Cause of diseases/asthma/cancer, etc.  
 Suggestions to remove plastic bags from our life

**Or**

- B.** You witnessed a ghastly train accident of Punjab Mail near Bhusawal in the early morning hours. As a press reporter, write a report in 120-150 words to be published in a local daily. You are Ashit/Ashima. You can use the cues given below along with your own ideas.

Horrible train accident-heavy fog  
 Train crossing the bridge-derailed all of a sudden  
 Injured and wounded passengers seen all around  
 Help by local people/ambulances/medical staff  
 Visit by local minister/financial help announced

**SECTION C- LITERATURE**

**40**

**7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

- A.** Perhaps the Earth can teach us  
 As when everything seems dead  
 And later proves to be alive  
 Now I'll count up to twelve  
 And you keep quiet and I will go.

*(Keeping Quiet)*

- i.** Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract? 1
- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| (a) politics | (b) violence |
| (c) anti-war | (d) religion |
- ii.** State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract. The aim of introspection, contemplation and deep thinking is three-pronged, i.e. we will understand ourselves better, our fellow brethren better and rectify our mistakes. 1

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**SOLUTIONS**

- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
The poet wishes to leave the readers and go away because \_\_\_\_\_.
- iv. The irony in 'everything seems dead' is \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- v. Based on the poem rhyme scheme, evident in lines 1-5, of the given extract, which word would rhyme with line 4? 1
- roar

talk

shelve
- vi. Select the option why does the poet wish to leave the readers and go away? 1
- (a) Because he wants to to run away.  
(b) Because he wants us to enjoy.  
(c) Because he wants us to talk.  
(d) Because he leaves us to enjoy this exotic moment of introspection.

**Or**

- B. Yes, in spite of all,  
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall  
From our dark spirits. Such the Sun, the Moon,  
Trees old and young, sprouting a shady boon  
For simple sheep; and such are daffodils.  
With the green world they live in; and clear rills  
That for themselves a cooling covert make  
Gainst the hot season; the mid forest brake,

*(A Thing of Beauty)*

- i. Choose the option that displays the same poetic device as used in 'Some shape of beauty'. 1
- (a) Does it dry up like a raisin in the Sun?  
(b) They can only shriek, shriek.  
(c) What tale of terror, now, their turbulency tells!  
(d) Mine is a long and a sad tale!
- ii. What does 'all' in line one refer to? 1
- iii. Why are our spirits dark? 1
- (a) Because of night (b) Because of suffering  
(c) Because of disappointments (d) Both (b) and (c)
- iv. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE. 1  
Beauty can be found in all aspects of nature.
- v. Give an apt title for the above extract. 1

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**SOLUTIONS**

- vi. Complete the sentence with ONE word. 1  
When the poet says that “Some shape of beauty moves away the pall away from our dark spirits”, he refers to \_\_\_\_\_ power of nature.

**8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 4**

**A.** DERRY: Things.

MR LAMB: It's all relative. Beauty and the beast.

DERRY: What's that supposed to mean?

MR LAMB: You tell me.

DERRY You needn't think they haven't all told me that fair), story before. 'It's not what you look like, it's what you are inside. Handsome is as handsome does. Beauty loved the monstrous beast for himself and when she kissed him, he changed into a handsome prince.' Only he wouldn't, he'd have stayed a monstrous beast. I won't change.

MR LAMB: In that way? No, you won't.

*(On the Face of It)*

- i. What is the playwright's purpose of using contractions in the extract? 1
- ii. What is Derry's attitude towards other people? This is \_\_\_\_\_. 1  
(a) his acid was hurting him more than his optimism.  
(b) his optimism was hurting him more than acid.  
(c) his pessimism was hurting him more than acid.  
(d) his acid was hurting him more than his pessimism.
- iii. The phrase 'handsome is as handsome does' means that \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- iv. Give one reason why does the narrator use various symbols and imageries borrowed from nature. 1

**Or**

**B.** With Students on Ice, he offers the future generation of policy-makers a life-changing experience at an age when they're ready to absorb, learn and most importantly, act. The reason the programme has been so successful is because it's impossible to go anywhere near the South Pole and not be affected by it.

*(Journey to the End of the Earth)*

- i. Complete the sentence appropriately with reference to the extract. 1  
The life changing experience referred to here is \_\_\_\_\_.
- ii. The “future generation of policy-makers” refers to \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- iii. The aim of the journey towards Antarctica is 1  
(a) to sensitise the young minds towards climatic change  
(b) to travel the world  
(c) to witness the geological conditions more closely  
(d) to see the beauty of the Earth

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iv. Why has the programme become so successful? 1

**9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

**A.** Listening to them, I see two distinct worlds—one of the family, caught in a web of poverty, burdened by the stigma of caste in which they are born in; the other a vicious circle of the sahu-kars, the middlemen, the policemen, the keepers of law, the bureaucrats and the politicians. Together they have imposed the baggage on the child that he cannot put down. Before he is aware, he accepts it as naturally as his father. To do anything else would mean to dare. And daring is not part of his growing up. When I sense a flash of it in Mukesh I am cheered. “I want to be a motor mechanic,” he repeats. He will go to a garage and learn. But the garage is a long way from his home. “I will walk,” he insists. “Do you also dream of flying a plane?” He is suddenly silent. “No,” he says, staring at the ground.

*(Lost Spring)*

i. How is Firozabad divided into two distinct worlds? 1

ii. Select the correct option to fill in the blank. 1

The role of Sahu-kars is \_\_\_\_\_.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| (a) to share the burden of the working class | (b) to lend money at low rate of interest    |
| (c) to establish the bangle industry         | (d) to lend money at higher rate of interest |

iii. Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation. 1

The writer finds \_\_\_\_\_.

iv. What do the given lines tell us about Mukesh? 1

v. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that children in Firozabad are bound to accept their family tradition. 1

vi. Based on the extract, choose the statement that is TRUE. 1

- (a) Mukesh does not want to become a pilot.  
 (b) The writer become sad when Mukesh tells her about his dream.  
 (c) The politicians and middlemen are helpful towards the people of Firozabad.  
 (d) Parents encourage their children to dare.

**Or**

**B.** Then, from one thing to another; M Hamel went on to talk of the French language, saying that it was the most beautiful language in the world – the clearest, the most logical; that we must guard it among us and never forget it, because when a people are enslaved, as long as they hold fast to their language it is as if they had the key to their prison. Then he opened a grammar book and read us our lesson. I was amazed to see how well I understood it. All he said seemed so easy, so easy! I think too, that I had never listened so carefully, and that he had never explained everything with so much patience. It seemed as if the poor man wanted to give us all he knew before going away, and to put it all into our heads at one stroke.

*(The Last Lesson)*

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**SOLUTIONS**



- i. What advice of M. Hamel shows that he was a patriot indulging in sentimental exaggeration? 1
- ii. The line, 'The French language is the most logical and the most logical language in the world,' can be classified as: 1
- (a) a perception (b) an opinion
- (c) a fact (d) a theme
- iii. Explain any one possible inference that can be drawn from the line, "M. Hamel went on to talk of the French language, saying that it was the most beautiful language in the world the clearest, the most logical; and we must guard it among us and never forget it." 1
- iv. Identify the lines from the given extract which tell us that it is the last time M. Hamel was teaching his students French. 1
- v. Franz, who had been quite slow in learning his own native language, suddenly finds it 'so easy'. Which of these options does not corroborate and match the explanation of the given statement? 1
- (a) Franz also realized the value of learning his native Language.
- (b) M. Hamel was more patient in explaining the concepts.
- (c) M. Hamel had put all the knowledge into their heads at one stroke.
- (d) Franz was more attentive and receptive that day.
- vi. Complete the sentence with ONE word. 1
- A language gives a cultural and national \_\_\_\_\_ to the people and moulds their perceptions.
- 10.. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words.  $5 \times 2 = 10$
- i. What impression does the character of M. Hamel leave on you? *(The Last Lesson)*
- ii. What is Saheb looking for in the garbage dumps? Where is he and where has he come from? *(Lost Spring)*
- iii. How did the fear of water stop Douglas to enjoy life? *(Deep Water)*
- iv. What is the untold sorrow of the owners of the roadside stand? *(A Roadside Stand)*
- v. What is the central idea of the poem 'A Thing of Beauty'?
- vi. What is suggested by the image 'massive weight of uncle's wedding band'? *(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)*

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**SOLUTIONS**

11.. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.  $2 \times 2 = 4$

i. Why does Charley say that Grand Station is growing like a tree, in the story, 'The Third Level'?

ii. How do the servants react to the presence of an American in the house?

*(The Enemy)*

iii. What is ironical about the Tiger King's death?

*(The Tiger King)*

12.. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. **5**

A. Roosevelt said, 'All we have to fear is fear itself.' Douglas had fear and he overcame it. Imagine yourself to be a motivational speaker who has to address high school students. Write this address in about 120-150 words elaborating the given quotation with reference to the occurrences from the two texts, i.e. 'Deep Water' and 'Lost Spring' to inspire your audience and to convince them about it.

**Or**

B. The man selling rattraps is referred to by many terms such as "peddler, stranger" etc. Pick out all such references to him. What does each of these labels indicate of the context or the attitude of the people around him.

*(The Rattrap)*

13.. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. **5**

A. The two accounts that you read in Memories of Childhood are based on two distant cultures. However, there lies the commonality of theme in both of them. Instead of letting it pull them down, they both found a way to overcome it in their own way. You wish to include a cameo of both in your upcoming blog post. (A cameo is a short description that neatly encapsulates someone or something) As a part of the research, compare and contrast the experiences faced by the two and their responses to these experiences, in about 120-150 words. (Clue: include similarities and differences in the discrimination they faced-their feelings-determination to overcome-success)

*(Memories of Childhood)*

**Or**

B. "The Maharaja's servants were obedient and adoring." Do you find them truly sincere towards him or are they driven by fear when they obey him? Do we find a similarity in today's political order? Elucidate in about 120-150 words.

*(The Tiger King)*

□□□□□□

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**SOLUTIONS**

**Sample Paper 9**  
**Class XII Exam 2023-24**  
**English-Core (301)**

**Time Allowed : 3 Hrs.**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
  2. Attempt question based on specific instructions for each part.
- 

**SECTION A-READING SKILLS**

**22**

**Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages**

**1. Read the following text.**

**12**

1. Convenient, inexpensive, nutritious, good for you and delicious: they have it all! Peanuts are the most popular and consumed nuts in the United States and can be found nearly everywhere. Perfect for a quick snack, a handful of these nuts provide a highly nutrient food for less than 200 calories.
2. According to the Peanut Institute, the peanut plant originated in South America, probably first domesticated and cultivated in the valleys of Paraguay. Spread by European explorers and traders, the plant eventually reached Asia, Africa and North America. Millions of peanuts are grown and consumed around the world. Peanuts started to be produced in large quantities in the 1900s due to the growing popularity of peanut butter, peanut candies and other peanut products.
3. Although peanuts come in many varieties, four main types can be found in the United States: Virginia Peanuts, Runner Peanuts, Spanish Peanuts and Valencia Peanuts. Peanuts are a wonderful food, rich in nutrients and flavour. The combination of fibre and protein in peanuts satiates hunger. Thus, eating peanuts helps manage weight and provides the key nutrients that are important to diets. Peanuts are also natural energy boosters that contain healthy fats, proteins and antioxidants. Research shows that eating peanuts can decrease your risk of heart disease, diabetes and other chronic health conditions. Peanut butter is also full of the good kind of fat also known as monounsaturated fat that is heart-healthy and prevents belly fat that people get from carbohydrates or saturated fat.
4. For centuries, peanuts have been used in many culinary applications, including Chinese, African and Western cooking-in stews, sauces, mixed dishes, boiled or even plain-nourishing various populations with an enjoyable flavour. The great advantages of using peanuts in the kitchen are their availability and affordability. Peanut oil is also becoming a popular option for cooking because of its healthy fats and high cooking temperature.
5. Pureed peanut is also great to infuse nutty goodness into a variety of dishes such as soups, sauces, bread mixes, salsa recipes, salad dressings and pasta dishes. For those who like hummus, pureed peanuts and chickpeas are a great combination. On the sweet side, peanuts are commonly used for ice cream, brownie mix or cake batter. Peanut flour is an asset for pastry chefs because of its ability to act as a fat binder in confectionery products or to add flavour and extend shelf-life.

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**SOLUTIONS**

6. A long-time American favourite, peanuts offer countless healthy properties and natural nutrition to all populations and age groups, peanuts enhance the flavour and boost the nutritional value of food dishes from breakfast and snacks to dinner and dessert. As a nut, oil, flour or butter, peanuts are a very versatile and tasty ingredient.

**Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below.**

- i. Select the option that displays the key reason why peanuts are regarded as 'healthy fats'. 1
- (a) It is popular option for cooking at high temperature.
  - (b) It is full of monounsaturated fats that is heart healthy.
  - (c) It provides key nutrients for cooking.
  - (d) It is natural oil and boosts the energy of hearts.
- ii. Select the option that conveys the most likely reason for including peanuts in diets. 1
- (a) It was found to be healthy food because of its flavours.
  - (b) It was found that peanuts satiates hunger.
  - (c) Peanuts decreased the risk of heart disease, diabetes and other heart related problems.
  - (d) It was found that peanuts in America had four varieties.
- iii. Share evidence from the text, in about 40 words to support the view that the writer's writing style is descriptive and informative. 2
- iv. Complete the sentence appropriately with a characteristic or description. 1
- The popularity of peanuts in cuisines across the world is because of their \_\_\_\_.
- v. Select the option that is similar in meaning to 'satisfy'. 1
- (a) hungry (b) slave
  - (c) satisfy (d) honourable
- vi. Explain, in about 40 words, the reason for peanuts being a favourite with pastry cooks. 2
- vii. In the line, "...Peanuts enhance the flavour and boost the nutritional value of food dishes from breakfast and snacks to dinner and dessert". What does the word 'enhance' mean here? 1
- viii. How does the following line impact the readers that 'the spread of peanuts can be attributed to European traders and explorers'? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- ix. Read the statements (1)-(5) given below. 1
- (1) The concluding sentence of the text makes for a clear case of peanuts is a healthy option for all ages of people.
  - (2) The concluding sentence of the text makes for a clear case of peanuts is what makes bakers and cooks in America want to cook.
  - (3) The concluding sentence of the text makes for a clear case of old and young can together enjoy cooking and eating peanuts.
  - (4) The concluding sentence of the text makes for a clear case of as yet no negative conclusions about peanuts have been drawn.

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**SOLUTIONS**

- (5) The concluding sentence of the text makes for a clear case of peanuts is an unhealthy option for old aged people.

Identify the option that displays the correct concluding statements that corresponds with occurrences in the passage.

- (a) Only (1)
- (b) (2) and (3)
- (c) Only (5)
- (d) (4) and (5)

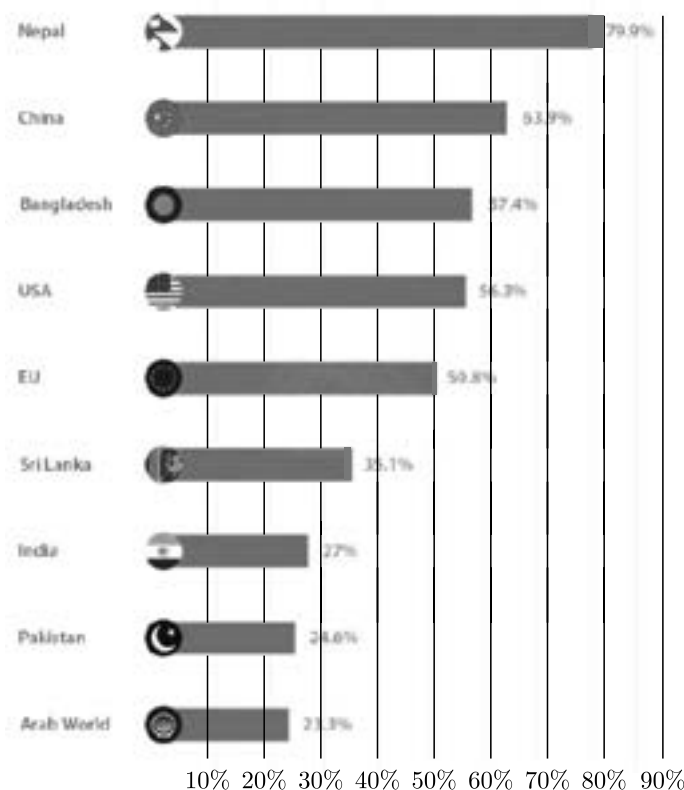
**2. Read the following text.**

**10**

1. India's labour market is the second largest in the world, after China, with a working age population of about 520 million people. In 10 years, it is expected to be the world's largest as China's population aged 15 to 64 drops from 20.5 to 18.3 percent.
2. While this positive demographic growth should be advantageous for business, only a small portion of India's working age population is actually engaged in the formal workforce. The primary reason being that barely one in four women are part of the country's workforce. Today, industry estimates show that women in India only make up five to six percent of directorships at most listed companies; this after amendments to the Companies Act mandated at least one woman on company boards.
3. These figures underline the highly distorted nature of India's labour market where women hold 45 percent of university degrees but are either denied employment opportunities or experience much slower career growth trajectories due to gender-based discrimination.
4. India has the lowest female labour force participation rate in its neighbourhood. At about 27 percent, it falls well below Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal. While female employment is higher in rural India, it is mostly as underpaid and temporary labour, though even here the rate of participation is declining.
5. The overall rate of female labour force participation declined as the Indian economy opened up, urbanised, and diversified with the growth of new industries, unlike most other regions in the world. In fact, rapid growth experienced by the US and China in the past century illustrate how improving the gender balance in the workforce contributes to a nation's economic growth. Female labour force participation is 56 percent in the US and 64 percent in China.
6. The above correlation is also strengthened by a 2017 IMF study, which states that increasing the female labour force participation will grow India's GDP by an estimated 27 percent. Contrast this with the projections made by the government's big idea reforms 'Make in India' and 'Digital India', which aim to boost India's growth by 16 percent and 5 percent, respectively.
7. Yet, GDP goals aside, the gender imbalance in India's workforce stunts future prospects for inclusive growth in the country. It deprives women and girls from positions of role models in the workplace, reduces their motivation to study further and perpetuates unhealthy socio-cultural attitudes. Leaving out one half of the population from its workforce will also prolong India's status as a developing country.

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**SOLUTIONS**



**Figure : Female Workforce Participation Rate in South Asia**

**Answer the following questions, based on given passage.**

- i. According to the passage, what may be a negative factor that can impact the positive growth of the Indian labour force? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- ii. What is the reason for the highly distorted nature of the female workforce in India's labour market? 1
  - (a) Women are unskilled and uneducated
  - (b) Women are denied employment opportunities
  - (c) Women have slower career growth
  - (d) Both (b) and (c)
- iii. What is the result of the gender imbalance in India's workforce? 1
- iv. Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option. 1  
 The given passage highlights \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (a) gaps in women empowerment in the workforce
  - (b) need of more women participation in the workforce
  - (c) the reasons for declining GDP
- v. Which of the following statements is NOT substantiated by information in Paragraph 4? 1
  - (a) Leaving out one half of the population from its workforce will also prolong India's status as a developing country.
  - (b) The female labour force participation declined in the Indian economy.
  - (c) Female labour force participation is 56 percent in the US and 64 percent in China.
  - (d) Rapid growth experienced by the US and China in the past century illustrate how improving the gender balance contributes to a nation's economic growth.

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**SOLUTIONS**

- vi. Based on the reading of the text, state a point, in about 40 words, to challenge the statement. 2  
Increase in female labour participation will affect our GDP adversely.
- vii. Complete the sentence based on the following statement. 1  
Women in India experience a much slower growth.  
This happens because of \_\_\_\_.
- viii. State TRUE or FALSE. 1  
The rapid growth made by UK in the past century was due to the improving gender balance in the workforce.

**SECTION B- CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS****18**

*Note : All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.*

**3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4**

- A. You are Shikha Kapoor, General Secretary of Sports Club of Meera Bai School, Dehradun. Your school has decided to celebrate the Silver Jubilee function of the school in the form of Annual Sports Day. Write a notice on the school notice board inviting the names of the students who want to participate in any of the sports activity or to put up any show on the stage.

**Or**

- B. While walking in a park in your neighbourhood you found a small plastic bag containing some documents and some cash. Write a notice in about 50 words to be put on the park noticeboard asking the owner to identify and collect it from you. You are Amar/Amrita 943912xxxx.

**4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4**

- A. You are a student of St. Joseph Public School, Nainital. The school is holding its annual function on Saturday, the 9th of October, 20xx at 5 p.m. The Education Minister, Dr. M.N. Johri, has consented to be the Chief Guest. Design an invitation card to be sent to the parents and other invitees.

**Or**

- B. You are Rachna Madan. Your friend Archana Gupta has invited you to her engagement ceremony to be held at Hotel Crowne Plaza on 27th November 20xx at 8 p.m. Draft a reply saying politely that due to an exam on that day, you cannot attend the engagement ceremony. Wish her a good luck.

**5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A. You are Renu of 334, Kirti Nagar. You have just come across an advertisement concerning education abroad.

The BTN Sussex University in collaboration with its Indian counterpart offers the first year of study in India and the three subsequent years in the UK.

You joined the above course. Despite having spent a substantial amount, you haven't been able to proceed to the UK for your studies. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the editor of a newspaper drawing attention of the public and the education authorities to such advertisements which befool students. Suggest measures which could be taken up against unscrupulous vendors of education.

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**SOLUTIONS**

**Or**

- B.** You are Krishna of 13-C/169 Sector 16, Rohini, Delhi. You have seen an advertisement in the Hindustan Times for the post of Chief Chef in a Five Start Hotel. Apply for the same with complete resume. Do not exceed 120-150 words. Invent necessary details.

**6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A.** You had to appear for your Maths Tutorial on 7th of May this year and were travelling by one of the local buses. You were stuck in a traffic jam. Write an article stating your experience and expressing your concern over the growing vehicular traffic on the roads and its ill effects.

**Or**

- B.** National Science Centre, New Delhi organised “Cancer Drug Discovery” workshop. Write a report on the same to be published in a newspaper.

### SECTION C- LITERATURE

**40**

**7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

- A.** ... but soon  
put that thought away, and  
looked out at young  
trees sprinting, the merry children spilling out of their homes,

*(My Mother At Sixty-Six)*

- i.** Choose the option that displays the same poetic device as used in the last line of the extract. 1
  - (a) The sizzling summer took a toll on us.
  - (b) I'm as happy as I can be.
  - (c) Life is a roller coaster ride.
  - (d) The flood swallowed more than a dozen villages.
- ii.** Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
'The merry children spilling out of their homes' is symbolic of \_\_\_\_\_ youth.
- iii.** State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract. 1  
The poet's action of looking out of the window did not work.
- iv.** The fact that the poem's narrative style is single sentence, punctuated by commas shows that 1
  - (a) the lines are all being intermingled in the poet's mind
  - (b) there is only one thought which runs through the poem.
  - (c) there is only one topic which made the poet fearful.
  - (d) many sub ideas are connected to the main idea of the poem.
- v.** Why were the young trees sprinting? 1

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**SOLUTIONS**



- vi. Give an apt title for the extract. 1

Or

- B. If we were not so single-minded  
about keeping our lives moving,  
and for once could do nothing,  
Perhaps a huge silence might interrupt this sadness  
Of never understanding ourselves  
And of threatening ourselves with death.

*(Keeping Quiet)*

- i. What is the tone of poet in the poem 'Keeping Quiet'? 1  
(a) frightened (b) aggressive  
(c) terrific (d) calm and tranquil
- ii. What does the phrase 'single-minded' mean? 1
- iii. Select the word that WILL NOT complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
The poet wants silence and \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) commotion (b) calmness  
(c) tranquillity (d) stillness
- iv. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE. 1  
The poetic device used in the line, 'perhaps a huge silence' is the same as used in the line 'put that thought away'.
- v. What does 'keeping our lives moving' suggest? 1
- vi. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
Pablo Neruda stresses upon being quiet and harmless to the \_\_\_\_\_.

8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 4

- A. MR. LAMB : Like a bomb only blew up my leg. There's worse things can happen. You can burn yourself away inside.  
DERRY : After I'd come home, one person said, "He'd have been better off stopping in there. In the hospital. He'd be better off with others like himself." She thinks blind people only ought to be with other blind people and idiot boys with idiot boys.  
MR. LAMB : And people with no legs altogether?  
DERRY : That's right.  
MR. LAMB : What kind of a world would that be?

*(On the Face of It)*

- i. What do the given lines tell about the relationship between Mr. Lamb and Derry? 1

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**SOLUTIONS**

- ii. Select the option that best describes the stranger's belief regarding people like Derry? 1
- (a) That there should be a place where all people like him could stay together.
- (b) That he would not live for long and so should stay at home.
- (c) That no one would love him and he would be alone forever.
- (d) That he should stop being a burden.

iii. The attitude shown by 'she' in the extract is \_\_\_\_\_. 1

iv. What does 'you can burn yourself away inside' mean? 1

Or

B. We must simply tell them that we intend to give him to the police-as indeed we must, Sadao. We must think of the children and your position. It would endanger all of us if we did not give this man over as a prisoner of war"

(The Enemy)

i. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1

Dr Sadao will not be arrested on the charge of harbouring an enemy \_\_\_\_\_.

ii. Who are 'them' being referred to here? 1

- (a) Servants (b) Friends
- (c) Neighbours (d) Doctors

iii. Who is the speaker of the above lines and who is the listener? 1

iv. What will Sadao and Hana do with the man? 1

9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6

A. The news of Gandhi's advent and of the nature of his mission spread quickly through Muzaffarpur and to Champaran. Sharecroppers from Champaran began arriving on foot and by conveyance to see their champion. Muzaffarpur lawyers called on Gandhi to brief him; they frequently represented peasant groups in court, they told him about their cases and reported the size of their fee.

(Indigo)

i. What was the nature of Gandhi's mission as mentioned in the passage? 1

ii. The cases referred to in the extract were the cases fought against \_\_\_\_\_. 1

- (a) the Lawyers (b) the British Landlords
- (c) East India Company (d) the Indian Zamindars

iii. What does 'their cases' refer to in the extract? 1

iv. Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation. 1

The fact that the sharecroppers from Champaran began arriving on foot shows that \_\_\_\_\_.

v. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that the lawyers did not care for the condition of the poor. 1

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**SOLUTIONS**

- vi. Based on the above extract, choose the statement that is TRUE for the lawyers. 1
- (a) The lawyers stood with Gandhiji in his mission.
  - (b) The lawyers wanted to help the poor.
  - (c) The lawyers were apathetic to the condition of the poor.
  - (d) All of the above

**Or**

- B. “My children, this is the last lesson I shall give you. The order has come from Berlin to teach only German in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine. The new master comes tomorrow. This is your last French lesson. I want you to be very attentive.”

“What a thunderclap these words were to me!

Oh, the wretches; that was what they had put up at the town hall!

*(The Last Lesson)*

- i. How would you describe Franz’s tone when he says- “What a thunderclap these words were to me”? 1
- ii. ‘What a thunderclap these words were to me!’ 1  
The words were
- (a) startling and unexpected
  - (b) pleasant and welcome
  - (c) loud and clear
  - (d) Both (a) and (c)
- iii. What do you M. Hamel is feeling in the given lines? 1
- iv. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that Franz realised that the order was put up on the bulletin board. 1
- v. Based on the above extract, choose the statement that is TRUE for the speaker of the given lines. 1
- (a) The speaker is angry at the villagers.
  - (b) The speaker does not want to leave Alsace.
  - (c) The speaker is angry at the Prussian kingdom.
  - (d) The speaker does not want to take the lesson.
- vi. Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation, as per the extract. 1  
‘They’ in the given lines refer to \_\_\_\_\_.

- 10.. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words. 5 × 2 = 10

- i. Who, in today’s world, is our chief source of information about personalities? *(The Interview)*
- ii. What is the ‘misadventure’ that William Douglas speaks about? *(Deep Water)*
- iii. What are the items that Aunt Jennifer is embroidering? What do they signify? *(Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers)*
- iv. What spreads the pall of despondence over our dark spirits? How is it removed. *(A Thing of Beauty)*

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**SOLUTIONS**

- v. Does Geoff believe what Sophie says about her meeting with Danny Casey?

*(Going Places)*

- vi. What are green wars? Who wage them and with what result?

*(Keeping Quiet)*

**11.. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.**

**2 × 2 = 4**

- i. How did Hana help the wounded man?

*(The Enemy)*

- ii. How is global temperature increasing? What are the immediate fears due to it?

*(Journey to the End of the Earth)*

- iii. In what sense is the friendship between Mr. Lamb and Derry fruitful?

*(On The Face of It)*

**12.. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.**

**5**

- A. There is a saying “Kindness pays, rudeness never.” In the story, ‘The Rattrap’ Edla’s attitude towards men and matters is different from her father’s attitude. How are the values of concern and compassion brought out in the story, ‘The Rattrap’?

Imagine yourself to be a motivational speaker who has to address high school students. Write this address in about 120-150 words elaborating on occurrences from the text to inspire your audience and to convince them to have values of concern and compassion.

**Or**

- B. “The experience had a deep meaning for me, as only those who have known stark terror and conquered it can appreciate. In death there is peace. There is terror only in the fear of death, as Roosevelt knew when he said, ‘All we have to fear is fear itself.’ Because I had experienced both the sensation of dying and the terror that fear of it can produce, the will to live somehow grew in intensity.”

Douglas, notwithstanding his aversion to water and extreme exhaustion, keeps on trying to conquer his fear of water and finally emerges victorious. We all have one fear or another but few of us are able to overcome it. What innate quality did Douglas possess that helped him succeed in overcoming his fear of water? Write it in about 120-150 words.

*(Deep Water)*

**13.. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.**

**5**

- A. “Children are keen observers. They notice every happening in their surroundings. Injustice in any form cannot escape being unnoticed by them.” Bama and Zitkala Sa in ‘Memories of Childhood’ faced discrimination. You wish to include a cameo for the above statement’s explanation in your upcoming blog post. (A short description that neatly encapsulates someone or something facing discrimination)

As a part of the research, discuss the statement in relation to Memories of Childhood in about 120-150 words.

**Or**

- B. How did Charley reach the third level of Grand Central? How was it different from the other levels? (120-150 words)

*(The Third Level)*

□□□□□□

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**SOLUTIONS**

**Sample Paper 10**  
**Class XII Exam 2023-24**  
**English-Core (301)**

**Time Allowed : 3 Hrs.**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
  2. Attempt question based on specific instructions for each part.
- 

**SECTION A-READING SKILLS**

**22**

**Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages**

**1. Read the following text.**

**12**

1. Global warming is the warming up of the Earth due to the trapping of gases like carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, methane and nitrous oxide, when the atmosphere fails to perform its function of acting as a protective blanket. The incoming solar radiation is partly absorbed by carbon dioxide, though a vastly higher amount of the outgoing radiation is trapped in the atmosphere.
2. Carbon dioxide possesses immense staying properties in the atmosphere. It is being speculated that carbon dioxide concentrations may double in about a century. This increased carbon dioxide level, according to predictions, indicates an increase in temperature ranging from 1.5 - 4 degrees Celsius, or a rise in sea levels by about 50 cms by AD 2100.
3. However, Earth apparently has its own system of checks and balances. Water vapour in the atmosphere is known to absorb radiation more than any other atmospheric component. A doubling of carbon dioxide concentration would increase the capacity of the Earth's surface to absorb infra-red radiation by about 4 watts per square metre, though overall, the levels of absorption would be small.
4. Volcanic eruptions, too, are believed to be responsible for reduction in the carbon dioxide content in the atmosphere. Cooling through volcanic eruptions is believed to release certain gases, which are responsible for decrease in the carbon dioxide content in the atmosphere. Measurement of the incident of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere made in Hawaii indicate that during 1992-93 about two billion tonnes of the gas was found missing from the atmosphere.
5. As far as the impact of ozone depletion is concerned, it seems to be dictated more by political considerations than any other factor. The increased burning of fossil fuels for energy is largely responsible for the increase in temperature through ozone depletion.
6. A tug-of-war has been going on among the industrialised countries and the developing countries on the share of the blame. In fact, the USA, the erstwhile USSR, Brazil and China account for almost half of the net global emissions of harmful gases such as CFCs. While North America generates about 5 tonnes per head of carbon dioxide, Africa, China and India together generate approximately 1 tonne of carbon dioxide per head.

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**SOLUTIONS**

7. However, despite the fact that 1995 was one of the hottest years of the twentieth century, heavy snowfalls have been recorded in some parts of the world-notably on the Eastern coast of America and in Jammu and Kashmir. Moreover, during the latter half of the twentieth century, the Arctic climate has not been undergoing any noticeable temperature changes. In fact, till 1975, global temperatures had been undergoing a downward trend. Could the recent spurt in temperatures be a natural cyclical process, or a temporary offshoot of the shifting pressure belts?
8. Given the rising temperatures, growing seasons would be prolonged. Higher temperatures would also lead to an increased evaporation from oceans, thereby intensifying cloudiness, leading to moderate temperatures during the day and warmer nights. Warmer temperatures during the night enhance agricultural productivity. Increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will also result in an increase in fertility. Global warming will also have an impact on the El Nino phenomenon-the circulation of weather disturbances around the world as a result of the warming of Pacific Ocean around the tropics.
9. However, a few questions remain in the ongoing debate on global warming. The process of heat transfer in the atmosphere-convection-is a field in which a lot of research needs to be done. Secondly, clouds and vapour are known to be major absorbers of incoming radiation from space. If the cloud cover, as a result of increased evaporation due to rising temperature, were to increase, it would result in more containment. Plants, which both absorb and release carbon dioxide, too have a crucial role to play. Their role, however, has been till now underestimated.

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

- i. It is being surmised that carbon dioxide concentrations may \_\_\_\_\_. 1  
(a) increase 100% in about a decade  
(b) triple in about a century  
(c) increase slightly in about a century  
(d) increase 100% in about a century
- ii. The writer would not agree with given statements based on the passage EXCEPT 1  
(a) Global warming will have an impact on the El Nino phenomenon.  
(b) 1996 was one of the hottest years of the twentieth century.  
(c) Water vapour in the atmosphere does not absorb radiation.  
(d) Higher temperatures would lead to decreased evaporation from oceans.
- iii. Describe the impact of rising temperature on the growing seasons. 2
- iv. Complete the given sentence with an appropriate inference, with respect to the following 1  
There is a tug-of-war between the industrialised and developing countries in order to \_\_\_\_\_.
- v. Fill in the blanks appropriately by choosing the correct option. The major reason for the increase in temperature through ozone depletion is \_\_\_\_\_. 1  
(a) generation of CFCs (b) increased rainfall  
(c) increased burning of fossil fuels (d) None of these
- vi. List the things that effect global warming. Answer in about 40 words. 2

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**SOLUTIONS**

- vii. What is the result of animal discharge in the atmosphere? 1
- viii. How is cloud cover contain carbon dioxide's percentage in the atmosphere? Answer in about 40 words 2.
- ix. Select the option/s that convey/s the opposite of 'massive' from words used in Paragraph 8. 1
1. Prolonged
  2. Intensifying
  3. Enhance
  4. Moderate
  5. Tropics
- (a) Only 1 (b) Only 2
- (c) Only 4 (d) 3 and 5

**2. Read the following text.**

**10**

1. Today, India looks like it is on course to join the league of developed nations. It is beginning to establish a reputation not just as the technology nerve centre and back-office for the world, but also as its production centre. India's secularism and democracy serve as a role model to other developing countries. There is great pride in an Indian that easily integrates with a global economy, yet maintains a unique cultural identity.
2. But what is breathtaking is India's youth. Despite being an ancient civilization that traces itself to the very dawn of human habitation, India is among the youngest countries in the world. More than half the country is under 25 years of age and more than a third is under 15 years of age.
3. Brought up in the shadow of the rise of India's service industry boom, this group feels that it can be at least as good if not better than anyone else in the world. This confidence has them demonstrating a great propensity to consume, throwing away ageing ideas of asceticism and thrift. Even those who do not have enough to consume today feel that they have the capability and opportunity to do so.
4. The economic activity created by this combination of a growing labour pool and rising consumption demand is enough to propel India to double digit economic growth for decades. One just has to look at the impact that the baby boomers in the US had over decades of economic activity, as measured by equity and housing prices. This opportunity also represents the greatest threat to India's future. If the youth of India is not properly educated and if there are not enough jobs created, India will lose its opportunity forever. There are danger signs in abundance.
5. Fifty-three per cent of students in primary schools drop out, one-third of children in Class V cannot read, three quarters of schools do not have a functioning toilet, female literacy is only 45 per cent and 80 million children in the age group of 6-14 do not even attend school.
6. India's IT and BPO industries are engines of job creation, but they still account for only 0.2 per cent of India's employment. The country has no choice but to dramatically industrialize and inflate its domestic economy. According to a forecast by the Boston Consulting Group, more than half of India's unemployed within the next decade could be its educated youth. We cannot allow that to happen.
7. India is stuck in a quagmire of labour laws that hinder employment growth, particularly in the manufacturing sector. Inflexible labour laws inhibit entrepreneurship so it is quite ironic that laws ostensibly designed to protect labour actually discourage employment.

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**SOLUTIONS**



8. Employment creation needs an abundant supply of capital. Controls on foreign investment have resulted in China getting five times the foreign direct investment, or an advantage of \$200 billion over the past five years. The growing interest in India by global private equity firms offers well as they represent pools of patient and smart capital, but they too face many bureaucratic hurdles.
9. When it comes to domestic capital availability, budget deficits adding up to 10 per cent of the national GDP impede capital availability for investment and infrastructure.
10. Raising infrastructure spending, coupled with rapid privatization, may not only create employment but also address the growing gaps in infrastructure. China has eight times the highway miles and has increased roads significantly in the past few years while India has only inched along. Freight costs at Indian ports are almost double the worldwide average, just to, give two examples.
11. Moreover like the Lilliputians that kept the giant Gulliver tied down there are some 30,000 statutes in India of which only a portion are even operational and these keep the employment creation engine tied down. Since there are no sunset provisions in any laws the regulatory morass only grows every year.
12. In the meantime, we as citizens of the world and descendants of India have to make a difference. We have to ensure that India and its youth attain that potential both through our business pursuits and the support of educational charities, on-the-ground proponents of participative democracy as well as other deserving organizations and initiatives.
13. I believe that hope can triumph and that this can be India's century-not one that will happen as surely as the sun will rise each day, but one that many willing hands will need to create together.

**Answer the following questions, based on given passage.**

- i. India is on its way to establish a reputation as 1
  - (a) production centre
  - (b) back office to the world
  - (c) technology nerve centre
  - (d) all of these
- ii. Why is India amongst the youngest countries of the world ? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- iii. "This confidence has them demonstrating a great propensity to consume" the confidence referred here is : 1
  - (a) India being the world's back office.
  - (b) The feeling that India can be at least as good if not better than anyone else in the world.
  - (c) India being a young country.
- iv. State any one factor that is obstructing the growth of employment in manufacturing sector in India. 1
- v. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
The narrator suggests \_\_\_\_\_ for creating more employment.
- vi. Synonym of the word morass is \_\_\_\_\_. 1
  - (a) Quagmire
  - (b) Remorse
  - (c) Hiatus
  - (d) Problem
- vii. According to the narrator, raising infrastructure spending and rapid privatization will create more employment opportunities. TRUE or FALSE. 1
- viii. The narrator states 'India is stuck in a quagmire of labour laws. Explain in about 40 words. 2

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**SOLUTIONS**



**SECTION B- CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS****18**

*Note : All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.*

**3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4**

- A. You are Shalini/ Shailesh, in charge of the NSS Club of St. Andrew's School, Bhopal. Write a notice about a charity show being organized by the club to collect articles and money for people affected by earthquake in Uttarakhand. Write the notice in about 50 words. Include relevant details such as purpose of the show, kind of events, tickets and show timing, etc.

**Or**

- B. As the Sports Captain of your school, write a notice in about 50 words informing budding cricketers to attend trials for Under-16 and Under-18 for final selection to the school teams. Sign off as Sunny Arora. Invent all necessary details as required.

**4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4**

- A. You are Dr. Swarupa Mitra, an eminent oncologist working at Rajiv Gandhi Cancer and Research Institute. You have the honour of being invited as the chief guest at a public function. However, due to sudden illness you are unable to attend the same. Draft a suitable reply in about 50 words.

**Or**

- B. You are Rohana/Rohit. You have been invited to attend the wedding of your friend's brother. Respond to the invitation regretting your inability to attend it. Invent necessary details and do not exceed 50 words.

**5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A. You are Bhavjeet Kaur of 25/A, Defence Colony, New Delhi. You are deeply concerned about the growing apathy of people towards eve-teasing in local buses. Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper expressing your concern and suggesting ways in which are women can ensure their own safety.

**Or**

- B. During summer months after your exams are over, you want to utilize your time by working in a leading chain of superstores. You are Gunjeet/ Gagan. Write an application for the post of a supervisor giving your complete bio-data to the HR Manager, Apna Ghar, GK Part II, New Delhi.

**6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A. Every day you read in the newspaper about the increasing rate of crimes in Delhi. You live in Delhi and feel really bad about it. As Chinara Gulati, write an article for your school magazine on the topic.

**Or**

- B. You are Nitin Sharma, the newly elected Secretary of Einstein Society of Cambridge School, Nagpur. Write a report in 120-150 words for the school magazine about the 'plantation week' held recently in your school.

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**SOLUTIONS**

**SECTION C- LITERATURE****40****7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

- A.** When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie  
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.  
The tigers in the panel that she made  
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid

*(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)*

- i. Which of the following best captures the symbolism of tigers created by Aunt Jennifer? 1  
 (a) They represent just art on cloth, nothing else.  
 (b) Although Aunt Jennifer has created the tigers, they are the ones who control her.  
 (c) They reflect the true nature of a woman.  
 (d) They represent assertiveness, fearlessness and strength which the Aunt lacked.
- ii. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract. 1  
 By referring to the line 'ringed with ordeals' the poet wants to emphasize that the wedding ring and the problems are besetting the Aunt.
- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
 Aunt Jennifer was stuck to traditional activity like embroidery but the tigers \_\_\_\_.
- iv. When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie. Here, in 'terrified hands' the figure of speech is \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- v. Based on the poem rhyme scheme, evident in lines 2-4, of the given extract, which word would rhyme with line 1? 1

dry

die

try

- vi. Identify the effect of the figure of speech used in 'Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid'. 1  
 (a) Assonance in 'prancing' and 'proud' heighten the sense of irony.  
 (b) Hyperbole in 'prancing' and 'proud' heighten the sense of irony.  
 (c) Personification in 'prancing' and 'proud' heighten the sense of irony.  
 (d) Alliteration in 'prancing' and 'proud' heighten the sense of irony.

**Or**

- B.** I saw my mother, beside me,  
doze, open mouthed, her face ashen like that of a corpse  
And realised with pain  
that she was as old as she looked but soon  
put that thought away

*(My Mother at Sixty-six)*

- i. Choose the option that displays the same poetic device as used in the third and fourth lines of the extract. 1  
 (a) The dazzling dames comes one by one (b) Nature is God's gift to us  
 (c) As quick as a fox (d) Life is full of ups and downs

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- ii. What is the cause of pain and ache that the poet feels? 1
- iii. Select the best option to complete the following sentence. 1  
 “Her face ashen like that of a corpse” means that to the poet’s mother’s face was \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) pale and lively (b) vivid and lifeless  
 (c) bright and lively (d) pale and lifeless
- iv. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE. 1  
 Realisation of Mother’s old age can be an apt title for the extract.
- v. Why did the poet put the thought away? 1
- vi. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
 The poet’s mother look like a corpse because \_\_\_\_\_.

**8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 4**

- A. DERRY: It won’t make my face change. Do you know, one day, a woman went by me in the street-I was at a bus stop-and she was with another woman, and she looked at me, and she said... whispered... only I heard her... she said, “Look at that, that’s a terrible thing. That’s a face only a mother could love.”

*(On the Face of It)*

- i. List the playwright’s purpose of using ellipses (...) in this extract. 1
- ii. Select the option that best describes the meaning of the word ‘whisper’. 1  
 (a) To speak heartily (b) To speak slowly  
 (c) To speak loudly (d) To speak humbly
- iii. How did people treat Derry? 1
- iv. The person who called Derry is terrible thing in the extract is \_\_\_\_\_. 1

**Or**

- B. “The master ought not to heal the wound of this white man,” he said bluntly to Hana. “The white man ought to die. First he was shot. Then the sea caught him and wounded him with her rocks. If the master heals, what the gun did and what the sea did they will take revenge on us.”

*(The Enemy)*

- i. Complete the sentence appropriately, with reference to the extract. 1  
 The speaker of the given lines does not like the white man because \_\_\_\_\_.
- ii. Which of the following would NOT represent nature as presented in the given lines? 1  
 (a) The storm picked up everything on its way.  
 (b) The garden is a paradise.  
 (c) The sea turbulently swings her waves on the ship.  
 (d) The Sun blared with its full intensity.

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**SOLUTIONS**

- iii. Give a suitable title for the given extract. 1
- iv. Why the speaker didn't want the white man to live? 1

**9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

**A. "But of course it is you, Nils Olof!" he said. "How you do look!"**

The man with the rattaps had never before seen the ironmaster at Ramsjo and did not even know what his name was. But it occurred to him that if the fine gentleman thought he was an old acquaintance, he might perhaps throw him a couple of kronor. Therefore he did not want to undeceive him all at once.

"Yes, God knows things have gone downhill with me," he said.

"You should not have resigned from the regiment," said the ironmaster.

*(The Rattrap)*

- i. What does the expression 'things are going downhill' mean? 1
- ii. Why does the protagonist not reveal his true identity? 1
- (a) He just casually went with the situation.
- (b) He hoped for some monetary help from the ironmaster.
- (c) He was afraid of not getting food and shelter.
- (d) He was hoping to escape getting arrested.
- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
- The extract suggests that the peddler was an incorrigible fellow because apparently he \_\_\_\_.
- iv. Pick evidence from the extract that helps one infer important information about Nils Olof. 1
- v. Which personality traits of the ironmaster can be distinguished from the extract? Mention any two. 1
- vi. Which of the following idiomatic expressions best suggests the doings of the peddler? 1
- (a) Slip of the tongue (b) To err is human, to forgive divine
- (c) Pull wool over someone's eyes (d) The sleep of the just

**Or**

- B. Together they have imposed the baggage on the child that he cannot put down. Before he is aware, he accepts it as naturally as his father. To do anything else would mean to dare. And daring is not part of his growing up. When I sense a flash of it in Mukesh, I am cheered. "I want to be a motor mechanic," he repeats. He will go to a garage and learn. But the garage is a long way from his home.**

*(Lost Spring)*

- i. Complete the given sentence appropriately. 1
- 'They' in the given extract refers to \_\_\_\_.
- ii. What is not a part of 'his' growing up? 1

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**SOLUTIONS**

- iii. Select the correct option to fill in the blank. 1  
 The 'baggage' in the extract refers to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) the blame of their crimes  
 (b) the job of bangle making  
 (c) the bag containing bangles  
 (d) the job of selling bangles
- iv. Based on the above extract, choose the statement that is TRUE for 'them'. 1  
 (a) They are figures of authority.  
 (b) They are scared of government.  
 (c) They are suppressive.  
 (d) Both (a) and (c)
- v. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that Mukesh's dream will require determination and sincerity. 1
- vi. Why does the writer state that the boy accepts bangle making as naturally as his father? 1
- 10.. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words. 5 × 2 = 10
- i. Who was Rajkumar Shukla? What role did he play at Champaran?  
(Indigo)
- ii. How does the poet bring out the images of disharmony between man and nature in 'Keeping Quiet' and how can it be resolved?
- iii. Why were the old men of the village present in the classroom?  
(The Last Lesson)
- iv. What were the options that Sophie was dreaming of? Why does Jansie discourage her from having such dreams?  
(Going Places)
- v. Why does the narrator smile and what does she say while bidding goodbye to her mother?  
(My Mother at Sixty-Six)
- vi. Do we experience things of beauty only for short moments or do they make a lasting impression on us?  
(A Thing of Beauty)
- 11.. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. 2 × 2 = 4
- i. "But this eating by formula was not the hardest trial in that first day", says Zitkala-Sa. What does she mean by 'eating by formula'?  
(Memories of Childhood)
- ii. Why did the booking clerk refuse to accept the money from Charley?  
(The Third Level)
- iii. How did the Maharaja devote himself to realise his ambition? How far did he succeed?  
(The Tiger King)

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**SOLUTIONS**

**12.. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A.** “Freedom from fear is more important than legal justice for the poor.” Imagine yourself to be a motivational speaker who has to address high school students. Write this address in about 120-150 words elaborating on occurrences from the text about whether the poor of India are free from fear after Independence or not.

*(Indigo)*

**Or**

- B.** How does humour and satire enliven the account of the events and personalities at Gemini Studios as portrayed by Asokamitran in ‘Poets and Pancakes’?

*(Poets and Pancakes)*

**13.. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A.** Why does Tishani Doshi call her trip to Antarctica a “Journey to the End of the Earth”? What experience did she have during this expedition?

*(Journey to the End of the Earth)*

**Or**

- B.** The modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry and stress. We need to overcome them through different ways. Write a paragraph with reference to ‘The Third Level’, and express your thoughts about the ways to overcome it.

□□□□□□

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**SOLUTIONS**

**Sample Paper 11**  
**Class XII Exam 2023-24**  
**English-Core (301)**

**Time Allowed : 3 Hrs.**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
  2. Attempt question based on specific instructions for each part.
- 

**SECTION A-READING SKILLS**

**22**

**Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages**

**1. Read the following text.**

**12**

1. For lasting and clear eyesight, eyes need care in the form of preventive measures, a continuous life-long exercise. Eyes don't just see, they do the talking. This is why of all our senses the most precious is eyesight. Eyes need care in the form of prevention, and knowing some preventive methods in eye care can make your eyes look bright and healthy and leave you with excellent eyesight.
2. How do we keep eyes bright and healthy? Eat good helpings of vegetables, fruits, omega-3 fatty acids, beta carotenes with vitamins A, C and E, enjoy good sleep and avoid direct sunlight. Therefore, good habits and good general health care does play a major role in eye care. Eyes are windows to the human body; while you look out through this window, we, the eye doctors, can look in to find conditions such as glaucoma, abnormal blood pressures, diabetes, heart diseases and other health concerns much before you notice its adverse impact, and help you take preventive measures.
3. It is never too early to begin eye checkups. Throw a torchlight from different directions and look for fixation in newborns and, if in doubt, take the baby to an eye specialist. By the time a child is four, it is imperative to have a check up every year to look for squint, signs of opacity brought in by cataracts and minus or plus powers to decide whether or not glasses are needed. Ultraviolet- protective sunglasses from childhood can help protect eyes from the harmful UV rays. Once in the teens, contact lenses can be worn in place of glasses, but never sleep with them on as they reduce the supply of air and blood to the cornea and can damage eyes. When in 20s, you can get rid of glasses with lasers, Lasik or permanent contact lenses.
4. An emerging and alarming trend is the Computer Eye Syndrome, which appears to be catching on in early adult life. We cannot escape the use of computers but, sadly, our eyes are not designed to cope with these screens. Continuous staring at the monitors reduces blinking, causes strain to the eyes and can lead to dry eyes as well. Therefore, it is always better to take a break of 10 minutes every hour and look at distant objects such as the landscapes or even television.
5. Glaucoma or raised pressure in eyes and diabetic retinopathy are silent killers of eyesight. Therefore, checking eyes once every six months is essential. If afflicted with diabetes, diet, exercise and drugs are to be remembered in that order to keep the doctor away.

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**SOLUTIONS**

6. Around the age of 40, more or less everybody requires reading glasses, a condition known as presbyopia. But now you can get rid of these glasses as well, with lasers called INTRACOR and SUPRACOR. One can develop cataract- defined as the loss of transparency in the natural lens of the eye-at any age, but it usually strikes in old age. It's treated by replacing the opaque lens with an artificial lens called the intraocular lens. The latest incataract removal techniques is called femtosecond laser assisted cataract surgery, which is blade-free, hands-free and makes the operation precise, safe and accurate.
7. That said, eye care is, inevitably, a continuous exercise through life.

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

- i. Select the option that may become a preventive measure for eyes as given in paragraph 1. 1
- (a) Eyes need care and continuous life-long exercises.
  - (b) Eyes need Vitamin C as a preventive measure.
  - (c) Eyes are designed to cope up with screens.
  - (d) Eat good amount of vegetables.
- ii. What is the significance of eyes as windows to human body? 1
- (a) Eye doctors find out major health problems while seeing in our eyes.
  - (b) Eye doctors also look at this window.
  - (c) Eye doctors find various health conditions such as glaucoma, etc.
  - (d) Eyes are windows to human health.
- iii. Share evidence from the text, in about 40 words, to support the view that the Computer Eye Syndrome is an alarming trend. 2
- iv. Complete the sentence appropriately with a characteristic or description. 1
- Eating good amount of vegetables, fruits, omega-3 fatty acids, beta carotenes with vitamins A, C and E, enjoy good sleep and avoid direct sunlight helps \_\_\_\_.
- v. Select the option that is similar in meaning to 'grievously affected especially by disease' from paragraph 5. 1
- (a) blink
  - (b) inevitably
  - (c) intelligently
  - (d) afflicted
- vi. Explain in about 40 words, why "...contact lenses can be worn in place of glasses, but never sleep with them on". 2
- vii. In the line, 'That said, eye care is, inevitably, a continuous exercise through life', the word 'inevitably' refers to whom? 1
- viii. How does the following impact our eyes? 2
- 'Monitors are bad for our eyes.'
- Answer in about 40 words.



ix. Read five statements (1) to (5) given below.

1

- (1) Eyes don't just see, they do the talking.
- (2) It is never too early to begin eye checkups.
- (3) Once in the teens, contact lenses can be worn in place of glasses, but never sleep with them on as they reduce the supply of air and blood to the cornea and can damage eyes.
- (4) Glaucoma or raised pressure in eyes and diabetic retinopathy are silent killers of eyesight.
- (5) Around the age of 20, more or less everybody requires reading glasses, a condition known as presbyopia.

Identify the option that displays the statement that DOES NOT correspond with the occurrence in the given passage.

- (a) Only (1)
- (b) (1) and (2)
- (c) (3) and (4)
- (d) Only (5)

**2. Read the following text.**

10

1. A number of citizens suffer from a variety of diseases that can be linked to tobacco addiction. In a recent check-up camp organised by the Cancer Patients Aid Association (CPAA), 830 street children were examined and the following grim picture was established

- All the boys, young and old, smoked ganja.
- Girls consumed supari or burnt tobacco powder.
- 'Solutions' or 'white ink' or 'erasing fluids' are also inhaled by these children to get a 'high'
- These substances are easily accessible, legal and cost a mere ₹ 2.

But this trend is not only confined to any particular segment of society. According to doctors, consumption of gutkha and smoking is quite rampant amongst children from higher income groups.

2. According to CPAA officials, consumption of gutkha has gone up considerably in the last few years. Since there is no restriction on the advertisements of this product, even during Ganesh festivals, companies producing gutkha sponsor events and display huge ads.
3. Over 50% of the people screened so far are addicted to tobacco. The most common form of tobacco use is gutkha and chewing tobacco. Gutkha is being consumed by people of all ages, upto 22 times a day. 4 million people die every year due to tobacco related causes. Unparalleled expansion of tobacco production and its aggressive and unrestricted promotion, especially in our country, confirms the fears that by the year 2030, approximately 10 million people will die every year of tobacco related causes.
4. Even though governments are now recognising and accepting the fact that tobacco harms their economies and kills their countrymen prematurely, not all governments are able to or want to introduce strong effective legislation and contribute in other ways to tobacco control.
5. More and more young smokers are being recruited into the ranks of the tobacco habituated by deceptive and manipulative advertising. Though the industry claims that use of tobacco is a decision made by informed individuals, the true picture is that today's youth is making an uninformed choice when it comes to tobacco consumption.
6. This is because the promotion of tobacco by the industry hides the truth about the effects of tobacco and goes to great lengths to make tobacco use seem to be the key to a healthy, happy, social life.

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**SOLUTIONS**

7. Cancer patients Aid association (CPAA) in its survey gave the following information :
- Children between ages of 7 and 8 smoked bidis.
  - The youngest smoker was 6 years old.
  - 87 children had already acquired pre-cancerous lesions.
  - Over 50% of people are addicted to tobacco.
  - 4 million people die every year due to tobacco related causes.
  - By the year 2030, approximately 10 million people will die every year of tobacco related causes.



**Answer the following questions, based on given passage.**

- i. Do you think that putting a stop on manipulative advertising regarding tobacco can help in reducing its consumption? Support your answer with reference to text in about 40 words. 2
- ii. Which of the following assumptions does the passage negate? 1
- (a) Consumption of tobacco is considered illegal
  - (b) Consumption of tobacco is limited to only lower income families
  - (c) With the ban of tobacco, its consumption has decreased
  - (d) Tobacco consumption is rampant in only males
- iii. According to the CPAA, what is main cause of increasing consumption of Gutkha? 1
- (a) Lack of restrictions on its consumption
  - (b) Lack of restriction on its production
  - (c) Lack of restrictions on its advertisements
  - (d) Lack of economic stability in the poor groups
- iv. Based on the reading of the text, complete the following statement. 1
- As a part of manipulative advertising, youngsters are made to believe that tobacco is \_\_\_\_.
- (a) a key to happy and healthy life
  - (b) a key to a reclusive life
  - (c) a symbol of higher status
- v. How are people attracted towards tobacco? 1
- vi. Complete the sentence approximately with one/two words. 1
- The government knows the effects of tobacco consumption but it does not \_\_\_\_ its consumption.
- vii. State TRUE or FALSE. 1
- The promotion of tobacco by the industry reveals the ill-effects of tobacco consumption.

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**SOLUTIONS**

- viii. Based on the theoretical reading of the text, state two points to challenge the given statement in about 40 words. 2  
Addiction of tobacco afflicts only the elder (18+) stratum of the society.

### SECTION B- CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

18

*Note : All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.*

3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4

- A. You are, Aditi Mohan, School Prefect. Draft a notice for the noticeboard about a trekking holiday that your school is organising, giving all necessary details in about 50 words and asking the interested students to give their names.

Or

- B. You are Niti Singhal, studying at Bright Future High School, Mysuru and an active member of the school sports club. Recently, your school had organized an Inter-School Cricket Championship. After the final match was over, you found an unclaimed cricket kit on your school playground and have been asked to draft a notice to locate its owner.

4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4

- A. You are David/Disha, the Secretary of the English Literary and Cultural Society of St. Joseph's Academy, Agra. You have to organize an Inter-zonal extempore competition at the +2 level. You wish to invite Dr. Hansa Bhogle, an eminent educationist, to preside over the function to be held on 15 October at 9:30 a.m. at Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Agra. Draft an invitation in about 50 words requesting her to come and grace the occasion.

Or

- B. Your friend Antriksh is staying in the school hostel. You wish to invite him at your house for Diwali celebration. Invite him in not more than 50 words. Invent necessary details.

5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5

- A. You are Srikhant, living at 7C-189, 1st floor, Ramjas Colony, Muzaffarpur. Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper about the burden of heavy bags the young children carry to school.

Or

- B. Draft an application for the post of an accountant in Gurukul Public School that was advertised in the Times of India. Also, include your biodata. You are Anil/Anita.

6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5

- A. Deepak/Deepa has been involved as a student volunteer in the 'Adult Literacy Drive' and has been working in the slums for the last six months. He/She has to write an article in about 120-150 words on the 'Need for a Literate Nation'.

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**SOLUTIONS**

**Or**

- B.** You recently attended a seminar on “Tiger Reserve: Economic and Environmental Win-Win” at India International Centre, New Delhi. Write a report on the same in about 120-150 words for your school magazine. You are Rohan Pandey, Secretary, Cultural Club, Doon School, Dehradun.

### SECTION C- LITERATURE

**40**

- 7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.**

**6**

- A.** Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing  
A flowery band to bind us to the Earth,  
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth  
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,  
Of all the unhealthy and o’er darkened ways  
Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,  
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall  
From our dark spirits.

*(A Thing of Beauty)*

- i.** Pick the option that enumerates what ‘noble natures’ would include. 1
  - (a) Selflessness (b) Judiciousness
  - (c) Enthusiasm (d) All of these
- ii.** Pick the phrase from the extract that suggests that human life is full of hardships. 1
- iii.** State TRUE or FALSE. 1  
The Earth without the beautiful things is a place full of despair and unpleasantness.
- iv.** Which of the following poetic devices has been used in ‘of noble natures’? 1
  - (a) Assonance (b) Imagery
  - (c) Paradox (d) Alliteration
- v.** The poet says that we wreath a flowery band that binds us to Earth. 1  
He means to state that nature’s beauty fills man with \_\_\_\_.
- vi.** What makes our life full of inhuman dearth? 1

**Or**

- B.** Driving from my parent’s  
home to Cochin last Friday  
morning, I saw my mother  
beside me  
doze, open mouthed, her face  
ashen like that  
of a corpse and realized with  
pain  
that she thought away, and  
looked but soon...

*(My Mother at Sixty-Six)*

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**SOLUTIONS**

- i. What is the speaker's emotional state when looking at her mother? 1  
 (a) Empathetic and understanding (b) Fearful and apprehensive  
 (c) Nostalgic and longing (d) Confused and disoriented
- ii. Where is the poetess going when she said, "home to Cochin last Friday"? 1
- iii. Select the word that WILL NOT complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
 The theme of the given extract is \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) fear of separation (b) aging  
 (c) stolen childhood (d) fear of loss
- iv. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE. 1  
 The poetic device used in the line, 'ashen like that of a corpse' is the same as the one used in the line, "O my Luve is like a red, red rose".
- v. What message do these lines highlight, in the context of familial relationships, and the speaker's sense of anxiety and fear at the prospect of losing her mother? 1
- vi. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
 The phrase 'that of a corpse' means that she has lost her \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 4**

- A.** MR LAMB : Rubbish? Look, boy, look.... what do you see?  
 DERRY : Just....grass and stuff Weeds.  
 MR LAMB : Some call them weeds. If you like, then.... a weed garden, that. There's fruit and there are flowers, and trees and herbs. All sorts. But over there.... weeds. I grow weeds there. Why is one green, growing plant called a weed and another 'flower'? Where's the difference? It's all life.... growing. Same as you and me.  
 DERRY : We're not the same.  
 MR LAMB : I'm old. You're young. You've got a burned face, I've got a tin leg. Not important. You're standing there.... I'm sitting here. Where's the difference?

*(On The Face of It)*

- i. Why does Mr Lamb draw Derry's attention and stress on 'looking'? 1
- ii. What are the fundamental differences between Derry's and Mr Lamb's understanding of the world and life? These are: 1  
 (a) Derry: introvert; Mr Lamb: extrovert (b) Derry: nervous; Mr Lamb: domineering  
 (c) Derry: self-pity; Mr Lamb: accepting (d) Derry: unseeing; Mr Lamb: appreciative
- iii. How is Derry's tone when he says, "We're not the same?" 1
- iv. Why does Mr Lamb emphasise the importance of weeds? What is the idea behind it? 1

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**SOLUTIONS**

**Or**

- B.** Sadao knew that his education was his father's chief concern. For this reason he had been sent at twenty-two to America to learn all that could be learned of surgery and medicine. He had come back at thirty and before his father died he had seen Sadao become famous not only as a surgeon but as a scientist. Because he was perfecting a discovery which would render wounds entirely clean, he had not been sent abroad with the troops. Also, he knew, there was some slight danger that the old General might need an operation for a condition for which he was now being treated medically and for this possibility Sadao was being kept in Japan.

*(The Enemy)*

- i. What role does Sadao's father in Sadao's life? 1
- ii. Choose the correct option that best describes Sadao as a perfect son. 1
  - (a) Sadao went to America as desired by his father.
  - (b) Sadao returned to Japan before his father's death.
  - (c) Sadao gained fame as a doctor as well as scientist while his father was alive.
  - (d) Sadao stayed with his father and did not go abroad with the troops.
- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
Sadao was a famous surgeon and \_\_\_\_\_.
- iv. For how many years did Sadao study in America? 1

**9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

- A.** Listening to them, I see two distinct worlds—one of the family, caught in a web of poverty, burdened by the stigma of caste in which they are born; The other a vicious circle of the sahu-kars, the middleman, the policemen the keepers of law, the bureaucrats and the politicians. Together they have imposed the baggage on the child that he cannot put down. Before he is aware, he accepts it as naturally as his father. To do anything else would mean to dare. And daring is not part of his growing up.

*(Lost Spring)*

- i. List any two details about two distinct worlds. 1
- ii. "...The other vicious circle of Sahu-kars..." In this line 'vicious circle' refers to \_\_\_\_\_. 1
  - (a) passing the occupation to next generation
  - (b) trap made by moneylenders for workers
  - (c) carrying the tradition of family
  - (d) none of these
- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
Ironically, millions of children have lost \_\_\_\_\_.
- iv. Pick evidence from the extract that helps one infer that the baggage has been imposed on the children. 1
- v. How does the child accept the burden? 1
- vi. Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the extract? 1
  - (a) The passion of children
  - (b) The web of poverty
  - (c) The desire of adults
  - (d) The happiness of children

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**SOLUTIONS**

**Or**

- B.** This settlement was adopted unanimously by the commission. Gandhi explained that the amount of the refund was less important than the fact that the landlords had been obliged to surrender part of the money and, with it, part of their prestige. Therefore, as far as the peasants were concerned, the planters had behaved as lords above the law. Now the peasant saw that he had rights and defenders. He learned courage.

*(Indigo)*

- i. Why is it that the big planters agreed to pay the refund to small farmers? 1
- ii. Replace the underlined word with its antonym from the extract. 1  
The party has now abandoned its policy of free trade.
  - (a) Adopted (b) Obligated
  - (c) Defenders (d) Concerned
- iii. What did the peasants learn from this incident? 1
- iv. As per the settlement, how much was to be refunded. 1
  - (a) 50% (b) 75%
  - (c) 25% (d) 20%
- v. Why does Gandhiji accept only that per cent of settlement? 1
- vi. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
The phrase 'lords above the law' in the extract means \_\_\_\_\_.

- 10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words.** **5 × 2 = 10**

- i. Why are the bangle makers unable to organize themselves into a cooperative? *(Lost Spring)*
- ii. Describe the boy who had thrown Douglas in water. What was his reaction later? *(Deep Water)*
- iii. Why do country people ask for money? *(A Roadside Stand)*
- iv. Why is Aunt Jennifer terrified? *(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)*
- v. What three things in school surprised Franz the most that day? *(The Last Lesson)*
- vi. Why are the young trees described as sprinting? *(My Mother at Sixty-Six)*

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**SOLUTIONS**



11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. 2 × 2 = 4

i. Did the servants support Dr. Sadao in his mission to save the American? Why/Why not?  
*(The Enemy)*

ii. Why was Zitkala-Sa in tears on the first day in the land of apples?  
*(Memories of Childhood)*

iii. In what way does Mr Lamb inspire Derry to overcome his physical disability?  
*(On the Face of It)*

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5

A. “Now I have become sad, she thought. And it is a hard burden to carry, this sadness. Sitting here waiting and knowing he will not come I can see the future and how I will have to live with this burden.” Sadness is really difficult to carry. And more difficult is to carry unfulfilled desires. After reading the above statement with reference to ‘Going Places’, how far do you feel that sadness and unfulfilled desires can’t be carried for a long time? Write a paragraph in about 120-150 words.

**Or**

B. The world has become a global village, and people across boundaries, nationalities and communities are now connected to one another. With the advancement of technology, and the advent of social media, do you think that the task of keeping quiet, as envisaged by Neruda, has become easier or more complicated? Justify your stance.

*(Keeping Quiet)*

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5

A. Imagine you are an ardent environmentalist who is involved in the Save the Tiger campaign. You have been asked to deliver a speech in a seminar related to your campaign and the need for the youth to be involved in such campaigns. Draft your speech.

*(The Tiger King)*

**Or**

B. There is an intersection of time and space in the story ‘The Third Level’. Imagine yourself to be Douglas, and express your thoughts in about 120-150 words.

□□□□□□

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**SOLUTIONS**



**Sample Paper 12**  
**Class XII Exam 2023-24**  
**English-Core (301)**

**Time Allowed : 3 Hrs.**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
  2. Attempt question based on specific instructions for each part.
- 

**SECTION A-READING SKILLS**

**22**

**Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages**

**1. Read the following text.**

**12**

1. The monsoon is such a welcome respite from the scorching summer thanks to the overcast sky, gentle rain and lush greenery all around. Almost all of us love to savour spicy and crunchy food items, such as fritters (pakoras) and chaats like panipuri, sevpuri teamed with cutting chai as the rainwater lashes against the windowpane. However, the season also brings along a lot of diseases, such as dengue, malaria, conjunctivitis, typhoid, viral fever, pneumonia, gastrointestinal disturbances, diarrhea, food poisoning, cholera, cough and cold and jaundice due to the presence of bacteria in the environment. The challenge lies in going about your daily routine without falling ill. If you suffer from low immunity, you are at a higher risk of contracting these diseases. However, the right dietary tips can strengthen your immunity and help you stay hale and hearty.
2. Due to the humid climate, you may not feel too thirsty and consume just one litre of water every day. But you need to be well hydrated as sweat doesn't evaporate quickly in monsoon. Consequently, this prevents the body from releasing heat. So consume a lot of water as it helps to flush out toxins from the body. Ensure that the water is clean, pure and safe to drink. Avoid aerated drinks; instead consume warm beverages, such as green tea with holy basil leaves, ginger, pepper and honey as they have anti-bacterial properties. A bowl of hot vegetable soup is also a good option. The hot beverages increase your body temperature (which will in turn give you warmth) while the ingredients will boost your immunity.
3. Consume fruits, such as cherries, bananas, apples, pomegranates, plums, litchis and pears as they are packed with anti-oxidants and are rich in vitamin A, E, C and minerals. Vegetables, such as cauliflower, potatoes, cluster beans, ladyfingers, kidney beans, pigeon pea and sprouted grains get spoilt easily due to the humidity. So, they should be avoided. Opt for cooked or steamed veggies. Avoid salads as they comprise raw vegetables that contain active bacteria which lead to various infections and affect the body's immunity. Avoid strong smelling or extra sweet fruits, such as mangoes and jack-fruit that attract flies as their excess intake can cause skin irritation and stomach ache. It's also important to store vegetables the right way during the rains. Do not wash the veggies thoroughly before storing, as the moisture will attract pathogenic fungus. These bacteria can spread to other susceptible food items as well, making them unhygienic. Instead, pat dry and store separate food items in different containers. Buy them in limited portions and use them as soon as possible.

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**SOLUTIONS**

4. Dehydration makes your hair brittle and scanty. So hydrate yourself. Zinc and iron help to keep your tresses healthy and beautiful. Consume nuts, eggs and walnuts to maintain hair strength. Walnuts are rich in biotin and vitamin E, which are excellent antioxidants. Proteins are important for hair strength too. So add curd to your diet, as it is a great source of protein. Amla juice, oranges and other citrus fruits are rich in vitamin C. Vitamin C keeps your hair strong as it helps in production of collagen that among other things strengthens the hair capillaries (ensuring proper nutrient supply to our hair). Also, ensure that you wash your locks on alternate days and cover them well during the monsoon. Dried apricots, roasted sunflower seeds and lentils are better foods to consume during monsoon than other iron-rich foods which are susceptible to microbial attack. Do not forget to eat yummy corn on cob as corn is also rich in iron and zinc.
5. So, the secret to enjoy the rains, without the fear of affecting your health is to go light on eating. Have a safe and healthy monsoon.

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

- i. The correct way to store veggies is to : 1
- (a) wash them properly before storing
  - (b) buy them in bulks
  - (c) pat them dry, store separate items in different food containers
  - (d) soak them in water
- ii. Choose an appropriate heading for the given passage. 1
- (a) How to Store Your Food During the Rainy Season
  - (b) Beat the Monsoon Woes by Eating Right
  - (c) Monsoon Sickness
  - (d) Hair Fall Remedy
- iii. Raw vegetables should be avoided because \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- iv. List any two benefits of drinking water. 1
- v. Which of these statements is false? 1
- (a) Warm beverages like soup is healthier option than aerated drinks.
  - (b) Vegetables such as cauliflower, bean sprouts, ladyfingers are more likely to get spoilt.
  - (c) Amla juice, oranges and other citrus fruits are rich in vitamin D.
  - (d) Iron and Zinc helps in keeping our hair healthy.
- vi. Give two merits and two demerits of monsoon. Answer in about 40 words. 2
- vii. How can different beverages help in monsoon? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- viii. Discuss about the hair care during monsoons. Answer in about 40 words. 2

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**SOLUTIONS**

- ix. Read the headlines (1)-(5) given below and identify the option that corresponds with message of the passage. 1

- (1) Rains mean crispy pakoras and cutting chai
  - (2) The Rains do not bring diseases
  - (3) Maintain your physical well-being during rains
  - (4) The best hair days are rainy days
  - (5) A rainy day comes as a relief after a hot summer day.
- (a) (1) and (2) (b) only (4)  
(c) (1), (2) and (5) (d) only (3)

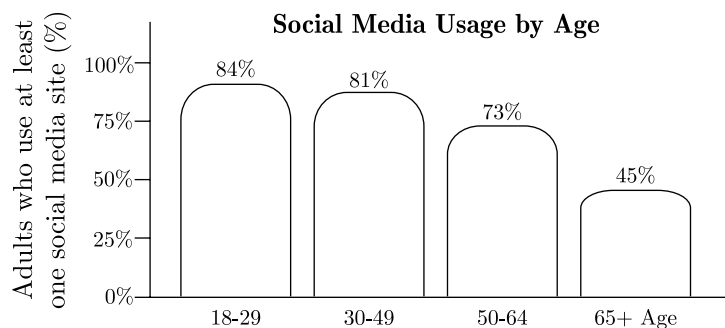
**2. Read the following text.**

**10**

1. News-If you can't remember the last time, you saw a teenager reading a book, newspaper or magazine, you're not alone. In recent years, less than 20 per cent of teen report reading a book, magazine or newspaper daily for pleasure. More than 80 per cent say they use social media every day, according to a research published by the World Psychological Association.
2. 'Compared with previous generations, teens in the 2010s spent more time online and less time with traditional media, such as books, magazines and television,' said lead author of the book yGen and professor of psychology at ABC University. 'Time on digital media has displaced the time that was once spent enjoying a book or watching TV'
3. Swaner and her colleagues analyse data concluded from an ongoing study of a nationally representative sample of approximately 50,000 eighth, tenth and twelfth grade students annually. They looked at survey results from 1976 to 2016, representing more than 1 million teenagers. While the study started with only twelfth-graders in the 1970s, eighth and tenth-graders were added in 1991.
4. Use of digital media increased substantially from 2006 to 2016. Among twelfth-graders, internet use during leisure time doubled from one to two hours per day during that period. It also increased 75 per cent for tenth-graders and 68 per cent for eighth-graders.
5. "In the mid-2010s, the average twelfth grader reported spending approximately two hours a day texting, just over two hours a day on the internet which included gaming and just under two hours a day on social media," said Swaner. That's a total of about six hours per day on just three digital media activities during their leisure time.
6. In comparison, tenth-graders reported a total of five hours per day and eighth-graders reported four hours per day on those three digital activities. Consequently, the spent time in the digital world is seriously degrading the time they spend on more traditional media such as print book and newspapers.
7. The decline in reading print media was especially steep. In the early 1990s, 33 per cent of tenth-graders said they read a newspaper almost every day. By 2016, that number was only 2 per cent. In the late 1970s, 60 per cent of twelfth-graders said they read a book or a magazine almost every day; by 2016, only 16 per cent did. Twelfth-graders also reported reading fewer books each year in 2016 compared to how much they read in 1976 and approximately one-third did not read a book (including e-books) for pleasure in the year prior to the 2016 survey.
8. There's no lack of intelligence among young people. However due to over dependence on digital media they find it difficult to focus for long periods of time and to read long-form text. Subsequently, they find it challenging to understand complex issues and develop critical thinking skills.

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**SOLUTIONS**



**Answer the following questions, based on given passage.**

- i. Infer two possible ways that the survey, mentioned in the given extract, could be beneficial. Answer in about 40 words. 2
- ii. Select the option that displays the most likely reason for the study of this research. 1
  - (a) To know about reading choices of teenagers
  - (b) To know about digital competency of teenagers
  - (c) To know about speed of reading text
  - (d) To know about the decline of time spent on traditional media
- iii. Do you think that the researchers of this study added eighth and tenth graders to the survey, deliberately? Support your answer with reference to the text. 1
- iv. Identify the person who uses social media from the three following people. 1
  - (a) Anchal – I'm using WhatsApp since morning.
  - (b) Babita – I'm reading books since night.
  - (c) Daisy – I'm watching television for two hours.
- v. Which of the following is the correct option for what does the author mean by degrading the time? 1
  - (a) Spending less time
  - (b) Wastage of time
  - (c) Consuming more time
  - (d) Saving time
- vi. What are the various digital activities in which the twelfth graders indulge in the mid-2010s? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- vii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
Traditional media has been replaced by digital. We can say this because \_\_\_\_\_.
- viii. State TRUE or FALSE. 1  
The title, 'Social Media Usage by Age' is appropriate for this passage.

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**SOLUTIONS**

**SECTION B- CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS****18**

*Note : All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.*

**3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4**

- A. While walking in a park in your colony you found a small briefcase with some documents and cash. Write a notice in about 50 words to be put on the park noticeboard asking the owner to identify and collect it from you. You are Rajat/Rani.

**Or**

- B. As the head of Physical Education Department, write a notice in about 50 words informing the students about the selection of athletes for the coming Zonal Athletic meet.

**4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4**

- A. Christ King College, Lalitpur, is celebrating its Annual Day and wants to invite the parents and other guests to the occasion. Design an invitation card for the same in 50 words. Invent necessary details.

**Or**

- B. Your friend has invited you to her sister's wedding to be held at Nasik. Write a letter declining the invitation because of prior engagement. You are Abha of C-4/140, sector 8 Tandon Road, Nasik.

**5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A. You are Wasim/Wahida of New Ashok Colony, Agra. The main road leading to the colony is in a very bad condition with many potholes and open manholes. To add to the woes, there is no streetlight that makes the matters worse at night. Write a letter in about 120-150 words to the Editor of The Times of India drawing attention of the authorities concerned to the problem and to seek immediate remedial action.

**Or**

- B. You are Suraj/Sohana. You came across the following advertisement in a national daily. You consider yourself suitable and eligible for the post. Write an application in about 120-150 words in response to the advertisement.

Applications are invited for the post of a nursery teacher in a reputable school of north west Delhi. The candidate must have at least 5 years experience of teaching tiny tots. The applicant must have good command over English and be well versed in computer. He/she should be innovative and creative. Attractive salary. Interested candidates should apply to the Principal, Ramnarayan International School, Ghaziabad, within 10 day with detailed resume.

**6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A. Recently you got a chance to participate in a week-long workshop on 'Energy Conservation'. By the end of the workshop, you were much enlightened about the need and ways of conserving energy. Write an article titled 'Energy Conservation: the need of the hour'. You are Amrit/Annie of Sarvodya Vidyalaya No. 1, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

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**SOLUTIONS**

**Or**

- B.** You are a reporter with 'India Today'. You recently witnessed 'illegal trade of rare animals on some websites'. Write a report in about 120-150 words about the same for your magazine.

**SECTION C- LITERATURE**

**40**

- 7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

- A.** Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool,  
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.  
The massive weight of uncle's wedding band,  
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.

*(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)*

- i.** Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract? 1
- (a) The hopeful and positive bent of mind of Aunt Jennifer  
(b) The oppressed and frightened bent of mind of Aunt Jennifer  
(c) The intelligent bent of mind of Aunt Jennifer  
(d) The creative bend of mind of Aunt Jennifer
- ii.** State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract. 1  
Aunt Jennifer is very happy with wedding band.
- iii.** Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
Aunt Jennifer is suffering at the \_\_\_\_.
- iv.** The ivory needle used to embroider is \_\_\_\_ the difficulty in using it. 1
- v.** Based on the poem rhyme scheme, evident in lines 2-4, of the given extract, which word would rhyme with line 1? 1
- tell

cool

tie
- vi.** Select the option that is an example of alliteration? 1
- (a) The massive weight of uncle's wedding      (b) The ivory needle hard to pull  
(c) Finger fluttering the wool                      (d) Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer

**Or**

- B.** I saw my mother  
Beside me,  
Doze, open mouthed, her face  
Ashen like that  
Of a corpse and realized with pain  
That she was as old as she  
Looked but soon  
Put that thought away

*(My Mother at Sixty-Six)*

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**SOLUTIONS**

- i. Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract? 1  
 (a) Depiction of human relationships (b) Power of imagination  
 (c) Inevitable relationships (d) Immortality of art and literature
- ii. Where is the poetess going when she said, “home to Cochin last Friday”? 1
- iii. Select the word that WILL NOT complete the sentence appropriately. The extract discusses 1  
 (a) fear of childhood (b) fear of pain  
 (c) stolen childhood (d) fear of loss
- iv. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE. 1  
 The poetic device used in the line, ‘she was as old as she looked’ is same as the one used in the line, ‘she was as busy as a bee’.
- v. What message do these lines highlight, in the context of familial relationships, and the speaker’s sense of anxiety and fear at the prospect of losing her mother? 1
- vi. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
 The daughter cringed with pain at the realisation that her mother \_\_\_\_\_.

**8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 4**

- A. MR LAMB :** And that’s all true, and you know it.  
**DERRY** It won’t make my face change. Do you know, one day, a woman went by me in the street-I was at a bus stop-and she was with another woman, and she looked at me, and she said... whispered... only I heard her... she said, “Look at that, that’s a terrible thing. That’s a face only a mother could love.”  
**MR LAMB :** So you believe everything you hear, then?  
**DERRY** It was cruel.

*(On the Face of It)*

- i. List the playwright’s purpose of using ellipses (...) in this extract. 1
- ii. Select the option that best describes the reason for using the word ‘cruel’ in conversation. 1  
 (a) He feels hurt and pained by the comments of the people on his face.  
 (b) He feels overheard comments are cruel.  
 (c) He wants to say so.  
 (d) He was not aware of the people’s cruelty.
- iii. The people treated Derry because they made \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- iv. Who called Derry ‘a terrible thing’? 1

**Or**

- B.** You lose all earthly sense of perspective and time here. The visual scale ranges from the microscopic to the mighty: midges and mites to blue whales and icebergs as big as countries (the largest recorded was the size of Belgium). Days go on and on and on in surreal 24-hour austral summer light, and a ubiquitous silence, interrupted only by the occasional avalanche or calving ice sheet, consecrates the place. It’s an immersion that will force you to place yourself in the context of the earth’s geological history. And for humans, the prognosis isn’t good.

*(Journey to the End of the Earth)*

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**SOLUTIONS**



- i. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
The range of the 'visual scale' in Antarctica as mentioned by the author is \_\_\_\_.
- ii. In the line, "You lose all earthly sense of perspective and time here", what could be the best synonym for the word 'perspective' in the context of the passage? 1  
(a) awareness (b) insight  
(c) opinion (d) outlook
- iii. Which elements influence earth's physicality? 1
- iv. How does the narrator feel to see the grandeur of the icy region? 1

**9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

- A. I used every way I knew to overcome this fear, but it held me firmly in its grip. Finally, one October; I decided to get an instructor and learn to swim. I went to a pool and practiced five days a week, an hour each day. The instructor put a belt around me. A rope attached to the belt went through a pulley that ran on an overhead cable. He held on to the end of the rope, and we went back and forth, back and forth across the pool, hour after hour, day after day, week after week. On each trip across the pool a bit of the panic seized me. Each time the instructor relaxed his hold on the rope and I went under some of the old terror returned and my legs froze. It was three months before the tension began to slack. Then he taught me to put my face under water and exhale, and to raise my nose and inhale. I repeated the exercise hundreds of times. Bit by bit I shed part of the panic that seized me when my head went under water.

*(Deep Water)*

- i. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that the narrator is keen to be free from his fear. 1
- ii. What does the narrator talk about in the given extract? 1  
(a) He wanted to overcome his fears.  
(b) He never wanted to swim beyond the pool.  
(c) He lost his zeal to swim with time.  
(d) His efforts were half-hearted.
- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
The writer uses the phrase 'bit by bit' to refer to the regular and gradual efforts put in by him as \_\_\_\_.
- iv. What kind of act was the hiring of the instructor? 1
- v. What does the phrase 'I used every way I knew' refer to? 1
- vi. Which of the following options best suggests the central idea of the extract? 1  
(a) The anxiety of a swimmer  
(b) To overcome the fear of water  
(c) The importance of swimming  
(d) The importance of a swimmer

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**SOLUTIONS**



**Or**

- B.** “Since you have been so nice to me all day long, as if I was a captain, I want to be nice to you, in return, as if I was a real captain—for I do not want you to be embarrassed at this Christmas season by a thief; but you can give back the money to the old man on the roadside, who has the money pouch hanging on the window frame as a bait for poor wanderers.”

The rattrap is a Christmas present from a rat who would have been caught in this world’s rattrap if he had not been raised to captain, because in that way he got power to clear himself.

“Written with friendship and high regard, Captain von Stahle.”

*(The Rattrap)*

- i. Why did the peddler gift a rattrap as a Christmas present? 1
- ii. This communication includes 1
  - (a) a promise (b) regret
  - (c) an apology (d) (a) and (c)
- iii. What is the significance of the letter written to Edla? 1
- iv. Do you think the peddler would have changed if Edla would not have been nice to him? 1
- v. Which of the following CANNOT be attributed to the peddler, according to the above extract? 1
  - (a) Indebtedness (b) Reform
  - (c) Self-pity (d) Self-awareness
- vi. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
The peddler signs himself as Captain Von stable to \_\_\_\_\_.

- 10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words.  $5 \times 2 = 10$**

- i. Can you think of some possible reasons for the migration of people from village to city? Explain with reference to ‘Lost Spring’.
- ii. What made the peddler think that he had really fallen into a rattrap? *(The Rattrap)*
- iii. What is the significance of uncle’s ‘wedding band’? Why does Aunt Jennifer find it heavy? *(Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers)*
- iv. What spreads the pall of despondence over our dark spirits? How is it removed? *(A Thing of Beauty)*
- v. Why does Pablo Neruda count up to twelve and what is the purpose of this exercise? *(Keeping Quiet)*
- vi. Why was there a crowd in front of the bulletin-board at the town Hall? *(The Last Lesson)*

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**SOLUTIONS**

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.  $2 \times 2 = 4$

i. Why did the general spare the American soldier?

*(The Enemy)*

ii. What qualities of Mr Lamb attracted Derry to him?

*(On the Face of It)*

iii. Why could Charley not be convinced by his distractions that the third level was only a wish fulfilment?

*(The Third Level)*

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. **5**

A. Exploitation is a universal phenomenon. The poor indigo farmers were exploited by the British landlords to which Gandhiji objected. Even after our independence, we find exploitation of unorganized labour. What values do we learn from Gandhiji's campaign to counter the present day problems of exploitation? Imagine yourself to be a motivational speaker who has to address high school students. Write this address in about 120-150 words elaborating how the weak have always and at all times been the victims of injustice and exploitation.

*(Indigo)*

Or

B. Sophie lives in her fantasies. She hopes to make it big. You realise that the modern day youth are also like her. You decide to write an article about the need to dream and how it can prove to be harmful sometimes. You are Poorti from class XII.

*(Going Places)*

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. **5**

A. 'Knowing too much of your future is never a good thing.' In light of this quote, examine how knowing the future paved the way for the king's end.

*(The Tiger King)*

Or

B. "But this eating by formula was not the hardest trial in that first day", says Zitkala-Sa. What do you understand by 'eating by formula' and how did she find it a hard trial?

*(Memories of Childhood)*

□□□□□□

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**SOLUTIONS**

**Sample Paper 13**  
**Class XII Exam 2023-24**  
**English-Core (301)**

**Time Allowed : 3 Hrs.**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
  2. Attempt question based on specific instructions for each part.
- 

**SECTION A-READING SKILLS**

**22**

**Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages**

**1. Read the following text.**

**12**

1. While there is no denying that the world loves a winner, it is important that you recognise the signs of stress in your behaviour and be healthy enough to enjoy your success. Stress can strike anytime, in a fashion that may leave you unaware of its presence in your life. While a certain amount of pressure is necessary for performance, it is important to be able to recognise your individual limit.
2. Stress is a body reaction to any demands or changes in its internal and external environment. Whenever there is a change in the external environment such as temperature, pollutants, humidity and working conditions, it leads to stress. In these days of competition, when a person makes up his mind to surpass what has been achieved by others, there is an imbalance between demands and resources, which causes psycho-social stress.
3. Stress reduces productivity and pressure to the management of organisations. Today companies prefer women to men as employees because of the hope that they bring additional qualities such as innovation, patience and dedication in the workplace. But due to increased pressure for women both at the workplace and at home, they face stress. Thus, any employee will make the maximum effort and give the maximum contribution when kept happy and without any stress. Hence, to increase productivity, it is the responsibility of the employer to keep the employees free from stress. Hence, it is essential to take steps to minimise the effects of determinants of stress and help individuals and organisations evolve newer and more effective coping strategies.
4. Stress takes a different meaning, depending on the stage of life you are in. The loss of a toy or a reprimand from the parents might create a stress shock in a child. An adolescent who fails in examination may feel as if everything has been lost and life has no further meaning. In an adult, the loss of his or her companion, job or professional failure may appear as if there is nothing more to be achieved.
5. Such signs appear, in the attitude and behaviour of the individual, as muscle tension in various parts of the body, palpitation and high blood pressure, indigestion and hyperacidity. Ultimately the result is self-destructive behaviour such as eating and drinking too much, smoking excessively or relying on tranquilisers. There are other signs of stress such as trembling, shaking, nervous blinking, dryness of throat and mouth and difficulty in swallowing. The professional under stress behaves as if he is a perfectionist.

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**SOLUTIONS**

6. A person under stress reacts in different ways and the common ones are flight, fight or flee depending upon the nature of the stress and capabilities of the person. The three responses can be elegantly chosen to cope with stress so that stress does not damage the system and become distress.
7. When a stress crosses the limit peculiar to an individual, it lowers his performance capacity. Frequent crossings of the limit may result in chronic fatigue, in which a person feels lethargic, disinterested and is not easily motivated to achieve anything. This may make the person mentally undecided, confused and accident prone as well. Diet, massage, food supplements, herbal medicines, hobbies, relaxation techniques and dance movements are excellent stress busters.

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

- i. The writer would not agree with the given statements based on paragraph three EXCEPT 1
- (a) An employee will give an average contribution when kept happy and without stress.
  - (b) Women face stress only due to increased pressure at home.
  - (c) Stress increases productivity.
  - (d) To increase productivity the employer should keep his/her employees free from stress.
- ii. Complete the sentence by choosing an appropriate option. 1
- A certain amount of pressure is \_\_\_\_\_.
- (a) necessary for performance
  - (b) necessary for under performance
  - (c) not necessary for performance
  - (d) necessary for failure
- iii. List the symptoms of stress in individuals. Answer in about 40 words. 2
- iv. Complete the given sentence with an inference with respect to the following. 1
- The writer quotes the example of a child, an adolescent and an adult in Paragraph 5 in order to highlight that \_\_\_\_\_.
- v. Select the option that conveys the opposite of 'praise' from words used in Paragraph 5. 1
- (a) shock
  - (b) loss
  - (c) stage
  - (d) reprimand
- vi. What causes psycho-social stress? 1
- vii. When does 'chronic fatigue' occur? How does it affect a person? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- viii. Read the five descriptions (1)-(5), given below. 1
- How can the solutions suggested in the last paragraph best be described?
- (1) Practical
  - (2) Presentable
  - (3) Popular
  - (4) Prejudiced
  - (5) Given below.
- (a) only 1
  - (b) only 4
  - (c) 1, 2 and 5
  - (d) 2, 3 and 4

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**SOLUTIONS**

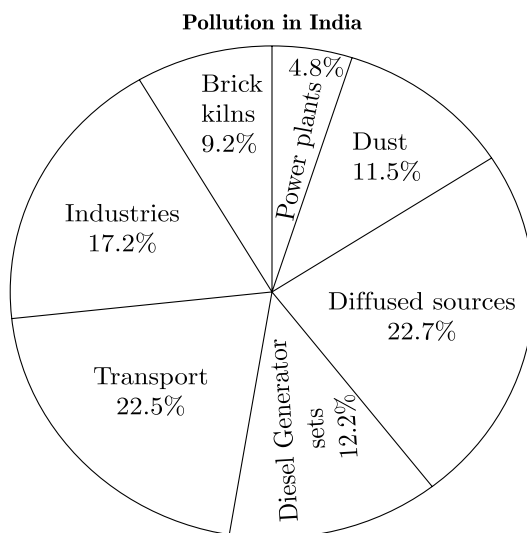
ix. List the ways in which a person under stress behaves. Answer in about 40 words.

2

**2. Read the following text.**

**10**

1. Air pollution is a major threat to human health. The United Nations Environment Programme has estimated that, globally, 1.1 billion people breathe in unhealthy air. The World Health Organization (WHO) has estimated that urban air pollution is responsible for approximately 800,000 deaths and 4.6 million people lose their lives every year around the globe.
2. Traffic and transportation problems, inadequate drainage facilities, lack of open spaces, carbon emission, and the accumulation of waste aggravate the problem. Air pollution is associated with increased risk of Acute respiratory Infections (ARI), the principal cause of infant and child mortality in developing countries.
3. Urban air quality in most mega cities has been found to be critical and Kolkata is no exception to this. An analysis of ambient air quality in Kolkata was done by applying the Exceedance Factor (EF) method, where the presence of listed pollutants' (RPM, SPM, NO, and SO<sub>2</sub>) annual average concentration are classified into four different categories; namely critical, high, moderate, and low pollution. Out of a total of 17 ambient air quality monitoring stations operating in Kolkata, five fall under the critical category, and the remaining 12 locations fall under the high category of NO<sub>2</sub> concentration, while for RPM, four record critical, and 13 come under the high pollution category. The causes of high concentration of pollutants in the form of NO, and RPM have been identified in earlier studies vehicular emission (51.4%), followed by industrial sources (24.5%) and dust particles (21.1%).
4. Later, a health assessment was undertaken with a structured questionnaire at some nearby dispensaries which fall under areas with different ambient air pollution levels. Three dispensaries have been surveyed with 100 participants. It shows that respondents with respiratory diseases (85.1%) have outnumbered waterborne diseases (14.9%) and include acute respiratory infections (ARI) (60%), chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases (COPD) (7.8%), upper tract respiratory infection (UTRD) (1.2%), Influenza (12.7%), and acid-fast bacillus (AFB) (3.4%).
5. To live a healthy life and have better well-being, practising pollution averting activities in one's day-to-day activities is needed. These pollution averting practices can only be possible when awareness among the masses is generated that the air they breathe outdoors is not found to be safe.



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**SOLUTIONS**

**Answer the following questions, based on the given passage.**

- i. Infer main idea of the survey in about 40 words, highlighted in the given passage. 2
- ii. Select the option that displays the correct 'cause and effect' relationship. 1
- (a) Cause : air pollution :: effect respiratory diseases
  - (b) Cause : lack of open spaces :: effect : mega cities
  - (c) Cause: traffic and transportation problem :: effect : 4.6 million deaths
  - (d) Cause : air quality monitoring stations :: effect : emission of NO<sub>2</sub>
- iii. How many people lose their lives due to air pollution every year in India? 1
- iv. Identify the person suffering from a disease caused due to air pollution. 1
- (a) Roshani – I'm suffering from fever since last week.
  - (b) Ciara – I'm suffering from baldness.
  - (c) Hamid – I'm suffering from respiratory disorders.
- v. Which of the following is the correct opinion of the researcher on the development of mega cities? 1
- (a) Mega cities are the right spots to study air pollution.
  - (b) Urbanization leads to deterioration of air quality.
  - (c) Cities face transportation problems due to heavy traffic.
  - (d) Cities face the problem of congestion.
- vi. What is the recommendation to the readers from researcher's point of view? Answer in about 40 words 2.
- vii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
- Pollution caused by transports is much more than \_\_\_\_\_.
- viii. State TRUE or FALSE. 1
- The use of diesel generator is responsible for more than fifty per cent of air pollution.

**SECTION B- CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS****18**

*Note : All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.*

3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4
- A. You are Sapna Singh, the Secretary of Cultural Committee of your school. Write a notice in about 50 words inviting students to participate in the Annual Day of the school to be organized next month.
- Or**
- B. You are Man/Mani, secretary of the History Club of K.V. Sr. Sec. School, Badodhra. Draft a notice in not more than 50 words informing the students of class XI and XII about a proposed tour to Rajasthan during the coming summer vacations.

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**SOLUTIONS**

**4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4**

- A. Your school is going to hold its Annual Day celebrations on 18th August at Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi. You want Mr. Arjun Singh, a noted playback singer to be the chief guest on this occasion. Write a formal invitation in about 50 words requesting him to preside over the function. You are Raman/Rani, Headmistress, Don Bosco School, New Delhi.

**Or**

- B. You are opening a coaching institute for students of classes IX-XII. Write an informal invitation, inviting your best friend for its inauguration. Do not exceed more than 50 words. Invent necessary details.

**5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A. You are Pushpit/Pushpa Pandey of 62 B, Mayur Vihar, Delhi. Write a letter to the editor of the Hindustan Times about 'Misuse of Computers, TV and Mobile Phones by Children'.

**Or**

- B. You are Rohini/Rohit. You have seen an advertisement for the post of an English Teacher in Khetan Public School, Raipur. Write a letter in response to the advertisement applying for the post. Give your detailed resume. Invent necessary details.

**6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A. You are extremely disturbed by the growing crime against the elderly people in your city. Write an article commenting upon the reasons for such crimes and how one can prevent them. Sign yourself as Khoshali Bhardwaj.

**Or**

- B. Write a report in 120-150 words for your school magazine describing the prize distribution ceremony that was held to honour the academic achievers of class XII of the previous year.

**SECTION C- LITERATURE 40****7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

- A. "The hurt to the scenery wouldn't be my complaint  
So much as the trusting sorrow of what is unsaid:  
Here far from the city we make our roadside stand  
And ask for some city money to feel in hand  
To try if it will not make our being expand,  
And give us the life of the moving-pictures' promise  
That the party in power is said to be keeping from us."

*(A Roadside Stand)*

- i. Fill in the blank with reference to the context. 1

The roadside stand was made by the \_\_\_\_\_ and it was \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) poor people, far from the city (b) villagers, at their courtyards  
(c) city people, near their houses (d) local people, on the mountains

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**SOLUTIONS**

- ii. Identify the phrase from the extract that suggests the following. The poet does not want to accuse the rustics of spoiling the beauty of the landscape. 1
- iii. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE. 1  
The city people wanted to feel the money in their hands.
- iv. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
The promise made by the government was that \_\_\_\_\_.
- v. Do you think that the promise made by the government was fulfilled? 1
- vi. What wouldn't be the poet's complaint? 1
- (a) The hurt to the scenery (b) The beauty of people  
(c) The beauty of nature (d) The hurt to the buildings

**Or**

- B. Perhaps the Earth can teach us  
as when everything seems dead  
and later proves to be alive.  
Now I'll count up to twelve  
and you keep quiet and I will go.

*(Keeping Quiet)*

- i. Which poetic device has been used in the second line of the extract? 1
- (a) Metaphor (b) Transferred epithet  
(c) Alliteration (d) Paradox
- ii. Identify the tone of the poem in the first line of the extract. 1
- iii. The poet uses a conversational style and personal pronouns 'you', 'we' and 'I' because \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- (a) he wants us to be friendly with the whole mankind  
(b) he tries to reach out to the reader  
(c) he wants to establish contacts easily  
(d) third person talking is ineffective
- iv. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extracts. 1  
The Earth can teach us that there is no life under apparent stillness.
- v. Identify the phrase from the extract that suggests the following. 1  
The poet thinks that he has said what he intended to say.
- vi. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
The poet wants to convey the message that \_\_\_\_\_.

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**SOLUTIONS**



**8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 4**

**A.** DERRY : How could I? You pass people in the street and you might even speak to them, but you never see them again. It doesn't mean they're friends.

MR LAMB : Doesn't mean they're enemies, either does it?

DERRY : No, they're just... nothing. People. That's all.

MR LAMB : People are never just nothing. Never.

DERRY There are some people I hate.

MR LAMB : That'd do you more harm than any bottle of acid. Acid only burns your face.

*(On the Face of It)*

- i. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
The author's purpose in using contractions, is to \_\_\_\_\_.
- ii. In the given extract, select the option that best summarises Derry's attitude towards others. 1
  - (a) His pessimism was hurting him more than acid.
  - (b) His optimism was hurting him more than acid.
  - (c) His acid was hurting him more than his optimism.
  - (d) His acid was hurting him more than his pessimism.
- iii. Derry says, 'I won't change'. Why does Derry say so? 1
- iv. How is the line, "DERRY : No, they're just...nothing. People. That's all." How would you describe Derry and Mr Lamb in the extract? 1

**Or**

**B.** My elder brother was there. I told him the story in all its comic detail. I fell about with laughter at the memory of a big man, and an elder at that, making such a game out of carrying the parcel. But Annan was not amused. Annan told me the man wasn't being funny when he carried the package like that. He said everybody believed that they were upper caste and therefore must not touch us.

*(Memories of Childhood)*

- i. Complete the sentence appropriately, with reference to the extract. 1  
The story referred in the extract is about \_\_\_\_\_.
- ii. Why was Annan not amused? 1
- iii. Select the most suitable title for the given extract. 1
  - (a) The Wise Brother
  - (b) The Unsuspecting Girl
  - (c) The Caste System
  - (d) The Reality of Castes
- iv. Bama's innocence was lost when she came face to face with the ugly truth of racial discrimination. Do you agree? 1

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**SOLUTIONS**

**9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

- A.** I swam the crawl, breast stroke, side stroke, and back stroke. Only once did the terror return. When I was in the middle of the lake, I put my face under and saw nothing but bottomless water. The old sensation returned in miniature. I laughed and said, “Well, Mr Terror, what do you think you can do to me?” It fled and I swam on.

Yet I had residual doubts. At my first opportunity I hurried west, went up the Tieton to Conrad Meadows, up the Conrad Creek Trail to Meade Glacier, and camped in the high meadow by the side of Warm Lake. The next morning I stripped, dived into the lake, and swam across to the other shore and back – just as Doug Corpron used to do. I shouted with joy, and Gilbert Peak returned the echo. I had conquered my fear of water.

(*Deep Water*)

- i. List what theme is followed in the given extract? 1
- ii. What do you think the given extract dealt with? 1
 

(a) Doug Corpron	(b) Deep Water
(c) Conquering over fear	(d) Gilbert Peak
- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
The lesson focused on the fact that \_\_\_\_\_ must never be treated lightly.
- iv. Pick out an evidence from the text that helps one infer that the protagonist has overcome his fear. 1
- v. What does the term ‘Mr Terror’ refer to? 1
- vi. Which of the following best suggests the appropriateness of the title? 1
 

(a) He even took the services of an instructor.	(b) The author’s fear was a deep-rooted one.
(c) To overcome his fear, he visited oceans.	(d) He was once nearly drowned.

**Or**

- B.** “The official inquiry assembled a crushing mountain of evidence against the big planters, and when they saw this they agreed, in principle, to make refunds to the peasants. “But how much must we pay?” They asked Gandhi. They thought he would demand repayment in full of the money which they had illegally and deceitfully extorted from the sharecroppers. He asked only 50 per cent. “There he seemed adamant,” writes Reverend JZ Hodge, a British missionary in Champaran who observed the entire episode at close range. “Thinking probably that he would not give way, the representative of the planters offered to refund to the extent of 25 per cent, and to his amazement Mr. Gandhi took him at his word, thus, breaking the deadlock”

(*Indigo*)

- i. Why did the servants consider Gandhiji to be another peasant? 1
- ii. The line, “They thought he would demand repayment in full of the money which they had illegally and deceitfully extorted from the sharecroppers,” can be classified as: 1
 

(a) a research	(b) an opinion
(c) a fact	(d) a theme

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**SOLUTIONS**

- iii. Explain any one inference that can be drawn from the line, “The official inquiry assembled plenty of traces against the big planters, and when they saw this they agreed, in principle, to make refunds to the peasants.” 1
- iv. Rationalize to support the given opinion, “There he seemed adamant,” writes Reverend J. Z. Hodge, a British missionary in Champaran who observed the entire episode at close range. 1
- v. What did the officials think about the refunds to the peasants? 1
- (a) Gandhiji would demand repayment in full of money.
- (b) Gandhiji would demand nothing.
- (c) Gandhiji would demand repayment in 25%.
- (d) Gandhiji would take strict action.
- vi. Complete the sentence with ONE word. 1
- The big planters were agreed to refund \_\_\_\_\_ share.

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words.  $5 \times 2 = 10$

- i. What, according to M. Hamel, was the outcome of the neglect of the French language in the region?  
(*The Last Lesson*)
- ii. What are the differences in the ambitions of Saheb and Mukesh?  
(*Lost Spring*)
- iii. What are the beauties of nature that the poet mentions in ‘A Thing of Beauty’? Why are they an everlasting source of joy?
- iv. Aunt Jennifer’s fingers fluttering through her wool find even the ivory needle hard to pull. Why?  
(*Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers*)
- v. Why is Rajkumar Shukla described as being ‘resolute’?  
(*Indigo*)
- vi. How would the innocent be soothed out of their wits?  
(*A Roadside Stand*)

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.  $2 \times 2 = 4$

- i. What kind of relationship did Dr. Sadao Hoki share with his father?  
(*The Enemy*)
- ii. Why did the Maharaja order the Dewan to double the land tax?  
(*The Tiger King*)
- iii. What happened to the narrator’s psychiatrist friend Sam Weiner? What do you deduce from it?  
(*The Third Level*)

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**SOLUTIONS**

**12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5**

**A.** What does the poet want to convey through the poem, 'My Mother at Sixty-six' ?

**Or**

**B.** "The Rattrap" is a lesson which shows that basic human goodness can be brought out by understanding and love. Do you think this is practical in approach?

Imagine yourself to be a motivational speaker who has to address high school students. Write this address in about 120-150 words.

**13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5**

**A.** Dr. Sadao was compelled by duty as a doctor to help the enemy soldier. What made Hana, his wife, sympathetic to him in the face of open defiance from the domestic staff? You wish to include a cameo for the above statement's explanation in your upcoming blog post. (A short description that neatly encapsulates someone or something)

As a part of the research, discuss the statement in relation to 'The Enemy' in about 120-150 words.

*(The Enemy)*

**Or**

**B.** The title "Journey to the End of the Earth" is quite justified.

Imagine yourself Tishani Doshi, and express your thoughts about its justification.

□□□□□□

**Sample Paper 14**  
**Class XII Exam 2023-24**  
**English-Core (301)**

**Time Allowed : 3 Hrs.**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
  2. Attempt question based on specific instructions for each part.
- 

**SECTION A-READING SKILLS**

**22**

**Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages**

**1. Read the following text.**

**12**

1. In India, the performing arts are closely associated with every aspect of people's lives. Dance, music and song are associated with the occupation of people such as harvesting, sowing, fishing, grinding of grain as also with celebrating the seasons or describing nature such as animals, birds and flowers.
2. Bihu dance, a seasonal festival celebrated by the farmers in Assam, centres around the agricultural activity of the region. Rows of dancers move backwards and forwards showing the transplanting of paddy and the harvesting of rice. Simple rhythms, body movements in perfect synchronisation and the costumes add to the beauty of the dance.
3. The Wangala dance is performed by women who create formations of circles and semi-circles dancing to rhythm which is provided on large horizontal drums played by men.
4. In the Chang Lo dance of Nagaland, men and women gather together in community tribal dances that strengthen the bonds of relationships. The movements of the dance begin with a slow pace gradually becoming faster to the beat of drums. The dancers create formations of circles and semi-circles, all of them following the same steps.
5. The origin of the martial dance of Manipur is associated with the myth of creation. Most of the practitioners of martial arts learn and perform with both spear and sword.
6. The Bhutia is a community in Sikkim having their distinct culture, religion, tradition, custom and language. Their dance is called Shabdo, the brisk movement of feet. Their songs describe the natural beauty of the land, holy lakes, sacred caves, serene monasteries, and rich flora and fauna.
7. Chu Faat or Lepcha dance also belongs to Sikkim. The literary meaning of Chu Faat is the worship of snowy range. This age-old folk dance is performed in the honour of Mount Kanchenjunga, the third highest mountain. Carrying butter lamps and green bamboo leaves, the dancers perform this dance to the accompaniment of songs.
8. Chakri, the most popular group song form of Kashmir's folk music, is sung to the accompaniment of the nout (geger), ruhab, sarangi and tumbaknaer – an earthen pot with a high neck.
9. Nati is a common name given to many types of dances performed in Himachal Pradesh. During the Dussehra festival which is very popular in Himachal Pradesh, the temple deities are taken out in procession in Kulu with gods accompanied by dancers and musicians.

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**SOLUTIONS**

10. The Bhangra dance of Punjab is performed after harvesting to celebrate the fruit of their labour and hard work. Vigorous movements and simple acrobatics are accompanied by the drum beat.
11. In the Munda tribal dance of Jharkhand, the Munda women form a chain by linking arms around one another's waists and move in unison to the beat of the drums played by the Munda men.
12. In India there are three types of Chhau dances practised in Orissa, Bihar and West Bengal.

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

- i. Select the option that describes the movements of Wangala dance. 1
  - (a) Formation of circles and semi-circles all to the beat of large horizontal drums.
  - (b) Formation of semi-circles and then making larger circles all to the rhythm of the Wangala drum.
  - (c) Formation of circles within semi-circles, while dancing.
  - (d) Formation of horizontal lines all to the beat of circular and semi-circular drums.
- ii. Which of the following statements is relevant to the context? 1  
The Indian lifestyle is contextualised around \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (a) the occupations during festivals and for describing their natures
  - (b) the occupations of people, their celebrations and their descriptions of nature
  - (c) dance, music and song for all seasons
  - (d) the occupations of dancing, singing and celebrating on every opportunity
- iii. State how the dances of the Lepchas and the Bhutias differ from those of the northeast of India in about 40 words. 2
- iv. Complete the sentence appropriately with a characteristic or its description. 1  
The subject matter of the passage indicates \_\_\_\_\_.
- v. Select the option that is similar in meaning to 'vigorous.' 1
  - (a) robust
  - (b) feeble
  - (c) accompaniment
  - (d) popular
- vi. State how the Manipur dance differs from other dance forms of this region. Answer in about 40 words. 2
- vii. In the line, "In India, the performing art are closely associated with every aspect of people's lives." What does 'aspect' mean here? 1
- viii. How does the following, impact the reader? 2  
"Bihu dance, a seasonal festival celebrated by the farmers in Assam, centres around the agricultural activity of the region."  
Answer in about 40 words.

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**SOLUTIONS**

ix. Read the five options (1)-(5) given below.

1

- (1) Performing arts - associated with every aspect of people's lives
- (2) Performing arts - not a good thing
- (3) Dance - a way of bonding
- (4) Dance - not related to movement
- (5) Dance - only materialistic

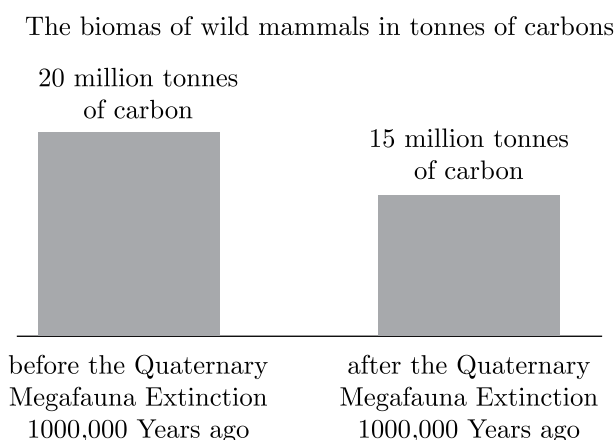
Identify the option that corresponds with the above passage.

- (a) (1) and (2)
- (b) (1) and (3)
- (c) (4) and (5)
- (d) (3) and (4)

2. Read the following text.

10

1. To understand how the richness of the mammal kingdom has changed, we need a metric that captures a range of different animals and is comparable over time. We could look at their abundance-the number of individuals we have-but this is not ideal. We would be counting every species equally, from a mouse to an elephant, and this metric would therefore make an ecosystem taken over by the smallest mammals look much richer than one in which bigger mammals roam. If the world's mouse populations multiplied and multiplied-maybe even to the detriment of other animals-then this abundance metric might suggest that these ecosystems were thriving.
2. Instead, ecologists often use metric biomass. This means that each animal is measured in tons of carbon, the fundamental building block of life. Biomass gives us a measure of the total biological productivity of an ecosystem.
3. If we go back to around 100,000 years ago-a time when there were very few early humans and only in Africa-all of the wild land mammals on Earth summed up to around 20 million tonnes of carbon. This is shown as the first column in the chart. The mammoths, European lions, and ground sloths were all part of this. By around 10,000 years ago, we saw a huge decline in wild mammals. This is shown in the second column.



4. It wasn't just that we lost a lot of mammals. It was almost exclusively the world's largest mammals that vanished. This big decline of mammals is referred to as the Quaternary Megafauna Extinction (QME). The QME led to the extinction of more than 178 of the world's large mammals ('megafauna').

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**SOLUTIONS**

5. Many researchers have grappled with the question of what caused the QME. Most evidence now points towards humans as the primary driver. Most of this human impact came through hunting. There might also have been smaller local impacts through fire and other changes to natural landscapes. When our ancestors arrived in Europe, the European megafauna went extinct; when they arrived in North America, the mammoths went extinct; then down to South America, the same.
6. What's most shocking is how few humans were responsible for this large-scale destruction of wildlife. There were likely fewer than 5 million people in the world. Around half the population of London today.
7. A global population half the size of London helped drive tens to hundreds of the world's largest mammals to extinction. The per capita impact of our hunter-gatherer ancestors was huge. The romantic idea that our hunter-gatherer ancestors lived in harmony with nature is deeply flawed. Humans have never been 'in balance' with nature. Tracing the footsteps of our ancestors will help reveal the level of extinction.

**Answer the following questions, based on given passage.**

- i. The writer states, 'Humans have never been in balance with nature. What do you understand by this? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- ii. The writer used the term 'metric' to refer to \_\_\_\_\_. 1
  - (a) a degree of temperature
  - (b) a degree of education
  - (c) a degree of measurement
  - (d) a degree of freedom
- iii. What do you think is the main theme of the given passage? 1
  - (a) Humans are the primary cause of most mammal extinction.
  - (b) Humans deserve to live longer than most mammals.
  - (c) The Quaternary Megafauna Extinction is a result of time lapse.
- iv. What are the main causes of mammal extinction in nature? 1
  1. weakness
  2. hunting
  3. natural causes
  4. fire
  5. accidents
  - (a) 1, 2, and 3
  - (b) 1 and 4
  - (c) 2, 3 and 4
  - (d) 1, 3 and 4
- v. What is the QME? 1
- vi. Consider the statement : 1  
 When our ancestors arrived in Europe, the European megafauna went extinct; when they arrived in North America, the mammoths went extinct; then down to South America, the same.  
 What can you infer from this statement?
- vii. State whether TRUE or FALSE. 1  
 Based on the two columns, it can be seen that there is a 5 million tons of carbon decline in the biomass of mammals.

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**SOLUTIONS**



- viii. What do you think the writer meant when using the word 'romantic idea to refer to the relationship of humans with nature? Answer in about 40 words. 2

### SECTION B- CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

18

*Note : All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.*

3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4

- A. You, as the School Secretary of the Social Service Club, have to write a notice to be put up on the school noticeboard regarding the need to raise funds for lepers in your city. Funds collected will be sent to the Red Cross, New Delhi. Each donor will be issued a formal receipt for the donation. The Red Cross will award a Red Cross to the donor donating more than ₹500.

Or

- B. You are Jairam Reddy, the Head of the English Club. On the occasion of the International Day of English Language, your school has decided to organize English Week. You are required to call a meeting of the officer bearers of the English Language Club to plan arrangements for the event. Draft a notice for the same.

4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4

- A. Your parents have completed 25 years of happy married life. Invite your uncle, living in Surat, to join you in the silver jubilee celebrations of their marriage at your residence C-4/Sector 9, Kumar Enclave, Sagar.

Or

- B. You are Sunil/Sunita Bhasin, a celebrated illustrator. You have been invited by the literacy club, S.K. School, Jaipur, to deliver a lecture on 'Life Skills'. Draft a letter of formal acceptance of the invitation in about 50 words. Address it to the Director of the school.

5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5

- A. You are Anushka/Amit staying at A-23/1, Ashok Nagar, Delhi. You find it disturbing that despite a ban on smoking in public places, people are seen smoking in cities. It shows a lack of civic sense in the people. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily expressing your concern about indifference of people to their own as well as others' health. It is harmful to the environment too. Suggest some ways to sensitize city dwellers about the safe environment.

Or

- B. You see a classified advertisement in a leading daily inviting application for the post of an accountant. Write a letter along with resume in 120-150 words to the Manager, Rockfield Pvt. Ltd., Bhopal, offering your candidature.  
You are Raman Mehta/Reshma Mehta.

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**SOLUTIONS**

**6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A.** You are Priya/ Piyush. You find illiteracy as the biggest impediment to the development of a nation. You strongly believe that education can play a very important role in the progress of a country. Write an article in 120-150 words on 'Education—The Biggest Tool of Progress'.

**Or**

- B.** Vidya Bhawan Senior Secondary School, Noida, recently organised a 3-day environment awareness camp for the students to be prefects/monitors. Write a report about the same in 120-150 words for the school magazine.

**SECTION C- LITERATURE****40****7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

- A.** Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen.  
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.  
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;  
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.  
Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool  
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.  
The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band  
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.

*(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)*

- i.** What is the tone of the poet in the given lines? 1  
 (a) Sarcastic and tolerant (b) Sympathetic  
 (c) Wondrous (d) None of these
- ii.** Identify the phrase from the extract that suggests the following 1  
 The tigers are fearless, graceful and beautiful.
- iii.** What quality of Aunt Jennifer can be inferred from the given lines? 1  
 (a) Meek (b) Artistic  
 (c) Old (d) Both (a) and (b)
- iv.** State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract. 1  
 Aunt Jennifer's fingers are shaking because of her old age.
- v.** What do Aunt Jennifer's tigers not fear? 1
- vi.** Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
 '\_\_\_\_\_ Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand' implies that Aunt Jennifer \_\_\_\_\_.

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**Or**

- B.** For once on the face of the Earth  
let's not speak in any language,  
let's stop for one second,  
and not move our arms so much.  
It would be an exotic moment  
without rush, without engines,  
we would all be together  
in a sudden strangeness.

*(Keeping Quiet)*

- i. Why does the poet use the word 'let's'? 1
  - (a) To welcome readers into the world of the poem and its subject
  - (b) To invite readers as part of the poem's larger call to humanity
  - (c) To initiate a conversation between the poet and the readers
  - (d) To address readers as fellow members of the human race
- ii. Why is there a reference to language in the given extract? 1
  - (a) To mention propaganda (b) To mention miscommunication
  - (c) To mention verbal violence (d) Both (a) and (c)
- iii. Why do you think the poet employs words like 'exotic' and 'strangeness'? 1
- iv. State TRUE or FALSE. 1  
Poet vouches against violence.
- v. What is the poet propagating, through the given lines. 1
- vi. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
By 'arms', we mean \_\_\_\_\_.

- 8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 4**

**A.** DERRY : Things.

MR LAMB : It's all relative. Beauty and the beast.

DERRY : What's that supposed to mean?

MR LAMB : You tell me.

DERRY : You needn't think they haven't all told me that fair), story before. 'It's not what you look like, it's what you are inside. Handsome is as handsome does. Beauty loved the monstrous beast for himself and when she kissed him, he changed into a handsome prince.' Only he wouldn't, he'd have stayed a monstrous beast. I won't change.

MR LAMB : In that way? No, you won't.

*(On the Face of It)*

- i. What is the playwright's purpose of using contractions in the extract? 1

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**SOLUTIONS**

- ii. What is Derry's attitude towards other people? 1
- (a) This is his acid was hurting him more than his optimism.
- (b) This is his optimism was hurting him more than acid.
- (c) This is his pessimism was hurting him more than acid.
- (d) This is his acid was hurting him more than his pessimism.
- iii. The phrase 'handsome is as handsome does' means that \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- iv. Give one reason why does the narrator use various symbols and imageries borrowed from nature. 1

Or

- B. Students on Ice, the programme I was working with on the Shokalskiy, aims to do exactly this by taking high school students to the ends of the world and providing them with inspiring educational opportunities which will help them foster a new understanding and respect for our planet. It's been in operation for six years now, headed by Canadian Geoff Green, who got tired of carting celebrities and retired, rich, curiosity-seekers who could only 'give' back in a limited way. With Students on Ice, he offers the future generation of policy-makers a life-changing experience at an age when they're ready to absorb, learn, and most importantly, act.

*(Journey to the End of the Earth)*

- i. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
- 'Students on Ice' is an award winning programme offering unique learning expeditions in the \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- ii. In the given extract, which is NOT an indication for the future of humankind, as per the extract? 1
- (a) Depletion of ozone layer (b) Emission of CO<sub>2</sub> and other poisonous gases
- (c) Global warming (d) Decreased temperature
- iii. What is the aim of the students on ice programme? Discuss. 1
- iv. Why is a visit to Antarctica important to realize the effect of global warming? 1

**9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

- A. "Why aren't you wearing chappals?" I ask one.
- "My mother did not bring them down from the shelf," he answers simply.
- "Even if she did he will throw them off," adds another who is wearing shoes that do not match. When I comment on it, he shuffles his feet and says nothing. "I want shoes", says a third boy who has never owned a pair all his life. Travelling across the country I have seen children walking barefoot, in cities, on village roads. It is not lack of money but a tradition to stay barefoot, is one explanation. I wonder if this is only an excuse to explain away a perpetual state of poverty.

*(Lost Spring)*

- i. What is an excuse to explain away a perpetual state of poverty? 1
- ii. Select the option that completes the given sentence appropriately. 1
- In the statement 'I want shoes', the boy is \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- (a) sorrowful (b) wishful
- (c) hopeful (d) perplexed

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**SOLUTIONS**

- iii. Complete the sentence with appropriately. 1  
We as readers can sympathise with the boys because \_\_\_\_.
- iv. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that narrator knows the reality behind the boys not wearing any chappals. 1
- v. How would you judge the act of shuffling by the boy? 1
- vi. Select the correct option to fill in the blank. 1  
When the narrator comments on unmatched shoes, he \_\_\_\_  
(a) shuffles his shoes without responding (b) hides behind the other boys  
(c) changes his shoes (d) rebukes the narrator and mocks her dress

Or

- B. They had merely heard that a Mahatma who wanted to help them was in trouble with the authorities. Their spontaneous demonstration, in thousands, around the courthouse was the beginning of their liberation from fear of the British. The officials felt powerless without Gandhi's cooperation. He helped them regulate the crowd. He was polite and friendly. He was giving concrete proof that their might, hitherto dreaded and unquestioned, could be challenged by Indians. The government was baffled. The prosecutor requested the judge to postpone the trial. Apparently, the authorities wished to consult their superiors.

(Indigo)

- i. List details about Gandhi's protest in this extract. 1
- ii. Why did the officials feel powerless? 1  
(a) Because the crowd was listening only to Gandhi.  
(b) Because of Gandhi's polite and friendly behaviour.  
(c) Because of Gandhi's refusal to cooperate with them.  
(d) The crowd was getting violent.
- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
Gandhi's protest in Champaran is most appropriately a great model of \_\_\_\_.
- iv. What style is being used by the author when he says, "Apparently, the authorities wished to consult their superiors"? 1
- v. What was the beginning of the liberation of Indians from the British rule? 1
- vi. Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the extract? 1  
(a) The tyranny of the British officials  
(b) Gandhi's leadership quality  
(c) Postponement of trial  
(d) The friendly behaviour of Gandhiji

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**SOLUTIONS**

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words.  $5 \times 2 = 10$

- i. Describe the events of the last lesson that M. Hamel conducted with his class.  
(The Last Lesson)
- ii. Why did the poet think of young trees and merry children? How did it connect with her childhood fear?  
(My Mother at Sixty-Six)
- iii. What are the different kinds of war mentioned in the poem that the poet is against?  
(Keeping Quiet)
- iv. What made the peddler think that he had indeed fallen into a rattrap?  
(The Rattrap)
- v. Why did Gandhi agree to the settlement of 25% per cent refund to the farmers?  
(Indigo)
- vi. What is the poet's complaint in the poem "A Roadside Stand"?

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.  $2 \times 2 = 4$

- i. How does Mr. Lamb keep himself busy when it is bit cool?  
(On the Face of It)
- ii. In what context Hana remembers the cruel nature of General Takima?  
(The Enemy)
- iii. What do you infer from Sam's letter to Charley?  
(The Third Level)

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. **5**

- A. M. Hamel was dressed formally as a mark of honour to his last lesson. He had served the institution for forty years wholeheartedly. The villagers had come to display their respect for the country which was another's from now onwards.  
After reading 'The Last Lesson', can you compare any of your teachers with M Hamel? What values did she/he possess that every teacher should be endowed with? Are you a true patriot? Can you be one of those villagers?

Or

- B. 'A Thing of beauty is a joy forever.' This is what John Keats says in the poem. Do you think in the present times of acute stress and violence, proximity to beautiful things can lead man to everlasting happiness? Discuss.  
(A Thing of Beauty)

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. **5**

- A. 'Being human is the greatest virtue and treating an enemy is not a sin.'  
As a part of the research, discuss the statement in relation to the lesson 'The Enemy' in about 120-150 words.

Or

- B. How did the prediction of chief astrologer come true, though The Tiger King had killed the hundred tigers? Write a short paragraph in about 120-150 words with reference to the lesson "The Tiger King".

□□□□□□

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**SOLUTIONS**

**Sample Paper 15**  
**Class XII Exam 2023-24**  
**English-Core (301)**

**Time Allowed : 3 Hrs.**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
  2. Attempt question based on specific instructions for each part.
- 

**SECTION A-READING SKILLS**

**22**

**Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages**

**1. Read the following text.**

**12**

1. It was the city's first indoor play park of its kind. Like a good mother, I was sceptical of virtually every aspect of it. How could it succeed? Why should it succeed? How would a set of contraptions in a room hold the attention of today's children? Don't call me paranoid: I stood with dozens of mothers in similar states of quandary while the cheerful staff whisked away the curious kids for an hour. "I thought she blew the whistle after 15 minutes," huffed the pre-teen when she returned.
2. The manager came up to me. "I told you, the child would have a blast," she laughed. And explained, "There are hardly any parks in our cities." She meant, hardly anywhere children can be themselves and like a Maria in 'The Sound of Music', where they could climb a tree, scrap their knees and tear their dresses. Most of the recreation now is limited to electronic activity and given half a chance, children would jump for something more physically explorative. Even if it is simple stuff like climbing, whizzing down and jumping on a trampoline.
3. Latest research shows that computer games slow down brain development. The 'in' thing till yesterday, they are 'out' today. Says Nandita Sharma, parent of a well-adjusted teenager, "Any mother can tell that standing at a console juggling a joy-stick isn't conducive to physical relaxation. I rationed Karan's hours at the video games and made sure he spent evenings with his friends in the little space outside the house." Nandita was also afraid that the bright lights of computer games could hurt young eyes. Nor did she like the topic most of the games are based on. "There's just too much violence and fast activity. I know my kid can't lag behind in today's world and computer games certainly sharpen reflexes, but I wish the games would be more interactive and socially inclusive."
4. Indeed, apart from making a zombie out of the child, research indicates that computer games only stimulate activity in the parts of the brain associated with vision and movement. It can also lead the child to be more violent. The lack of mental calisthenics curbs their agility in controlling their response to an unsavoury situation.
5. Moreover, most electronic games isolate the child from the group fun of playing outdoors. Playing with peers and taking a toss or two appreciably strengthens the child's tolerance of others. This behaviour is governed by the frontal lobe, which continues to develop in humans till about 20 years. The more this lobe is exercised during moments of restraint, the more the fibres connecting the neurons in this part of the brain thicken, improving the individual's control of reactions. Playing electronic games, research shows does not encourage the development of this lobe.

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**SOLUTIONS**

6. So now parents know what to do-put away the placebos. After school and home assignment hours, the best thing they could do for their kid is invite his friends home and roll the carpet away!

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

- i. The author was paranoid about the indoor play park because \_\_\_\_\_. 1  
(a) it could never provide the feeding of playing in a real park  
(b) it would not engage the children  
(c) she felt that the children may not like it  
(d) she was worried about her child
- ii. The writer would not agree with the given statements, based on paragraph 4, EXCEPT. 1  
(a) Computer games aid a child's agility in controlling their response to an unsavoury situation.  
(b) A child becomes a zombie if he/she plays computer games.  
(c) Computer games make a child more violent.  
(d) Computer games stimulate activity in the brain associated with vision and movement.
- iii. Comment on the writer's reference to computer games in paragraph 3, as a health problem for children. Answer in about 40 words. 2
- iv. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
Most computer games isolate a child from the group fun of playing outdoor games. As a result, the child becomes \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- v. Select the most suitable title for the above passage. 1  
(a) Say No to Overindulgence in Gadgets (b) The Side Effects of Computer Games  
(c) The Indoor Park (d) The Play Park
- vi. List two reasons why parents prefer outdoor physical activity for their children in comparison to video games. Answer in about 40 words. 2
- vii. In the line, "...behaviour is governed by the frontal lobe \_\_\_\_\_", describe the role of the frontal lobe as explained in the passage. 1
- viii. The given passage posits that the 'indoor play park' was a hit. Based on your understanding, state the reason for this success. Answer in about 40 words. 2
- ix. Read the five words (1)-(5), given below : 1  
(1) Quandary  
(2) Aspect  
(3) Paranoid  
(4) Sceptical  
(5) Attention  
Select the option that conveys the synonym of 'doubtful' from words used in paragraph 1.  
(a) only 1 (b) 2 and 5  
(c) only 4 (d) 3 and 4

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**SOLUTIONS**

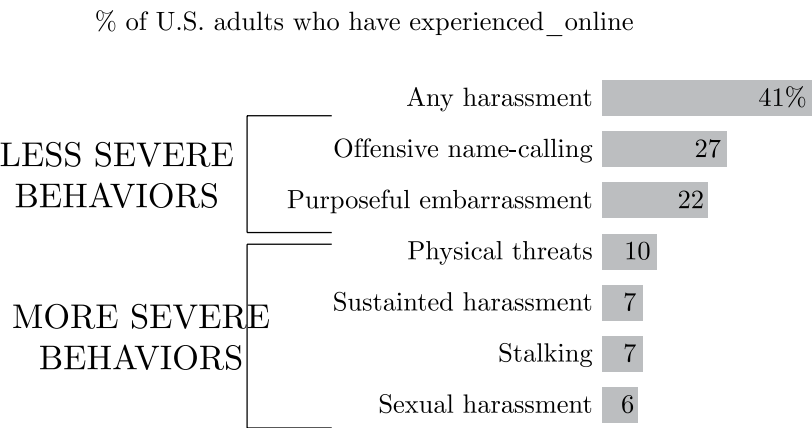


2. Read the following text.

10

1. The internet offers anonymity that makes life easier for bullies. As both research and common sense attest, allowing users to hide their identity abets abuse. If you use the internet, the odds are about even that you’ll be mistreated there. A 2021 Pew Research report found that 41 per cent of US adults have personally experienced online harassment. Fifty-five per cent think it is a “major problem.” Seventy-five per cent victims say that their most recent experience was on social media. It is akin to driving in rush-hour traffic—exposing ourselves to regular abuse.
2. We mistakenly assume that cyber attackers follow conventional behaviour. People try to reason with trolls or appeal to their better nature in vain because they misapprehend a troll’s true motives—attract attention, exercise control, and manipulate others. Online harassers are not considered ‘well-adjusted.’ A 2019 study found significant associations between trolling and psychopathy, Machiavellianism, sadism, and narcissism, in that order. In other words, strangers attacking you on social media or in person are severely damaged. But, we often have trouble understanding that and take online attacks seriously, as a form of self-criticism, that is hard to ignore.

Roughly four-in-ten Americans have personally experienced online harassment



3. But somehow, online harassment seems more bothersome. Americans rate online political discussions as 50 per cent more negative than offline discussions. The reason is that once abusers enter an online space, they tend to take it over because all bullies have personality disorders. Trolls like trolling, without much threat of being beaten up, while moral people exit—all increasing the troll-to-normal ratio over time.
4. Even if you want to bid the online sewer a not-so-fond adieu, your circumstances might make doing so, too costly. And maybe you simply don’t want to be forced off social media by the trolls, any more than you would placidly accept being forced off the playground because of menacing bullies who treat it as their exclusive property. But we are not helpless in the face of either online abusers or the ones flipping us off on the highway.
5. In the case of threats or hate speech, you may want to make your non-receipt more tangible by blocking the trolls, and reporting the abuse. This remedy is imperfect at best, unfortunately, given social-media companies’ spotty record at enforcement of their own norms. Not receiving an insult (blocking and reporting an attacker) and ignoring trolls is crucial for stopping abuse. Deny them the reward they seek. Responding to a bully on the internet or in real life—remember, they are typically the same people—is proof that they seek dominance through aggression. Don’t feed this monster, in person or online. When possible, meet aggression with deafening silence.

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SOLUTIONS

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

- i. Infer if the author compares negotiating heavy traffic with the business of trolling directly or indirectly. Answer in about 40 words. 2
- ii. Which option DOES NOT substantiate the author's view about the unconventional social behaviour of the online abusers? 1
- (a) Trolls can be reasoned with and their better nature can be appealed to.
  - (b) Online abusers are not considered 'well-adjusted' individuals.
  - (c) Online abusers are psychopaths.
  - (d) They troll for sadistic entertainment.
- iii. What do the survey says about if you use the internet, the odds are about even that you'll be mistreated there? 1
- iv. Identify the online abuser from the following three online users. 1
- (a) Sohna – My target is to just scroll down the things happening online.
  - (b) Roshan – My target is to meet my foreign friends here.
  - (c) Harsh – My target is to hurt, harass or upset someone else.
- v. Which of the following displays the most likely reason for us feeling more bothered about online trolling than facing abuse in real life? 1
- (a) Those who get bothered by constant abuse exit social media.
  - (b) Trolls invade and dominate online space without any fear of consequences.
  - (c) Online political discussions are 50 per cent more negative than offline discussions.
  - (d) We take online attacks as a form of self-criticism that is hard to ignore.
- vi. Quite a few solutions for 'dealing with trolls' have been proposed by the author. Pick out the only solution that displays an underlying irony as well as contradiction. Answer in about 40 words. 2
- vii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
- The 2021 study attempts to enlighten the victims of online abuse by \_\_\_\_\_.
- viii. State TRUE or FALSE. 1
- Americans rate online political discussion as 50 per cent more positive than offline discussions.

**SECTION B- CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS****18**

*Note : All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.*

3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4
- A. Your school is organising a Bal Mela on 'Children's Day' in the school. The primary wing of the school is going to put up various stalls in the mela. Draft a notice giving details of the mela as well as inviting the senior students to attend the same. Sign your name as Rajesh Roshan, Secretary, Cultural Society.

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**SOLUTIONS**

**Or**

- B. As the librarian of your school, write a notice in about 50 words informing the students of the penalty for losing or damaging the books issued to them.

**4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4**

- A. You are going to open a confectionery store at Sipri Road, Jhansi, and want to invite your friends and the people of your locality on its inaugural ceremony. Draft a suitable invitation in 50 words.

**Or**

- B. You are Anita/Rajnish. You have been invited to attend the wedding of your friend's sister during summer vacation. Respond to the invitation accepting the invitation.

**5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A. Meera Ranjan is a resident of Kerala. She writes a letter to the editor of a local newspaper giving her strong views on the disadvantages of setting up a chemical factory in your area and makes an appeal to the central government to reconsider its decision, as it will worsen the environment of the city. Add your own ideas and write this letter in 120-150 words.

**Or**

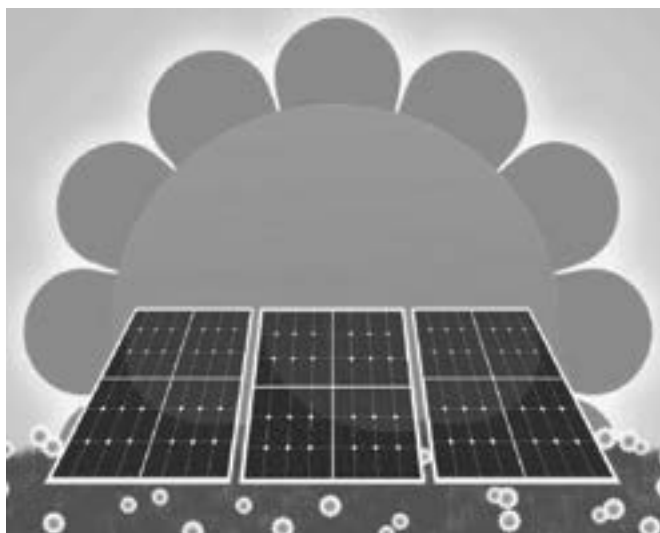
- B. You saw an advertisement in a daily newspaper for the post of a Sales Executive in a reputable MNC. Write a letter with bio-data in 120-150 words to the HR Manager, Goel Sons Ltd, Vinod Nagar, Delhi, applying for the post advertised. You are Rani/Rajesh.

**6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A. Mohit Sen, the president of the youth forum of his colony, attends a seminar on rampant corruption in social and political life in India. He decides to write an article on the 'Role of Youth in Combating Corruption'. Write his article in 120-150 words.

**Or**

- B. You are a TOI correspondent. Write a report in 120-150 words on the 'use of solar energy' for your newspaper.



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**SOLUTIONS**

**SECTION C- LITERATURE****40****7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.****6**

- A.** A thing of beauty is a joy forever  
 Its loveliness increases, it will never  
 Pass into nothingness, but  
 A bower quiet for us, and a sleep  
 Full of sweet dreams, and health and quiet  
 Breathing.  
 Therefore on every morrow are we wreathing  
 A flowery band to bind us to the earth:  
 Spite of despondence of the inhuman dearth  
 Of noble natures of the gloomy days  
 Of all the unhealthy and over darkened ways  
 Made for our searching.

*(A Thing of Beauty)*

- i. Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract? 1
  - (a) Keats defines beauty as illusionary.                      (b) Keats defines beauty as eternal.
  - (c) Keats defines beauty as transient.                      (d) Keats defines beauty as short-lived.
- ii. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the given extract. 1  
 'Beautiful things uplift the soul'.
- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
 'will keep a bower quiet for us' means \_\_\_\_\_.
- iv. The things that create unhappiness are \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- v. Based on the rhyming scheme of the poem, evident in lines 2-10, of the given extract, which word would rhyme with line 1? 1

time

clock

clever
- vi. Select the option that is NOT related to the image 'flowery band' in the given extract. 1
  - (a) Brings sad things in life
  - (b) Provides reason to keep happy living
  - (c) Band of flowers binds us to the Earth
  - (d) Enables us to sleep quietly with good dreams

**Or**

- B.** 'Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool  
 Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.  
 The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band  
 Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.'

*(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)***Click the Following Button to See the Free MS/Solutions****SOLUTIONS**

- i. Why does Aunt Jennifer find the needle hard to pull? 1  
 (a) It has difficult to carry (b) She was nervous and fearful  
 (c) As it was heavy and burdensome (d) As it got stuck somewhere
- ii. What does Aunt Jennifer want to express through the creation of the tigers? 1
- iii. What is the 'massive weight' a subtle reference to? 1  
 (a) Unwanted marriage (b) The ring that makes her uncomfortable  
 (c) Her gold ring (d) Suppression at the hands of her husband
- iv. State TRUE or FALSE. 1  
 The fact Aunt Jennifer cannot even do her artwork properly indicates her fright.
- v. What does the ring around her finger symbolises? 1
- vi. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
 The fluttering fingers indicate \_\_\_\_.

**8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 4**

- A. "If we sheltered a white man in our house we should be arrested and if we turned him over as a prisoner, he would certainly die," Sadao said.  
 "The kindest thing would be to put him back into the sea," Hana said. But neither of them moved. They were staring with a curious repulsion upon the inert figure  
 'What is he?' Hana whispered.  
 "There is something about him that looks American," Sadao said. He took up the battered cap. Yes, there, almost gone, was the faint lettering. 'A sailor,' he said, "from an American warship." He spelled it out: 'US Navy.' The man was a prisoner of war!

*(The Enemy)*

- i. Why did Hana suggest putting the man back into the sea? 1
- ii. What conflicting ideas disturb the doctor's mind when they saw the bleeding American soldier? 1  
 (a) Patient's health and servants  
 (b) Duty of a doctor and the case of defamation  
 (c) Duty of a doctor and loyalty towards his nation  
 (d) Servant's behaviour
- iii. Why does Hana say 'The kindest thing would be to put him back into the sea'? 1
- iv. In what condition did Dr. Sadao find the American soldier at the seashore? 1

**Or**

- B. The Maharaja's anxiety reached a fever pitch when there remained just one tiger to achieve his tally of a hundred. He had this one thought during the day and the same dream at night. By this time the tiger farms had run dry even in his father-in-law's kingdom. It became impossible to locate tigers anywhere. Yet only one more was needed. If he could kill just that one single beast, the Maharaja would have no fears left. He could give up tiger hunting altogether.

*(The Tiger King)*

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**SOLUTIONS**

- i. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
The writer refers to the dreams of the Tiger King to highlight \_\_\_\_.
- ii. What does NOT lead to a 'fever pitch'? 1
- iii. Select the most suitable title for the given extract. 1  
(a) The Selfish King (b) On the Way of Killing a Hundred Tigers  
(c) Maharaja's Determination (d) Killing Other Creatures
- iv. 'By this time the tiger farms had run dry even in his father-in-law's kingdom.' 1  
What does this line tell us about the Maharaja?

**9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

- A. And in dark hutments, next to lines of flames of flickering oil lamps, sit boys and girls with their fathers and mothers, welding pieces of coloured glass into circles of bangles. Their eyes are more adjusted to the dark than to the light outside. That is why they often end up losing their eyesight before they become adults.

Savita, a young girl in a drab pink dress, sits alongside an elderly woman, soldering pieces of glass. As her hands move mechanically like the tongs of a machine, I wonder if she knows the sanctity of the bangles she helps make. It symbolizes an Indian woman's suhaag, auspiciousness in marriage. It will dawn on her suddenly one day when her head is draped with a red veil, her hands dyed red with henna, and red bangles rolled onto her wrists. She will then become a bride.

*(Lost Spring)*

- i. List any two details about the boys and girls of bangle making industries. 1
- ii. What does bangle symbolise? 1  
(a) Indian woman's suhaag (b) Auspiciousness in marriage  
(c) Both (a) and (b) (d) The tyranny of women
- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
Savita sits alongside an elderly woman \_\_\_\_.
- iv. Pick evidence from the extract that helps one infer that Sabita, a young girl is also engaged in ancestral profession. 1
- v. What does 'their eyes' over here refer to? 1
- vi. Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the extract? 1  
(a) The rigidity of bangle makers (b) The importance of bangle makers  
(c) The fears of bangle makers (d) The miserable condition of bangle makers

**Or**

- B. "Even in the matter of education, especially formal education, Subbu couldn't have had an appreciable lead over the boy. But by virtue of being born a Brahmin-a virtue indeed!-he must have had exposure to more affluent situations and people."

*(Poets and Pancakes)*

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**SOLUTIONS**

- i. If Subbu was not educated, what made him superior to the office boy? 1
- ii. Why was office boy always angry with Subbu? 1
- (a) Office boy was at par with Subbu in education. (b) Subbu had insulted the office boy.
- (c) Subbu had attained No. 2 position. (d) Thought Subbu to be very clever
- iii. What do you think is the office boy feeling in the extract? 1
- iv. Rationalise to support the given opinion. 1
- According to the office boy being a Brahmin is a virtue.
- v. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct statement. 1
- (a) Subbu was the chief make-up man.
- (b) The narrator agrees with the office boy.
- (c) The office boy seems to be jealous of Subbu.
- (d) All of the above
- vi. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
- The narrator and the office boy highlight \_\_\_\_\_.

10.. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words.  $5 \times 2 = 10$

- i. Is the title of the story 'The Rattrap' justified?
- ii. Describe the symbols that have been used to relate the beauties of nature. *(A Thing of Beauty)*
- iii. What symbol does the poet invoke in 'Keeping Quiet' to convey the idea of life under apparent stillness?
- iv. What did M. Hamel tell his students about French language? What was his suggestion to them. *(The Last Lesson)*
- v. What are the hazards of working in the bangle-making industry? *(Lost Spring)*
- vi. What was Kamala Das' fear as a child? Why does it surface when she is going to airport? *(My Mother at Sixty-Six)*

11.. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.  $2 \times 2 = 4$

- i. What happened to the narrator's psychiatrist friend Sam Weiner? What do you deduce from it? *(The Third Level)*
- ii. What qualities of Mr. Lamb drew Derry toward him? *(On the Face of It)*
- iii. When did the author start her journey to Antarctica and what had she to pass through? *(Journey to the end of the earth)*

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**SOLUTIONS**

**12.. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A.** Sophie lives in her fantasies. She hopes to make it big. You realize that the modern day youth are also like that. You decide to write an article about the need to dream and how can it prove to be harmful sometimes.

*(Going Places)*

**Or**

- B.** Imagine a child from the farmer's family migrates to the city for their education. As the child, write back to your family telling them whether you would or would not want to turn into a city person.

Use the context of the poem "A Roadside Stand" in mind to pen down this letter.

You may begin this way :

12, Davidson County

23 January xx

Dear mom

I have been thinking about the roadside stall lately. Now that I find myself surrounded by city-people all the time, I think.....

With love

Jennifer

**13.. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A.** Recall the story 'We too are Human Beings' from the text 'Memories of Childhood'. Imagine that Bama stops the elderly man who was carrying the packet of vadais, and strikes up a conversation with him. She asks him a couple of questions. As the man, responds to Bama's questions. You may follow the given format and include the two questions in your conversation.
- Bama : Hi sir, I noticed that you were carrying that packet in a funny manner. Why were you doing so?
- Elderly man : ...
- Bama : But that's terrible. How does that make you feel?

**Or**

- B.** Mr. Lamb had many qualities that attract Derry. Mr. Lamb has positive attitude towards life. His qualities attracted Derry towards him. What are the qualities of Mr. Lamb that drew Derry towards him? You wish to include a cameo for the above statement's explanation in your upcoming blog post.

(A short description that neatly encapsulates someone or something)

As a part of the research, discuss the statement in relation to qualities of Mr. Lamb in about 120-150 words.

*(On the Face of It)*

□□□□□□□

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**SOLUTIONS**



**Sample Paper 16**  
**Class XII Exam 2023-24**  
**English-Core (301)**

**Time Allowed : 3 Hrs.**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
  2. Attempt question based on specific instructions for each part.
- 

**SECTION A-READING SKILLS**

**22**

**Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages**

**1. Read the following text.**

**12**

1. Many of us believe that “small” means “insignificant”. We believe that small actions and choices do not have much impact on our lives. We think that it is only the big things, the big actions and the big decisions that really count. But when you look at the lives of all great people, you will see that they built their character through small decisions, small choices and small actions that they performed every day. They transformed their lives through a step-by-step or day-by-day approach. They nurtured and nourished their good habits and chipped away at their bad habits, one step at a time. It was their small day-to-day decisions that added up to make tremendous difference in the long run. Indeed, in matters of personal growth and character building, there is no such thing as an overnight success.
2. Growth always occurs through a sequential series of stages. There is an organic process to growth. When we look at children growing up, we can see this process at work: the child first learns to crawl, then to stand and walk, and finally to run. The same is true in the natural world. The soil must first be tilled, and then the seed must be sowed. Next, it must be nurtured with enough water and sunlight, and only then it will grow, bear fruit and finally ripen and be ready to eat.
3. Gandhi understood this organic process and used this universal law of nature to his benefit. Gandhi grew in small ways, in his day-to-day affairs. He did not wake up one day and find himself to be the “Mahatma”. In fact, there was nothing much in his early life that showed the signs of greatness. But from his mid twenties onwards, he deliberately and consistently attempted to change himself, reform himself and grow in some small way every day. Day by day, hour by hour, he risked failure, experimented and learnt from mistakes. In small and large situations alike, he took up rather than avoid responsibility.
4. People have always marvelled at the effortless way in which Gandhi could accomplish the most difficult tasks. He displayed great deal of self-mastery and discipline that was amazing. These things did not come easily to him. Years of practice and disciplined training went into making his successes possible. Very few saw his struggles, fears, doubts and anxieties, or his inner efforts to overcome them. They saw the victory, but not the struggle.
5. This is a common factor in the lives of all great people: they exercised their freedoms and choices in small ways that made great impact on their lives and their environment. Each of their small decisions and actions, added up to have a profound impact in the long run. By understanding this principle, we can move forward, with confidence, in the direction of our dreams. Often when our “ideal goal” looks too far from us, we become easily discouraged, disheartened and pessimistic. However, when we choose to grow in small ways, taking small steps one at a time, performing it becomes easy.

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**SOLUTIONS**

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

- i. Select a proverb that echoes the statement, 1  
'Each of their small decisions and actions, added up to have a profound impact in the long run.'  
(a) Look before you leap (b) Rome was not built in a day  
(c) Too many cooks spoil the broth (d) A stitch in time saves nine
- ii. Complete the sentence appropriately with referring to the word underlined. 1  
Based on the information given in the excerpt about Gandhi ji, the narrator infers 'These things did not come easily to him. 'These' refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
- iii. Explain in about 40 words, how did the great people build their life and character through small actions with small decisions. 2
- iv. After the reading the above passage, select the word that means the same as 'trivial'. 1  
(a) Omnipotent (b) Valuable  
(c) Magnificent (d) Insignificant
- v. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
'The child first learns to crawl, then to stand and walk, and finally to run: We call this process \_\_\_\_\_.
- vi. Explain in about 40 words, how does 'our ideal goals' make us disheartened and discouraged. 2
- vii. Based on the information given in the excerpt, select the suitable title for the given passage. 1  
(a) How to conquer Self- Doubt (b) A closer Look in Self-Growth  
(c) What Makes Great Men Great (d) Gandhi and his Struggle in his Early Days
- viii. Explain in about 40 words, how did Gandhi ji realize the universal law of nature in his life. 2
- ix. 'Struggles, fears, doubts and anxieties. Which of the following words given below can you add in the given line that agrees to the general theme? 1  
(1) Dexterity  
(2) Certainty  
(3) Acceptance  
(4) Insecurities  
(5) Tremendous  
Codes :  
(a) only 2 (b) 2 and 3  
(c) 3 and 5 (d) only 4

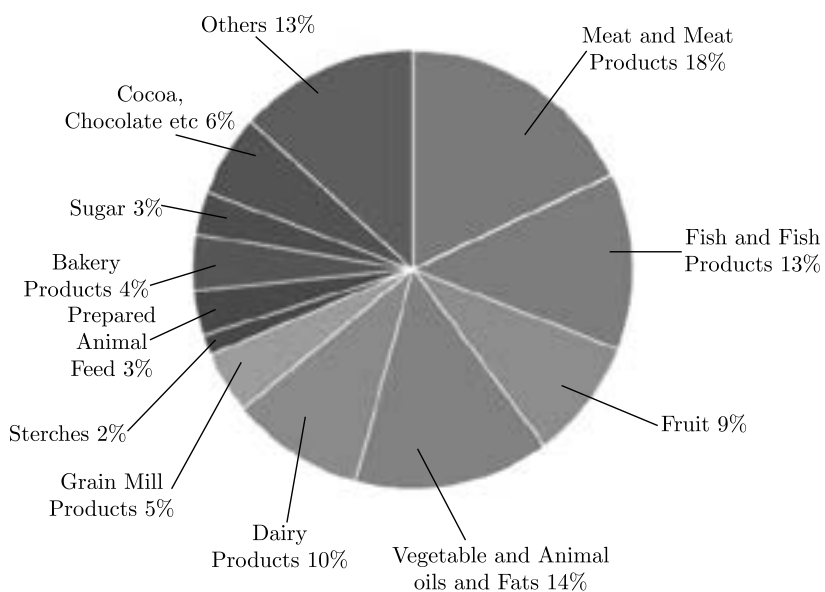
**2. Read the following text. 10**

1. India is a major producer of several agricultural/food items in the world but only less than 10 percent of that is processed. Demand for processed food items is set to increase in India in the coming years providing opportunities for greater value addition, lower wastages and alternative employment opportunities. Analysis of corporate data shows that food processing firms have been profitable, but the value addition component needs to increase significantly.

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**SOLUTIONS**

2. India has made vast progress overtime in providing food security for its people and has become largely self-reliant in agriculture. Accordingly, the policy focus has shifted from attaining self-sufficiency to generating higher and stable income for the farming population. Food Processing Industry (FPI) is one area which has the potential to add value to farm output, create alternate employment opportunities, improve exports and strengthen the domestic supply chain.
3. India, with about 11.2 percent of total arable land in the world, is ranked first in the production of milk, pulses and jute, second in fruits and vegetables and third in cereals (Government of India, 2019). It is also the sixth largest food and grocery market in the world (Law, et al., 2019). Recognising the immense potential of FPI in promoting inclusive growth, it has been identified as one of the key thrust areas under the 'Make in India' programme.
4. Food processing is defined as transforming agricultural products into food that are in consumable form or transforming one food item into another by adding value to it (Government of India, 2019). Based on physical properties of the final product, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries categorises food processing under two sub-categories, viz. (i) manufactured processes, whereby the original physical properties of the product undergo a change through a process involving employees, power, machines or money and the transformed product is edible and has a commercial value and (ii) other value-added processes where the product does not undergo any manufacturing process, but gains significant value addition like increased shelf life, shelled and ready for consumption, etc.
5. Depending on the type and extent of value addition, it is categorised as primary and secondary processing. Primary processing relates to conversion of raw commodity to one that is fit for consumption. It involves steps such as drying, threshing, cleaning, grading, sorting, packing, etc. Secondary processing involves creation of value added products like bread, wine, sausages, etc.
6. The importance of processed food items in the consumer basket has increased globally over time. With higher income, urbanisation, demographic shifts, improved transportation and changed consumer perceptions regarding quality and safety, food consumption patterns have changed over the years. Further, advertising through mass media/social media is also found to have resulted in a higher demand-led Food Processing Industry (FPI) growth in India.



**Figure : Pattern of Processed Food Trade**

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**SOLUTIONS**

7. The share of processed food in world especially Indian exports in value terms has remained stable over the years. In 2018, it accounted for 6.5 percent of total world processed exports and 5.7 percent of total world exports.
8. With the increasing importance of processed food in consumers' food basket, quality standards have also emerged as an important factor with new regulations. The food system is being regulated through a mix of private-public standards which provide the basis of competitive strategies while also proving to be entry barriers. The implementation of quality standards has been an issue of contention between developed and developing countries.

**Answer the following questions, based on given passage.**

- i. List two advantages of processed food as mentioned in the passage. Answer in about 40 words. 2
- ii. Which of the following leads to a change in the food consumption pattern? 1
- (a) Urbanisation (b) Demographic shifts
- (c) Improved transportation (d) All of these
- iii. What are drying threshing and grading a part of? 1
- iv. According to the passage, why India has become self-reliant? 1
- (a) Agriculture
- (b) Stable income
- (c) Employment opportunities
- v. Based on the reading of the text, state a point to challenge the given statement. Answer in about 40 words. 2
- Quality standards do not play an important role in FPI.
- vi. Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option. 1
- What does the given passage highlight?
- (a) The system of imports and exports (b) The growing demand of processed food
- (c) The food capacity of India (d) The share of Indian exports in food market
- vii. State TRUE or FALSE. 1
- In the future, the demand for processed food items in Northern India is going to increase.
- viii. Complete the sentence appropriately with One Word. 1
- 'Arable' land mentioned in Paragraph 3 means \_\_\_\_.

### SECTION B- CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

18

*Note : All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.*

3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4
- A. You are planning a four-week course for the children of your housing society complex for developing their soft skills as part of school project. Prepare a notice to be put up on the society's noticeboard stating the purpose of the course and giving all necessary details asking the children to join the course. You are Yashika/ Yasu, studying in Class XII in a reputable public school.

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**SOLUTIONS**

**Or**

- B. You are Joseph Mathew, Vice Principal of Sr. Aloysius Higher Secondary School. Write a notice for the school noticeboard informing the students about the audition schedule for the Annual Play Festival to be organised soon.

**4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4**

- A. You have opened up a new coaching centre catering to all subjects for Class XII. Based on the inputs given below, prepare a draft of formal invitation letter for the purpose.

Shyam Coaching Centre - All subjects - Experts - morning, evening classes - inaugural discount small batch..
--

**Or**

- B. You are Roshan/Roshni, a resident of Rajasthan. Invite your friend Ritika Agarwal who lives in Delhi to spend a part of her winter vacation with you at your farm house near outskirts of Udaipur.

**5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A. As a citizen of Delhi, you find that the Government's odd-even formula did not reduce the pollution to the extent that it helped in the de-congestion of the traffic on the roads. It was a laudable effort nevertheless. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily expressing your views on the initiative. Also give suggestions on how vehicular pollution on Delhi roads can be reduced. You are Tina/Tarun Gautam of 14, Barakhamba Road. New Delhi.

**Or**

- B. You are Ram/Raman of 17, TT Nagar Bhopal. You would like to apply for the post of Marketing Manager in an MNC in Delhi. Write a letter to the Director, Chipmuk Enterprises, D-7 Vikas Marg, Delhi, applying for the job. Write the letter in 120-150 words giving your bio-data

**6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A. Nowadays children are becoming prey to many lifestyle diseases. Write an article in 120-150 words putting stress on the need to maintain a healthy lifestyle. You are Sharan/Shilpa.

**Or**

- B. You are Sapna Gupta, a news reporter. Write a report in 120-150 words on 'child marriage' to be published in a local newspaper.

### SECTION C- LITERATURE

**40**

**7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

- A. What I want should not be  
confused  
with total inactivity.  
Life is what it is about;

Continue on next page.....

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**SOLUTIONS**

I want no truck with death.  
 If we were not so single-minded  
 about keeping our lives moving  
 and for once could do nothing,  
 perhaps a huge silence  
 might interrupt this sadness  
 of never understanding ourselves  
 and of threatening ourselves with  
 death.

(Keeping Quiet)

- i. Which of the following qualities is best represented in the given extract? 1
  - (a) Ambitious (b) Futuristic
  - (c) Concerned (d) Hypocritical
- ii. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract. The repetition of the letter 'w' in 'we were' depicts alliteration. 1
- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
 People should not misunderstand the poet's suggestion of \_\_\_\_\_.
- iv. Pick out is the phrase which suggests that the poet does not talk about 'total inactivity' related to no action in life which means end of life. 1
- v. If this poem is not written in free verse, which word would rhyme with line 5. 1

head

treat

breath
- vi. Select the option that is NOT true about the tone of the poet in the above lines? 1
  - (a) Aggressive (b) Suggestive
  - (c) Didactic (d) Informative

**Or**

- B. 'Aunt Jennifer's finger fluttering through her wool  
 Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.  
 The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band  
 Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.  
 When Aunt is dead,  
 her terrified hands will lie.  
 Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.  
 The tigers in the panel that she made  
 Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.'

(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

- i. What makes the tigers proud and unafraid? 1
  - (a) They embody the grandeur and supremacy of animals in the wild.
  - (b) They symbolise authority and are 'topaz denizens of green'.
  - (c) They represent Aunt's repressed desires for freedom and power.
  - (d) They are a product of Aunt's imagination and colonial experience.

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**SOLUTIONS**

- ii. How would you describe Aunt Jennifer based on the above extract? 1
- iii. These tigers indicate \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- (a) their immortality (b) permanency of their nature
- (c) transience of human life (d) change in Aunt's condition
- iv. State TRUE or FALSE. 1
- The Uncle's wedding band is a symbol of Aunt Jennifer's restricted life in a patriarchal setup.
- v. Pick the example of alliteration present in the extract. 1
- vi. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
- The existence of the tigers even after Aunt Jennifer's death indicates the theme of \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 4
- A. DERRY : And no one'll kiss me, ever. Only my mother, and she kisses me on the other side of my face, and I don't like my mother to kiss me, she does it because she has to. Why should I like that? I don't care if nobody ever kisses me.
- MR LAMB : Ah, but do you care if you never kiss them.
- (On the Face of It)
- i. What is the tone of the speaker in the first line? 1
- ii. Why does no one kiss Derry? 1
- This is because of \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) his shabby appearance (b) his haft-burnt leg  
 (c) his outdated clothes (d) his half-burnt face
- iii. What kind of attitude Derry has towards life? 1
- iv. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
- The author's purpose in using contractions, is to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Or**

- B. "He remembered his old teacher of anatomy, who had been so insistent on mercy with the knife, and then he remembered the face of his fat and slatternly landlady. He had great difficulty in finding a place to live in America because he was a Japanese. The Americans were full of prejudice and it had been bitter to live in it, knowing himself their superior. How he had despised the ignorant and dirty old woman who had at last consented to house him in her miserable home! He had once tried to be grateful to her because she had in his last year nursed him through but it was difficult, for she was no less repulsive to him in her kindness."

(The Enemy)

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**SOLUTIONS**



- i. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
 \_\_\_\_\_ had cared for Dr Sadao when he fell ill in America.
- ii. Select the option that completes the given sentence appropriately. 1  
 The Americans were full of prejudice and it had been bitter to live in \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Dr Sadao's place (b) The General's place  
 (c) America (d) The White Man's place
- iii. How were the Americans, according to Sadao? 1
- iv. What difficulty did Dr Sadao face in America? 1
- 9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**
- A.** They thought he would demand repayment in full of the money which they had illegally and deceitfully extorted from the sharecroppers. He asked only 50 per cent. "There he seemed adamant," writes Reverend J. Z. Hodge, a British missionary in Champaran who observed the entire episode at close range. "Thinking probably that he would not give way, the representative of the planters offered to refund to the extent of 25 per cent, and to his amazement Mr. Gandhi took him at his word, thus breaking the deadlock" This settlement was adopted unanimously by the commission.  
*(Indigo)*
- i. From the given extract, justify that the decision to agree for a 25% compensatory amount was not a unilateral decision. 1
- ii. Why was Gandhi adamant in asking for 50% in repayment of the money that the landowners owed to the sharecropper? 1  
 (a) He knew that the planters had the means to repay.  
 (b) The sharecroppers would not settle for any less.  
 (c) His own team of lawyers did not allow him to agree to a lesser amount.  
 (d) Reverend Hodge had prevailed upon him.
- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
 Gandhi knew that he would not get an agreement on the demand for 50% repayment because \_\_\_\_\_.
- iv. Pick evidence from the extract that helps one infer that the claim regarding the compensation amount to be paid to the planters by the landlords cannot be corroborated. 1
- v. What does the expression 'take someone at his word' mean? 1
- vi. Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the extract? 1  
 (a) The importance of British rule (b) The breaking of deadlock  
 (c) The rigidity of British rule (d) The anxiety of Gandhiji

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**SOLUTIONS**



**Or**

- B.** The stranger must have seemed incredulous, for the old man got up and went to the window, took down a leather pouch which hung on a nail in the very window frame and picked out three wrinkled ten-kronor bills. These he held up before the eyes of his guest, nodding knowingly and then stuffed them back into the pouch.

*(The Rattrap)*

- i. Why did the old man show him his ten-kronor bills? 1
  - (a) To give to the stranger
  - (b) To make him believe in his statement
  - (c) To let him know where he has kept it
  - (d) To make the stranger jealous
- ii. Rewrite the sentence by replacing the underlined phrase with its inference. 1  
The stranger must have seemed incredulous for the old man.
- iii. Which of the following is an antonym of the word 'knowingly' in the above extract? 1
  - (a) Apparently
  - (b) Unknowingly
  - (c) Purposefully
  - (d) Deliberately
- iv. Rationalise, to support the given opinion. 1  
The old man trusted the stranger enough to share his secrets.
- v. How did the stranger behave with the old man? 1
- vi. Complete the sentence with one word. 1  
The old man got the money by selling the milk given by his \_\_\_\_\_.

- 10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words. 5 × 2 = 10**

- i. "Ah how well I remembered it, that last lesson!" Why did Franz remember it well? *(The Last Lesson)*
- ii. When did the narrator develop his fear of water in 'Deep Water'?
- iii. What impression do the things of beauty make on us? Is it temporary or permanent? *(A Thing of Beauty)*
- iv. Aunt Jennifer's efforts to get rid of her fear proved to be futile. Comment. *(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)*
- v. How would the innocent be soothed out of their wits? *(A Roadside Stand)*
- vi. "The battle of Champaran is won." When and why did Gandhiji utter these words? *(Indigo)*

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**SOLUTIONS**

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.  $2 \times 2 = 4$

i. What convinced Charley that he had reached the third level at Grand Central Station and not the second level?

*(The Third Level)*

ii. Why was the old general not in favour of Dr. Sadao's being arrested?

*(The Enemy)*

iii. Why is Antarctica the place to go to if we want to study the earth's past, present and future?

*(Journey to the end of the earth)*

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. **5**

A. The prose sections 'Going Places' and 'Lost Spring', describe the aspirations and dreams of the youth and the pain of unfilled promises and shattered dreams.

Imagine yourself to be a motivational speaker who has to address high school children. Write this address in about 120-150 words elaborating on occurrences from the two texts to inspire your audience and to convince them about the importance of realistic dreams over unrealistic ones.

**Or**

B. 'The poem elaborates upon the qualities of the beautiful creations of nature.' Imagine yourself as the poet. Summarise the message of the poem 'A Thing of Beauty'.

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. **5**

A. If we affect the dumb creatures, they do affect us in return. In the prose, 'The Tiger King', the hundredth tiger take its revenge on the king.

Imagine yourself to be the hundredth tiger, and write down in about 120-150 words the revenge you take from the king. You wish to include a cameo for the above statement's explanation in your upcoming blog post. (A short description that neatly encapsulates someone or something) As a part of the research, discuss the statement in relation to Antarctica.

**Or**

B. Both Bama and Zitkala Sa experienced discrimination in their childhood. Both of them respond to their respective situations differently and overcome it. You wish to include a cameo for the above statement's explanation in your upcoming blog post. (A cameo is a short description that neatly encapsulates someone or something)

As a part of the research, compare and contrast the experiences as well as responses faced by the two.

*(Memories of Childhood)*

□□□□□□

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**SOLUTIONS**

**Sample Paper 17**  
**Class XII Exam 2023-24**  
**English-Core (301)**

**Time Allowed : 3 Hrs.**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
  2. Attempt question based on specific instructions for each part.
- 

**SECTION A-READING SKILLS**

**22**

**Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages**

**1. Read the following text.**

**12**

1. The therapeutic value and healing powers of plants were demonstrated to me when I was a boy of about ten. I had developed an acute persistent abdominal pain that did not respond readily to hospital medication. In total desperation my mother took me to Egya Mensa, a well-known herbalist in my hometown in the Western province of Ghana.
2. After a brief interview, he went out to the field. He returned with several leaves and the bark of a tree and one of his attendants immediately prepared a decoction. I was given a glass of this preparation, it tasted extremely bitter, but within an hour or so I began to feel relieved. Within about three days, the frequent abdominal pain stopped and I recall gaining a good appetite. I have appreciated the healing powers of medicinal plants ever since.
3. In fact, demographic studies by various national governments and inter-governmental organisations such as the World Health Organisation (WHO) indicate that for 75 to 90 per cent of the rural populations of the world, the herbalist is the only person who handles their medical problems.
4. In African culture, traditional medical practitioners are always considered to be influential, spiritual leaders as well, using magic and religion along with medicines. Illness is handled with the individual's hidden spiritual powers and with application of plants that have been found especially to contain healing powers.
5. Over the years, I have come to distinguish three types of medicinal practitioners in African societies and to classify the extent to which each uses medicinal plants. The first is the herbalist, who generally enjoys the prestige and reputation of being the real traditional medical professional. The second group represents the divine healers. They are fetish priests whose practice depends upon their purported supernatural powers of diagnosis. Thirdly, the witch doctor, the practitioner who is credited with ability to intercept the evil deeds of a witch.
6. From the drugstores in New Delhi, I picked up some well-packaged bark and roots of Rauwolfia Serpentina, a plant that was very well known in ancient Asiatic medicine. The storekeeper said that it cures hypertension.
7. For health, social and economic reasons, it seems clear that developing countries should begin an extensive programme aimed at an examination and research into the properties of the most important medicinal plants. In most countries, the information on such plants is dispersed and unorganised. Much of it is in the heads of aging herbalists, who represent a dying breed.

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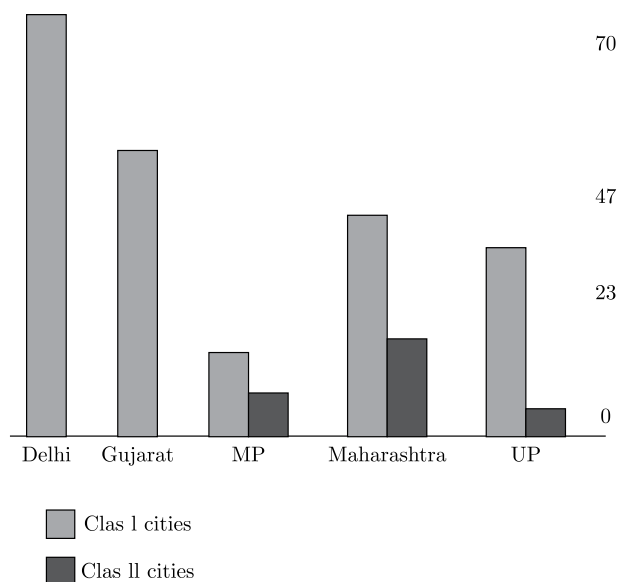
**SOLUTIONS**

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

- i. Select the option that tells about the special thing in the plant Rauwolfia Serpentina that influences the mind. 1  
(a) Metals (b) Mind  
(c) Alkaloids (d) Alkalies
- ii. Which parts of the plant Rauwolfia Serpentina are used to cure hypertension? 1  
(a) Stem and roots (b) Leaves and flowers  
(c) Bark and roots (d) Flowers and stem
- iii. In desperation, where did the mother take her suffering son? and why? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- iv. Complete the sentence appropriately with a characteristic or its description. 1  
Based on the information given in the extract, one can infer that the author was suffering from \_\_\_\_.
- v. Select the option that is similar in meaning to the word 'well-off'. 1  
(a) established (b) ill  
(c) affluent (d) non-affluent
- vi. Explain, in about 40 words, what do the WHO demographic studies display? 2
- vii. In the line, "I was given a glass of this preparation, it tasted extremely bitter, but within an hour or so I began to feel relieved." What does the word 'bitter' refer to? 1
- viii. In the line, "I picked up some well-packaged bark and roots of Rauwolfia Serpentina, a plant that was very well-known in ancient Asiatic medicine." How is Rauwolfia Serpentina useful? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- ix. Read the five statements (1)-(5) given below: 1  
(1) From the drugstores in New Delhi, I picked up some well-packaged bark and roots of Rauwolfia Serpentina, a plant that was very well-known in ancient Asiatic medicine.  
(2) The storekeeper said that it cures hypertension.  
(3) In African culture, traditional medical practitioners are always considered to be influential, spiritual leaders as well, using magic and religion along with medicines.  
(4) Illness cannot be handled with the group's hidden spiritual powers and with application of plants that have been found especially to contain healing powers.  
(5) In most countries, the information on such plants is not dispersed and organised.  
Identify the option that displays the statement that correspondences with occurrences in the passage.  
(a) Only (1)  
(b) (2), (3) and (4)  
(c) (4) and (5)  
(d) Only (5)

**2. Read the following text.****10**

1. The Municipal Corporation of Gurugram recently admitted before the National Green Tribunal that untreated sewage from the city mixes with treated wastewater in the drains into the Yamuna. The putrid river that flows through New Delhi is only one of the many severely polluted surface water bodies in the country. Government agencies estimate that as much of 80% of India's surface water is contaminated and most of it comes from sewage.
2. The effects of this contamination are immediately felt with the onset of the monsoons. No sooner had the rains begun the reports of water-borne diseases like diarrhoea and cholera breakouts trickled in from Delhi, Pune, Varanasi and Chennai as broken water pipes and flooding allowed fecal sludge mix (polluted water) into potable water.
3. The Central Pollution Control Board in 2009 calculated that major cities and towns together generate more than 38 billion litres of sewage everyday, of which only 30% is collected. Less than 20% of this is treated because that's all the treatment capacity available. The rest is just emptied into rivers, lakes, seas and ponds.
4. A soon-to-be-released report by Water Aid India on fecal sludge management documents the chinks (gaps) in India's sewage system. Seventeen million, or roughly 20%, of urban households, lack sanitation facilities, the report says. Among those that have access to sanitation only 32% are connected to a sewage network, the rest depending on septic tanks and pit latrines. There are more numbers to raise a stink about. More than 5 lakh pit latrines are unsanitary, being nothing more than open pits. More than 9 lakh toilets empty directly into drains. Among the 18% of urban household that don't have access to individual toilets, more than 12% resort to open defecation.
5. The story gets murkier beyond the numbers. Where sewers exist, they often leak or overflow. Instead of being cleaned every few years, septic tanks are left to accumulate fecal sludge that percolates into ground water. When the tanks are cleaned the black water is disposed off in fields and water bodies, once again contaminating open fresh water.
6. The Water Aid report looks at sanitation systems in six states and offers a snapshot of how much wastewater is dumped untreated. Delhi, for instance, uses 4,346 million litres of water per day of which 87% returns as waste. However, Delhi has the capacity to treat only 61% of the total wastewater it generates. The class I cities of Maharashtra together consume water three times as much as Delhi does, turn 80% of that into sewage and treat less than half of their total wastewater. The statistics are far worse for class II cities.



**Figure : Percentage of Total Wastewater that is Treated**

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**SOLUTIONS**

7. Even with the creation of the National Urban Sanitation Policy in 2008 and several thousands of crores being spent by states on sewage networks, the problem has grown worse in the last five years. The Water Aid report recommends enforcing a national building code, public promotion campaigns and decentralising sewage treatment plants as remedies to the sewage problem. Water experts, for years have been calling for freeing up the flow of rivers to allow them to rejuvenate. So the good news for the moment is water resources Minister Uma Bharti's announcement that no new dams will be sanctioned on the Ganga if the project interrupts flow of the river.

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

- i. What does the revelation by the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram point to? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- ii. Which of the following is the reason for Yamuna being the most polluted rivers in the country? 1
- (a) Lack of proper sewage systems
  - (b) Lack of treatment of contaminated water
  - (c) Flooding with the onset of rains
  - (d) Improper sanitation facilities
- iii. Why does the presence of septic tanks result in contamination of ground water? 1
- iv. Which of the following facts can be inferred from the given graph? 1
- (a) The sewage treatment capacity of the country needs to be increased.
  - (b) The condition of treatment of sewage is still better in class II cities.
  - (c) The maximum contamination of water takes place in Delhi.
- v. What is true regarding the contaminated water? 1
- (a) Less than 20% of the contaminated water is treated.
  - (b) Most of the contaminated water is dumped into the water bodies.
  - (c) Contaminated water is the reason for the lack of potable water.
  - (d) Both (a) and (b)
- vi. What information does the Water Aid report present? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- vii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
- The state of \_\_\_\_\_ in the country has the lowest treatment percentage.
- viii. State TRUE or FALSE. 1
- Delhi has the capacity to treat 61% of the wastewater it generates.

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**SOLUTIONS**

**SECTION B- CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS****18**

*Note : All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.*

**3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4**

- A. Neelam/Neelesh is the head girl/boy of Surya Public School, Agra. She/He decides to call a meeting of all house appointments for prize distribution function on Annual Day. Draft a meeting notice on her/his behalf.

**Or**

- B. You are Sukant Roy, the head of Ujjwal Bhavishya Educational Institution. You are moved by the condition of the destitute children near your area. You decide to uplift their lives by deciding to raise funds and ensuring that they have a better chance at life. Draft a notice to your fellow colleagues and students, making an appeal for monetary donations or any other assistance. You can also include additional details which you may be necessary for the purpose.

**4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4**

- A. The literary club of your school is putting up the play “The Merchant of Venice”. As the secretary of the club, draft an invitation inviting the parents. The famous writer Ketan Anand is the guest of honour. Write an invitation in not more than 50 words.

**Or**

- B. You are Liza. You are going for a picnic with a group of your friends to Rang Mahal Lake near Ghaziabad. Write an informal invitation to your friend to join you on that day. Invent necessary details.

**5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A. You saw a train accident last week when a train collided with another train while changing the track. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the editor of a national newspaper describing the accident. You are Nitin/Riya Chawla of Sewa Kutir, Pankha Road, Faridabad.

**Or**

- B. Study the following advertisement and then write a suitable application for the post of a receptionist.

Wanted smart and dynamic female with good communication skills to serve as a receptionist in the front office of a five star Hotel. Fresh graduates with knowledge of foreign languages preferred. Apply with two passport sized photographs & complete biodata to The Times of India, P.B. No 73XX within 7 days from the date of the publication of this advertisement.
---

**6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A. You visited Delhi Public School, Kanpur. You were impressed at seeing students participate in various co-curricular activities of the school such as debates, music and theatre workshops. Write a report on it in 120-150 words for your school magazine. You are Shalini/Sumiti, Editor of the magazine.

**Or**

- B. Does getting more degrees really help in getting employment in this fast competitive scene of unemployment? Describe your views in an article in 120-150 words. You are Megha/Mayur.

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**SOLUTIONS**

**SECTION C- LITERATURE****40****7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.****6**

- A.** ...and realised with pain  
that she was as old as she  
looked but soon  
put that thought away, and  
looked out at young  
trees sprinting, the merry children spilling  
out of their homes, but after the airport's  
security check, standing a few yards away,

*(My Mother at Sixty-Six)*

- i. What does the poet feel at the airport? 1
  - (a) Happy (b) Upset
  - (c) Sad (d) Resignation
- ii. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract. 1  
The poet compares the youth and joy of children with the old age frailty of mother.
- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
'..that she was as old as she, implies that poet's mother \_\_\_\_.
- iv. The use of the young and old is used to highlight \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- v. Identify the phrase from the extract, that suggests the following: 1  
The poet did not relish the thought of her mother's death due to old age.
- vi. Which literary device is used in the given lines? 1
  - (a) Personification (b) Metaphor
  - (c) Alliteration (d) None of these

**Or**

- B.** It is in the news that all these pitiful kin  
Are to be bought out and mercifully gathered in  
To live in villages, next to the theatre and the store,  
Where they won't have to think for themselves anymore,  
While greedy good-doers, beneficent beasts of prey,  
Swarm over their lives enforcing benefits  
That are calculated to soothe them out of their wits,  
And by teaching them how to sleep they sleep all day,  
Destroy their sleeping at night the ancient way.

*(A Roadside Stand)***Click the Following Button to See the Free MS/Solutions****SOLUTIONS**



- i. Choose the option that displays the correct poetic device with the correct examples based on the given extract. 1
- (a) greedy good-doers : metaphor (b) soothe them out of their wits : metaphor  
(c) beneficent beasts of prey : oxymoron (d) all these pitiful kin : imagery
- ii. Mention three words used by the poet in the extract that make the reader question the motives of the benefactors and the good-doers. 1
- iii. Select the option that will not complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
These facilities have been provided by \_\_\_\_\_ with the real objective of \_\_\_\_\_.
- (a) the government; sharing good things with its poor citizens  
(b) the opposition parties; not showing keen interest in the poor people  
(c) social activists, not ensuring social equality  
(d) the government; keeping the poor distracted from the real issues.
- iv. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE. 1  
The poetic device used in the line ‘these pitiful kin’ is the same as ‘greedy good-doers!’
- v. What is the tone of the poet in the line, ‘gathered in to live in villages, next to the theatre and the store’ indicate? 1
- vi. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
The poor have been ‘gathered into live in villages next to the theatre and the store.’ This shows that \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 4
- A. The man moaned with pain in his stupor but he did not awaken.  
“The best thing that we could do would be to put him back in the sea,” Sadao said, answering himself. Now that the bleeding was stopped for the moment he stood up and dusted the sand from his hands.  
“Yes, undoubtedly that would be best,” Hana said steadily. But she continued to stare down at the motionless man.  
“If we sheltered a white man in our house we should be arrested and if we turned him over as a prisoner, he would certainly die,” Sadao said.  
“The kindest thing would be to put him back into the sea,” Hana said. But neither of them moved. They were staring with curious repulsion upon the inert figure.
- (*The Enemy*)
- i. Why did Sadao suggest to put the man back into the sea? 1
- ii. In the given extract, Hana was apprehensive that if she would help the prisoner, she would be \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- (a) rewarded (b) rebuked  
(c) arrested (d) none of these
- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
Hana and Dr Sadao stared at the prisoner with \_\_\_\_\_.

- iv. According to the passage, how would you describe Sadao and Hana. 1

**Or**

- B. Now, I don't know why this should have happened to me. I'm just an ordinary guy named Charley, thirty-one years old and I was wearing a tan gabardine suit and a straw hat with a fancy band; I passed a dozen men who looked just like me. And I wasn't trying to escape from anything; I just wanted to get home to Louisa, my wife.

*(The Third Level)*

- i. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
The given lines show that the narrator, Charley \_\_\_\_.
- ii. When did 'this' incident take place? 1  
(a) While he was going to visit his father (b) While he was going to work  
(c) While he was going to his psychiatrist friend (d) While he was returning late from work
- iii. Why does the narrator say that he was not trying to escape from anything? 1
- iv. What does 'this' refer to? 1

**9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

- A. She still has bangles on her wrist, but no light in her eyes. "Ek waqt ser bhar khana bhi nahin khaya." she says, in a voice drained of joy. She has not enjoyed even one full meal in her entire lifetime-that's what she has reaped! Her husband, an old man with a flowing beard says, "I know nothing except bangles. All I have done is make a house for the family to live in."

Hearing him one wonders if he has achieved what many have failed in their lifetime. He has a roof over his head!

The cry of not having money to do anything except carry on the business of making bangles, not even enough to eat, rings in every home. The young men echo the lament of the elders. Little has moved with time, it seems in Firozabad, years of mind-numbing toil have killed all initiative and the ability to dream.

*(Lost Spring)*

- i. List the details shown in the first line of the given extract. 1
- ii. What is the attitude of the author towards the old man's words? The author finds it \_\_\_\_\_. 1  
(a) admirable (b) pessimistic  
(c) modest (d) boastful
- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
The author's take on the lives of the bangle-makers as reflected in the words 'that's what she has reaped!' is \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- iv. Pick evidence from the text that helps one interpret the phrase 'rings in every home'. 1
- v. What does the line 'the young men echo the lament of their elders' refer to? 1

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**SOLUTIONS**

- vi. Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the extract. 1
- (a) To put an end to child exploitation (b) To show the importance of labour
- (c) To show the importance of punctuality (d) The rigidity of the school system

Or

- B. It offered riches and joys, shelter and food, heat and clothing, exactly as the rattrap offered cheese and pork, and as soon as anyone let himself be tempted to touch the bait, it closed in on him, and then everything came to an end.

The world had, of course, never been very kind to him, so it gave him unwonted joy to think ill of it in this way. It became a cherished pastime of his, during many dreary ploddings, to think of people he knew who had let themselves be caught in the dangerous snare, and of others who were still circling around the bait.

(*The Rattrap*)

- i. What philosophical thought is given in the extract about the world? 1
- ii. The line, "...it closed in on him, and then everything came to an end" can be classified as: 1
- (a) a fact (b) an opinion
- (c) a plot point (d) a theme
- iii. Explain any one possible inference that can be drawn from the line, "It became a cherished pastime of his, during many dreary ploddings, to think of people he knew who had let themselves be caught in the dangerous snare, and of others who were still circling around the bait". 1
- iv. Identify the line from the text that bears evidence to the fact that the rattrap seller is a pessimistic man. 1
- v. The peddler's views about the world, in the extract, can be best described as: 1
- (a) unjust and fair (b) unkind and unjust
- (c) unkind and fair (d) just and fair
- vi. Complete the sentence with ONE word. 1
- Stealing had been his hobby since \_\_\_\_\_.

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words.  $5 \times 2 = 10$

- i. What was distinctive about Eco's academic writing style? (*The Interview*)
- ii. How did the author discover who the English visitor to the studios was? (*Poets and Panekakes*)
- iii. What does the ring on Aunt Jennifer's fingers signify? (*Aunt Jennifer's Tigers*)
- iv. What kind of thought the poet wishes to put away in 'My Mother at Sixty-Six'? Why?
- v. What image does the poet use to describe the beautiful bounty of the earth? (*A Thing of Beauty*)

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**SOLUTIONS**

vi. What had been put on the bulletin board?

*(The Last Lesson)*

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.

**2 × 2 = 4**

i. How did Zitkala-Sa try to avoid the loss of her long hair?

*(Memories of Childhood)*

ii. Comment on the ending of the play “On the Face of It”.

iii. Why was the general not interested in sending Dr. Sadao with the troops?

*(The Enemy)*

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.

**5**

A. Obstacles determine the quality of life. Hermits feel convinced that sweet are the uses of adversity. Problems are opportunities. Elucidate the saying taking ideas from the given lines: “Events justified Gandhi’s position. Within a few years, the British planters abandoned their estates, which reverted to the peasants. Indigo sharecropping disappeared.”

*(Indigo)*

**Or**

B. “It is his karma, his destiny.” The prose section Lost Spring includes this telling comment said by Mukesh’s grandmother. In Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers, destiny of common housewife is discussed. Imagine yourself to be a motivational speaker who has to address high school students. Write this address in about 120-150 words elaborating on occurrences from the two texts to inspire your audience and to convince them about the importance of creating their own destiny through hard work.

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.

**5**

A. Take care of small things and the big things will take care of themselves. Instead of ignoring things whether big or small, do care of things to make them more sustainable. You wish to include a cameo for the above statement’s explanation in your upcoming blog post. (A cameo is a short description that neatly encapsulates someone or something)

As a part of the research, discuss the statement in relation to Antarctica in about 120-150 words.

*(Journey to the End of The Earth)*

**Or**

B. ‘Flattery is eating into roots of our society and polity.’ The Tiger King or the Maharaja pursue the same. Discuss with reference to the lesson in about 120-150 words.

*(The Tiger King)*

□□□□□□

**Click the Following Button to See the Free MS/Solutions**

**SOLUTIONS**

**Sample Paper 18**  
**Class XII Exam 2023-24**  
**English-Core (301)**

**Time Allowed : 3 Hrs.**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
  2. Attempt question based on specific instructions for each part.
- 

**SECTION A-READING SKILLS**

**22**

**Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages**

**1. Read the following text.**

**12**

1. We often make all things around us the way we want them. Even during our pilgrimages we have begun to look for whatever makes our heart happy, gives comfort to our body and peace to the mind. It is as if external solutions will fulfil our needs, and we do not want to make any special efforts even in our spiritual search. Our mind is resourceful-it works to find short-cuts in simple and easy ways.
2. Even pilgrimages have been converted into tourism opportunities. Instead, we must awaken our conscience and souls and understand the truth. Let us not tamper with either our own nature or that of the Supreme.
3. All our cleverness is rendered ineffective when nature does a dance of destruction. Its fury can and will wash away all imperfections. Indian culture, based on Vedic treatises, assists in human evolution, but we are now using our entire energy in distorting these traditions according to our convenience instead of making efforts to make ourselves worthy of them.
4. The irony is that humans are not even aware of the complacent attitude they have allowed themselves to sink to. Nature is everyone's Amma and her fierce blows will sooner or later corner us and force us to understand this truth. Earlier, pilgrimages to places of spiritual significance were rituals that were undertaken when people became free from their worldly duties. Even now some seekers take up this pious religious journey as a path to peace and knowledge. Anyone travelling with this attitude feels and travels with only a few essential items that his body can carry. Pilgrims traditionally travelled light, on foot, eating light, dried chickpeas and fruits, or whatever was available. Pilgrims of olden days did not feel the need to stay in special AC bedrooms, or travel by luxury cars or indulge themselves with delicious food and savouries.
5. Pilgrims traditionally moved ahead, creating a feeling of belonging towards all, conveying a message of brotherhood among all they came across whether in small caves, ashrams or local settlements. They received the blessings and congregations of yogis and mahatmas in return while conducting the dharma of their pilgrimage. A pilgrimage is like penance or sadhana to stay near nature and to experience a feeling of oneness with it, to keep the body healthy and fulfilled with the amount of food, while seeking freedom from attachments and yet remaining happy while staying away from relatives and associates.

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**SOLUTIONS**

6. This is how a pilgrimage should be rather than making it like a picnic by taking a large group along and living in comfort, packing in entertainment, and tampering with environment. What is worse is giving a boost to the ego of having had a special darshan. Now alms are distributed, charity done while they brag about their spiritual experiences!
7. We must embark on our spiritual journey by first understanding the grace and significance of a pilgrimage and following it up with the prescribed rules and rituals - this is what translates into the ultimate and beautiful medium of spiritual evolution. There is no justification for tampering with nature.
8. A pilgrimage is symbolic of contemplation and meditation and acceptance, and is a metaphor for the constant growth or movement and love for nature that we should hold in our hearts.
9. This is the truth !

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

- i. Select the option that is similar to narrator's expression, "Nature is everyone's Amma"? 1
  - (a) All mothers are nature.
  - (b) Nature is the only supreme power.
  - (c) Nature is motherly.
  - (d) Mother and nature are same.
- ii. Pick out the option that is TRUE about the pilgrimages, as discussed in the above passage. 1
  - (a) One should avoid eating food while on a pilgrimage.
  - (b) Pilgrimages should be performed at the young age only.
  - (c) Pilgrimages have been converted into tourism nowadays.
  - (d) Pilgrimages should be done for the purpose of fun only.
- iii. How does nature show its anger? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- iv. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1

The word 'Amma' used by the writer signifies \_\_\_\_\_.
- v. As per your understanding of the passage, choose the words that best describe the response of nature against cleverness shown by us. 1
  - (a) Catastrophic and Gratifying
  - (b) Gratifying and Detrimental
  - (c) Buoyant and Gratifying
  - (d) Detrimental and Catastrophic
- vi. How does the human of today act? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- vii. As given in the passage, it states that most of the time, people prefer to do \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- viii. Describe the traditional pilgrim. Answer in about 40 words. 2

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**SOLUTIONS**

ix. Pick out the option that is not true according to the passage.

1

A pilgrim can keep his body healthy

1. by travelling a lot of places
2. by travelling light
3. by keeping free from attachment
4. by eating small amount of food
5. by eating snacks and rich food

(a) Both 1 and 2

(b) only 2

(c) 1, 3, 4, and 5

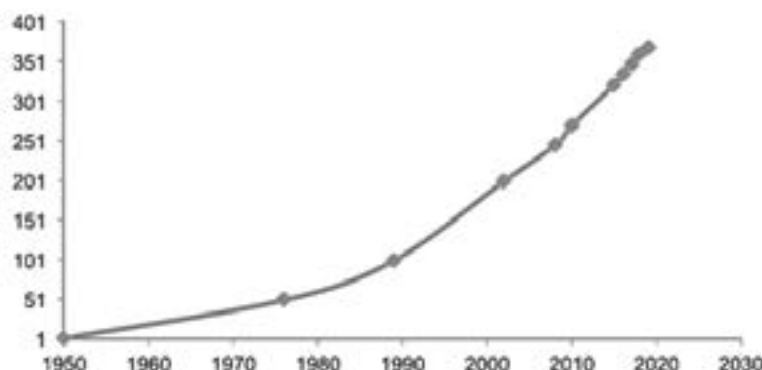
(d) only 4

2. Read the following text.

10

1. Our history makes it evident that the Indian Plastics Industry made a vigorous beginning in 1957 but it took more than 30 years for it to pervade Indian lifestyles. In 1979, 'the market for plastics' was just being seeded by the state-owned Indian Petro-Chemicals and it was only in 1994 that plastic soft drink bottles became a visible source of annoyance.
2. In the same year, people in other cities were concerned about the state of public sanitation and also urged regulatory bodies to ban the production, distribution and use of plastic bags. However, the challenge was greater than it appeared at first.
3. The massive generation of plastic waste in India is due to rapid urbanisation, spread of retail chains, plastic packaging from grocery to food and vegetable products, to consumer items and cosmetics. The projected high growth rates of GDP and continuing rapid urbanisation suggest that India's trajectory of plastic consumption and plastic waste is likely to increase.

Global plastics production (million metric tonnes per year)  
Global polymer production of resin and fiber



4. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report of 2018, India stands among few other countries like France, Mongolia and several African countries that have initiated total or partial national-level bans on plastics in their jurisdictions. On World Environment Day in 2018, India vowed to phase out single-use plastics by 2022, which gave a much needed impetus to bring this change.
5. In this context, thereafter ten states (Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Odisha, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu) are currently sending their collected waste to cement plants for co-processing, twelve other states/UTs are using plastic waste for polymer bitumen road construction and still four other states are using the plastic waste for waste-to-energy

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**SOLUTIONS**

plants and oil production. A world of greater possibilities has now opened up to initiate appropriate and concrete actions to build up the necessary institutions and systems before oceans turn, irreversibly into a thin soup of plastic.

6. However there is no one single masterstroke to counter the challenges witnessed by the staggering plastic waste management in the country. The time is now to formulate robust and inclusive National Action Plans and while doing so, the country will establish greater transparency to combat the plastic jeopardy in a more sustainable and holistic way.

**Answer the following questions, based on given passage.**

- i. Infer what does our history make evident, as mentioned in paragraph 1. Answer about in 40 words. 2
- ii. Why do people demand a ban on plastics? 1
- (a) Because of political pressure.
  - (b) Because of personal interests.
  - (c) Because of rapid decrease in plastic bottles.
  - (d) Because people are concerned about public sanitation.
- iii. What can one conclude about the production of plastics in 2019? Answer with reference to the graph given in the extract. 1
- iv. Identify the user who did not accept the ban of plastic bottles in India. 1
- (a) Sunaina – I am buying a soft drink tin can as plastic bottles after use create foul smell.
  - (b) Shivam – I am drinking soft drink in plastic bottle as it is cheaper than tin can.
  - (c) Harpreet – I love soft drinks, therefore, I am buying a tin can.
- v. Which of the following is an example that is currently sending its collected waste to cement plants for co-processing, as per the extract? 1
- (a) Goa
  - (b) Delhi
  - (c) Madurai
  - (d) Andhra Pradesh
- vi. What step must be taken to combat the challenges of plastic waste management? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- vii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
- The time is now to formulate robust and inclusive National Action Plans to combat the plastic jeopardy in a \_\_\_\_.
- viii. State TRUE or FALSE. 1
- The projected growth rates of GDP and continuing rapid urbanisation suggest that India's trajectory of plastic consumption is likely to decrease tremendously.

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**SOLUTIONS**



**SECTION B - CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS****18**

*Note : All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.*

**3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4**

- A.** Your school is going to organize a blood donation camp next week. Write a notice in about 50 words to invite volunteers for this camp. You are the Head Boy of Prakriti International School, Delhi.

**Or**

- B.** As the Principal, write a notice in about 50 words informing the prefects, monitors and other discipline in-charge students of a Leadership Training Camp being organised by the school.

**4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4**

- A.** Your Father, Mr O P Agarwal, residing at C-4/116, Mission Compound, Jhansi, wants to celebrate the success of your sister Snigdha's clearing the CLAT Entrance Examination and securing admission in one of the best colleges of the country. He wants you to draft a formal invitation for him on his behalf. Draft the invitation in not more than 50 words.

**Or**

- B.** You are Seema Singh. The wedding of your elder brother Jivitesh Singh is going to be held on 17th December 20XX at Hotel Lake View, Udaipur. Write out an informal invitation to your friend Rohini requesting her to attend the function.

**5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A.** You are Archana/Ashish living at C-16/714 Saraswati Lane, Gwalior. You came across an advertisement for the post of Trainee Accountant in S.R. Medical Labs, Gwalior. Write a letter to the advertiser applying for the job. Also give your detailed resume.

**Or**

- B.** You are Sunanda of 7, South Extension, New Delhi. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily expressing your concern over the rising exodus of people from neighbouring states. Express your apprehensions and give a few suggestions about the issue.

**6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A.** As Shreya/Shrey, write an article on 'Junk the Junk Food' to create an awareness among children that junk food is unhealthy and unhygienic.

**Or**

- B.** A new indoor gymnasium has recently been constructed and inaugurated at St. John's School, Bengaluru. As a special correspondent of 'The Hindu', draft a report in 120-150 words on the gymnasium and the inauguration ceremony.

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**SOLUTIONS**

**SECTION C- LITERATURE****40****7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.****6**

- A.** Now we will count to twelve  
And we will all keep still.  
For once on the face of the Earth  
Let's not speak in any language  
Let's stop for one second  
And not move our arms so much.

*(Keeping Quiet)*

- i.** Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract? 1
- (a) Sustaining peace and silence (b) War and violence  
(c) War (d) Introspection of others
- ii.** State whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the given extract. 1  
The poet wants us not to move our arms so much because physical activity leads to stopping our introspection.
- iii.** Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
The poet asks us to stop for one second because the moment of quietness will give us the time to meditate and introspect upon the kind of turmoil \_\_\_\_.
- iv.** The poet asks the readers to 'count till twelve' in the extract. This symbolizes \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- v.** Based on the rhyme scheme of the poem, evident in the extract, which word would you rhyme with 'second'? 1
- reckoned

section

pun
- vi.** Select the option that is NOT true about the poem in the given extract. 1
- (a) The poem has rhyming scheme 'aabbcc'. (b) The poem has no rhyming scheme.  
(c) The poem is written in free verse. (d) The poem stresses upon being quiet.

**Or**

- B.** "Sometimes I feel myself I can hardly bear  
The thought of so much childish longing in vain,  
The sadness that lurks near the open window there,  
That waits all day in almost open prayer  
For the squeal of brakes, the sound of a stopping car,"

*(A Roadside Stand)*

- i.** What will the rural folk feel at the sound of stopping cars? 1
- (a) Shocked and devastated (b) Faithful and shocked  
(c) Hopeful and excited (d) Excited and shocked

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- ii. What can't the poet tolerate? 1
- iii. The word 'squeal' is an example of the figure of speech \_\_\_\_\_. 1  
 (a) oxymoron (b) metaphor  
 (c) onomatopoeia (d) personification
- iv. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE. 1  
 The poet believes that someone will help the rural folk.
- v. Identify the phrase from the extract, that suggests the following. 1  
 The rural folk are innocent people hoping for someone to give them money.
- vi. Fill the blank with an appropriate word, with reference to the extract. 1  
 The squeal of brakes and the stopping of the cars indicate \_\_\_\_\_.

**8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 4**

- A. MR LAMB : You could lock yourself up in a room and never leave it. There was a man who did that. He was afraid, you see. Of everything. Everything in this world. A bus might run him over, or a man might breathe deadly germs onto him, or a donkey might kick him to death, or lightning might strike him down, or he might love a girl and the girl would leave him, and he might slip on a banana skin and fall and people who saw him would laugh their heads off. So he went into this room, and locked the door, and got into his bed, and stayed there.

*(On the Face of It)*

- i. Why does the speaker refer to the uncertainty of life? 1
- ii. Which intolerable situation is best described in the given extract? 1  
 (a) The situation when people passed sarcastic remarks on him.  
 (b) The situation when people abused him.  
 (c) The situation when people laughed at him.  
 (d) None of these
- iii. Why does the speaker refer to the example of a man who locked himself in the room? 1
- iv. What was Mr Lamb doing by giving such example to him? 1

**Or**

- B. They saw when they came toward him that indeed it was so. The sand on one side of him had already a stain of red soaking through. "He is wounded," Sadao exclaimed. He made haste to the man, who lay motionless, his face in the sand. An old cap stuck to his head soaked with sea water. He was in wet rags of garments. Sadao stopped, Hana at his side, and turned the man's head. They saw the face. 'A white man!' Hana whispered.

Yes, it was a white man. The wet cap fell away and there was his wet yellow hair, long, as though for many weeks it had not been cut, and upon his young and tortured face was a rough yellow beard. He was unconscious and knew nothing that they did for him.

*(The Enemy)*

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**SOLUTIONS**

- i. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
The white man's face is described as 'tortured' because apparently \_\_\_\_.
- ii. In the given extract, which option best suits the theme of the story? 1  
(a) Honesty  
(b) Punctuality  
(c) Dedication  
(d) Humanity
- iii. What is the tone in the given extract? 1
- iv. The author's description of the stranger uses the word 'yellow'. What does this show about the stranger? 1
- 9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**
- A.** As soon as they got up from the table he went around to each one present and said thank you and good night, but when he came to the young girl she gave him to understand that it was her father's intention that the suit which he wore was to be a Christmas present-he did not have to return it; and if he wanted to spend next Christmas Eve in a place where he could rest in peace and be sure that no evil would befall him, he would be welcomed back again.
- (The Rattrap)*
- i. What did Edla tell the peddler? 1
- ii. What did the girl want to convey to the guest? 1  
(a) She wanted to thank him  
(b) She wanted him to wear the suit  
(c) Her father wanted him to wear the suit  
(d) She liked him
- iii. Complete the sentence with reference to the extract. 1  
The guest was asked not to \_\_\_\_ the suit.
- iv. What did Edla also invited the peddler for? 1
- v. How does Edla's gesture affect the peddler? 1
- vi. What does the given extract show about Edla? 1  
(a) That she was cheerful  
(b) That she was charitable  
(c) That she was benevolent  
(d) That she was haughty

**Or**

- B.** “I won’t scold you, little Franz; you must feel bad enough. See how it is! Every day we have said to ourselves, ‘Bah! I’ve plenty of time. I’ll learn it tomorrow.’ And now you see where we’ve come out. Ah, that’s the great trouble with Alsace; she puts off learning till tomorrow. Now those fellows out there will have the right to say to you, ‘How is it; you pretend to be Frenchmen, and yet you can neither speak nor write your own language?’ But you are not the worst, poor little Franz. We’ve all a great deal to reproach ourselves with.”

*(The Last Lesson)*

- i. Who are ‘those fellows’ as mentioned in the extract? 1
- ii. Select the option that completes the given sentence appropriately. 1  
 ‘We’ in the given extract refers to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) himself (b) children  
 (c) parents (d) Both (a) and (c)
- iii. Why was Franz to be scolded? 1
- iv. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that the people of Alsace did not give an importance to their native language. 1
- v. Select the correct option to fill in the blank. 1  
 Franz was able to understand the grammar lesson easily because he was \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) competitive (b) appreciative  
 (c) introspective (d) receptive
- vi. Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation, as per the extract. 1  
 The speech given by M. Hamel to Franz, is crucial for the villagers because \_\_\_\_\_.

- 10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words. 5 × 2 = 10**

- i. How did the author become a swimmer finally? *(Deep Wather)*
- ii. What did the publisher think of ‘The Name of the Rose’? *(The Interview)*
- iii. Why do you think servants thought Gandhi to be another peasant? *(Indigo)*
- iv. What are the items that Aunt Jennifer is embroidering? What do they signify? *(Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers)*
- v. What does the poet’s mother look like? What kind of images has the poet used to signify her ageing decay? *(My Mother at Sixty-Six)*
- vi. Why in ‘grandeur’ associated with the “mighty dead”? *(A Thing of Beauty)*

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**SOLUTIONS**

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.  $2 \times 2 = 4$

i. Who was Annan? How did he justify the behaviour of the elder?

*(Memories of Childhood)*

ii. How, according to the author, has mankind etched its dominance over nature?

*(Journey to the End of the Earth)*

iii. What was the dilemma that Dr. Sadao faced?

*(The Enemy)*

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. **5**

A. The prose sections, 'The Last Lesson' and 'Poets and Pancakes', bring out situational irony and gentle humour as well as satire to point out human foibles.

Imagine yourself to be a motivational speaker who has to address high school students. Write this in about 120-150 words elaborating on occurrences from the two texts to inspire your audience and to convince them about the importance of humour in life.

**Or**

B. Bring out the poetic devices used in the poem.

*(My Mother at Sixty-Six)*

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. **5**

A. How would you describe the behavior of the Maharaja's minions towards him? Do you find them truly sincere towards him or are they driven by fear when they obey him? Do we find a similarity in today's political order?

*(The Tiger King)*

**Or**

B. Both Sam and Charley experienced the presence of the third level at Grand Central Station. Instead of coming out from this illusion, Sam, being a psychiatrist got trap in this illusion. It is a story about time travel.

Imagine yourself to be Sam, and express your thoughts whether the third level exists or not.

*(The Third Level)*

□□□□□□

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**SOLUTIONS**

**Sample Paper 19**  
**Class XII Exam 2023-24**  
**English-Core (301)**

**Time Allowed : 3 Hrs.**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
  2. Attempt question based on specific instructions for each part.
- 

**SECTION A-READING SKILLS**

**22**

**Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages**

**1. Read the following text.**

**12**

1. Globalisation is largely the result of planning by statesmen to break down borders hampering trade to increase prosperity and interdependence, thereby decreasing the chance of future war. Their work led to the Bretton Woods Conference, an agreement to lay down the framework for international commerce and finance and the founding of several international institutions intended to oversee the process of globalisation. These institutions include the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the World Bank) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
2. Globalisation, the integration of the world economy, has been a persistent theme of the past thirty years. Growth of cross border economic activity has changed the structure of economics and the political and social organisation of countries. Not all effects of globalisation can be measured directly. But the scope and pace of change can be monitored along four key dimensions - trade in goods and services, financial flows, movement of people and communication.
3. In the last two decades of the 20th century, developing countries have adopted globalisation and liberalisation as the medium to strengthen their poor economic condition and to increase foreign investment. This worldwide change brought social and cultural calamity in India. The worst effect was on the Indian culture, the transition being from traditional to modern, national to global, old to new.
4. Another unfortunate effect is the alienation of the younger generation as expressed in their rejection of culture and tradition and loss of faith in the social, political and cultural tradition. Modern youth is drifting away from familial ties. They wish for independence, privacy and space. As a result, the traditional joint family system has given way to a nuclear family system.
5. The foreign channels propagate violence, vulgarity and promiscuity in the name of entertainment for gaining wide viewership. The Indian media blindly and blatantly copies their eroticism better than them. As a result, the national channels defining the Indian culture and broadcasting education-oriented programmes have been sidelined.
6. Another impact of globalisation is associated with the problem of unemployment. It has brought machines, new factories and new approaches into the Indian market. Everything is computerised. The most vulnerable section of society, that is women, are being exploited continuously.

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**SOLUTIONS**

7. Over the past five decades, the world has seen several models and paradigms which have failed to provide concrete results. What we really need is a globalised economy, but one which is placed in a human context. The policies should be introduced in such a way that they boost the economy and do not affect the very essence of Indian culture. The developing countries need to improve healthcare, literacy rate, education and most importantly, restore the cultural heritage, because it is culture which identifies a country.

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

- i. Which one of the following is not a key dimension of globalisation? 1
  - (a) Social organisation of countries
  - (b) Communication
  - (c) Trade in goods and services
  - (d) Movement of people
- ii. Globalisation is associated with the issue of all of the following except 1
  - (a) unemployment
  - (b) environment
  - (c) traditional systems
  - (d) computerisation
- iii. List any two ways in which Indian culture has been damaged. Answer in about 40 words. 2
- iv. Complete the given sentence with an appropriate inference, with respect to the following. 1  
The concept of globalisation means \_\_\_\_\_.
- v. Select the option that conveys the opposite of the word ‘resilient’ from words used in Paragraph 6. 1
  - (a) computerised
  - (b) sterile
  - (c) vulnerable
  - (d) exploited
- vi. Globalisation was essential to avoid any possibility of future wars. Give reason in about 40 words for your answer. 2
- vii. How has computerisation affected women? 1
- viii. Comment on the writer’s belief that globalisation started the destruction of the Indian culture? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- ix. Pick the option that correctly lists the final feelings of the writer with reference to the process of globalisation. 1
  1. Happy
  2. Satisfied
  3. Disillusioned
  4. Regretful
  5. Enlightened

Codes

  - (a) 1 and 2
  - (b) 3 and 5
  - (c) 2 and 4
  - (d) 1 and 4

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**2. Read the following text.****10**

1. This isn't a mountain region of mere subjective beauty. Nor one, which claims its greatness, based on just an overwhelming opinion of a large majority. For Sikkim, it is a treasure that few know about. However, the facts of its remarkable geography bear enough testimony to pitch Sikkim in a slot that no other mountain region anywhere in the world could duplicate or rival. What Everest is to peaks, Sikkim is to the mountains. Tragically, a region so wild and exotic and with such geographic and climatic extremes, that its amazing wilds and not its unremarkable hill stations, ensure its accessibility to the adventurous only.
2. Just delve on these facts a bit. From the plains, in a mere 80 kms as the crow flies, the altitude reaches 28,168 feet at the very top of Kanchenjunga, the third highest peak in the world. Such a sharp elevation is unrivalled anywhere else and is the first geographical claim of Sikkim.
3. The second is an offshoot of the first. Nowhere else do so many 7,000 metre plus peaks crowd up such a confined space. And the third is really a consequence of the first and the second with the sharp gradation creating the most variegated flora and fauna possible anywhere in the mountains. The fourth uniqueness is also a consequence of the first and the second and lies in the extremes of the climate which ranges from the tropical to the typical arctic type. And the fifth claim is its thin permanent population and relatively fewer travellers by virtue of its remote far-eastern Himalayan location. The startling facts about Sikkim never seem to end. For starters, all of Sikkim lies in a mere 110 kms by 65 kms of mountains, peaks, glaciers, rivers and forests. A little dot on the map at a latitude 27 degrees North and longitude 88 degrees East. Its 7,000 sq. kms make it about as large as the National Capital Region of India! To the North and extending to the East of Sikkim, is Tibet/China and to the West is Nepal. To the South are the Himalayan and sub Himalayan regions of West Bengal. It is, in fact, these geographical extremes and the resulting ambience, that makes mountaineers trek here, when they are not climbing, besides fuelling mountaineering dreams in the minds of trekkers, what with the closest possible proximity to magnificent peaks while trekking.
4. On the subject of trekking here, it is strange but true that acclimatisation is much tougher in Sikkim than elsewhere. It may have something to do with being closer in latitude to the Tropic of Cancer, beside the rather sharp stages involved in each day of trekking. The closeness to the Tropic of Cancer has meant that On the subject of trekking here, it is strange but true that acclimatisation is much tougher in Sikkim than the snowline will always be much higher and therefore human settlements are seen even at altitudes of 16,000 feet!

**Answer the following questions, based on given passage.**

- i. What makes Sikkim such a unique place? Mention two points. 2
- ii. Which proverb resonates the idea of "subjective beauty" given in the first line? 1
  - (a) Too many cooks spoil the broth
  - (b) A rolling stone gathers no moss
  - (c) Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder
  - (d) All that glitters is not gold
- iii. Why is acclimatisation much tougher in Sikkim than elsewhere? 1

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**SOLUTIONS**

- iv. Which of these statements is incorrect? 1  
(a) Sikkim lies in a mere 110 kms by 65 kms of mountains, peaks, glaciers, rivers and forests.  
(b) Sikkim is about 7000 sq. km.  
(c) Sikkim shares its eastern border with Nepal.
- v. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
Synonym of 'unrivalled' is \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) riddled (b) outstanding  
(c) unfit (d) hideous
- vi. The narrator states "in a mere 80 kms as the crow flies....". What is significant about this statement? 2
- vii. Give an appropriate title for the given passage. 1
- viii. State TRUE or FALSE. 1  
Sikkim isn't a mountain region of mere subjective beauty?' What does "this" stand for in the line?

**SECTION B- CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS****18**

*Note : All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.*

3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4  
A. You are Sahil Sagar, the President of Nehru Yuva Club, Delhi. You have planned to take a trekking trip for 15 days to Rohtang Pass next month. Write a notice giving all necessary information to invite participants for trekking programme.

**Or**

- B. As the Director, Primary Section, write a notice in about 50 words for the children announcing the programme for the Children's Day.

4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4  
A. You are the secretary of the Alumni Club, S.K. International School, Roshan Road, Raipur. Using the information given below, write an invitation letter to all the old students of the school on the Alumni Meet.

Alumni Meet on 25th December-Dinner-DJ-Mahek Hotel-Raipur-6 PM to 10 PM-confirm your seats.
---

**Or**

- B. Write an invitation to your friend inviting him on the inauguration ceremony of your new house. Use the information given below.

Inauguration of home - Hawan ceremony - Lunch
---

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**SOLUTIONS**

**5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A. Pankaj Das of 95, Dehu Road, Pune, sees an advertisement for the post of a supervisor and decides to apply for the job. The requirements for the job are graduation in any science subject, knowledge of English and possession of computer skills. Write an application along with the biodata in about 120-150 words to the Personnel Manager, Light Sight Chemists, Dehu Road, Pune.

**Or**

- B. Write a letter to the editor of The Hindu about rash and reckless driving, suggesting preventive measures. You are Neha/Nehal living at B-3/345 Sector 8, Defence Colony, New Delhi.

**6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A. Write an article in about 120-150 words for your school magazine on 'Drug Abuse and Its Prevention'.

**Or**

- B. You have recently visited an island on the Pulicat Lagoon in Tamil Nadu. Write a report in 120-150 words on how children go to school by boat from this island.

**SECTION C- LITERATURE****40****7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

- A. Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing  
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,  
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth  
of noble natures, of the gloomy days,  
of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways  
Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,

*(A Thing of Beauty)*

- i. Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract? 1
- (a) Beauty is intransient
  - (b) Happiness
  - (c) Joyful youth
  - (d) Mundane world
- ii. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract. 1
- Beauty has the power to remove darkness and negativity and helps us survive when there is a dearth of noble nature or when one is surrounded by evil.
- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
- The extract highlights the fact that beauty has a positive impact on one's health. It helps one get \_\_\_\_\_ sleep.

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**SOLUTIONS**

- iv. The poetic device used in the phrase 'noble nature' is \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- v. Based on the rhyming scheme, evident in lines 2-5, of the given extract, which word would rhyme with line1? 1

breathing

target

sound

- vi. Select the option that is NOT true about the lack of punctuation at the end of last second line of the given extract. 1
- (a) Creates a sense of continuity and flow that connects the line with the last line.
- (b) Encourages the reader to continue reading
- (c) Creates a sense of anticipation and expectation from the readers.
- (d) None of these

**Or**

- B. When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by. The tigers in the panel that she made Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.

*(Aunt Jennifer's Tiger)*

- i. What does the Aunt's terrified hands show about her emotional state? 1
- (a) Hard and bitter experience of her married life
- (b) The weight of her wedding band
- (c) Her aged terrified hands
- (d) Victim of gender oppression
- ii. What does the phrase 'she was mastered by' suggest? 1
- iii. Select the word that WILL NOT complete the sentence appropriately. 1
- The Aunt embroidered tigers on the panel to \_\_\_\_\_.
- (a) show her suppressed feelings
- (b) to express her strengths
- (c) to express her fighting spirit of a warrior
- (d) to express her love bond with her lovable husband
- iv. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE. 1
- The poet tries to convey through Aunt Jennifer's tiger the female existence and their fear of men.
- v. What message does the line highlight 'still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by' in the aunt's life? 1
- vi. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
- The tigers that she made in the panel shows her strength and her ability of \_\_\_\_\_.

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**SOLUTIONS**

**8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 4**

- A.** From that day onwards it was celebration time for all the tigers inhabiting Pratibandapuram. The state banned tiger hunting by anyone except the Maharaja. A proclamation was issued to the effect that if anyone dared to fling so much as a stone at a tiger, all his wealth and property would be confiscated. The Maharaja vowed he would attend to all other matters only after killing the hundred tigers. Initially the king seemed well set to realise his ambition.

Not that he faced no dangers. There were times when the bullet missed its mark, the tiger leapt upon him and he fought the beast with his bare hands. Each time it was the Maharaja who won.

*(The Tiger King)*

- i. The tone of the author when he says 'it was celebration time for all tigers' is \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- ii. Select the option that enumerates the characteristics of the king. 1
  - (a) Gullible and scrupulous
  - (b) Wilful and arrogant
  - (c) Aggressive and apathetic
  - (d) All of these
- iii. Why did the Maharaja want to kill tigers specifically? 1
- iv. What does the proclamation show us about the authority possessed by the Maharaja? 1

**Or**

- B.** We must simply tell them that we intend to give him to the police-as indeed we must, Sadao. We must think of the children and your position. It would endanger all of us if we did not give this man over as a prisoner of war”

*(The Enemy)*

- i. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
Dr Sadao will not be arrested on the charge of harbouring an enemy \_\_\_\_\_.
- ii. Who are 'them' being referred to here? 1
  - (a) Servants
  - (b) Friends
  - (c) Neighbours
  - (d) Doctors
- iii. Who is the speaker of the above lines and who is the listener? 1
- iv. What will Sadao and Hana do with the man? 1

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**SOLUTIONS**

**9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

- A.** The experience had a deep meaning for me, as only those who have known stark terror and conquered it can appreciate. In death there is peace. There is terror only in the fear of death, as Roosevelt knew when he said, ‘All we have to fear is fear itself.’ Because I had experienced both the sensation of dying and the terror that fear of it can produce, the will to live somehow grew in intensity.

*(Deep Water)*

- i. How had the narrator experienced ‘the sensation of dying and the terror that fear of it can produce’? 1
- ii. Based on the above extract, choose the statement that is TRUE for the speaker. 1
- (a) Douglas fear kept him away from going fishing.
- (b) The fall in the pool at YMCA intensified Douglas fear.
- (c) The fear of drowning resulted in Douglas’ anxiety and terror.
- (d) Douglas decided to practice to overcome his fear.
- iii. Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation, as per the extract. 1
- Roosevelt’s opinion on fear is that \_\_\_\_\_.
- iv. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that the writer has himself faced the terror. 1
- v. What was the impact of the ‘experience’ on the narrator’s life? 1
- vi. Select the option that completes the given sentence appropriately. 1
- The ‘experience’ in the context refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
- (a) drowning in the YMCA Pool
- (b) swimming perfectly in various lakes
- (c) learning how to swim
- (d) Both (b) and (c)

**Or**

- B.** “The man was evidently used to sleeping with one eye open. He jumped up abruptly and seemed to be quite frightened. “My name is Edla Willmansson,” said the young girl. “My father came home and said that you wanted to sleep here in the forge tonight, and then I asked permission to come and bring you home to us. I am so sorry, Captain, that you are having such a hard time.” She looked at him compassionately, with her heavy eyes, and then she noticed that the man was afraid. “Either he has stolen something or else he has escaped from jail”, she thought, and added quickly, “You may be sure, Captain, that you will be allowed to leave us just as freely as you came.”

*(The Rattrap)*

- i. What did the man evidently used to? 1
- ii. The line, “Either he has stolen something or else he has escaped from jail” can be best classified as 1
- (a) a truth (b) an opinion
- (c) an assumption (d) a plot point

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**SOLUTIONS**

- iii. Explain any one inference that can be drawn from the line, "Either he has stolen some thing or else he has escaped from jail." 1
- iv. Identify the line from the text that bears evidence to the fact that Edla felt that the man was frightened. 1
- v. Which is the most likely reason Edla calling him captain? 1
- (a) He was looking like captain.
- (b) He was mistaken as a captain.
- (c) He was looking alike thief.
- (d) He had escaped from jail.
- vi. Complete the sentence with ONE word. 1
- Edla had two doubts about the man-one is that he was a thief and another is that he had escaped from \_\_\_\_\_.

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words.  $5 \times 2 = 10$

- i. What followed when Gandhiji arrived at Champaran?  
(Indigo)
- ii. Why do most celebrity writers hate to be interviewed?  
(The Interview)
- iii. How were the parents and M. Hamel responsible for the children's neglect of the French language?  
(The Last Lesson)
- iv. Bring out the contrast between the urban rich and the rural poor.  
(A Roadside Stand)
- v. What is the significance of the state of total inactivity or quietude that the poet urges in 'Keeping Quiet'?
- vi. What kind of mother's face has been described in 'My Mother at Sixty-Six'?

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.  $2 \times 2 = 4$

- i. Where did Charley go after reading Sam's note and why? What did he come to know about it?  
(The Third Level)
- ii. Why was Tishani Doshi filled with relief and wonder when he set foot on the Antarctic continent?  
(Journey to the End of the Earth)
- iii. What kind of a garden does Mr Lamb possess? Why is he attached to it?  
(On the face of It)

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**SOLUTIONS**

**12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A.** In Prose section, Indigo, chapter points out how an effective leadership can overcome any problem. Imagine yourself to be a motivational speaker who has to address high school students. Write this address in 120-150 words elaborating on occurrences from the text to inspire your audience and to convince them about the importance of leadership.

**Or**

- B.** ‘Mother continually warned against it, and kept fresh in my mind the details of each drowning in the river.’

In Prose section, ‘Deep Water’ includes this comment on William Douglas.

In ‘My Mother at Sixty Six’, we are told that -

‘But after the airport’s security check, standing a few yards away, I looked again at her, wan, pale as a late winter’s moon’

Imagine a conversation between Kamla Das and William Douglas as friends. Create this exchange with reference to the extracts given above.

**13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A.** ‘The modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry, tension and stress.’ Discuss with reference to “The Third Level”.

**Or**

- B.** The two accounts that you read in Memories of Childhood are based on two distant cultures. However, there lies the commonality of theme in both of them. Instead of letting it pull them down, they both found a way to overcome it in their own way. You wish to include a cameo of both in your upcoming blog post.

(A cameo is a short description that neatly encapsulates someone or something)

As a part of the research, compare and contrast the experiences faced by the two and their responses to these experiences, in about 120-150 words. (Clue : include similarities and differences in the discrimination they faced - their feelings - determination to overcome - success)

□□□□□□

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**SOLUTIONS**



**Sample Paper 20**  
**Class XII Exam 2023-24**  
**English-Core (301)**

**Time Allowed : 3 Hrs.**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
  2. Attempt question based on specific instructions for each part.
- 

**SECTION A-READING SKILLS**

**22**

**Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages**

1. **Read the following text.** **12**
1. Self-respect is very different than relying on one's ego or False Self persona that serves as a cover to show the world only "the good stuff" of a person's personality. It is the gift we give ourselves when we become less motivated to please others in order to get their approval and more motivated to live a life of authenticity and personal integrity despite whatever anyone else thinks about us.
2. The dismal fact is that self-respect has nothing to do with the approval of others—who are, after all, deceived easily enough; has nothing to do with reputation which is something that people with courage can do without. It is to know the difference between the price of things and their value and the courage to own your mistakes.
3. In brief, people with self-respect exhibit a certain toughness, a kind of moral nerve; they display what was once called character, a quality which, although approved in the abstract, sometimes loses ground to other, more instantly negotiable virtues. Its slipping prestige is dismissed when one sees people coveting success or money or fame at all costs. Nonetheless, character—the willingness to accept responsibility for one's own life—is the source from which self-respect springs.
4. To live without self-respect is to lie awake some night, beyond the reach of warm milk, phenobarbital, and the sleeping hand on the coverlet, counting up the sins of commission and omission, the trusts betrayed, the promises subtly broken, the gifts irrevocably wasted through sloth or cowardice or carelessness. However long we postpone it, we eventually lie down alone in that notoriously uncomfortable bed, the one we make ourselves. Whether or not we sleep in it depends, of course, on whether or not we respect ourselves.
5. To have that sense of one's intrinsic worth which, for better or for worse, constitutes self-respect, is potentially to have everything: the ability to discriminate, to love and to remain indifferent. To lack it is to be locked within oneself, paradoxically incapable of either love or indifference. If we do not respect ourselves, we are on the one hand forced to despise those who have so few resources as to consort with us, so little perception as to remain blind to our fatal weaknesses. On the other, we are peculiarly in thrall to everyone we see, curiously determined to live out-since our self-image is untenable—their false notions of us. We flatter ourselves by thinking this compulsion to please others an attractive trait: a gift for imaginative empathy, evidence of our willingness to give.

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**SOLUTIONS**

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

- i. Select the option that states the false self persona in a person according to the author. 1  
(a) self-respect  
(b) a person's true personality  
(c) unauthentic mask  
(d) 'real good stuff'
- ii. The writer would not agree with the given statements based on paragraph three, EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_. 1  
(a) self-respect is a virtue not appreciated in modern times.  
(b) it used to be a non-negotiable virtue.  
(c) self-respect has stood its ground come what may.  
(d) it is losing ground to more instantly negotiable virtues.
- iii. Why is it fair to say that the intrinsic worth of a person and self-respect have to go hand-in-hand? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- iv. Complete the given sentence with an appropriate inference, with respect to the following. 1  
Character– the willingness to accept responsibility for one's life is the source \_\_\_\_.
- v. Select the option that conveys the opposite of 'logical', from words used in paragraph two. 1  
(a) intrinsic (b) paradoxical  
(c) consort (d) untenable
- vi. Comment on the writer's reference to self-respect as a gift we give ourselves. Answer in about 40 words. 2
- vii. In the line "... people with self-respect exhibit a certain toughness, a kind of moral nerve, they display what was once called character ...", What does the word 'nerve' mean here? 1
- viii. Based on your understanding of paragraph 4, interpret the metaphor used by the author in the given statement. in about 40 words. 2  
'However long we postpone it, we eventually lie down alone in that notoriously uncomfortable bed, the one we make ourselves.'
- ix. Read the five statements (1)–(5) given below. 1  
(1) If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything.  
(2) Handsome is as handsome does.  
(3) Putting backbone into someone.  
(4) Neither fish, nor fowl.  
(5) Rolling stone gathers no moss.  
Identify the option that displays the title/s that DOES/DO correspond with the passage.  
(a) (1) and (2) (b) Only (1)  
(c) (2) and (3) (d) Only (5)

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**SOLUTIONS**

**2. Read the following text.****10**

1. The internet has become the integral part of today's generation of people; from communicating through instant messages and e-mails to banking, travelling studying and shopping, internet has touched every aspect of life. With the growing use of the internet by people, protecting important information has become a necessity. A computer that is not having appropriate security controls can be infected with malicious logic and thus any type of information can be accessed in moments.
2. Hacking of important data, network outages, computer viruses and other cyber related threats affects our lives that range from minor inconvenience to serious incidents. Cyber threats can be caused due to negligence and vulnerabilities, or unintentional accidents. Such hackers are a part of what is called Cybercrime. With the increasing use of net, the number of cybercrime complaints has seen a rise by 350% from 2013 and by over 44% from 2016, according to cyber cell statistics.
3. Most crimes are related to online banking, emphasising why policymakers are concerned about digital security as the government pushes for a more cashless economy and card-based or wallet-based transactions. As many as 3,474 cybercrime complaints have been registered in the past 10 months till October, 2017. A total of 2,402 such complaints were registered last year and 760 in 2013. Cyber cell cops said the online transaction was by cyber offenders who used IMPS/RTGS transfer after blocking Kumar's SIM, which was linked to his bank account.
4. The number of online banking fraud-related complaints had increased nearly nine times in the last five years. The number jumped from 248 in 2013 to 2,095 in 2017 (till October). While online banking and credit card fraud tops the list, social networking-related crime, email hacking, online sexual harassment, lottery fraud, data-theft and job-related fraud are also frequent. Social networking related complaints have doubled from 2016. Cyber cell cops blame ease of access to information and technological advancement for the spurt in cybercrime cases. Net-banking has made it easy for criminals to siphon off money from accounts. Bank-related fraud takes time to solve and constitute the maximum of cybercrime cases lying unsolved with the police, said an official with the cyber cell.
5. As the number of data networks, digital applications, as well as internet and mobile users are growing, so do the chances of cyber exploitation and cyber crimes. Even a small mistake in securing data or bad social networking can prove to be extremely dangerous. If accounts are not properly secured, it makes easier for hackers or unauthorised users to spread viruses or social engineered attacks that are designed to steal data and even money. Such types of issues highlight the need for cyber security as an essential approach in protecting and preventing data from being used inappropriately.
6. In simple language, Cyber security of Information technology security means protecting data, networks, programs and other information from unauthorised or unintended access, destruction or change. It encompasses all the mechanisms and processes that protect digital equipment, information and records from illegal or unintended access, manipulation or destruction.  
In today's dynamic environment, cyber security has become vital for individuals and Jar .flies, as well as organisations (such as military, government, business houses, educational and financial institutions, corporations and others) that collect and store a wide range of confidential data on computers and transmit that to other computers across different networks. For families, protection of children and family members from cyber crime has become substantially important.

**Answer the following questions, based on given passage.**

- i. Do you think that cyber security alone would be able to reduce cyber crimes? Give reasons for your answer. in about 40 words.

2

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**SOLUTIONS**

- ii. Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option. 1  
Regarding the increasing cybercrimes, the cyber cell blames \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) the unlimited access to internet (b) technological advancement  
(c) lack of cyber wall (d) lack of investment in cyber security
- iii. Based on the reading of the text, state a point to challenge the given statement. The internet can easily become secure if we teach people about its correct usage. 1
- iv. Select the option that displays the list of people who could be a cybercriminals. 1  
(a) Tech-savvy youth  
(b) Unemployed youth  
(c) Poorly paid people
- v. What has made it easy for people to illegally take out money from banks? 1  
(a) Aadhar numbers (b) Smart cards  
(c) Net-banking (d) Mobile numbers
- vi. Ease of access to information and technological advancement is the reason for the spurt in cybercrime cases. Give a reason for such a claim. Answer in about 40 words. 2
- vii. Complete the sentence based on the following statement. 1  
According to the passage, if accounts are not properly secured, hackers can easily \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- viii. State TRUE or FALSE. 1  
The government's push for a more cashless economy and card-based or wallet-based transactions is not a well thought of decision. 1

### SECTION B- CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

18

*Note : All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.*

3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4
- A. Recently there has been an increase in the cases of kidnappings, especially of children. On closer investigation it has been found that domestic helps or some persons familiar with the family were involved in most cases. You are the Secretary of the Residents' Welfare Association. Write a notice in about 50 words to be put up on the noticeboard of the colony informing the citizens about the following:
- Police verification of servants, identity cards to be made
  - Register entry of visitors at the gate
  - Installation of CCTV in the premises
- Or
- B. You are the president of the Malviya Nagar Residents' Welfare Association, Block A and you are organising a "New Year Party" in your area. Draft a notice as Dharam Sethi informing the residents of your block of the same. Include details which you deem necessary for the purpose.

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**SOLUTIONS**

**4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4**

- A.** You are a student of St. Anthony School, Gwalior. The school is holding its annual function. Write an invitation on behalf of the Principal inviting the parents and dignitaries of the town to attend the function to be held on September 18, 20xx at 5:00 p.m.

Or

- B.** Invite your class fellows and friends on the wedding of your elder sister. Invent necessary details. (50 words).

**5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A.** You are perturbed to read about the rising cases of road rage in the National Capital. People become so aggressive and violent that an argument results in injuries or, in some extreme cases, even death. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the Editor of a daily to make the public aware of the need to curb such behaviour to make roads safer for the people. You are Anvita/Anmol, a resident of Ashok Nagar, New Delhi.



Or

- B.** You are Rajan/Rama, living in Ghaziabad. You have just completed your studies and are in search of a job. While browsing through the Times of India, you came across the following advertisement. Choose a post for which you think you are suitable. Send your application in response to this advertisement.

An Upcoming School in Ghaziabad Requires the Following Staff	
Lab Assistant :	Science graduates having 2-5 yeats of lab experience
Accountant :	B Com with minimum experience of 2 years in maintaining accounts
Receptionist :	Young female candidates fluent in English with good communication skills and proficiency in computer/Net surfing with 3 year experience
Please send your detailed updated resume within seven days to the Manager, Prayag International School, 674, Kavi Nagar, Ghaziabad, 20xx.	

**6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

- A.** After class 12, students are apprehensive about choosing the course and the college. The 'Mission Admissions' organized by the Times of India is a great platform for college aspirants. It would help them to get knowledge about emerging opportunities in various streams. Write an article in 120-150 words emphasizing the need of career counselling to help students with the admission process.

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**SOLUTIONS**

Or

- B. You are a press reporter. Write a report in 120-150 words on the recent cattle catching drive launched by MCD to clear stray cattle from Delhi roads.

**SECTION C- LITERATURE**

**40**

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. **6**

- A. Now we will count to twelve  
And we will all keep still.  
For once on the face of the Earth  
Let's not speak in any language,  
Let's stop for one second,  
And not move our arms so much

*(Keeping Quiet)*

- i. Why is the poet asking the people not to speak? **1**  
(a) It gives the people time to introspect their actions.  
(b) It creates uproar.  
(c) The poet does not like talkative people.  
(d) All of these
- ii. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract. The poet asks the reader to do nothing and remain inactive. **1**
- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. **1**  
During counting to twelve the poet wants us to remain \_\_\_\_.
- iv. The use of the words 'count up to twelve' is aptly contrasting with 'we will all keep still' and both are put together shows \_\_\_\_\_. **1**
- v. Based on the poem rhyme scheme, evident in lines 2-5, in the given extract, which word would rhyme with line 1? **1**

shelf

valve

help

- vi. Select the option which is NOT true about the phrase 'on the face of the earth' symbolizes. **1**  
(a) The interconnectedness of all living beings  
(b) Shared the responsibility we have towards each other  
(c) Shared the responsibility we have towards our planet  
(d) Shared the responsibility of being violent

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**SOLUTIONS**

**Or**

- B.** Driving from my parent's  
home to Cochin last Friday  
morning, I saw my mother,  
beside me,  
doze, open mouthed, her face  
ashen like that  
of a corpse and realised with  
pain  
that she was as old as she  
looked but soon  
put that thought away, and  
looked out at young trees sprinting,

*(My Mother at Sixty-Six)*

- i. What is the speaker's emotional state when she's looking at her mother? 1
  - (a) Anxiety for her loved ones
  - (b) Anger for her loved ones
  - (c) Feeling of indifference for her loved ones
  - (d) Anxiety and concern for her loved ones
- ii. What does the phrase 'young trees sprinting' indicate? 1
- iii. Select the option that WILL NOT complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
The theme of the poem is \_\_\_\_\_, which is the law of nature.
  - (a) aging
  - (b) aspirations of young generation
  - (c) fear of losing a loved one
  - (d) life is eternal
- iv. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE. 1  
The poem is written in a single sentence punctuated by commas, which highlights the stream of consciousness effect where one thought leads to another.
- v. What message does the phrase 'ashen like that of a corpse' highlight? 1
- vi. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
The poem does not follow any rhyming scheme, thus, it has been written in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 4**
- A.** It's got nothing to do with my face and what I look like. I don't care about that and it isn't important. It's what I think and feel and what I want to see and find out and hear. And I'm going back there. 1  
*(On the Face of it)*
- i. Complete the sentence appropriately, with reference to the extract. 1  
When Derry goes 'back there', he sees \_\_\_\_\_.
- ii. What kind of a person has Derry become? 1

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**SOLUTIONS**



- iii. What do Mr. Lamb and Derry suffer from? 1
- (a) Burnt face (b) Burnt leg
- (c) Tin leg (d) Both (a) and (c)

- iv. What was the reason due to which Derry wanted to return to that place? 1

Or

- B. The reason the programme has been so successful is because it's impossible to go anywhere near the South Pole and not be affected by it. It's easy to be blasé about polar ice-caps melting while sitting in the comfort zone of our respective latitude and longitude, but when you can visibly see glaciers retreating and ice shelves collapsing, you begin to realise that the threat of global warming is very real.

*(The Journey to the End of Earth)*

- i. Complete the sentence appropriately, with reference to the extract. 1  
The reason behind the success of the programme 'Students on Ice' is the impossibility to \_\_\_\_.
- ii. Select the most suitable title of the give extract. 1
- (a) Students of the future (b) Kalyuga power
- (c) Global warming (d) Earth's End A Journey
- iii. Why is Antarctica and its understandings important for the survival of the world? 1
- iv. When is the threat of global warming? 1

**9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

- A. Only the desks and benches had been worn smooth; the walnut-trees in the garden were taller, and the hopvine that he had planted himself twined about the windows to the roof How it must have broken his heart to leave it all, poor man; to hear his sister moving about in the room above, packing their trunks! For they must leave the country next day.
- But he had the courage to hear every lesson to the very last. After the writing, we had a lesson in history, and then the babies chanted their ba, be bi, bo, bu. Down there at the back of the room old Hauser had put on his spectacles and, holding his primer in both hands, spelled the letters with them. You could see that he, too, was crying; his voice trembled with emotion, and it was so funny to hear him that we all wanted to laugh and cry. Ah, how well I remember it, that last lesson!

*(The Last Lesson)*

- i. List any two sensory details present in this extract. 1
- ii. What qualities of M. Hamel have been reflected in this extract? 1
- (a) patient, emotional (b) impatient, insensitive
- (c) proud, reproachful (d) miserable, resigned
- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
M. Hamel was making preparations \_\_\_\_.
- iv. Pick evidence from the extract that helps one infer that the atmosphere in the class was bitter sweet. 1
- v. What does 'courage to hear every lesson to the last' mean? 1

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- vi. Select the most suitable option for the tone of the speaker in the given extract. 1
- (a) Inquisitive (b) Alert  
(c) Monotonous (d) Doleful

Or

- B. I went to the pool when no one else was there. The place was quiet. The water was still and tiled bottom was as white and clean as a bathtub. I was timid about going in alone, so I sat on the side of the pool to wait for others.

I had not been there long when in came a big bruiser of a boy, probably eighteen years old. He had thick hair on his chest. He was a beautiful physical specimen, with legs and arms that showed rippling, muscles. He yelled. "Hi, Skinny! How'd you like to be ducked?"

(Deep Water)

- i. What is the purpose of the description of the bully? Present your views. 1
- ii. Select the option that completes the give sentence appropriately. 1  
When the narrator went to the pool it was \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) pleasant and lively (b) thrilling and attractive  
(c) dirty (d) still and clean
- iii. What did the big bruiser of a boy do? 1
- iv. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that the big boy was a bully. 1
- v. Why did the narrator sit on the side of the pool? 1  
(a) To enjoy the beauty of the pool (b) He was afraid of entering the pool alone  
(c) To wait for the coach (d) To prepare himself mentally to enter
- vi. Complete the sentence with one word. 1  
The word 'bruiser' in the extract means \_\_\_\_\_.

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words.  $5 \times 2 = 10$

- i. Why did the girl close the door when the ironmaster opened the door for the peddler to go? (The Rattrap)
- ii. Why did Gandhi agree to a settlement of 25 per cent refund to the farmers? (Indigo)
- iii. How did the poet prove that there can be life under apparent stillness in the poem 'Keeping Quiet'.
- iv. Why does the wedding band 'sit heavily' upon Aunt Jennifer's hand? (Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)
- v. How can 'mighty dead' be things of beauty? (A thing of Beauty)
- vi. What caused the lack of communication between the Englishman and the people at Gemini Studios? (Poets and Pancakes)

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11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. 2 × 2 = 4

i. What were the feelings of Dr. Sadao and his wife on seeing the wounded man? What did they finally decide to do?

*(The Enemy)*

ii. What arguments does Charley offer to show his disagreement with the psychiatrist's diagnosis?

*(The Third Level)*

iii. Do you think all this will change Derry's attitude towards Mr. Lamb?

*(On the Face of It)*

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5

A. The characters in prose sections, Mukesh in The Lost Spring and Sophie in Going Places are two different kinds of daydreamers. One is who fulfilled his dreams in real and the other is one who always lives in imaginary dreams. The daydreaming can affect our lives positively as well as negatively. Imagine yourself as a motivational speaker who has to address high school students. Write this address in about 120-150 words elaborating on occurrences from the two texts highlighting realistic and unrealistic types of day dreaming.

**Or**

B. Imagine a child from the farmer's family migrates to the city for their education. As the child, write back to your family telling them whether you would or would not want to turn into a city person.

Use the context of the poem "A Roadside Stand" in mind to pen down this letter.

You may begin this way:

12, Davidson County

23 January 'XX

Dear mom

I have been thinking about the roadside stall lately. Now that I find myself surrounded by city-people all the time, I think.....

With love

Jennifer

*(A Roadside Stand)*

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5

A. On returning home, Bama narrated the funny stories to her elder brother Annan. Her brother explained her that it is not funny in anything she told to him, instead all these incidents shows caste discrimination. As she understood the events, she felt disgusted and sad.

Imagine yourself to be BAMA and discuss what the Constitution of India does for this.

*(Memories of Childhood)*

**Or**

B. Imagine you are an ardent environmentalist who is involved in the Save the Tiger campaign. You have been asked to deliver a speech in a seminar related to your campaign and the need for the youth to be involved in such campaigns. Draft your speech.

*(A Tiger King)*

□□□□□□

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