SAMPLE PAPER 02

ENGLISH CORE (301)

CLASS-XII EXAM 2026-27

Time Allowed : 3 Hrs. **Maximum Marks : 80**

General Instructions :

Read the following instructions very carefully and follow them :

i. This question paper has 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.

ii This question paper contains three sections :
Section A : Reading Skills
Section B : Creative Writing Skills
Section C : Literature.

iii. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.

iv Seperate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.

v. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A - READING SKILLS 22

1. Read the following passage. **12**

1. India's handloom industry is one of the oldest and most important cottage industries in the country. It plays a vital role in preserving traditional textile art and providing employment to millions of weavers across rural and semi-urban areas. Each region of India has its unique weaving techniques, patterns, and fabrics that reflect the local culture and heritage. For instance, the bright, intricate designs of Kanjeevaram silk sarees from Tamil Nadu are distinct from the geometric patterns of the Assamese Mekhela Chador.

2. The handloom industry is largely decentralized, with weavers working out of their homes or in small cooperative societies. This gives the industry a flexible structure, allowing artisans to work independently and create personalized, handcrafted textiles. Many families have passed down their weaving skills for generations, preserving the cultural identity of their communities. The connection between the weavers and their craft is deeply personal, with each piece of fabric representing a blend of tradition and creativity.

3. Despite its cultural significance, the handloom sector faces several challenges. With the rise of mechanized textile mills and mass-produced clothing, handwoven fabrics have become more expensive and less accessible to the average consumer. This has led to a decline in demand, leaving many weavers struggling to make a sustainable living. Additionally, competition from cheaper synthetic fabrics and the lack of market access for rural weavers have further impacted the industry's growth.

4. In recent years, there has been a growing movement to revive the handloom industry through government initiatives, fashion collaborations, and consumer awareness campaigns. By promoting the use of handloom products and supporting sustainable fashion, many organizations hope to create a new market for handwoven fabrics. This

shift towards conscious consumption has the potential to preserve traditional weaving techniques while providing fair wages and better working conditions for weavers.

5. The future of India's handloom industry depends on balancing the preservation of its cultural heritage with the modernization of its production methods. Sustainable practices, coupled with innovative marketing strategies, can help the industry thrive in a competitive market, ensuring that the art of handloom weaving continues to flourish for generations to come.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

i. According to paragraph 1, how does India's handloom industry contribute to preserving culture? 1

ii. How does the decentralized nature of the handloom industry benefit weavers, as mentioned in paragraph 2? 1

iii. Read and complete the following sentence suitably. 1
The phrase "a flexible structure" in paragraph 2 suggests that the handloom industry allows weavers to work independently and craft unique products.
Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence.
The handloom industry has a flexible structure because _____.
(A) it enables weavers to work from home and follow traditional methods
(B) it allows consumers to access mass-produced textiles

iv. Complete the following with ONE example, with reference to paragraph 3 : 1
The decline in demand for handwoven fabrics is caused by _____.

v. Why does the writer mention government initiatives in paragraph 4? 1
Because
(A) It highlights efforts to revive the handloom industry by creating a new market.
(B) It explains how handloom weavers benefit from modern textile mills.
(C) It describes how mass production has improved the handloom sector.
(D) It shows how mechanized factories are outcompeting weavers.

vi. Provide ONE textual evidence with reference to paragraph 3, to support the following : 1
Weavers face difficulties in competing with synthetic fabrics. 1

vii. In the line, 'The future of India's handloom industry depends on balancing the preservation of its cultural heritage with the modernization of its production methods' (Paragraph 5), what does the phrase 'balancing the preservation of its cultural heritage' suggest about the challenges the industry faces? 2

viii. Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph 4 : 1
weaving: craftsmanship :: handlooms: _____
(A) flexibility (B) tradition
(C) production (D) sustainability

ix. Why is it fair to say that the statement 'the handloom industry is essential to preserving India's cultural heritage' in paragraph 1 uses factual language? 1

(A) It refers to the historical importance of handwoven textiles in Indian culture.
(B) It explains how mechanized textile mills are improving the industry.
(C) It compares the handloom industry to mass-produced clothing.
(D) It describes the impact of handloom products on rural areas.

x. Assess the potential challenges or benefits of modernizing India's handloom industry, as suggested in paragraph 5. 2

2. Read the following carefully. **10**

1. A large portion of India's elderly population lacks access to long-term and palliative care. A United Nations study, conducted in May-June 2018 with 10,000 respondents across five regions of India, revealed that 62.1% of the elderly do not receive such care. More than half of these respondents (52.4%) stated they primarily rely on traditional family support, as reported by the Agewell Research and Advocacy Centre.
2. The elderly population in India faces challenges like disability, limited mobility, loneliness, poverty, and difficulty accessing care. Rapid population aging, the growing generation gap, and the fast-paced lifestyle of the younger generation have worsened these issues, making life a constant struggle for independence for the elderly.
3. According to 64% of elderly respondents, loneliness, marginalisation, and isolation are the most critical issues for bedridden seniors, as they are unable to interact with relatives or friends. Himanshu Rath, founder of the Agewell Foundation, highlighted that this lack of social contact deepens the sense of isolation among the elderly.
4. The study also noted that 67.6% of elderly individuals, cared for by family members, are often required to help with household chores or babysitting to ensure they receive basic care and support from their families.
5. About 73.7% of elderly respondents mentioned that taking care of the family's house or property guarantees them better care. Additionally, 75% of respondents limit their social interactions due to pressure from family members to ensure continued support for food and medicines.
6. Rath also noted that home care for the elderly in India remains a challenge, as unorganised service providers such as nursing agencies and physiotherapists offer incomplete care, and geriatric care remains a neglected aspect of the country's healthcare system.

Answer the following questions, based on given passage.

i. Complete the following suitably. 1

In the introduction, the researcher links elderly care in India with the reliance on traditional family support to highlight _____.

ii. What would the following be classified as? 1

To explore the challenges faced by the elderly in accessing long-term and palliative care in India.

Select the appropriate response.

(A) Secondary objective (B) Research outcome
(C) Method of analysis (D) Primary objective

iii. Give two points to support why family involvement was included as a focus in the study on elderly care in India. 2

iv. Paragraph 3 includes words – 'isolation' and 'family support.' 1
Classify the following sentences as 'isolation' or 'family support':
Sentence 1: Elderly individuals who are bedridden feel lonely due to lack of social interaction.
Sentence 2: Many elderly people help with household chores to receive care from family members.

v. Read the following : 1
Seema regularly helps her family with household chores to ensure she receives the care she needs. Mohan, who lives next door, suffers from isolation because he is bedridden and unable to engage with friends or family. Arindam, their mutual friend, spends much of his time caring for his family's property in exchange for support.
Select the option that identifies the correct situations Seema, Mohan, and Arindam face.
(A) Seema – household chores; Mohan – isolation; Arindam – property management
(B) Seema – isolation; Mohan – social interaction; Arindam – family care
(C) Seema – family support; Mohan – independence; Arindam – social isolation
(D) Seema – neglect; Mohan – family care; Arindam – household chores

vi. Although both mobility and poverty contribute to elderly challenges, why is isolation considered the most critical issue for bedridden seniors? 1

vii. Analyse how the involvement of family in care provision impacts the independence of elderly individuals. (Paragraph 4) 2

viii. What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders, based on the insights from the study? 1
(A) Strengthen the involvement of organised service providers for elderly care
(B) Ensure traditional family care systems are maintained
(C) Focus on improving health insurance coverage for elderly hospitalisation
(D) Limit the role of family in elderly care

SECTION B - CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS 18

All the names and addresses used in the questions are fictitious. Resemblance, if any, is purely coincidental.

3. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words. $1 \times 4 = 4$

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 the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words. $1 \times 4 = 4$

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 the two, (A) or (B), in 120-150 words. $1 \times 5 = 5$

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 the two, (A) or (B) in 120-150 words. $1 \times 5 = 5$

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.

SECTION C- LITERATURE 40

7. Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B). $1 \times 6 = 6$

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?

(A) Sustaining peace and silence (B) War and violence
(C) War (D) Introspection of others

ii. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.
Assertion : The poet urges humanity to remain silent and still to promote unity and peace.
Reason : The poet suggests that by stopping all movement and speech, people can reflect on their differences and resolve conflicts.
Choose the correct option regarding their relationship.
(A) Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
(B) Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.
(C) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
(D) The assertion is false, but the reason is true.

iii. Complete the following suitably.
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. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
The poet asks the readers to 'count till twelve' in the extract. This symbolizes the way to _____ (calm/ uneasy) our minds and focus on the present moment.

v. Based on the rhyme scheme of the poem, evident in the extract, which word would you rhyme with 'second'?

reckoned	section	pun

vi. What is the significance of "the face of the Earth" in the extract?

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?

ii. What can't the poet tolerate?

iii. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
The word 'squeal' is an example of _____ (oxymoron/onomatopoeia).

iv. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.
Assertion : The poet expresses deep sorrow for the unfulfilled hopes of the people at the roadside stand.
Reason : The people wait all day in anticipation, hoping that a passing car will stop, but their hopes are often met with disappointment.
Choose the correct option regarding their relationship:

(A) Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
(B) Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.
(C) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
(D) The assertion is false, but the reason is true.

v. Select the phrase that suggests the following :
The rural folk are innocent people hoping for someone to give them money.

vi. Complete the following suitably.
The squeal of brakes and the stopping of the cars indicate _____.

8. Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B). $4 \times 1 = 4$

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?

ii. Which intolerable situation is best described in the given extract?
(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?

iv. What was Mr Lamb doing by giving such example to him?

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)

i. Complete the sentence appropriately.
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?
(A) Honesty (B) Punctuality
(C) Dedication (D) Humanity

iii. What is the tone in the given extract?

iv. The author's description of the stranger uses the word 'yellow'. What does this show about the stranger?

9. Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B). $1 \times 6 = 6$

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?

ii. What did the girl want to convey to the guest?
(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.
The guest was asked not to _____ the suit.

iv. What did Edla also invited the peddler for?

v. How does Edla's gesture affect the peddler?

vi. What does the given extract show about Edla?
(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?

ii. Select the option that completes the given sentence appropriately.
'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?

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.

v. Select the correct option to fill in the blank.
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.
The speech given by M. Hamel to Franz, is crucial for the villagers because _____.

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

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)*

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

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. $1 \times 5 = 5$

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. $1 \times 5 = 5$

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 Levcl)

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