SAMPLE PAPER 05

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. On the outskirts of the bustling city of Jaipur, in a quiet village, stands an old banyan tree that has been there for centuries. The tree's thick roots run deep into the earth, and its wide branches stretch across the sky, casting a cool shadow on the ground below. Locals say the tree has witnessed countless generations, standing as a silent guardian over the village. During the hottest summer days, villagers gather beneath the tree to escape the scorching sun, and in the evenings, the air is filled with the sounds of children laughing and playing around its base.

2. The banyan tree is more than just a tree; it has become a part of the village's daily life and traditions. Every year, during the festival of Makar Sankranti, the villagers tie colorful ribbons and small paper wishes to the tree's branches, believing that the banyan will carry their hopes and dreams to the gods. The tree has become a sacred place where villagers come to offer their prayers, share stories, and seek peace. It stands as a symbol of resilience and faith, connecting the people to their roots and their ancestors.

3. In the early mornings, when the village is still wrapped in mist, the tree appears almost mystical. The dew-covered leaves glisten as the first rays of sunlight touch them, and the soft rustle of the leaves in the breeze seems to whisper forgotten tales. Birds find refuge in the tree's vast branches, singing their morning songs, while the villagers begin their day with quiet devotion at the tree's base. Farmers often start their workday by bowing their heads in respect before the tree, believing it will bring them good fortune.

4. As the seasons change, so does the appearance of the banyan tree. In spring, new leaves sprout, and the tree is full of life and activity, with birds building nests and children playing in its shade. In the monsoon, the tree's roots absorb the nourishing rains, making it look even more vibrant and strong. Even in winter, when the air is cool and dry, the tree stands tall, a reminder of the cycles of nature and life.

5. The banyan tree is not just a part of the landscape; it is woven into the fabric of the village's identity. It is a symbol of endurance, a place of gathering, and a witness to the joys and sorrows of the people who live beneath its branches. The villagers believe that as long as the banyan tree stands, their community will continue to thrive, rooted in tradition and connected to the natural world.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

i. According to paragraph 1, why do the villagers gather under the banyan tree during the day? 1

ii. How does the author describe the significance of the banyan tree during the festival of Makar Sankranti, as mentioned in paragraph 2? 1

iii. Read and complete the following sentence suitably. 1
The phrase "woven into the fabric of the village's identity" in paragraph 5 suggests that the banyan tree is deeply connected to the daily lives and traditions of the villagers.
Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence.
The banyan tree is important to the village because _____.
(A) it provides shade during the day
(B) it represents the village's resilience and connection to their ancestors

iv. Complete the following with ONE example, with reference to paragraph 3 : 1
The banyan tree appears mystical in the morning because _____.

v. Why does the writer describe the banyan tree as a "symbol of resilience and faith" in paragraph 2? 1
Because
(A) The tree has been standing for generations and plays a significant role in village traditions.
(B) The tree provides shelter to the villagers and protects them from the weather.
(C) It is the oldest tree in the village, and people believe it grants wishes.
(D) It is the place where villagers gather to offer sacrifices to their gods.

vi. Provide ONE textual evidence with reference to paragraph 4, to support the following : 1
The banyan tree changes with the seasons but remains strong and resilient throughout the year.

vii. In the line, 'the banyan tree is not just a part of the landscape; it is woven into the fabric of the village's identity' (Paragraph 5), what does the phrase 'woven into the fabric' suggest about the tree's role in the village? 2

viii. Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph 4 : 1
spring: new leaves :: monsoon: _____
(A) dry air (B) strong roots
(C) colorful ribbons (D) changing appearance

ix. Why is it fair to say that the statement 'the banyan tree stands as a symbol of endurance' in paragraph 5 uses figurative language? 1
(A) It highlights the tree's long-lasting presence in the village's history.
(B) It compares the tree to a protector of the villagers.
(C) It describes the physical strength of the banyan tree.
(D) It exaggerates the importance of the tree in the village.

x. Assess the potential challenges or benefits of preserving the banyan tree, as suggested in paragraph 5. 2

2. Read the following carefully. 10

1. Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges facing the world today. Rising global temperatures have led to extreme weather events, sea-level rise, and ecosystem disruptions. This case study examines the global trends in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, identifying key sectors contributing to these emissions and evaluating efforts to reduce them.
2. Data from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) shows that global GHG emissions have increased by 45% over the last three decades. In developed countries, emissions have slightly decreased, while in developing countries, emissions have risen by 60% due to industrialization and population growth. The global average CO_2 emissions per capita is 4.8 tons, with developed countries averaging 10 tons and developing countries averaging 2.5 tons.
3. The data highlights that 25% of global GHG emissions come from the energy sector, followed by agriculture at 24%, industry at 21%, and transportation at 14%. In developing nations, agriculture and energy are the primary sources of emissions, while in developed countries, industrial and transportation sectors play a larger role. These differences reflect variations in economic activities and resource use across regions.
4. The study also found that deforestation, which contributes to 12% of global emissions, is a major concern in regions like South America and Southeast Asia, where forests are cleared for agricultural purposes. Deforestation, combined with fossil fuel combustion, accounts for the majority of CO_2 emissions globally.
5. Efforts to reduce GHG emissions include transitioning to renewable energy, improving energy efficiency, and adopting sustainable agricultural practices. In energy production, solar and wind energy have the potential to reduce CO_2 emissions by 30% by 2050, while reforestation efforts could sequester up to 10% of global emissions annually.
6. This study emphasizes the need for global cooperation to mitigate climate change. By adopting cleaner energy sources, reducing deforestation, and improving industrial practices, it is possible to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and avoid the most severe impacts of climate change.

Answer the following questions, based on given passage.

i. Complete the following suitably. 1
In the introduction, the researcher links rising global temperatures with climate change to highlight _____.

ii. What would the following be classified as? 1
To identify key sectors contributing to global greenhouse gas emissions and evaluate efforts to reduce them.
Select the appropriate response.
(A) Method of analysis (B) Research outcome
(C) Primary objective (D) Secondary objective

iii. Give two points to support why agriculture was included as a focus in the study on GHG emissions. 2

iv. Paragraph 3 includes words – 'energy sector' and 'deforestation.' 1
Classify the following sentences as 'energy sector' or 'deforestation':
Sentence 1: Clearing forests for agriculture leads to higher CO_2 emissions.
Sentence 2: Burning fossil fuels for electricity generation is a major source of GHG emissions.

v. Read the following : 1
James drives a car daily for commuting, which adds to GHG emissions from transportation. Ravi works in agriculture, where he uses fertilizers that release GHGs into the atmosphere. Priya, who lives in an industrial area, works in a factory that emits CO_2 due to the production process.
Select the option that identifies the correct sector contributing to emissions for James, Ravi, and Priya.
(A) James – industry; Ravi – transportation; Priya – agriculture
(B) James – transportation; Ravi – industry; Priya – agriculture
(C) James – transportation; Ravi – agriculture; Priya – industry
(D) James – agriculture; Ravi – transportation; Priya – industry

vi. Although both developing and developed countries contribute to global GHG emissions, why is the contribution of the energy sector higher in developed countries? 1

vii. Analyse how transitioning to renewable energy could significantly reduce global greenhouse gas emissions, particularly in the energy sector. (Paragraph 5) 2

viii. What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders, based on the insights from the study? 1
(A) Increase emissions in the industrial sector
(B) Transition entirely to solar energy
(C) Limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels
(D) Focus solely on reducing transportation emissions

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. 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.

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

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, 20x x at 9 a.m. in New Hope Hospital, Ambala. Draft a reply to the invitation in 50 words.

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

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 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, Tiruneveli.

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

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

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)

i. Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract?

(A) Power of war (B) Power of violence
(C) Power of silence and thought (D) Power of disputes

ii. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.

Assertion : The poet wants people to pause and reflect, but not confuse this with complete inactivity or death.

Reason : The poet believes that constant movement and activity prevent us from truly understanding ourselves and lead to sadness.

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 to _____ in the whole extract of the poem.

iv. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
The literary device used in the line, "what I want should not be confused with total inactivity" is _____ (enjambment/Alliteration).

v. Based on the poem rhyme scheme, evident in lines 3 to 7, of the given extract, which word would rhyme with line 2?

Captivity	naste	haste

vi. Select the option that is NOT true about the punctuation mark used in the line 3 of the given extract.
(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?

ii. Match the following correctly :

(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

iii. Why are Aunt Jennifer's tigers prancing across the screen?

iv. Complete the following suitably.
Name of the poet of the given extract is _____.

v. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.
Assertion : The tigers created by Aunt Jennifer represent strength and confidence.
Reason : The tigers move with certainty and do not fear the men beneath the tree.
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.

vi. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
A person, an animal or a plant that lives & grows in a particular place is known as _____ (denizen/citizen).

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

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 _____

ii. Which word in the above extract is the synonym of 'confute'?
(A) Flicker (B) contradict
(C) Twisted (D) Rumour

iii. The young American was wounded because he had been _____.

iv. The wounded person who came to the house belonged to _____.

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.
This incident took place while he was _____.

ii. What did Charley want?
(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.

iii. Why did Charley not want to escape anything?

iv. What is the writing style of the narrator?

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

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 sahukars, 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?

ii. The phrase 'stigma of caste' here refers to the _____.
(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'.

iv. Mukesh's dream that he wanted to be a motor mechanic, suggest that _____.
(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?

vi. What is meant by the word 'baggage' here?

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?

ii. Select the correct option to fill in the blank.
_____ 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?

iv. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that the protagonist had fallen prey to the rattrap.

v. Based on the above extract, choose the option which states the state of the mind of 'he' in the extract?
(A) Confident and happy
(B) Exhausted and hopeless
(C) Fearful and strange
(D) Proud and arrogant

vi. Complete the given sentence appropriately.
The 'smartness' in the given extract refers to _____.

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

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 40-50 words each : $2 \times 2 = 4$

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)*

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. $1 \times 5 = 5$

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. $1 \times 5 = 5$

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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