SAMPLE PAPER 06

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. The coastal town of Clearwater was famous for its peaceful beaches and calm atmosphere. The ocean stretched far into the distance, glittering under the warm sunlight. Gentle waves rolled onto the shore, and the sound of the sea created a soothing rhythm. By the docks, fishermen quietly mended their nets, getting ready for the next day's work. The fresh, salty breeze reminded everyone of the ocean's ever-present influence on the town's way of life. Tourists often came to Clearwater to enjoy its beauty, but for the locals, the sea was not just a scenic view—it was a part of their everyday life and livelihood.

2. Clearwater was not just known for its natural beauty; it also had a rich history. One of the most famous landmarks was the old lighthouse, standing proudly at the edge of the town. Built more than a hundred years ago, it had once guided ships safely to the harbor when sailors depended on its light to avoid dangerous rocks. Over time, modern technology replaced the lighthouse's role, but it remained a symbol of the town's resilience. The lighthouse represented the community's ability to adapt while still holding on to their past. Today, it served as a historical site, attracting visitors who marveled at its enduring presence.

3. The heart of Clearwater was its bustling marketplace, where the energy of the town came alive. Fishermen sold their daily catch, while farmers offered fresh produce, and artisans displayed handmade goods. The marketplace wasn't just about commerce; it was a social hub where townspeople gathered, exchanged stories, and celebrated their shared way of life. The people's lives were deeply connected to the sea, and there was a strong sense of pride in maintaining traditions that had been passed down through generations.

4. As evening approached, the town began to slow down. The setting sun cast a golden glow over the ocean, and families gathered by the beach to watch it sink below the horizon. In those quiet hours, the bond between the town, its people, and the sea felt strongest, as if time itself slowed down to match the rhythm of the waves.

5. Though Clearwater had changed with the times, its connection to the sea remained unbroken. The town's identity had been shaped by the ocean for generations, and it continued to be a source of life, beauty, and inspiration for all who lived there.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

i. According to paragraph 1, what does the ocean's salty breeze symbolize for the people of Clearwater? 1

ii. How does the author describe the role of the lighthouse in Clearwater's history, as mentioned in paragraph 2? 1

iii. Read and complete the following sentence suitably. 1
The phrase "a sense of pride in maintaining their traditions" in paragraph 3 suggests that the people of Clearwater feel connected to their past and are proud to keep their customs alive.
Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence.
The phrase 'a sense of pride' refers to _____.
(A) the modern changes in the town
(B) the traditions shaped by the sea

iv. Complete the following with ONE reason, with reference to paragraph 3 : 1
The marketplace in Clearwater is important to the town because _____.

v. Why does the writer refer to the lighthouse as a "symbol of resilience" in paragraph 2? 1
Because
(A) It has stood tall for over a century.
(B) It represents the town's strength in keeping its history alive.
(C) It still guides ships today.
(D) It is a landmark that tourists come to see.

vi. Provide ONE textual evidence with reference to paragraph 4, to prove the following : 1
The bond between the people of Clearwater and the sea grows stronger during the evening.

vii. In the line, 'As evening approached, the town began to slow down...' (Paragraph 4), what does the phrase 'slow down' mean in this context? 2

viii. Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph 4: 1
dusk: night :: golden light: _____
(A) sunset (B) lighthouse
(C) dawn (D) marketplace

ix. Why is it fair to say that the statement 'the town's identity had been shaped by the ocean' in paragraph 5, uses figurative language? 1

(A) It is comparing the town's development to the ocean's physical influence.
(B) It exaggerates the importance of the ocean to the town.
(C) The town has literally changed its shape due to the ocean.
(D) It is a symbolic way to show how deeply the town depends on the sea.

x. Evaluate the potential benefits or challenges of preserving Clearwater's traditional way of life, as suggested in paragraph 5. 2

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

1. Urbanization has resulted in significant changes in global land use patterns. As more people migrate to cities, the need for housing, infrastructure, and resources has grown. This demand often leads to the destruction of natural ecosystems. The case study looks into how urbanization has impacted land use and the environmental consequences that follow.
2. Data from the United Nations shows that over 55% of the world's population currently resides in urban areas, and this is expected to rise to 68% by 2050. Urbanization has been responsible for the loss of 30% of the world's forests over the past century. Furthermore, around 3 million hectares of agricultural land are being converted into urban areas each year, raising concerns about food security.
3. The study found that urban growth significantly increases the consumption of natural resources, especially in cities:
   60% of the total energy is consumed by the industrial and transportation sectors in urban areas.
   Urban regions are responsible for 75% of global CO_2 emissions, which contributes heavily to climate change and worsening air quality.
   This shows that cities, while being hubs of economic activity, are also major contributors to environmental degradation through their high levels of resource consumption.
4. Urban sprawl has fragmented natural ecosystems, with habitats being divided by roads, buildings, and other infrastructure. The loss of habitats has led to a decline in biodiversity, particularly in densely populated regions. The study highlights that 40% of species in urban areas face extinction due to habitat loss.
5. Efforts to reduce the environmental impacts of urbanization include promoting sustainable city planning and integrating green infrastructure. Investments in public transportation can also help minimize the carbon footprint. It is projected that curbing urban sprawl could reduce CO_2 emissions by 15% globally by 2050.
6. The case study emphasizes the need to balance urban development with environmental preservation. By integrating nature-based solutions into urban planning, cities can accommodate population growth while reducing environmental damage.

Answer the following questions, based on given passage.

i. Complete the following suitably.
In the introduction, the researcher links urbanization with land use changes to highlight _____.

ii. What would the following be classified as? 1
To examine the effects of urbanization on global land use and the environmental consequences that follow.
Select the appropriate response.
(A) Secondary objective (B) Research outcome
(C) Method of analysis (D) Primary objective

iii. Give two points to support why habitat fragmentation was included as a focus in the study on urbanization. 2

iv. Paragraph 3 includes words – 'energy consumption' and 'biodiversity loss.' 1
Classify the following sentences as 'energy consumption' or 'biodiversity loss':
Sentence 1: The expansion of cities has caused habitat loss for many species, reducing their populations.
Sentence 2: Industries and transportation in urban areas are the largest consumers of energy.

v. Read the following : 1
Arun works in the transportation sector in a large city, where most energy is consumed by transportation and industries. His neighbor Suresh prefers living on the city outskirts, where he enjoys a quiet lifestyle surrounded by forests. Meanwhile, Rina lives in a rapidly expanding suburb where urban sprawl is leading to habitat fragmentation.
Select the option that identifies the correct demographic Arun, Suresh, and Rina belong to.
(A) Arun – urban resident; Suresh – rural dweller; Rina – suburban resident
(B) Arun – suburban resident; Suresh – urban resident; Rina – rural dweller
(C) Arun – rural dweller; Suresh – urban resident; Rina – suburban resident
(D) Arun – urban resident; Suresh – suburban resident; Rina – rural dweller

vi. Although both rural and urban areas face environmental challenges, why is biodiversity loss more prevalent in urban regions? 1

vii. Analyse how integrating green infrastructure into city planning can help mitigate the environmental impacts of urbanization. (Paragraph 5) 2

viii. What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders, based on the insights from the study? 1
(A) To promote urban growth at the expense of natural ecosystems
(B) To reduce global food production for urban development
(C) To balance urbanization with environmental conservation
(D) To limit urbanization to rural regions

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

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

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.



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

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

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?

(A) politics (B) violence
(C) anti-war (D) religion

ii. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.
Assertion : The poet believes that Earth teaches us the cyclical nature of life and renewal.
Reason : The poet suggests that, just like the Earth appears dead but later comes back to life, moments of silence and stillness can lead to renewal and growth.
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 wishes to leave the readers and go away because _____.

iv. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
The irony in 'everything seems dead' is the Earth, the biggest creator, regenerates_____ (silently/loudly).

v. Based on the poem rhyme scheme, evident in lines 1-5, of the given extract, which word would rhyme with line 4?

roar	talk	shelve

vi. Why does the poet wish to leave the readers and go away?

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'.
(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?

iii. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
Our spirits are dark because of suffering and _____ (disappointments/expectations).

iv. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.
Assertion : The poet believes that beauty in nature has the power to lift the gloom from our spirits.
Reason : Elements of nature like the sun, moon, trees, and daffodils provide relief from the hardships of life, bringing peace and joy.
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. Give an apt title for the above extract.

vi. Complete the following suitably.
When the poet says that "Some shape of beauty moves away the pall away from our dark spirits", he refers to _____.

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

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?

ii. What is Derry's attitude towards other people? This is _____.
(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 _____.

iv. Give one reason why does the narrator use various symbols and imageries borrowed from nature.

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.
The life changing experience referred to here is _____.

ii. The "future generation of policy-makers" refers to _____.

iii. The aim of the journey towards Antarctica is
(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

iv. Why has the programme become so successful?

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 in; the other a vicious circle of the sahukars, the middlemen, the policemen, the keepers of law, the bureaucrates 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?

ii. Select the correct option to fill in the blank.
The role of Sahukars 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.
The writer finds _____.

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

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

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

i. What advice of M. Hamel shows that he was a patriot indulging in sentimental exaggeration?

ii. The line, 'The French language is the most logical and the most logical language in the world,' can be classified as:
(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."

iv. Identify the lines from the given extract which tell us that it is the last time M. Hamel was teaching his students French.

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?
(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.
A language gives a cultural and national _____ to the people and moulds their perceptions.

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

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)

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

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. $1 \times 5 = 5$

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. $1 \times 5 = 5$

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)

□□□□□□□