SAMPLE PAPER 07

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 vast Sundarbans, a sprawling delta region in the southern part of West Bengal, is one of the most unique and biodiverse areas in the world. Known for its dense mangrove forests, the Sundarbans is home to the endangered Bengal tiger and a wide variety of wildlife, including spotted deer, crocodiles, and rare bird species. The intricate network of tidal waterways, islands, and mudflats creates an ecosystem that is both fragile and resilient. The air is thick with humidity, and the salty smell of the ocean mixes with the earthy scent of the mangroves, creating a distinctive atmosphere that reflects the raw beauty of the region.

2. The Sundarbans is not only a haven for wildlife but also a lifeline for the communities that live along its edges. The people of the Sundarbans rely on the forest for their livelihoods, collecting honey, fishing, and gathering wood to meet their daily needs. Life in the Sundarbans is tough, with unpredictable weather patterns, rising sea levels, and the constant threat of cyclones. Despite these challenges, the people have adapted to their environment, learning to live in harmony with the forest and its wildlife.

3. Every year, during the monsoon season, the rivers swell, and large portions of the land become submerged. The sound of the rain hitting the leaves of the mangroves is a steady rhythm that echoes through the forest. Boats become the primary mode of transport, navigating the narrow, waterlogged paths that crisscross the forest. The monsoon brings with it both blessings and challenges: while the rains nourish the mangroves and support the ecosystem, they also cause flooding that threatens homes and crops.

4. The Sundarbans is not just a natural wonder, but a reminder of the delicate balance between man and nature. The mangroves act as a natural buffer, protecting the inland from storms and cyclones. Without the forest, the communities would be far more vulnerable to the ravages of nature. Conservation efforts are underway to protect this vital region, ensuring that both the environment and the people who depend on it can continue to thrive.

5. To visit the Sundarbans is to step into a world where nature reigns supreme. The interplay of water, land, and forest creates a landscape unlike any other, where survival depends on respecting the delicate balance of the ecosystem. For those who make the journey, the Sundarbans offers a glimpse of a world that is both beautiful and unforgiving.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

i. According to paragraph 1, what makes the Sundarbans ecosystem both fragile and resilient? 1

ii. How does the author describe the relationship between the people of the Sundarbans and the forest, as mentioned in paragraph 2? 1

iii. Read and complete the following sentence suitably. 1
The phrase "a lifeline for the communities" in paragraph 2 suggests that the forest is essential for the survival of the people living nearby.
Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence.
The Sundarbans is a lifeline because _____.
(A) it provides resources like honey, fish, and wood for the local people
(B) it is a tourist destination that supports the local economy

iv. Complete the following with ONE example, with reference to paragraph 3 : 1
The monsoon season in the Sundarbans brings _____.

v. Why does the writer emphasize the importance of mangroves in paragraph 4? 1
Because
(A) Mangroves help prevent the spread of diseases in the region.
(B) They act as a buffer, protecting communities from storms and cyclones.
(C) Mangroves are used as a resource for building materials.
(D) They support the tourism industry in the region.

vi. Provide ONE textual evidence with reference to paragraph 4, to support the following : 1
Conservation efforts are being made to protect the Sundarbans and its ecosystem.

vii. In the line, 'The sound of the rain hitting the leaves of the mangroves is a steady rhythm' (Paragraph 3), what does the phrase 'steady rhythm' suggest about the atmosphere during the monsoon season? 2

viii. Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph 1 : 1
tigers: wildlife :: mangroves: _____
(A) sea (B) rivers
(C) forest (D) storms

ix. Why is it fair to say that the statement 'The Sundarbans offers a glimpse of a world that is both beautiful and unforgiving' in paragraph 5 uses descriptive language? 1
(A) It highlights the importance of tourism in the region.
(B) It describes the harsh yet stunning natural environment of the Sundarbans.
(C) It explains how the Sundarbans is easy to navigate.
(D) It focuses on the weather patterns in the Sundarbans.

x. Assess the potential challenges or benefits of balancing conservation efforts with the needs of the local communities, as suggested in paragraph 4. 2

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

1. The global consumption of single-use plastics has increased dramatically over the last few decades, leading to a mounting waste crisis. Every year, over 300 million tons of plastic are produced, with 50% designed for single-use purposes such as packaging, straws, and cutlery. Unfortunately, only 9% of all plastic waste has ever been recycled, while 12% is incinerated, and the rest accumulates in landfills or the environment.
2. The majority of plastic waste finds its way into the oceans, where it creates devastating environmental effects. Marine life is particularly vulnerable, as plastic pollution harms sea creatures by entangling them or being ingested. According to a study by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, by 2050, the ocean could contain more plastic by weight than fish.
3. Countries around the world have implemented policies to address this growing problem. In 2019, the European Union adopted the Single-Use Plastics Directive, which bans the use of certain plastic products and promotes the use of sustainable alternatives. Similarly, several countries, including India, Kenya, and Canada, have introduced bans on plastic bags, aiming to curb the amount of plastic waste generated.
4. Despite these efforts, the global plastic crisis remains unsolved. One reason is that plastic is inexpensive to produce, making it a preferred material for industries. Additionally, the recycling infrastructure in many countries is insufficient to handle the sheer volume of plastic waste produced.
5. Innovative solutions are emerging to combat the plastic waste problem. Researchers are developing biodegradable plastics that break down naturally in the environment, while companies are exploring reusable alternatives to single-use products. However, widespread adoption of these innovations will require significant investments and changes in consumer behavior.

Answer the following questions, based on given passage.

i. Complete the following suitably. 1
In the introduction, the researcher links single-use plastics to the growing waste crisis to highlight _____.

ii. What would the following be classified as? 1
To investigate the environmental and economic impacts of single-use plastics.
Select the appropriate response.
(A) Secondary objective (B) Research outcome
(C) Method of analysis (D) Primary objective

iii. Give two points to support why single-use plastics are challenging to manage, based on the passage. 2

iv. Paragraph 2 includes words – 'marine life' and 'plastic waste.' 1
Classify the following sentences as 'marine life' or 'plastic waste':
Sentence 1: Sea creatures are often entangled in or ingest plastic debris.
Sentence 2: Over 300 million tons of plastic are produced globally each year.

v. Read the following : 1
Ravi frequently uses plastic straws and cutlery, while Priya has switched to biodegradable alternatives. Arjun, their mutual friend, is concerned about marine life being harmed by plastic pollution.
Select the option that identifies the correct environmental issues associated with Ravi, Priya, and Arjun.
(A) Ravi – single-use plastics; Priya – biodegradable alternatives; Arjun – marine life
(B) Ravi – marine life; Priya – plastic waste; Arjun – biodegradable alternatives
(C) Ravi – biodegradable alternatives; Priya – single-use plastics; Arjun – plastic waste
(D) Ravi – marine life; Priya – biodegradable alternatives; Arjun – single-use plastics

vi. Although many countries have banned plastic products, why does the global plastic crisis continue to persist? 1

vii. Analyse how innovations like biodegradable plastics can help reduce plastic waste. (Paragraph 5) 2

viii. What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders, based on the insights from the study? 1
(A) Increase the production of single-use plastics
(B) Implement stronger bans on plastic across all countries
(C) Promote investment in sustainable alternatives and reduce plastic consumption
(D) Encourage the incineration of more plastic waste

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 planing 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.

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

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

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

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

A.

What I want should not be
confused
with total 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 qualities is best represented in the given extract?

(A) Ambitious (B) Futuristic
(C) Concerned (D) Hypocritical

ii. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.
Assertion : The poet wants to embrace total inactivity as a way to connect with death.
Reason : The poet believes that if people pause their hectic lives and embrace silence, they may find peace and understanding.
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.
People should not misunderstand the poet's suggestion of _____.

iv. Select the phrase that suggests the following:
The poet does not talk about 'total inactivity' related to no action in life which means end of life.

v. If this poem is not written in free verse, which word would rhyme with line 5.

head	treat	breath

vi. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
The tone of the poet in the above lines is _____ (Aggressive/ Suggestive)

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?

ii. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
On the basis of the given lines, Aunt Jennifer can be called to be _____ (persecuted/ oppressed).

iii. These tigers indicate _____.
(A) their immortality
(B) permanency of their nature
(C) transience of human life
(D) change in Aunt's condition

iv. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.
Assertion : Aunt Jennifer's tigers symbolize strength and fearlessness, which contrasts with Aunt Jennifer's oppressed life.
Reason : Despite Aunt Jennifer's death and the struggles she faced in life, her tigers will continue to prance proudly, representing the freedom she longed for but could never achieve.
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. Pick the example of alliteration present in the extract.

vi. Complete the following suitably.
The existence of the tigers even after Aunt Jennifer's death indicates the theme of _____.

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

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?

ii. Why does no one kiss Derry?
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?

iv. Complete the sentence appropriately.
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)

i. Complete the sentence appropriately.
_____ had cared for Dr Sadao when he fell ill in America.

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

iv. What difficulty did Dr Sadao face in America?

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

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.

ii. Why was Gandhi adamant in asking for 50% in repayment of the money that the landowners owed to the sharecropper?
(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.
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.

v. What does the expression 'take someone at his word' mean?

vi. Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the extract?
(A) The importance of British rule
(B) The breaking of deadlock
(C) The rigidity of British rule
(D) The anxiety of Gandhiji

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?
(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.
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?
(A) Apparently
(B) Unknowingly
(C) Purposefully
(D) Deliberately

iv. Rationalise, to support the given opinion.
The old man trusted the stranger enough to share his secrets.

v. How did the stranger behave with the old man?

vi. Complete the sentence with one word.
The old man got the money by selling the milk given by his _____.

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

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)

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

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. $1 \times 5 = 5$

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. $1 \times 5 = 5$

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)

□□□□□□□