SAMPLE PAPER 09

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 human brain is one of the most intricate and powerful organs in the body, containing approximately 86 billion neurons. These neurons form complex networks through which they communicate using electrical impulses. The cerebral cortex is responsible for higher cognitive functions such as memory, reasoning, and problem-solving. Meanwhile, the cerebellum coordinates voluntary movement and balance, while the brainstem controls essential functions like breathing and heart rate. Each region of the brain plays a distinct role, allowing the body to function properly.

2. The brain, despite being well-protected by the skull and cerebrospinal fluid, is still susceptible to injuries and diseases. Traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) can result from accidents, leading to anything from mild concussions to life-threatening damage. Stroke, caused by interrupted blood flow to the brain, can result in permanent impairments, depending on the area affected. Neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's further complicate the brain's health by causing gradual loss of neurons, which results in cognitive decline and motor dysfunction.

3. One of the brain's most fascinating characteristics is its plasticity, or the ability to change and adapt. Neuroplasticity refers to the brain's capacity to reorganize itself in response to new experiences, learning, or injury. For example, after a stroke, some parts of the brain can take over functions that were lost due to damage. This capacity for adaptation allows humans to learn new skills, retain memories, and recover from injuries.

4. Advances in neuroscience have been pivotal in understanding how the brain works. Techniques such as functional MRI (fMRI) and PET scans allow researchers to visualize brain activity and understand how different areas are involved in tasks like language, emotion, and movement. Additionally, researchers are exploring ways to enhance brain

health through diet, exercise, and mental stimulation, with the goal of preventing cognitive decline and promoting recovery after injuries.

5. As research continues, the mysteries of the brain, such as how consciousness arises or how memory is stored, remain largely unsolved. However, ongoing studies in neuroscience offer hope for developing new treatments for brain-related diseases and injuries. The future of brain research holds great promise for improving our understanding of this remarkable organ.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

i. According to paragraph 1, what role does the cerebral cortex play in brain function? 1

ii. How does the author describe the brain's vulnerability to injury, as mentioned in paragraph 2? 1

iii. Read and complete the following sentence suitably. 1
The phrase "neuroplasticity" in paragraph 3 refers to the brain's ability to change and adapt.
Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence.
Neuroplasticity is important because _____.
(A) it allows the brain to recover from injury and adapt to new experiences.
(B) it prevents all neurodegenerative diseases from progressing.

iv. Complete the following with ONE example, with reference to paragraph 3 : 1
Neuroplasticity is demonstrated when _____.

v. Why does the writer emphasize brain imaging techniques in paragraph 4? 1
Because
(A) They allow researchers to observe brain activity in real-time.
(B) They help cure diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.
(C) They provide immediate treatments for traumatic brain injuries.
(D) They make surgery safer.

vi. Provide ONE textual evidence with reference to paragraph 4, to support the following : 1
Brain imaging techniques have significantly advanced our understanding of brain functions.

vii. In the line, 'The brain's plasticity allows it to reorganize itself' (Paragraph 3), what does the word 'reorganize' suggest about the brain's response to injury? 2

viii. Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph 1 : 1
neurons: brain :: cells: _____
(A) blood (B) muscles
(C) tissues (D) organs

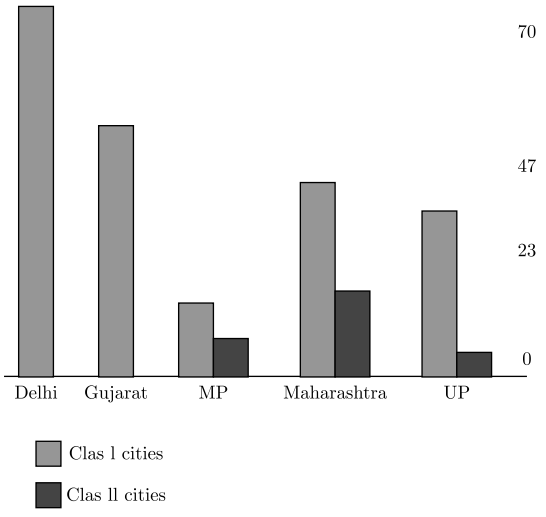
ix. Why is it fair to say that the statement 'The future of brain research holds great promise' in paragraph 5 uses descriptive language? 1
(A) It highlights the potential breakthroughs in neuroscience.
(B) It explains the limitations of current brain research.

(C) It describes the complexity of brain diseases.
(D) It focuses on the brain's vulnerability to injury.

x. Assess the potential challenges or benefits of enhancing brain health through diet, exercise, and mental stimulation, as suggested in paragraph 4. 2

2. Read the following carefully. 10

1. The Municipal Corporation of Gurugram recently admitted to the National Green Tribunal that untreated sewage mixes with treated wastewater as it flows into the Yamuna. This is not unique to Delhi, as 80% of India's surface water is estimated to be contaminated, largely from untreated sewage.
2. The onset of the monsoon worsens water contamination. Reports of water-borne diseases such as diarrhoea and cholera increase during this time as broken pipes and flooding allow sewage to mix with drinking water in cities like Delhi, Pune, Varanasi, and Chennai.
3. According to a 2009 Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) report, India's major cities and towns generate more than 38 billion litres of sewage daily, yet only 30% is collected and less than 20% treated due to limited treatment capacity. The rest is discharged into water bodies untreated.
4. A forthcoming report from WaterAid India reveals that 17 million urban households lack sanitation facilities. Of those with sanitation, only 32% are connected to a sewage system. Additionally, more than 9 lakh toilets directly drain into open water bodies, and over 12% of urban households practice open defecation.
5. Many septic tanks are left uncleaned for years, causing fecal sludge to leak into groundwater. When these tanks are finally cleaned, the waste is dumped into fields and water bodies, worsening water contamination.
6. The WaterAid report details how much wastewater is left untreated in cities. Delhi treats only 61% of the 4,346 million litres of wastewater it generates. In Maharashtra, class I cities treat less than half of their total wastewater, with statistics for class II cities being far worse, as shown in the accompanying chart.



7. Despite the introduction of the National Urban Sanitation Policy (2008) and substantial government investment in sewage infrastructure, the problem has only worsened in the past five years. WaterAid recommends decentralized sewage treatment plants and public promotion campaigns to address the crisis.

Answer the following questions, based on given passage.

i. Complete the following suitably. 1
In the introduction, the researcher links untreated sewage in urban areas with water contamination to highlight _____.

ii. What would the following be classified as? 1
To investigate the impact of untreated sewage on water bodies 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 decentralized sewage treatment is considered an important solution, based on the passage. 2

iv. Paragraph 3 includes words – 'sewage' and 'treatment capacity.' 1
Classify the following sentences as 'sewage' or 'treatment capacity':
Sentence 1: India's major cities produce over 38 billion litres of wastewater every day.
Sentence 2: Limited infrastructure means only 20% of this sewage is treated.

v. Read the following : 1
Ravi lives in Delhi, where only 61% of wastewater is treated, while Priya, who lives in Maharashtra, faces worse conditions as less than half of the wastewater in her city is treated. Arjun, in Uttar Pradesh, is impacted by untreated wastewater mixing with surface water.
Select the option that identifies the correct wastewater management issues faced by Ravi, Priya, and Arjun.
(A) Ravi – 61% treated; Priya – less than half treated; Arjun – untreated wastewater
(B) Ravi – less than half treated; Priya – 61% treated; Arjun – fully treated wastewater
(C) Ravi – fully treated wastewater; Priya – untreated wastewater; Arjun – 61% treated
(D) Ravi – untreated wastewater; Priya – fully treated; Arjun – 61% treated

vi. Although sewage treatment infrastructure exists, why is untreated sewage still a major problem in urban areas? 1

vii. Analyse how broken sewage systems contribute to groundwater contamination. (Paragraph 5) 2

viii. What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders, based on the insights from the study? 1
(A) Promote the use of septic tanks
(B) Increase water consumption to clean surface water
(C) Implement decentralized sewage treatment plants
(D) Encourage the construction of more dams

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 Sapna Singh, the Secretary of Cultural Committee of your school. Write a notice in about 50 words inviting students to participate in the Annual Day of the school to be organized next month.

OR

B. You are Man/Mani, secretary of the History Club of K.V. Sr. Sec. School, Badodhra. Draft a notice in not more than 50 words informing the students of class XI and XII about a proposed tour to Rajasthan during the coming summer vacations.

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

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

OR

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

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

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

OR

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

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

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

OR

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

SECTION C- LITERATURE 40

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

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

(A Roadside Stand)

i. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
The roadside stand was made by the poor people and it was _____ (near/far) from the city.

ii. Select the phrase that suggests the following.
The poet does not want to accuse the rustics of spoiling the beauty of the landscape.

iii. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.
Assertion : The poet is more concerned with the emotional pain of unfulfilled promises to rural people than with the damage to the landscape.
Reason : The rural people believe that money from the city will improve their lives and fulfill the promises made by the party in power.
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.

iv. Complete the following suitably.
The promise made by the government was that to give _____.

v. Do you think that the promise made by the government was fulfilled?

vi. What wouldn't be the poet's complaint?
(A) The hurt to the scenery (B) The beauty of people
(C) The beauty of nature (D) The hurt to the buildings

OR

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

(Keeping Quiet)

i. Which poetic device has been used in the second line of the extract?
(A) Metaphor (B) Transferred epithet
(C) Alliteration (D) Paradox

ii. Identify the tone of the poem in the first line of the extract.

iii. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
The poet uses a conversational style and personal pronouns 'you', 'we' and 'I' because he wants us to be _____ (friendly/cruel) with the whole mankind.

iv. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.
Assertion : The poet believes that silence and stillness can help us understand the cycles of life.
Reason : The Earth teaches us that even when everything seems dead, it can later prove to be alive, symbolizing renewal and continuity.
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 poet thinks that he has said what he intended to say.

vi. Complete the following suitably.
The poet wants to convey the message that there is life even in the moment of total inactivity. This moment of total inactivity leads one to _____.

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

A. DERRY : How could I? You pass people in the street and you might even speak to them, but you never see them again. It doesn't mean they're friends.
MR LAMB : Doesn't mean they're enemies, either does it?
DERRY : No, they're just... nothing. People. That's all.
MR LAMB : People are never just nothing. Never.
DERRY There are some people I hate.
MR LAMB : That'd do you more harm than any bottle of acid. Acid only burns your face.

(On the Face of It)

i. Complete the sentence appropriately.
The author's purpose in using contractions, is to _____.

ii. In the given extract, select the option that best summarises Derry's attitude towards others.
(A) His pessimism was hurting him more than acid.
(B) His optimism was hurting him more than acid.

(C) His acid was hurting him more than his optimism.
(D) His acid was hurting him more than his pessimism.

iii. Derry says, 'I won't change'. Why does Derry say so?

iv. How is the line, "DERRY : No, they're just...nothing. People. That's all." How would you describe Derry and Mr Lamb in the extract?

OR

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

(Memories of Childhood)

i. Complete the sentence appropriately, with reference to the extract.
The story referred in the extract is about _____.

ii. Why was Annan not amused?

iii. Select the most suitable title for the given extract.
(A) The Wise Brother (B) The Unsuspecting Girl
(C) The Caste System (D) The Reality of Castes

iv. Bama's innocence was lost when she came face to face with the ugly truth of racial discrimination. Do you agree?

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

A. I swam the crawl, breast stroke, side stroke, and back stroke. Only once did the terror return. When I was in the middle of the lake, I put my face under and saw nothing but bottomless water. The old sensation returned in miniature. I laughed and said, "Well, Mr Terror, what do you think you can do to me?" It fled and I swam on.
Yet I had residual doubts. At my first opportunity I hurried west, went up the Tieton to Conrad Meadows, up the Conrad Creek Trail to Meade Glacier, and camped in the high meadow by the side of Warm Lake. The next morning I stripped, dived into the lake, and swam across to the other shore and back – just as Doug Corpron used to do. I shouted with joy, and Gilbert Peak returned the echo. I had conquered my fear of water.

(Deep Water)

i. List what theme is followed in the given extract?

ii. What do you think the given extract dealt with?
(A) Doug Corpron (B) Deep Water
(C) Conquering over fear (D) Gilbert Peak

iii. Complete the sentence appropriately.
The lesson focused on the fact that _____ must never be treated lightly.

iv. Pick out an evidence from the text that helps one infer that the protagonist has overcome his fear.

v. What does the term 'Mr Terror' refer to?

vi. Which of the following best suggests the appropriateness of the title?
(A) He even took the services of an instructor.
(B) The author's fear was a deep-rooted one.
(C) To overcome his fear, he visited oceans.
(D) He was once nearly drowned.

OR

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

(Indigo)

i. Why did the servants consider Gandhiji to be another peasant?

ii. The line, "They thought he would demand repayment in full of the money which they had illegally and deceitfully extorted from the sharecroppers," can be classified as:
(A) a research (B) an opinion
(C) a fact (D) a theme

iii. Explain any one inference that can be drawn from the line, "The official inquiry assembled plenty of traces against the big planters, and when they saw this they agreed, in principle, to make refunds to the peasants."

iv. Rationalize to support the given opinion, "There he seemed adamant," writes Reverend J. Z. Hodge, a British missionary in Champaran who observed the entire episode at close range.

v. What did the officials think about the refunds to the peasants?
(A) Gandhiji would demand repayment in full of money.
(B) Gandhiji would demand nothing.
(C) Gandhiji would demand repayment in 25%.
(D) Gandhiji would take strict action.

vi. Complete the sentence with ONE word.
The big planters were agreed to refund _____ share.

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

i. What, according to M. Hamel, was the outcome of the neglect of the French language in the region? *(The Last Lesson)*

ii. What are the differences in the ambitions of Saheb and Mukesh? *(Lost Spring)*

iii. What are the beauties of nature that the poet mentions in 'A Thing of Beauty'? Why are they an everlasting source of joy?

iv. Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool find even the ivory needle hard to pull. Why? *(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)*

v. Why is Rajkumar Shukla described as being 'resolute'? *(Indigo)*

vi. How would the innocent be soothed out of their wits? *(A Roadside Stand)*

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

i. What kind of relationship did Dr. Sadao Hoki share with his father? *(The Enemy)*

ii. Why did the Maharaja order the Dewan to double the land tax? *(The Tiger King)*

iii. What happened to the narrator's psychiatrist friend Sam Weiner? What do you deduce from it? *(The Third Level)*

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

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

OR

B. "The Rattrap" is a lesson which shows that basic human goodness can be brought out by understanding and love. Do you think this is practical in approach?
Imagine yourself to be a motivational speaker who has to address high school students. Write this address in about 120-150 words.

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

A. Dr. Sadao was compelled by duty as a doctor to help the enemy soldier. What made Hana, his wife, sympathetic to him in the face of open defiance from the domestic staff?
You wish to include a cameo for the above statement's explanation in your upcoming blog post. (A short description that neatly encapsulates someone or something)
As a part of the research, discuss the statement in relation to 'The Enemy' in about 120-150 words.

(The Enemy)

OR

B. The title "Journey to the End of the Earth" is quite justified.
Imagine yourself Tishani Doshi, and express your thoughts about its justification.

□□□□□□□