SAMPLE PAPER 10

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 Thar Desert, also known as the Great Indian Desert, is a vast arid region in the northwestern part of India. It spans across the states of Rajasthan, Gujarat, and parts of Punjab and Haryana. The desert is characterized by its sandy terrain, extreme temperatures, and sparse vegetation. Despite the harsh conditions, the Thar Desert is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna, including camels, desert foxes, and several species of snakes. The survival of life in this region is a testament to the adaptability of both plants and animals to the desert's extreme environment.

2. The people living in and around the Thar Desert have also learned to adapt to the challenging conditions. The local communities depend on livestock farming and small-scale agriculture, often utilizing innovative techniques to conserve water. Traditional practices such as rainwater harvesting and the construction of stepwells have allowed people to thrive despite the limited water resources. In addition to these agricultural practices, the region has a rich cultural heritage, with vibrant festivals, music, and art that reflect the resilience of its people.

3. The monsoon season brings much-needed relief to the Thar Desert, though the rains are often unpredictable. The arrival of rain transforms the barren land, bringing a temporary burst of greenery and a brief window for agricultural activities. However, the monsoon can also lead to flash floods, which pose a threat to both the people and their livelihoods. The people of the Thar have developed unique ways to cope with these challenges, including the use of flood-resistant crops and constructing homes on higher ground.

4. The Thar Desert's ecosystem is fragile, with ongoing threats from human activity, such as overgrazing and deforestation. However, conservation efforts have been initiated to protect this unique environment. Wildlife sanctuaries have been established to protect endangered species like the Great Indian Bustard, and efforts are being made to restore native vegetation. The delicate balance between human habitation and conservation in the Thar is a constant challenge, requiring sustainable solutions to ensure the survival of both the desert and its inhabitants.

5. Despite its arid conditions, the Thar Desert is a place of stunning beauty. The golden sands stretch for miles, punctuated by the occasional green oasis or ancient fort. The desert offers a unique landscape that has fascinated travelers for centuries. For those willing to brave the heat, the Thar Desert provides an experience of isolation and tranquility, where the vast open spaces create a sense of timelessness.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

i. According to paragraph 1, how have plants and animals adapted to the extreme conditions of the Thar Desert? 1

ii. How does the author describe the relationship between the people of the Thar Desert and their environment, as mentioned in paragraph 2? 1

iii. Read and complete the following sentence suitably. 1
The phrase "rainwater harvesting" in paragraph 2 refers to the practice of collecting and storing rainwater for future use.
Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence.
Rainwater harvesting is essential in the Thar Desert because _____.
(A) it ensures a steady water supply in the arid conditions
(B) it prevents flooding during the monsoon season

iv. Complete the following with ONE example, with reference to paragraph 3 : 1
The arrival of the monsoon in the Thar Desert brings _____.

v. Why does the writer emphasize the importance of conservation efforts in paragraph 4? 1
Because
(A) They help in maintaining the beauty of the desert.
(B) They protect endangered species and restore native vegetation.
(C) They ensure tourism continues to thrive.
(D) They encourage large-scale farming.

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

vii. In the line, 'The arrival of rain transforms the barren land' (Paragraph 3), what does the word 'transforms' suggest about the effect of the monsoon on the desert? 2

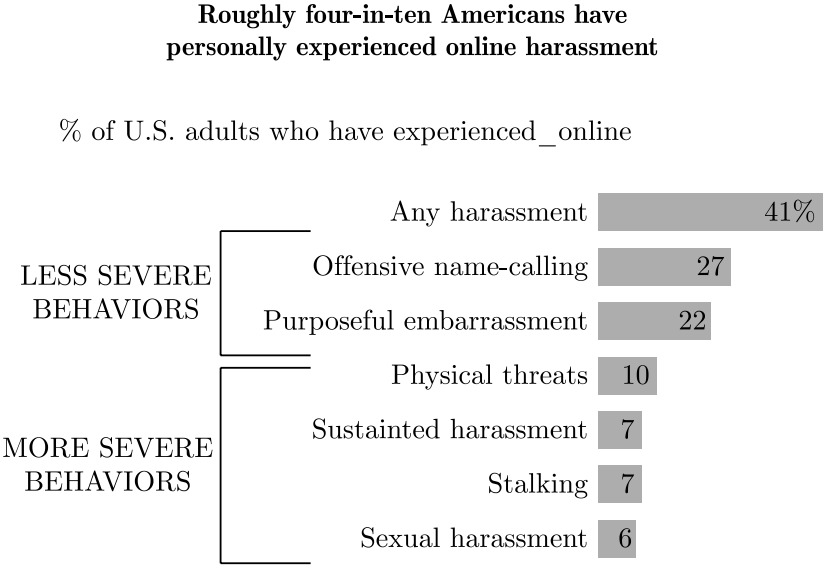
viii. Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph 1 : 1
camels: animals :: stepwells: _____
(A) water (B) agriculture
(C) desert (D) people

ix. Why is it fair to say that the statement 'The Thar Desert provides an experience of isolation and tranquility' in paragraph 5 uses descriptive language? 1
(A) It highlights the isolation of the desert.
(B) It describes the harsh weather of the desert.
(C) It explains how the Thar Desert has little wildlife.
(D) It focuses on the culture of the people living there.

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 internet offers anonymity that makes it easier for bullies to target individuals. According to a 2021 Pew Research report, 41% of U.S. adults have personally experienced online harassment, with 75% reporting their most recent experience on social media. This abuse can often feel inescapable, much like rush-hour traffic.
2. Cyber attackers do not follow conventional behavior. Many victims attempt to reason with trolls, not understanding that the trolls' motives are to attract attention, exercise control, and manipulate others. A 2019 study linked online harassment to traits like psychopathy, Machiavellianism, sadism, and narcissism—making it clear that trolls often have deeper psychological issues.



3. Online harassment feels particularly pervasive because it is difficult to avoid. Political discussions online are rated as 50% more negative than offline discussions. Trolls thrive in these spaces because they face minimal consequences and can easily overpower well-meaning individuals who exit the discussion, leaving trolls to dominate.

4. Even though social media is rife with abuse, many people cannot afford to leave these platforms due to professional or personal commitments. Allowing trolls to drive people away is akin to allowing bullies to control the playground. Despite this, individuals are not powerless in dealing with online abusers.

5. In cases of threats or hate speech, users can block or report the offending accounts, although social media platforms have been inconsistent in enforcing their policies. Ignoring trolls and refusing to engage with them denies them the attention they seek, whether online or in person. Meeting aggression with silence is often the most effective response.

Answer the following questions, based on given passage.

i. Complete the following suitably. 1
In the introduction, the researcher links internet anonymity with the rise in online harassment to highlight _____.

ii. What would the following be classified as? 1
To explore the psychological traits associated with online harassers and their behavior.
Select the appropriate response.
(A) Secondary objective (B) Research outcome
(C) Method of analysis (D) Primary objective

iii. Give two points to support why online harassment is difficult to address, based on the passage. 2

iv. Paragraph 3 includes words – 'trolls' and 'online harassment.' 1
Classify the following sentences as 'trolls' or 'online harassment':
Sentence 1: The majority of harassers online are motivated by the desire for control and manipulation.
Sentence 2: Many victims report that their most recent harassment occurred on social media platforms.

v. Read the following : 1
Rina frequently deals with offensive name-calling on social media, while Anjali has experienced stalking from an unknown person online. Aman, their mutual friend, was recently a victim of physical threats through direct messages.
Select the option that identifies the correct forms of harassment Rina, Anjali, and Aman face.
(A) Rina – offensive name-calling; Anjali – stalking; Aman – physical threats
(B) Rina – stalking; Anjali – physical threats; Aman – sexual harassment
(C) Rina – sexual harassment; Anjali – offensive name-calling; Aman – stalking
(D) Rina – physical threats; Anjali – offensive name-calling; Aman – stalking

vi. Although the anonymity provided by the internet enables harassers to act without fear of repercussions, why is it considered a major factor in the rise of online harassment? 1

vii. Analyse how ignoring online trolls can reduce the impact of harassment. (Paragraph 5) 2

viii. What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders, based on the insights from the study? 1

(A) Improve social media engagement by allowing trolls to dominate spaces
(B) Increase users' awareness of blocking and reporting tools
(C) Promote the use of anonymous accounts on social media
(D) Limit access to social media to reduce harassment

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 lost your wallet in the school playground. Write a notice for your school notice board giving all the necessary details.

OR

B. As Teacher Co-ordinator of the Quiz Club of AMM School, Pune, draft a notice in not more than 50 words informing students of the inter-class quiz contest asking them to register their names with the Secretary of the Club within a week.

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

A. You are Riya/Ryan living at 40, Krishna Colony, Manali. You decided to hold a lunch party to congratulate your grandparents on their golden wedding anniversary. Draft a formal invitation in not more than 50 words to all family members to attend a grand lunch at home.

OR

B. Draft a formal reply accepting an invitation to be present on the occasion of the wedding of Ankush S/o Mr & Mrs Shankar of 24, Green Park Road, Kanpur. You are Vikram Gaur of Raja Ki Mandi, Agra.

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

A. Two main parks in your locality have suffered from neglect on the part of local authorities. They have virtually been taken over by undesirable elements. As a result the residents have stopped going to the parks. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the editor of a local newspaper expressing your concern about the problems the neglect has created and suggest measures to reclaim the parks for children. You are Gautam/ Gauri of 2, Gobind Enclave, Meerut.

OR

B. You are Anand/Arti of 14, Model Town, Delhi. You have seen an advertisement in The Hindu for the post of Chief Chef in a 5-Star Hotel. Apply for the job with complete bio-data. Write in 120-150 words.

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

A. You are Jay/Jaya, studying in Shyamala Memorial Hall, Trichy. Some students of our school attend a first aid training camp for a week at Red Cross Headquarter of our state. Write a report for your school magazine in 120-150 words on the events of the campo and your participation and performance.

OR

B. Visiting new places and meeting new people enhance our understanding and knowledge besides being a source of great pleasure. Write an article in 120-150 words on 'Travel, a Source of Knowledge and Pleasure. You are Gopal/Govindi.

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.
I looked again at her, wan, pale as a late
winter's moon and felt that old familiar ache,
my childhood's fear, but all I said was, see you soon, Amma,
all I did was smile and smile and smile...

(My Mother at Sixty-Six)

i. Name the poet of the above stanza.

ii. Compete the following suitably.
Poet's mother is likened to a 'late winter's moon' because _____.

iii. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.
Assertion : The poet feels a deep sense of fear when she looks at her aging mother.
Reason : The mother's frail and pale appearance reminds the poet of the fear of losing her mother, a fear she has carried since childhood.
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. Identify the figure of speech used in the given lines, "pale as a late winter's moon."

v. What is the "old familiar ache" of the poet?
(A) Ageing and decaying of her mother
(B) Seeing happy children
(C) Leaving the country
(D) Leaving her mother alone

vi. Do you think that the poet was hopeful of seeing her mother again?

OR

B. "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. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
Tigers represent Aunt's repressed desires for freedom and _____ (weakness/power).

ii. Select the phrase that suggests the following:
Aunt Jennifer was entrapped in her marriage.

iii. Which of the following CAN NOT be inferred from the given extract?
(A) Even in death, Aunt Jennifer cannot escape patriarchal subjugation.
(B) Aunt Jennifer feels oppressed and constricted in her marriage.
(C) Aunt Jennifer's tigers will keep her alive in everyone's memory.
(D) Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance as a lasting symbol of her desires.

iv. Complete the following suitably.
The theme associated with the extract is _____.

v. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.
Assertion : Even after Aunt Jennifer's death, her tigers will continue to symbolize freedom and fearlessness.
Reason : The tigers represent Aunt Jennifer's inner strength, which will remain untouched by the ordeals that oppressed her in life.
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. Will Aunt Jennifer ever be able to escape the oppressive society?

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

A. Derry : [Panic] I've got to go.
Mr. Lamb : Not on my account. I don't mind who comes into the garden. The gate's always open. Only you climbed the garden wall.
Derry : [Angry] You were watching me.
Mr Lamb : I saw you. But the gate's open. All welcome. You're welcome. I sit here. I like sitting.

(On the Face of It)

i. "Mr Lamb : Not on my account." Based on this line, do you think Mr. Lamb was angry with Derry?

ii. What does the statement "Only you climbed the garden wall." mean?
(A) Mr. Lamb wanted Derry to be punished.
(B) Everyone got permission before entering into the garden.
(C) Derry was the only person to sneak in through the wall.
(D) Derry doesn't know the location of the gate.

iii. How did Derry enter the garden?

iv. Do you think Derry has the right to be angry at Mr. Lamb?

OR

B. His father had taken him often to the islands of those seas, and never had he failed to say to the little brave boy at his side, "Those islands yonder, they are the stepping stones to the future for Japan."
"Where shall we step from them?" Sadao had asked seriously.
"Who knows?" his father had answered. "Who can limit our future? It depends on what we make it"

(The Enemy)

i. Who did 'the little boy' refer to?

ii. What does the speaker mean by 'stepping stone'?
1. Means of advancement
2. Means of progression
3. Means of disorganization
4. Means of paucity

(A) only 1 (B) 1 and 2
(C) only 3 (D) 3 and 4

iii. Pick out the word/s that best describe/s the word 'yonder' as used in the passage.
1. Distant
2. Accessible
3 Proximate
4. Non-adjacent
5. Adjoining
6. Far-flung

iv. "Where shall we step from them?" Sadao had asked seriously.
Replace the word 'seriously' as given in the above line with an appropriate word.

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

A. ... But Gandhi was vehemently opposed. He said, "You think that in this unequal fight it would be helpful if we have an Englishman on our side. This shows the weakness of your heart. The cause is just and you must rely upon yourselves to win the battle.... "He had read our minds correctly:' Rajendra Prasad comments, "and we had no reply ... Gandhi in this way taught us a lesson in self-reliance':
Self-reliance, Indian independence and help to sharecroppers were all bound together.
(Indigo)

i. Gandhi taught the sharecroppers a lesson of self-reliance so that
(A) they could believe in themselves and be self-dependant.
(B) they learn and follow civil disobedience
(C) they understand that British could not be trusted
(D) they get to know to fight amongst themselves only.

ii. Pick out the word from the given extract which means same as 'fiercely'.

iii. Complete the sentence appropriately.
Rajendra Prasad who was a lawyer later on became _____.

iv. Why did Gandhiji vehemently opposed the idea of taking help from Charles freer Andrews?

v. Assertion (A) : Gandhi was vehemently opposed to letting Andrews help him in Champaran.
Reason (R) : Because Gandhi was always suspicious of new people who offered help.
(A) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true

vi. "He had read our minds correctly:' Rajendra Prasad commented. What is the sentiment exposed here?

OR

B. Once upon a time there was a man who went around selling small rattraps of wire. He made them himself at odd moments, from the material he got by begging in the stores or at the big farms. But even so, the business was not especially profitable, so he had to resort to both begging and petty thievery to keep body and soul together. Even so his clothes were in rags, his cheeks were sunken, and hunger gleamed in his eyes.
(The Rattrap)

i. The peddler had to resort to both begging and thievery.
What does the above sentence demonstrates?

ii. Through peddler's appearance it is signified that he was a/an (1)

(A) unfortunate man (B) thief
(C) beggar (D) crofter

iii. Complete the sentence with one word.
The peddler's rattraps were made of _____.

iv. Who is the author of this chapter?

(A) Louis Fischer (B) Salman Rushdie
(C) Selma Lagerlof (D) Alphonse Daudet

v. What does the idiom 'keep body and soul together' mean?

vi. What does the word 'rags' indicate?

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

i. Franz reached school late. Yet, M. Hamel did not scold him. Why?

(The Last Lesson)

ii. What is the childish longing that the poet refers to? Why is it vain?

(A Roadside Stand)

iii. Explain Douglas' statement, "The instructor was finished. But I was not finished:'

(Deep Water)

iv. What do celebrities dislike most about interviews?

(The Interview)

v. What makes human beings love life in spite of all the troubles they face?

(A Thing of Beauty)

vi. How does the poet describe Aunt Jennifer's tigers?

(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

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

i. Why is Antarctica the place to go to if we want to study the earth's past, present and future?

(Journey to the and of the earth)

ii. What did Annan say about his community to the narrator?

(Memories of Childhood)

iii. Why did Charley run away from the third level?

(The Third Level)

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

A. Why should child labour be eliminated and how? Explain on the basis of Lost Spring.

(Lost Spring)

OR

B. Choose a quiet corner and keep still physically and mentally for about five minutes. Do you feel any change in your state of mind?

(Keeping Quiet)

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

A. The actual pain or inconvenience caused by a physical impairment is often much less than the sense of alienation felt by the person with disabilities. What is the kind of behaviour that the person expects from others?

(On the Face of It)

OR

B. How did the Tiger King manage to retain his kingdom?

(The Tiger King)

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