SAMPLE PAPER 11

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. India is one of the largest producers of tea in the world, with vast tea plantations spread across the northeastern and southern regions. The states of Assam, West Bengal (Darjeeling), and Tamil Nadu are especially famous for their tea production. Assam produces more than half of India's total tea, known for its strong, bold flavor. Darjeeling tea, often referred to as the "Champagne of Teas," is prized for its light, floral taste, and is one of the most sought-after teas globally.

2. Tea cultivation in India dates back to the early 19th century when the British East India Company began establishing tea gardens to compete with China's tea monopoly. The hilly regions of Assam and Darjeeling were found to have the perfect climate for growing tea. Today, tea is not only an important agricultural product but also deeply intertwined with the cultural identity of India. Millions of Indians begin their day with a steaming cup of chai, often spiced with ginger, cardamom, and other flavors.

3. Tea gardens employ millions of workers across India, with many of them being women. The work involves plucking the tender leaves by hand, a skill that requires precision and speed. The freshly plucked leaves are then processed in factories, where they are withered, rolled, fermented, and dried to produce the final product. Despite its popularity, the tea industry faces several challenges, including fluctuating market prices, climate change, and the need to improve working conditions for laborers.

4. In recent years, India's tea exports have expanded to countries like Russia, the UK, and the United States, contributing significantly to the nation's economy. India remains the second-largest producer of tea globally, after China. However, there is growing competition from other tea-producing countries like Sri Lanka and Kenya, which are also major players in the global market.

5. The future of India's tea industry depends on sustainable practices and modernization. With climate change affecting rainfall patterns and temperatures in key tea-growing regions, many plantation owners are looking to adapt through eco-friendly farming techniques and better resource management.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

i. According to paragraph 1, which Indian states are known for their significant tea production? 1

ii. How did tea cultivation begin in India, as mentioned in paragraph 2? 1

iii. Read and complete the following sentence suitably. 1
The phrase "intertwined with the cultural identity of India" in paragraph 2 suggests that tea plays a central role in daily life and tradition for many Indians.
Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence.
Tea is important to India's culture because _____.
(A) it is only consumed in rural areas
(B) millions of people enjoy it as a daily beverage

iv. Complete the following with ONE reason, with reference to paragraph 3 : 1
Tea plantations employ many workers because _____.

v. Why does the writer mention challenges like climate change in paragraph 3? 1
Because
(A) These challenges affect the production and quality of tea.
(B) The challenges show how tea remains popular despite difficulties.
(C) They explain why tea prices are rising in the global market.
(D) It highlights how other countries are overcoming these issues.

vi. Provide ONE textual evidence with reference to paragraph 4, to support the following : 1
India plays a key role in the global tea market.

vii. In the line, 'The future of India's tea industry depends on sustainable practices and modernization' (Paragraph 5), what does the phrase 'sustainable practices' suggest about the changes needed for the industry's survival? 2

viii. Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph 1 : 1
Assam tea : strong flavor :: Darjeeling tea: _____
(A) light flavor (B) bold flavor
(C) floral taste (D) spiced taste

ix. Why is it fair to say that the statement 'Tea cultivation is deeply intertwined with the cultural identity of India' in paragraph 2 uses factual language? 1
(A) It shows the popularity of tea in India's daily life.
(B) It emphasizes the cultural importance of tea production.
(C) It presents data on tea consumption and historical significance.
(D) It highlights the historical impact of the tea industry.

x. Assess the potential challenges or benefits of eco-friendly farming techniques in India's tea industry, as suggested in paragraph 5. 2

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

1. Introduction :
In modern agriculture, water management is a critical factor affecting crop productivity and environmental sustainability. This case study examines the water usage patterns of different farming communities and evaluates the impact of irrigation techniques on water conservation.

2. Methodology :
A survey was conducted among various farming communities, ranging from small-scale to large-scale farmers, to assess their water usage practices. Participants were asked to share information about their irrigation techniques, water sources, and any challenges they face regarding water conservation. The data was then analysed to identify trends and patterns in water usage across different farming practices.

3. Survey Examination :
The survey explored in-depth water management practices, focusing on the types of irrigation systems used, the frequency of irrigation, and the challenges related to water availability. Farmers were also asked to provide reasons for their choice of irrigation methods, offering insights into the factors that influence their decisions, such as cost, efficiency, and water scarcity.

4. Results :
The survey findings revealed the following trends in water usage:

Farming Group	**% Using Advanced Irrigation Systems**	**Reasons for Choosing Irrigation Systems**
Small-scale	40%	Cost constraints, Simplicity, Limited access to resources
Medium-scale	60%	Efficiency, Cost management, Water availability
Large-scale	80%	High efficiency, Water conservation, Long-term sustainability

5. Implications for Interventions :
The survey results indicate that more support is needed for small- and medium-scale farmers to adopt advanced irrigation systems. Providing subsidies or low-interest loans for purchasing modern irrigation equipment could improve water conservation efforts. Large-scale farmers can benefit from continued research into even more efficient systems to maximize water use and maintain environmental sustainability.

6. Conclusion :
This study highlights the need for targeted interventions to promote efficient water use in agriculture. By addressing the specific needs of different farming communities, stakeholders can help ensure sustainable agricultural practices and protect vital water resources for future generations.

Answer the following questions, based on given passage.

i. Complete the following suitably. 1
In the introduction, the researcher links water management with crop productivity and environmental sustainability to highlight _____.

ii. What would the following be classified as? 1
To assess water usage practices among different farming communities and evaluate the effectiveness of irrigation techniques.
Select the appropriate response.
(A) Method of analysis (B) Research outcome
(C) Primary objective (D) Secondary objective

iii. Give two points to support why irrigation techniques were included as a focus in the survey on water usage patterns. 2

iv. Paragraph 3 includes words – 'factors' and 'decisions.' 1
Classify the following sentences as 'factor' or 'decision':
Sentence 1: Water scarcity pushes farmers to adopt more efficient irrigation systems.
Sentence 2: The cost of advanced systems leads small-scale farmers to stick with traditional irrigation methods.

v. Read the following : 1
Suresh uses a basic irrigation system for his small farm, citing cost as the main reason. Ramesh, who manages a medium-sized farm, recently upgraded to a drip irrigation system due to water scarcity in his area. Meanwhile, Kiran, a large-scale farmer, has implemented advanced automated irrigation systems to conserve water.
Select the option that identifies the correct farming group for Suresh, Ramesh, and Kiran.
(A) Suresh – small-scale; Ramesh – medium-scale; Kiran – large-scale
(B) Suresh – large-scale; Ramesh – small-scale; Kiran – medium-scale
(C) Suresh – medium-scale; Ramesh – large-scale; Kiran – small-scale
(D) Suresh – small-scale; Ramesh – large-scale; Kiran – medium-scale

vi. Although both medium- and large-scale farmers have adopted advanced irrigation systems, why is the percentage highest among large-scale farmers? 1

vii. Analyse how targeted interventions, such as subsidies or loans, can promote better water management practices in small- and medium-scale farms. (Paragraph 5) 2

viii. What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders, based on the insights from the study? 1
(A) Increase crop yields across all farms
(B) Promote sustainable agricultural practices
(C) Reduce water scarcity in large-scale farms
(D) Enhance traditional irrigation methods

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. Neelam/Neelesh is the head girl/boy of Surya Public School, Agra. She/He decides to call a meeting of all house appointments for prize distribution function on Annual Day. Draft a meeting notice on her/his behalf.

OR

B. You are Sukant Roy, the head of Ujjwal Bhavishya Educational Institution. You are moved by the condition of the destitute children near your area. You decide to uplift their lives by deciding to raise funds and ensuring that they have a better chance at life. Draft a notice to your fellow colleagues and students, making an appeal for monetary donations or any other assistance. You can also include additional details which you may be necessary for the purpose.

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

A. The literary club of your school is putting up the play "The Merchant of Venice". As the secretary of the club, draft an invitation inviting the parents. The famous writer Ketan Anand is the guest of honour. Write an invitation in not more than 50 words.

OR

B. You are Liza. You are going for a picnic with a group of your friends to Rang Mahal Lake near Ghaziabad. Write an informal invitation to your friend to join you on that day. Invent necessary details.

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

A. You saw a train accident last week when a train collided with another train while changing the track. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the editor of a national newspaper describing the accident. You are Nitin/Riya Chawla of Sewa Kutir, Pankha Road, Faridabad.

OR

B. Study the following advertisement and then write a suitable application for the post of a receptionist.

Wanted smart and dynamic female with good communication skills to serve as a receptionist in the front office of a five star Hotel. Fresh graduates with knowledge of foreign languages preferred. Apply with two passport sized photographs & complete biodata to The Times of India, P.B. No 73XX within 7 days from the date of the publication of this advertisement.

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

A. You visited Delhi Public School, Kanpur. You were impressed at seeing students participate in various co-curricular activities of the school such as debates, music and theatre workshops. Write a report on it in 120-150 words for your school magazine. You are Shalini/Sumiti, Editor of the magazine.

OR

B. Does getting more degrees really help in getting employment in this fast competitive scene of unemployment? Describe your views in an article in 120-150 words. You are Megha/Mayur.

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.
...and realised with pain
that she was as old as she
looked but soon
put that thought away, and
looked out at young
trees sprinting, the merry children spilling
out of their homes, but after the airport's
security check, standing a few yards away,

(My Mother at Sixty-Six)

i. What does the poet feel at the airport?

(A) Happy (B) Upset
(C) Sad (D) Resignation

ii. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.
Assertion : The poet experiences a painful realization about her mother's aging but quickly tries to distract herself.
Reason : The sight of young trees and children contrasts with the poet's thoughts of her mother's old age, symbolizing the ongoing cycle of 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.

iii. Complete the following suitably.
'..that she was as old as she, implies that poet's mother _____.

iv. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
The use of the young and old is used to highlight the age of the _____ (daughter/ mother).

v. Select the phrase that suggests the following:
The poet did not relish the thought of her mother's death due to old age.

vi. Which literary device is used in the given lines?

OR

B. It is in the news that all these pitiful kin
Are to be bought out and mercifully gathered in
To live in villages, next to the theatre and the store,
Where they won't have to think for themselves anymore,
While greedy good-doers, beneficent beasts of prey,
Swarm over their lives enforcing benefits
That are calculated to soothe them out of their wits,
And by teaching them how to sleep they sleep all day,
Destroy their sleeping at night the ancient way.

(A Roadside Stand)

i. Choose the option that displays the correct poetic device with the correct examples based on the given extract.
(A) greedy good-doers : metaphor
(B) soothe them out of their wits : metaphor
(C) beneficent beasts of prey : oxymoron
(D) all these pitiful kin : imagery

ii. Mention three words used by the poet in the extract that make the reader question the motives of the benefactors and the good-doers.

iii. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
These facilities have been provided by the _____ (government/opposition parties) with the real objective of not showing keen interest in the poor people.

iv. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.
Assertion : The poet criticizes the so-called 'benefits' imposed on the rural poor, as they strip away their independence.
Reason : The poet believes that by providing material comforts, the authorities help the rural poor to live more peaceful lives.
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. What is the tone of the poet in the line, 'gathered in to live in villages, next to the theatre and the store' indicate?

vi. Complete the following suitably.
The poor have been 'gathered into live in villages next to the theatre and the store.' This shows that _____.

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

A. The man moaned with pain in his stupor but he did not awaken.
"The best thing that we could do would be to put him back in the sea," Sadao said, answering himself. Now that the bleeding was stopped for the moment he stood up and dusted the sand from his hands.
"Yes, undoubtedly that would be best," Hana said steadily. But she continued to stare down at the motionless man.
"If we sheltered a white man in our house we should be arrested and if we turned him over as a prisoner, he would certainly die," Sadao said.
"The kindest thing would be to put him back into the sea," Hana said. But neither of them moved. They were staring with curious repulsion upon the inert figure.

(The Enemy)

i. Why did Sadao suggest to put the man back into the sea?

ii. In the given extract, Hana was apprehensive that if she would help the prisoner, she would be _____.
(A) rewarded (B) rebuked
(C) arrested (D) none of these

iii. Complete the sentence appropriately.
Hana and Dr Sadao stared at the prisoner with _____.

iv. According to the passage, how would your describe Sadao and Hana.

OR

B. Now, I don't know why this should have happened to me. I'm just an ordinary guy named Charley, thirty-one years old and I was wearing a tan gabardine suit and a straw hat with a fancy band; I passed a dozen men who looked just like me. And I wasn't trying to escape from anything; I just wanted to get home to Louisa, my wife.

(The Third Level)

i. Complete the sentence appropriately.
The given lines show that the narrator, Charley _____.

ii. When did 'this' incident take place?
(A) While he was going to visit his father
(B) While he was going to work
(C) While he was going to his psychiatrist friend
(D) While he was returning late from work

iii. Why does the narrator say that he was not trying to escape from anything?

iv. What does 'this' refer to?

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

A. She still has bangles on her wrist, but no light in her eyes. "Ek waqt ser bhar khana bhi nahin khaya." she says, in a voice drained of joy. She has not enjoyed even one full meal in her entire lifetime-that's what she has reaped! Her husband, an old man with a flowing beard says, "I know nothing except bangles. All I have done is make a house for the family to live in."
Hearing him one wonders if he has achieved what many have failed in their lifetime. He has a roof over his head!
The cry of not having money to do anything except carry on the business of making bangles, not even enough to eat, rings in every home. The young men echo the lament of the elders. Little has moved with time, it seems in Firozabad, years of mind-numbing toil have killed all initiative and the ability to dream.

(Lost Spring)

i. List the details shown in the first line of the given extract.

ii. What is the attitude of the author towards the old man's words? The author finds it _____.
(A) admirable (B) pessimistic
(C) modest (D) boastful

iii. Complete the sentence appropriately.
The author's take on the lives of the bangle-makers as reflected in the words 'that's what she has reaped!' is _____.

iv. Pick evidence from the text that helps one interpret the phrase 'rings in every home'.

v. What does the line 'the young men echo the lament of their elders' refer to?

vi. Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the extract.
(A) To put an end to child exploitation
(B) To show the importance of labour
(C) To show the importance of punctuality
(D) The rigidity of the school system

OR

B. It offered riches and joys, shelter and food, heat and clothing, exactly as the rattrap offered cheese and pork, and as soon as anyone let himself be tempted to touch the bait, it closed in on him, and then everything came to an end.
The world had, of course, never been very kind to him, so it gave him unwonted joy to think ill of it in this way. It became a cherished pastime of his, during many dreary ploddings, to think of people he knew who had let themselves be caught in the dangerous snare, and of others who were still circling around the bait.

(The Rattrap)

i. What philosophical thought is given in the extract about the world?

ii. The line, "...it closed in on him, and then everything came to an end" can be classified as:
(A) a fact (B) an opinion
(C) a plot point (D) a theme

iii. Explain any one possible inference that can be drawn from the line, "It became a cherished pastime of his, during many dreary ploddings, to think of people he knew who had let themselves be caught in the dangergus snare, and of others who were still circling around the bait".

iv. Identify the line from the text that bears evidence to the fact that the rattrap seller is a pessimistic man.

v. The peddler's views about the world, in the extract, can be best described as:
(A) unjust and fair (B) unkind and unjust
(C) unkind and fair (D) just and fair

vi. Complete the sentence with ONE word.
Stealing had been his hobby since _____.

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

i. What was distinctive about Eco's academic writing style?

(The Interview)

ii. How did the author discover who the English visitor to the studios was?

(Poets and Paneakes)

iii. What does the ring on Aunt Jennifer's fingers signify?

(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

iv. What kind of thought the poet wishes to put away in 'My Mother at Sixty-Six'? Why?

v. What image does the poet use to describe the beautiful bounty of the earth?

(A Thing of Beauty)

vi. What had been put on the bulletin board?

(The Last Lesson)

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

i. How did Zitkala-Sa try to avoid the loss of her long hair?

(Memories of Childhood)

ii. Comment on the ending of the play "On the Face of It".

iii. Why was the general not interested in sending Dr. Sadao with the troops?

(The Enemy)

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

A. Obstacles determine the quality of life. Hermits feel convinced that sweet are the uses of adversity. Problems are opportunities. Elucidate the saying taking ideas from the given lines: "Events justified Gandhi's position. Within a few years, the British planters abandoned their estates, which reverted to the peasants. Indigo sharecropping disappeared."

(Indigo)

OR

B. "It is his karma, his destiny." The prose section Lost Spring includes this telling comment said by Mukesh's grandmother. In Aunt Jennifer's Tigers, destiny of common housewife is discussed.
Imagine yourself to be a motivational speaker who has to address high school students. 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 creating their own destiny through hard work.

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

A. Take care of small things and the big things will take care of themselves. Instead of ignoring things whether big or small, do care of things to make them more sustainable. 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, discuss the statement in relation to Antarctica in about 120-150 words.

(Journey to the End of The Earth)

OR

B. 'Flattery is eating into roots of our society and polity.' The Tiger King or the Maharaja pursue the same. Discuss with reference to the lesson in about 120-150 words.

(The Tiger King)

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