SAMPLE PAPER 13

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 Pacific Ocean, the largest and deepest ocean on Earth, covers more than 63 million square miles. It holds more water than all of the world's land above sea level combined. It stretches from the Arctic Ocean in the north to the Southern Ocean in the south, and from Asia and Australia in the west to the Americas in the east. The Pacific Ocean is so vast that it accounts for one-third of the Earth's total surface area.

2. Due to its size, the Pacific Ocean plays a critical role in regulating the Earth's climate. It absorbs a significant amount of heat from the atmosphere, which helps to stabilize global temperatures. The ocean's currents, such as the North Pacific Current and the South Equatorial Current, transport warm and cold water across vast distances, influencing weather patterns all over the globe. For example, the El Niño phenomenon, which is caused by variations in Pacific Ocean currents, can lead to drastic changes in weather conditions, including droughts and floods in different parts of the world.

3. The Pacific Ocean is also home to an extraordinary array of marine life. Its ecosystems range from coral reefs near tropical islands to the cold, nutrient-rich waters of the northern regions. Many species of fish, whales, sharks, and sea turtles depend on the Pacific for food and habitat. However, the ocean is facing numerous threats, including overfishing, pollution, and climate change. Plastic waste is a growing problem, with large patches of floating debris, such as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, posing a severe threat to marine life.

4. Human activity along the Pacific Rim, where many of the world's largest cities are located, also affects the ocean. Coastal development, industrial pollution, and shipping routes contribute to the degradation of the ocean's health. Conservation efforts are

underway, including protected marine areas and international agreements aimed at reducing pollution and protecting biodiversity. Yet, much remains to be done to ensure the long-term health of the Pacific Ocean.

5. The Pacific Ocean is not just a body of water; it is a vital part of the global ecosystem. Its influence on weather, climate, and marine life makes it an essential component of life on Earth. Preserving its health is crucial for the future of the planet.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

i. According to paragraph 1, how much of the Earth's surface is covered by the Pacific Ocean? 1

ii. How does the Pacific Ocean contribute to stabilizing global temperatures, as mentioned in paragraph 2? 1

iii. Read and complete the following sentence suitably. 1
The phrase "critical role in regulating the Earth's climate" in paragraph 2 suggests that the Pacific Ocean is essential in maintaining stable weather conditions globally.
Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence.
The Pacific Ocean's influence on the climate comes from _____.
(A) its currents and ability to absorb heat
(B) the presence of marine species like whales

iv. Complete the following with ONE example, with reference to paragraph 2 : 1
The Pacific Ocean affects weather patterns through _____.

v. Why does the writer refer to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch in paragraph 3? 1
Because
(A) It shows the scale of pollution affecting marine life.
(B) It highlights a natural feature of the Pacific.
(C) It explains how the Pacific Ocean forms ocean currents.
(D) It indicates the Pacific's ability to sustain life.

vi. Provide ONE textual evidence with reference to paragraph 4, to support the following : 1
Human activity along the Pacific Rim has a significant impact on the ocean's health.

vii. In the line, 'much remains to be done to ensure the long-term health of the Pacific Ocean' (Paragraph 4), what does the phrase 'much remains to be done' suggest about conservation efforts? 2

viii. Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph 3 : 1
coral reefs: tropical :: nutrient-rich waters: _____
(A) garbage patches (B) deep ocean
(C) northern regions (D) marine animals

ix. Why is it fair to say that the statement 'the Pacific Ocean is a vital part of the global ecosystem' in paragraph 5 uses factual language? 1

(A) It uses data and information about the ocean's size.
(B) It is backed by scientific knowledge of the ocean's importance.
(C) It reflects the opinion of environmental groups.
(D) It focuses on the beauty of the ocean.

x. Evaluate the potential challenges or benefits of international agreements to protect the Pacific Ocean, as suggested in paragraph 4. 2

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

1. Introduction :
In the fast-paced environment of urban living, transportation choices play a significant role in daily life. This case study aims to analyse the preference for public transport compared to private vehicles among different age groups and the implications for environmental sustainability.

2. Methodology :
A survey was conducted among individuals of various age groups, from teenagers to the elderly, to identify their preferred mode of transport. Participants were asked to choose between public transport and private vehicles and explain the reasons behind their choice. The collected data was analysed to observe trends in transportation preferences across age demographics.

3. Survey Examination :
The survey provided a detailed examination of transportation habits, focusing not only on the preferred modes of transport but also exploring the reasons behind these choices. Participants were asked to elaborate on their decisions, revealing the complexities of their transportation choices, such as convenience, environmental concerns, and cost.

4. Results :
The survey yielded the following results regarding transportation preferences:

Age-group	**% Preferred Mode**	**Reasons for Preference**
Teenagers	60% Private	Independence, Convenience, Parental influence
Young adults	45% Mixed	Flexibility, Time management, Financial considerations
Middle-aged	70% Public	Cost efficiency, Environmental concerns, Traffic stress
Elderly	85% Public	Safety, Comfort, Lack of need for frequent travel

5. Implications for Interventions :
Understanding the preferences of different age groups can help policymakers design targeted interventions. For instance, promoting sustainable transport options for young adults through flexible and affordable plans may encourage more eco-friendly choices. Similarly, improving public transport accessibility for the elderly and middle-aged groups could address safety and convenience concerns while promoting environmental sustainability. Initiatives like these can result in broader support for public transport systems and reduced reliance on private vehicles.

6. Conclusion :
The survey findings provide a basis for developing interventions that cater to the diverse needs of different age demographics, fostering a more sustainable and efficient transportation system. By addressing the underlying reasons behind transportation preferences, stakeholders can collaborate on building an eco-friendly and accessible urban transport network for future generations.

Answer the following questions, based on given passage.

i. Complete the following suitably. 1
In the introduction, the researcher links fast-paced urban living with transportation choices in the study to highlight _____.

ii. What would the following be classified as? 1
To examine transportation preferences across various age groups in detail, and assess environmental implications.
Select the appropriate response.
(A) Primary purpose (B) Secondary objective
(C) Method of analysis (D) Research outcome

iii. Give two points to support why public transport was given as an option to the survey participants to choose from in the study on transportation preferences. 2

iv. Paragraph 3 includes words – 'reasons' and 'decisions.' 1
Classify the following sentences as 'reason' or 'decision':
Sentence 1 : Traffic congestion leads middle-aged individuals to prefer public transport over private vehicles.
Sentence 2 : The desire to save money drives young adults to opt for a mix of public and private transportation.

v. Read the following : 1
Ravi regularly commutes by bus and train, preferring the convenience of public transport. Sneha, his colleague, mostly drives her car to work for comfort and independence. Anirudh, who lives nearby, switches between using his bike and car based on the weather.
Select the option that identifies the correct demographic Ravi, Sneha, and Anirudh belong to.
(A) Ravi – elderly; Sneha – young adult; Anirudh – middle-aged
(B) Ravi – middle-aged; Sneha – young adult; Anirudh – teenager
(C) Ravi – young adult; Sneha – teenager; Anirudh – middle-aged
(D) Ravi – elderly; Sneha – middle-aged; Anirudh – young adult

vi. Although teenagers and middle-aged groups both prefer public transport, why is the preference percentage highest among the elderly? 1

vii. Analyse how targeted interventions based on the diverse transportation preferences of different age groups can lead to a more sustainable urban transport system. (Paragraph 5) 2

viii. What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders, based on the insights from the study? 1
(A) Encourage widespread adoption of electric vehicles
(B) Build a sustainable and efficient public transport network
(C) Reduce individual commuting time
(D) Increase affordability of private transport options

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. Recently there has been an increase in the cases of kidnappings, especially of children. On closer investigation it has been found that domestic helps or some persons familiar with the family were involved in most cases. You are the Secretary of the Residents' Welfare Association. Write a notice in about 50 words to be put up on the noticeboard of the colony informing the citizens about the following :
- Police verification of servants, identity cards to be made
- Register entry of visitors at the gate
- Installation of CCTV in the premises

OR

B. You are the president of the Malviya Nagar Residents' Welfare Association, Block A and you are organising a "New Year Party" in your area. Draft a notice as Dharam Sethi informing the residents of your block of the same. Include details which you deem necessary for the purpose.

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

A. You are a student of St. Anthony School, Gwalior. The school is holding its annual function. Write an invitation on behalf of the Principal inviting the parents and dignitaries of the town to attend the function to be held on September 18, 20xx at 5:00 p.m.

OR

B. Invite your class fellows and friends on the wedding of your elder sister. Invent necessary details. (50 words).

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

A. You are perturbed to read about the rising cases of road rage in the National Capital. People become so aggressive and violent that an argument results in injuries or, in some extreme cases, even death. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the Editor of a daily to make the public aware of the need to curb such behaviour to make roads safer for the people. You are Anvita/Anmol, a resident of Ashok Nagar, New Delhi.



OR

B. You are Rajan/Rama, living in Ghaziabad. You have just completed your studies and are in search of a job. While browsing through the Times of India, you came across the following advertisement. Choose a post for which you think you are suitable. Send your application in response to this advertisement.

An Upcoming School in Ghaziabad Requires the Following Staff	
Lab Assistant :	Science graduates having 2-5 yeats of lab experience
Accountant :	B Com with minimum experience of 2 years in maintaining accounts
Receptionist :	Young female candidates fluent in English with good communication skills and proficiency in computer/Net surfing with 3 year experience
Please send your detailed updated resume within seven days to the Manager, Prayag International School, 674, Kavi Nagar, Ghaziabad, 20xx.	

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

A. After class 12, students are apprehensive about choosing the course and the college. The 'Mission Admissions' organized by the Times of India is a great platform for college aspirants. It would help them to get knowledge about emerging opportunities in various streams. Write an article in 120-150 words emphasizing the need of career counselling to help students with the admission process.

OR

B. You are a press reporter. Write a report in 120-150 words on the recent cattle catching drive launched by MCD to clear stray cattle from Delhi roads.

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.

Now we will count to twelve
And we will all keep still.
For once on the face of the Earth
Let's not speak in any language,
Let's stop for one second,
And not move our arms so much

(Keeping Quiet)

i. Why is the poet asking the people not to speak?
(A) It gives the people time to introspect their actions.
(B) It creates uproar.
(C) The poet does not like talkative people.
(D) All of these

ii. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.
Assertion : The poet encourages everyone to count to twelve and stay still to promote peace and introspection.
Reason : The poet believes that by stopping all movement and communication, people can better reflect on their differences.
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.
During counting to twelve the poet wants us to remain _____.

iv. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
The use of the words 'count up to twelve' is aptly contrasting with 'we will all keep still' and both are put together shows _____ (antithesis/counterpart).

v. Based on the poem rhyme scheme, evident in lines 2-5, in the given extract, which word would rhyme with line 1?

shelf	valve	help

vi. Why does the poet ask everyone to stop speaking and moving for a moment?

OR

B. Driving from my parent's
home to Cochin last Friday
morning, I saw my mother,
beside me,
doze, open mouthed, her face
ashen like that
of a corpse 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,

(My Mother at Sixty-Six)

i. What is the speaker's emotional state when she's looking at her mother?
(A) Anxiety for her loved ones
(B) Anger for her loved ones
(C) Feeling of indifference for her loved ones
(D) Anxiety and concern for her loved ones

ii. What does the phrase 'young trees sprinting' indicate?

iii. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
The theme of the poem is _____ (aging/aspiration), which is the law of nature.

iv. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.
Assertion : The poet is overcome with a painful realization about her mother's aging and frailty.
Reason : The sight of her mother's ashen, corpse-like face makes the poet painfully aware of her mother's mortality, prompting her to shift her focus to the young trees outside.
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 message does the phrase 'ashen like that of a corpse' highlight?

vi. Complete the following suitably.
The poem does not follow any rhyming scheme, thus, it has been written in _____.

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

A. It's got nothing to do with my face and what I look like. I don't care about that and it isn't important. It's what I think and feel and what I want to see and find out and hear. And I'm going back there.

(On the Face of it)

i. Complete the sentence appropriately, with reference to the extract.
When Derry goes 'back there', he sees _____.

ii. What kind of a person has Derry become?

iii. What do Mr. Lamb and Derry suffer from?
(A) Burnt face (B) Burnt leg
(C) Tin leg (D) Both (A) and (C)

iv. What was the reason due to which Derry wanted to return to that place?

OR

B. The reason the programme has been so successful is because it's impossible to go anywhere near the South Pole and not be affected by it. It's easy to be blase about polar ice-caps melting while sitting in the comfort zone of our respective latitude and longitude, but when you can visibly see glaciers retreating and ice shelves collapsing, you begin to realise that the threat of global warming is very real.

(The Journey to the End of Earth)

i. Complete the sentence appropriately, with reference to the extract.
The reason behind the success of the programme 'Students on Ice' is the impossibility to _____.

ii. Select the most suitable title of the give extract.
(A) Students of the future (B) Kalyuga power
(C) Global warming (D) Earth's End A Journey

iii. Why is Antarctica and its understandings important for the survival of the world?

iv. When is the threat of global warming?

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

A. Only the desks and benches had been worn smooth; the walnut-trees in the garden were taller, and the hopvine that he had planted himself twined about the windows to the roof How it must have broken his heart to leave it all, poor man; to hear his sister moving about in the room above, packing their trunks! For they must leave the country next day.

But he had the courage to hear every lesson to the very last. After the writing, we had a lesson in history, and then the babies chanted their ba, be bi, bo, bu. Down there at the back of the room old Hauser had put on his spectacles and, holding his primer in both

hands, spelled the letters with them. You could see that he, too, was crying; his voice trembled with emotion, and it was so funny to hear him that we all wanted to laugh and cry. Ah, how well I remember it, that last lesson!

(The Last Lesson)

i. List any two sensory details present in this extract.

ii. What qualities of M. Hamel have been reflected in this extract?
(A) patient, emotional
(B) impatient, insensitive
(C) proud, reproachful
(D) miserable, resigned

iii. Complete the sentence appropriately.
M. Hamel was making preparations _____.

iv. Pick evidence from the extract that helps one infer that the atmosphere in the class was bitter sweet.

v. What does 'courage to hear every lesson to the last' mean?

vi. Select the most suitable option for the tone of the speaker in the given extract.
(A) Inquisitive (B) Alert
(C) Monotonous (D) Doleful

OR

B. I went to the pool when no one else was there. The place was quiet. The water was still and tiled bottom was as white and clean an a bathtub. I was timid about going in alone, so I sat on the side of the pool to wait for others.
I had not been there long when in came a big bruiser of a boy, probably eighteen years old. He had thick hair on his chest. He was a beautiful physical specimen, with legs and arms that showed rippling, muscles. He yelled. "Hi, Skinny! How'd you like to be ducked?"

(Deep Water)

i. What is the purpose of the description of the bully? Present your views.

ii. Select the option that completes the give sentence appropriately.
When the narrator went to the pool it was _____.
(A) pleasant and lively (B) thrilling and attractive
(C) dirty (D) still and clean

iii. What did the big bruiser of a boy do?

iv. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that the big boy was a bully.

v. Why did the narrator sit on the side of the pool?
(A) To enjoy the beauty of the pool
(B) He was afraid of entering the pool alone
(C) To wait for the coach
(D) To prepare himself mentally to enter

vi. Complete the sentence with one word.
The word 'bruiser' in the extract means _____.

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

i. Why did the girl close the door when the ironmaster opened the door for the peddler to go? *(The Rattrap)*

ii. Why did Gandhi agree to a settlement of 25 per cent refund to the farmers? *(Indigo)*

iii. How did the poet prove that there can be life under apparent stillness in the poem 'Keeping Quiet'.

iv. Why does the wedding band 'sit heavily' upon Aunt Jennifer's hand? *(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)*

v. How can 'mighty dead' be things of beauty? *(A thing of Beauty)*

vi. What caused the lack of communication between the Englishman and the people at Gemini Studios? *(Poets and Pancakes)*

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

i. What were the feelings of Dr. Sadao and his wife on seeing the wounded man? What did they finally decide to do? (The Enemy)

ii. What arguments does Charley offer to show his disagreement with the psychiatrist's diagnosis? (The Third Level)

iii. Do you think all this will change Derry's attitude towards Mr. Lamb? *(On the Face of It)*

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

A. The characters in prose sections, Mukesh in The Lost Spring and Sophie in Going Places are two different kinds of daydreamers. One is who fulfilled his dreams in real and the other is one who always lives in imaginary dreams. The daydreaming can affect our lives positively as well as negatively.
Imagine yourself as 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 highlighting realistic and unrealistic types of day dreaming.

OR

B. Imagine a child from the farmer's family migrates to the city for their education. As the child, write back to your family telling them whether you would or would not want to turn into a city person.
Use the context of the poem "A Roadside Stand" in mind to pen down this letter.
You may begin this way:
12, Davidson County
23 January 'XX
Dear mom
I have been thinking about the roadside stall lately. Now that I find myself surrounded by city-people all the time, I think.....
With love
Jennifer

(A Roadside Stand)

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

A. On returning home, Bama narrated the funny stories to her elder brother Annan. Her brother explained her that it is not funny in anything she told to him, instead all these incidents shows caste discrimination. As she understood the events, she felt disgusted and sad.
Imagine yourself to be BAMA and discuss what the Constitution of India does for this.

(Memories of Childhood)

OR

B. Imagine you are an ardent environmentalist who is involved in the Save the Tiger campaign. You have been asked to deliver a speech in a seminar related to your campaign and the need for the youth to be involved in such campaigns. Draft your speech.

(A Tiger King)

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