SAMPLE PAPER 14

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 has one of the largest railway networks in the world, spanning over 67,000 kilometers and serving as a crucial mode of transport for millions of people. Indian Railways, established during British rule in 1853, has grown to become a lifeline for the nation. Every day, more than 23 million passengers use Indian Railways, making it one of the busiest and most essential transport systems globally. From bustling cities to remote villages, trains connect people across the length and breadth of the country.

2. The Indian Railways operates a variety of trains to meet the needs of different travelers. High-speed trains like the Vande Bharat Express and Shatabdi Express have made long-distance travel faster and more comfortable. These trains cater to those looking for speed and efficiency. On the other hand, local passenger trains provide an affordable mode of transportation for daily commuters, particularly in rural areas and smaller towns. These trains are often crowded but remain a lifeline for millions of people who rely on them for their livelihood and everyday commute.

3. What makes the Indian Railways unique is its vast diversity. Trains travel through a wide range of landscapes, from the snow-capped mountains of Jammu and Kashmir to the desert plains of Rajasthan, and the lush green fields of Kerala. The experience of traveling on Indian Railways is not just about getting from one place to another, but also about witnessing the geographical and cultural diversity of India. At every station, passengers are treated to regional food and local flavors, making each journey a blend of travel and cultural experience.

4. Despite its importance, the Indian Railways faces several challenges. Overcrowding, delays, and an aging infrastructure are some of the issues that affect passengers. The government has recognized these challenges and has been investing in modernization

projects. These include the electrification of tracks, upgrading stations, and introducing more environmentally friendly practices like solar energy in railway stations. The aim is to make Indian Railways more efficient, safer, and eco-friendly.

5. Indian Railways is more than just a transportation system; it is an integral part of India's economy and social fabric. It connects cities, towns, and villages, providing affordable transport to the common man while also supporting trade and commerce. As India continues to modernize, the railways will remain a key player in the country's development.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

i. According to paragraph 1, how many passengers use the Indian Railways each day? 1

ii. How does Indian Railways serve different types of passengers, as mentioned in paragraph 2? 1

iii. Read and complete the following sentence suitably. 1
The phrase "a lifeline for the nation" in paragraph 1 suggests that Indian Railways plays an essential role in connecting people across the country.
Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence.
Indian Railways is a lifeline because _____.
(A) it connects people across urban and rural areas
(B) it only serves high-speed trains and large cities

iv. Complete the following with ONE reason, with reference to paragraph 4 : 1
The government is investing in modernization because _____.

v. Why does the writer emphasize the diversity of landscapes in paragraph 3? 1
Because
(A) It shows how the trains offer scenic journeys across India's vast terrains.
(B) It explains why Indian Railways is the largest in the world.
(C) It demonstrates how difficult it is to maintain the railway system.
(D) It shows how regional food plays an important role in train journeys.

vi. Provide ONE textual evidence with reference to paragraph 4, to support the following : 1
The Indian Railways is improving its infrastructure to meet modern challenges.

vii. In the line, 'the railways will remain a key player in the country's development' (Paragraph 5), what does the phrase 'key player' suggest about the role of Indian Railways in the future? 2

viii. Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph 2 : 1
local passenger trains: affordability :: high-speed trains : _____
(A) slow journeys (B) crowded compartments
(C) efficiency (D) regional food

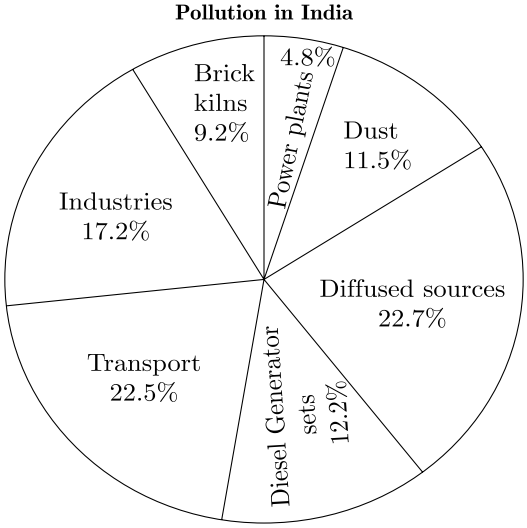
ix. Why is it fair to say that the statement 'Indian Railways is more than just a transportation system; it is an integral part of India's economy and social fabric' in paragraph 5 uses factual language? 1

(A) It presents the role of railways in connecting people and boosting commerce.
(B) It focuses on how trains operate in urban areas.
(C) It suggests the modernization efforts happening in Indian Railways.
(D) It highlights the scenic routes across the country.

x. Assess the potential challenges or benefits of modernization projects for Indian Railways, as suggested in paragraph 4. 2

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

1. Air pollution poses a significant threat to human health, with 1.1 billion people globally breathing unhealthy air. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), urban air pollution leads to approximately 800,000 deaths worldwide each year, and 4.6 million people lose their lives due to pollution-related causes annually.
2. Several factors contribute to the aggravation of air pollution, including traffic, inadequate drainage facilities, lack of open spaces, carbon emissions, and waste accumulation. In developing countries, air pollution is linked with an increased risk of Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI), which is a leading cause of child mortality.
3. Urban air quality in mega cities such as Kolkata is particularly concerning. An Exceedance Factor (EF) analysis of ambient air quality in Kolkata found that out of 17 monitoring stations, five fell under the "critical" category, while 12 were classified as having high pollution levels. The pollutants identified include RPM, SPM, NO, and SO2, with major sources being vehicular emissions (51.4%), industrial sources (24.5%), and dust particles (21.1%).
4. A health assessment conducted near highly polluted areas revealed that 85.1% of respondents had respiratory diseases, compared to 14.9% who suffered from waterborne diseases. Common respiratory ailments included Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI) (60%), Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) (7.8%), and Influenza (12.7%).
5. In order to promote well-being, it is essential for individuals to adopt pollution-avoiding practices in their daily lives. Public awareness campaigns about the dangers of polluted air can encourage these changes, helping people protect themselves and their communities.



Answer the following questions, based on given passage.

i. Complete the following suitably. 1
In the introduction, the researcher links urban air pollution with the global death toll to highlight _____.

ii. What would the following be classified as? 1
To examine the contribution of various sources, such as vehicular emissions and industrial sources, to air pollution in Kolkata.
Select the appropriate response.
(A) Secondary objective (B) Research outcome
(C) Method of analysis (D) Primary objective

iii. Give two points to support why awareness about air pollution is critical, based on the passage. 2

iv. Paragraph 3 includes words – 'vehicular emissions' and 'dust particles.' 1
Classify the following sentences as 'vehicular emissions' or 'dust particles':
Sentence 1: The majority of pollutants in Kolkata come from cars and other motor vehicles.
Sentence 2: Air quality deteriorates significantly due to dust from construction sites.

v. Read the following : 1
Ravi works in an industry that is a major contributor to air pollution. Priya lives in an area where dust particles are the primary source of pollution. Meanwhile, Arvind, who drives a truck, contributes to vehicular emissions.
Select the option that identifies the correct sources of pollution associated with Ravi, Priya, and Arvind.
(A) Ravi – industrial pollution; Priya – dust particles; Arvind – vehicular emissions
(B) Ravi – vehicular emissions; Priya – industrial pollution; Arvind – dust particles
(C) Ravi – dust particles; Priya – vehicular emissions; Arvind – industrial pollution
(D) Ravi – industrial pollution; Priya – vehicular emissions; Arvind – dust particles

vi. Why is the increased incidence of respiratory diseases in polluted areas considered a major health concern? 1

vii. Analyse how the major sources of pollution in Kolkata contribute to deteriorating air quality. (Paragraph 3) 2

viii. What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders, based on the insights from the study? 1
(A) Encourage more use of industrial resources
(B) Increase awareness of pollution-avoiding practices
(C) Promote the use of diesel generators for energy
(D) Limit the availability of medical assessments in polluted areas

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 Sahil Sagar, the President of Nehru Yuva Club, Delhi. You have planned to take a trekking trip for 15 days to Rohtang Pass next month. Write a notice giving all necessary information to invite participants for trekking programme.

OR

B. As the Director, Primary Section, write a notice in about 50 words for the children announcing the programme for the Children's Day.

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

A. You are the secretary of the Alumni Club, S.K. International School, Roshan Road, Raipur. Using the information given below, write an invitation letter to all the old students of the school on the Alumni Meet.

Alumni Meet on 25th December-Dinner-DJ-Mahek Hotel-Raipur-6 PM to 10 PM-confirm your seats.

OR

B. Write an invitation to your friend inviting him on the inauguration ceremony of your new house. Use the information given below.

Inauguration of home - Hawan ceremony - Lunch

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

A. Pankaj Das of 95, Dehu Road, Pune, sees an advertisement for the post of a supervisor and decides to apply for the job. The requirements for the job are graduation in any science subject, knowledge of English and possession of computer skills. Write an application along with the biodata in about 120-150 words to the Personnel Manager, Light Sight Chemists, Dehu Road, Pune.

OR

B. Write a letter to the editor of The Hindu about rash and reckless driving, suggesting preventive measures. You are Neha/Nehal living at B-3/345 Sector 8, Defence Colony, New Delhi.

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

A. Write an article in about 120-150 words for your school magazine on 'Drug Abuse and Its Prevention'.

OR

B. You have recently visited an island on the Pulicat Lagoon in Tamil Nadu. Write a report in 120-150 words on how children go to school by boat from this island.

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. Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways
Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,

(A Thing of Beauty)

i. Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract?
(A) Beauty is intransient (B) Happiness
(C) Joyful youth (D) Mundane world

ii. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.
Assertion : The poet suggests that despite the gloom and hardships in life, beauty binds us to the Earth.
Reason : The flowery band in the poem symbolizes the material possessions that keep us attached to the world.
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.
The extract highlights the fact that beauty has a positive impact on one's health. It helps one get _____ sleep.

iv. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
The poetic device used in the phrase 'noble nature' is _____ (alliteration/metaphor).

v. Based on the rhyming scheme, evident in lines 2-5, of the given extract, which word would rhyme with line1?

breathing	target	sound

vi. What does the poet mean by "wreathing a flowery band" every day?

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 Tiger)

i. What does the Aunt's terrified hands show about her emotional state?
(A) Hard and bitter experience of her married life
(B) The weight of her wedding band
(C) Her aged terrified hands
(D) Victim of gender oppression

ii. What does the phrase 'she was mastered by' suggest?

iii. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
The Aunt embroidered tigers on the panel to express her fighting spirit of a _____ (warrior/boxer).

iv. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.
Assertion : Aunt Jennifer's tigers will continue to symbolize strength and fearlessness, even after her death.
Reason : The tigers represent a world of confidence and freedom, contrasting with Aunt Jennifer's life of struggles and oppression, symbolized by her "terrified hands."
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 line highlight 'still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by' in the aunt's life?

vi. Complete the following suitably.
The tigers that she made in the panel shows her strength and her ability of _____.

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

A. From that day onwards it was celebration time for all the tigers inhabiting Pratibandapuram. The state banned tiger hunting by anyone except the Maharaja. A proclamation was issued to the effect that if anyone dared to fling so much as a stone at a tiger, all his wealth and property would be confiscated. The Maharaja vowed he would attend to all other matters only after killing the hundred tigers. Initially the king seemed well set to realise his ambition.
Not that he faced no dangers. There were times when the bullet missed its mark, the tiger leapt upon him and he fought the beast with his bare hands. Each time it was the Maharaja who won.

(The Tiger King)

i. The tone of the author when he says 'it was celebration time for all tigers' is _____.

ii. Select the option that enumerates the characteristics of the king.
(A) Gullible and scrupulous (B) Wilful and arrogant
(C) Aggressive and apathetic (D) All of these

iii. Why did the Maharaja want to kill tigers specifically?

iv. What does the proclamation show us about the authority possessed by the Maharaja?

OR

B. We must simply tell them that we intend to give him to the police-as indeed we must, Sadao. We must think of the children and your position. It would endanger all of us if we did not give this man over as a prisoner of war"

(The Enemy)

i. Complete the sentence appropriately.
Dr Sadao will not be arrested on the charge of harbouring an enemy _____.

ii. Who are 'them' being referred to here?
(A) Servants (B) Friends
(C) Neighbours (D) Doctors

iii. Who is the speaker of the above lines and who is the listener?

iv. What will Sadao and Hana do with the man?

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

A. The experience had a deep meaning for me, as only those who have known stark terror and conquered it can appreciate. In death there is peace. There is terror only in the fear of death, as Roosevelt knew when he said, 'All we have to fear is fear itself." Because I had experienced both the sensation of dying and the terror that fear of it can produce, the will to live somehow grew in intensity.

(Deep Water)

i. How had the narrator experienced 'the sensation of dying and the terror that fear of it can produce'?

ii. Based on the above extract, choose the statement that is TRUE for the speaker.
(A) Douglas fear kept him away from going fishing.
(B) The fall in the pool at YMCA intensified Douglas fear.
(C) The fear of drowning resulted in Douglas' anxiety and terror.
(D) Douglas decided to practice to overcome his fear.

iii. Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation, as per the extract.
Roosevelt's opinion on fear is that _____.

iv. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that the writer has himself faced the terror.

v. What was the impact of the 'experience' on the narrator's life?

vi. Select the option that completes the given sentence appropriately.
The 'experience' in the context refers to _____.
(A) drowning in the YMCA Pool
(B) swimming perfectly in various lakes
(C) learning how to swim
(D) Both (B) and (c)

OR

B. "The man was evidently used to sleeping with one eye open. He jumped up abruptly and seemed to be quite frightened. "My name is Edla Willmansson," said the young girl. "My father came home and said that you wanted to sleep here in the forge tonight, and then I asked permission to come and bring you home to us. I am so sorry, Captain, that you are having such a hard time." She looked at him compassionately, with her heavy eyes, and then she noticed that the man was afraid. "Either he has stolen something or else he has escaped from jail", she thought, and added quickly, "You may be sure, Captain, that you will be allowed to leave us just as freely as you came."

(The Rattrap)

i. What did the man evidently used to?

ii. The line, "Either he has stolen something or else he has escaped from jail" can be best classified as
(A) a truth (B) an opinion
(C) an assumption (D) a plot point

iii. Explain any one inference that can be drawn from the line, "Either he has stolen some thing or else he has escaped from jail."

iv. Identify the line from the text that bears evidence to the fact that Edla felt that the man was frightened.

v. Which is the most likely reason Edla calling him captain?
(A) He was looking like captain. (B) He was mistaken as a captain.
(C) He was looking alike thief. (D) He had escaped from jail.

vi. Complete the sentence with ONE word.
Edla had two doubts about the man-one is that he was a thief and another is that he had escaped from _____.

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

i. What followed when Gandhiji arrived at Champaran? *(Indigo)*

ii. Why do most celebrity writers hate to be interviewed? *(The Interview)*

iii. How were the parents and M. Hamel responsible for the children's neglect of the French language? *(The Last Lesson)*

iv. Bring out the contrast between the urban rich and the rural poor. *(A Roadside Stand)*

v. What is the significance of the state of total inactivity or quietude that the poet urges in 'Keeping Quiet'?

vi. What kind of mother's face has been described in 'My Mother at Sixty-Six'?

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

i. Where did Charley go after reading Sam's note and why? What did he come to know about it?

(The Third Level)

ii. Why was Tishani Doshi filled with relief and wonder when he set foot on the Antarctic continent?

(Journey to the End of the Earth)

iii. What kind of a garden does Mr Lamb possess? Why is he attached to it?

(On the face of It)

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

A. In Prose section, Indigo, chapter points out how an effective leadership can overcome any problem. Imagine yourself to be a motivational speaker who has to address high school students. Write this address in 120-150 words elaborating on occurrences from the text to inspire your audience and to convince them about the importance of leadership.

OR

B. 'Mother continually warned against it, and kept fresh in my mind the details of each drowning in the river.'
In Prose section, 'Deep Water' includes this comment on William Douglas.
In 'My Mother at Sixty Six', we are told that -
'But after the airport's security check, standing a few yards away, I looked again at her, wan, pale as a late winter's moon'
Imagine a conversation between Kamla Das and William Douglas as friends. Create this exchange with reference to the extracts given above.

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

A. 'The modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry, tension and stress.' Discuss with reference to "The Third Level".

OR

B. The two accounts that you read in Memories of Childhood are based on two distant cultures.
However, there lies the commonality of theme in both of them. Instead of letting it pull them down, they both found a way to overcome it in their own way. You wish to include a cameo of both in your upcoming blog post.
(A cameo is a short description that neatly encapsulates someone or something)
As a part of the research, compare and contrast the experiences faced by the two and their responses to these experiences, in about 120-150 words. (Clue : include similarities and differences in the discrimination they faced - their feelings - determination to overcome - success)