SAMPLE PAPER 15

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. In the early morning, before the city of Kolkata fully awakens, the Howrah Bridge stands in quiet majesty over the Hooghly River. The bridge, with its enormous steel beams and towering pillars, is one of the busiest in the world. As dawn breaks, the first rays of sunlight glimmer on the surface of the water, and the bridge begins to come alive. Slowly, the hum of engines and the footsteps of commuters fill the air as people make their way across, heading to work or returning home after a long night.

2. The Howrah Bridge is not just a structure of steel and iron; it is a lifeline that connects the twin cities of Howrah and Kolkata. Thousands of vehicles and pedestrians cross it daily, making it one of the most essential parts of Kolkata's bustling life. It is more than just a means of transport; it is a symbol of the city's resilience and unity. No matter the time of day, the bridge stands strong, carrying the weight of the city's hopes, dreams, and struggles.

3. For those who walk across the bridge early in the morning, the scene is different. The cool breeze from the river brings a sense of calm, and the city's noise feels distant. Fishermen can be seen casting their nets into the Hooghly's waters, hoping for a good catch, while boatmen row gently along the river. The bridge, towering above them, seems to watch over the river, silently witnessing the daily rhythm of life.

4. As the day progresses, the city's pulse quickens. The once peaceful bridge becomes a hive of activity. Buses, cars, bicycles, and hand-pulled rickshaws all jostle for space, moving in a chaotic yet synchronized flow. Street vendors set up their stalls at the foot of the bridge, selling everything from fruits to newspapers. The Howrah Bridge, now bustling with life, is a testament to Kolkata's vibrancy and unyielding spirit.

5. By nightfall, the bridge stands lit against the dark sky, its lights reflecting on the water below. Even in the stillness of night, the Howrah Bridge remains a beacon of the city's strength, connecting two sides, two cities, and countless lives. It is not just a bridge; it is the heartbeat of Kolkata, standing tall against the passage of time.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

i. According to paragraph 1, what role does the Howrah Bridge play in the daily life of Kolkata? 1

ii. How does the author describe the significance of the bridge for the people of Kolkata, as mentioned in paragraph 2? 1

iii. Read and complete the following sentence suitably. 1
The phrase "a lifeline that connects the twin cities" in paragraph 2 suggests that the Howrah Bridge is essential for the daily functioning of Kolkata and Howrah.
Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence.
The Howrah Bridge is a lifeline because _____.
(A) it carries thousands of vehicles and pedestrians every day
(B) it is the tallest structure in Kolkata

iv. Complete the following with ONE example, with reference to paragraph 3 : 1
The Howrah Bridge provides a sense of calm in the early morning because _____.

v. Why does the writer describe the bridge as a "symbol of the city's resilience" in paragraph 2? 1
Because
(A) The bridge helps people reach work on time.
(B) The bridge connects the city in both a physical and emotional sense.
(C) It is the most iconic structure in Kolkata.
(D) It helps street vendors set up their stalls every day.

vi. Provide ONE textual evidence with reference to paragraph 4, to support the following : 1
The Howrah Bridge transforms into a busy hub of activity as the day progresses.

vii. In the line, 'the bridge, towering above them, seems to watch over the river' (Paragraph 3), what does the phrase 'watch over the river' suggest about the bridge's presence? 2

viii. Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph 4 : 1
vehicles: traffic :: street vendors: _____
(A) river (B) stalls
(C) Howrah (D) bridge

ix. Why is it fair to say that the statement 'the Howrah Bridge remains a beacon of the city's strength' in paragraph 5 uses figurative language? 1
(A) It suggests the bridge represents Kolkata's enduring spirit.
(B) It compares the bridge to a literal beacon.
(C) It emphasizes the physical size of the bridge.
(D) It describes the lights on the bridge.

x. Assess the potential challenges or benefits of maintaining such an important structure, as suggested in paragraph 5. 2

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

1. Global water scarcity has become a critical issue, with 47% of the global population expected to live in areas of high water stress by 2030. This case study examines water consumption across various regions, focusing on disparities between developed and developing countries, and the factors contributing to water shortages.
2. Data from the World Bank shows that water consumption in developed regions, such as North America and Europe, averages 350 liters per person per day. However, in developing regions like sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East, water consumption is much lower, averaging just 50 liters per person per day. The global average is 200 liters per person per day.
3. A breakdown of water usage shows that 70% of the world's fresh water is used for agriculture, 20% for industry, and 10% for domestic use. In water-scarce regions, the demand for agricultural water is even higher, with 85% of available water being used for farming. This heavy reliance on agriculture contributes significantly to water stress in these areas.
4. The study also reveals that groundwater provides 40% of the world's fresh water. However, in many regions, over-extraction has led to significant depletion. Some regions report water tables dropping by as much as 3 meters per year, raising concerns about the long-term sustainability of groundwater reserves.
5. In areas of high water stress, it is estimated that 1 in 4 people live under conditions where more than 80% of available water is used annually. These regions are at increased risk of facing acute water shortages, particularly in the context of climate change.
6. The data highlights the importance of implementing effective water management strategies. Efficient irrigation practices could reduce agricultural water consumption by as much as 30% in water-stressed regions, offering a path toward sustainable water use in the future.

Answer the following questions, based on given passage.

i. Complete the following suitably. 1
In the introduction, the researcher links global water demand with water scarcity to highlight _____.

ii. What would the following be classified as? 1
To explore the factors contributing to water consumption disparities between developed and developing countries.
Select the appropriate response.
(A) Method of analysis (B) Research outcome
(C) Primary objective (D) Secondary objective

iii. Give two points to support why agriculture was included as a focus in the study on water consumption. 2

iv. Paragraph 3 includes words – 'over-reliance' and 'over-extraction.' 1
Classify the following sentences as 'over-reliance' or 'over-extraction':
Sentence 1: The extensive use of groundwater for farming in dry regions leads to rapid depletion of water sources.
Sentence 2: Many regions depend on water-intensive crops, such as rice and cotton, further straining limited water resources.

v. Read the following : 1
Nina lives in a rural area where water scarcity is a daily challenge. Her family consumes only 50 liters of water per day, most of which is used for farming. Her friend Alex, who lives in an urban area, consumes 250 liters per day, with most of it used for domestic purposes.
Select the option that identifies the correct water consumption patterns for Nina and Alex.
(A) Nina – 350 liters; Alex – 50 liters
(B) Nina – 50 liters; Alex – 250 liters
(C) Nina – 100 liters; Alex – 350 liters
(D) Nina – 250 liters; Alex – 100 liters

vi. Although rural and urban areas both face water challenges, why is the per capita water consumption lower in rural areas? 1

vii. Analyse how targeted water management interventions, such as improving irrigation techniques, can significantly reduce water consumption in agriculture-heavy regions. 2

viii. What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders, based on the insights from the study? 1
(A) Promote increased water usage in industrial regions
(B) Reduce global water stress and ensure sustainable water usage
(C) Limit the use of groundwater to urban areas
(D) Focus only on domestic water use

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 Shalini/ Shailesh, in charge of the NSS Club of St. Andrew's School, Bhopal. Write a notice about a charity show being organized by the club to collect articles and money for people affected by earthquake in Uttarakhand. Write the notice in about 50 words. Include relevant details such as purpose of the show, kind of events, tickets and show timing, etc.

OR

B. As the Sports Captain of your school, write a notice in about 50 words informing budding cricketers to attend trials for Under-16 and Under-18 for final selection to the school teams. Sign off as Sunny Arora. Invent all necessary details as required.

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

A. You are Dr. Swarupa Mitra, an eminent oncologist working at Rajiv Gandhi Cancer and Research Institute. You have the honour of being invited as the chief guest at a public function. However, due to sudden illness you are unable to attend the same. Draft a suitable reply in about 50 words.

OR

B. You are Rohana/Rohit. You have been invited to attend the wedding of your friend's brother. Respond to the invitation regretting your inability to attend it. Invent necessary details and do not exceed 50 words.

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

A. You are Bhavjeet Kaur of 25/A, Defence Colony, New Delhi. You are deeply concerned about the growing apathy of people towards eve-teasing in local buses. Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper expressing your concern and suggesting ways in which are women can ensure their own safety.

OR

B. During summer months after your exams are over, you want to utilize your time by working in a leading chain of superstores. You are Gunjeet/ Gagan. Write an application for the post of a supervisor giving your complete bio-data to the HR Manager, Apna Ghar, GK Part II, New Delhi.

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

A. Every day you read in the newspaper about the increasing rate of crimes in Delhi. You live in Delhi and feel really bad about it. As Chinar Gulati, write an article for your school magazine on the topic.

OR

B. You are Nitin Sharma, the newly elected Secretary of Einstein Society of Cambridge School, Nagpur. Write a report in 120-150 words for the school magazine about the 'plantation week' held recently in your school.

SECTION C- LITERATURE 40

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

A.

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. Which of the following best captures the symbolism of tigers created by Aunt Jennifer?
(A) They represent just art on cloth, nothing else.
(B) Although Aunt Jennifer has created the tigers, they are the ones who control her.

(C) They reflect the true nature of a woman.
(D) They represent assertiveness, fearlessness and strength which the Aunt lacked.

ii. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.
Assertion : Aunt Jennifer's tigers will continue to symbolize freedom and strength even after her death.
Reason : The tigers represent Aunt Jennifer's life of courage and confidence, which she displayed through her actions.
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.
Aunt Jennifer was stuck to traditional activity like embroidery but the tigers _____.

iv. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie. Here, in 'terrified hands' the figure of speech is _____ (alliteration/transferred epithet).

v. Based on the poem rhyme scheme, evident in lines 2-4, of the given extract, which word would rhyme with line 1?

dry	die	try

vi. What is the effect of the figure of speech used in 'Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid'?

OR

B.
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

(My Mother at Sixty-six)

i. Choose the option that displays the same poetic device as used in the third and fourth lines of the extract.
(A) The dazzling dames comes one by one
(B) Nature is God's gift to us
(C) As quick as a fox
(D) Life is full of ups and downs

ii. What is the cause of pain and ache that the poet feels?

iii. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
"Her face ashen like that of a corpse" means that to the poet's mother's face was _____ (pale and lifeless/ bright and lively).

iv. 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 and frailty.
Reason : The sight of her mother dozing with an ashen, corpse-like face reminds the poet of her mother's old age and mortality.
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. Why did the poet put the thought away?

vi. Complete the following suitably.
The poet's mother look like a corpse because _____.

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

A. DERRY: It won't make my face change. Do you know, one day, a woman went by me in the street-I was at a bus stop-and she was with another woman, and she looked at me, and she said... whispered... only I heard her... she said, "Look at that, that's a terrible thing. That's a face only a mother could love."

(On the Face of It)

i. List the playwright's purpose of using ellipses (...) in this extract.

ii. Select the option that best describes the meaning of the word 'whisper'.
(A) To speak heartily (B) To speak slowly
(C) To speak loudly (D) To speak humbly

iii. How did people treat Derry?

iv. The person who called Derry is terrible thing in the extract is _____.

OR

B. "The master ought not to heal the wound of this white man," he said bluntly to Hana. "The white man ought to die. First he was shot. Then the sea caught him and wounded him with her rocks. If the master heals, what the gun did and what the sea did they will take revenge on us."

(The Enemy)

i. Complete the sentence appropriately, with reference to the extract.
The speaker of the given lines does not like the white man because _____.

ii. Which of the following would NOT represent nature as presented in the given lines?
(A) The storm picked up everything on its way.
(B) The garden is a paradise.
(C) The sea turbulently swings her waves on the ship.
(D) The Sun blared with its full intensity.

iii. Give a suitable title for the given extract.

iv. Why the speaker didn't want the white man to live?

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

A. "But of course it is you, Nils Olof!" he said. "How you do look!"
The man with the rattraps had never before seen the ironmaster at Ramsjo and did not even know what his name was. But it occurred to him that if the fine gentleman thought he was an old acquaintance, he might perhaps throw him a couple of kronor. Therefore he did not want to undeceive him all at once.
"Yes, God knows things have gone downhill with me," he said.
"You should not have resigned from the regiment," said the ironmaster.

(The Rattrap)

i. What does the expression 'things are going downhill' mean?

ii. Why does the protagonist not reveal his true identity?
(A) He just casually went with the situation.
(B) He hoped for some monetary help from the ironmaster.
(C) He was afraid of not getting food and shelter.
(D) He was hoping to escape getting arrested.

iii. Complete the sentence appropriately.
The extract suggests that the peddler was an incorrigible fellow because apparently he _____.

iv. Pick evidence from the extract that helps one infer important information about Nils Olof.

v. Which personality traits of the ironmaster can be distinguished from the extract? Mention any two.

vi. Which of the following idiomatic expressions best suggests the doings of the peddler?
(A) Slip of the tongue
(B) To err is human, to forgive divine
(C) Pull wool over someone's eyes
(D) The sleep of the just

OR

B. Together they have imposed the baggage on the child that he cannot put down. Before he is aware, he accepts it as naturally as his father. To do anything else would mean to dare. And daring is not part of his growing up. When I sense a flash of it in Mukesh, I am cheered. "I want to be a motor mechanic," he repeats. He will go to a garage and learn. But the garage is a long way from his home.

(Lost Spring)

i. Complete the given sentence appropriately.
'They' in the given extract refers to _____.

ii. What is not a part of 'his' growing up?

iii. Select the correct option to fill in the blank.
The 'baggage' in the extract refers to _____.
(A) the blame of their crimes
(B) the job of bangle making
(C) the bag containing bangles
(D) the job of selling bangles

iv. Based on the above extract, choose the statement that is TRUE for 'them'.
(A) They are figures of authority. (B) They are scared of government.
(C) They are suppressive. (D) Both (A) and (C)

v. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that Mukesh's dream will require determination and sincerity.

vi. Why does the writer state that the boy accepts bangle making as naturally as his father?

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

i. Who was Rajkumar Shukla? What role did he play at Champaran? *(Indigo)*

ii. How does the poet bring out the images of disharmony between man and nature in 'Keeping Quiet' and how can it be resolved?

iii. Why were the old men of the village present in the classroom? *(The Last Lesson)*

iv. What were the options that Sophie was dreaming of? Why does Jansie discourage her from having such dreams? *(Going Places)*

v. Why does the narrator smile and what does she say while bidding goodbye to her mother? *(My Mother at Sixty-Six)*

vi. Do we experience things of beauty only for short moments or do they make a lasting impression on us?

(A Thing of Beauty)

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

i. "But this eating by formula was not the hardest trial in that first day", says Zitkala-Sa. What does she mean by 'eating by formula'?

(Memories of Childhood)

ii. Why did the booking clerk refuse to accept the money from Charley?

(The Third Level)

iii. How did the Maharaja devote himself to realise his ambition? How far did he succeed?

(The Tiger King)

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

A. "Freedom from fear is more important than legal justice for the poor." 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 text about whether the poor of India are free from fear after Independence or not.

(Indigo)

OR

B. How does humour and satire enliven the account of the events and personalities at Gemini Studios as portrayed by Asokamitran in 'Poets and Pancakes'?

(Poets and Pancakes)

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

A. Why does Tishani Doshi call her trip to Antarctica a "Journey to the End of the Earth"? What experience did she have during this expedition?

(Journey to the End of the Earth)

OR

B. The modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry and stress. We need to overcome them through different ways. Write a paragraph with reference to 'The Third Level', and express your thoughts about the ways to overcome it.

□□□□□□□