SAMPLE PAPER 16

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 small town of Shimla, nestled in the foothills of the Himalayas, wakes up to the soft glow of the morning sun. The cool mountain air carries the scent of pine trees, and the narrow streets are quiet, except for the occasional chirping of birds. As the mist lifts from the surrounding hills, the town comes alive with the clatter of footsteps and the sound of tea stalls opening for the day. The first rays of sunlight touch the rooftops of the old colonial buildings, which stand as reminders of a bygone era.

2. Shimla's charm lies not only in its scenic beauty but also in its rich history. The town was once the summer capital of British India, and traces of its colonial past can still be seen in the architecture, from the grand Viceregal Lodge to the small cottages lining the Mall Road. The streets are lined with tall deodar trees, and at every turn, one can catch a glimpse of the snow-capped peaks in the distance. Tourists flock to Shimla to escape the heat of the plains and enjoy the cool mountain air, often spending their afternoons walking along the winding roads or sitting on the benches overlooking the valley.

3. As the day progresses, the town's pace quickens. The local market fills with the hustle and bustle of vendors selling everything from fresh produce to woolen shawls. Tourists haggle over prices while shopkeepers call out their wares. The scent of street food—hot pakoras and spicy chaat—fills the air, mixing with the earthy smell of the mountains. Amid the activity, the town's clock tower stands tall, its chimes marking the passing hours.

4. By evening, the town slows down again. The golden hues of the setting sun bathe the hills in a warm glow, and a peaceful stillness settles over Shimla. The streets, once filled with activity, become quiet as shopkeepers close their stalls and tourists return to their hotels. The chilly night air begins to settle in, and the lights of the town twinkle against the darkening sky, giving Shimla a magical, almost timeless, feel.

5. Shimla is not just a hill station; it is a place where time seems to slow down, where the past meets the present, and where nature and history come together to create a sense of peace and tranquility. For those who visit, Shimla offers a brief escape from the rush of modern life, allowing them to pause, reflect, and reconnect with the simpler joys of life.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

i. According to paragraph 1, what does the scent of pine trees in Shimla's morning air represent? 1

ii. How does the author describe the connection between Shimla's colonial past and its present, as mentioned in paragraph 2? 1

iii. Read and complete the following sentence suitably. 1
The phrase "where time seems to slow down" in paragraph 5 suggests that Shimla provides a sense of calm and escape from the fast-paced modern world.
Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence.
Shimla's atmosphere feels timeless because _____.
(A) it combines natural beauty with historical charm
(B) it is a popular destination for tourists

iv. Complete the following with ONE example, with reference to paragraph 3: 1
The scent of street food in Shimla fills the market because _____.

v. Why does the writer describe Shimla as "a place where nature and history come together" in paragraph 5? 1
Because
(A) It is a historic hill station with natural beauty and a rich colonial past.
(B) Shimla is known for its popular shopping centers and local markets.
(C) The town is famous for its tea stalls and scenic roads.
(D) It is an important business hub in the mountains.

vi. Provide ONE textual evidence with reference to paragraph 4, to support the following : 1
Shimla becomes peaceful in the evening after a busy day.

vii. In the line, 'the golden hues of the setting sun bathe the hills in a warm glow' (Paragraph 4), what does the phrase 'golden hues' suggest about the mood as evening approaches? 2

viii. Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph 3 : 1
tourists: haggle :: shopkeepers: _____
(A) sell (B) buy
(C) stroll (D) rest

ix. Why is it fair to say that the statement 'Shimla offers a brief escape from the rush of modern life' in paragraph 5 uses descriptive language? 1
(A) It explains Shimla's popularity as a tourist destination.
(B) It highlights Shimla's ability to offer peace and tranquility.
(C) It compares Shimla to other hill stations in the region.
(D) It focuses on the activities people enjoy in Shimla.

x. Assess the potential challenges or benefits of maintaining Shimla's natural and historical beauty, as suggested in paragraph 5. 2

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

1. Introduction :
In modern urban areas, waste management has become a crucial aspect of maintaining public health and environmental sustainability. This case study explores the waste disposal habits among various residential communities and evaluates the effectiveness of recycling programs in reducing landfill waste.

2. Methodology :
A survey was conducted in multiple urban residential communities to assess their waste disposal practices. Participants were asked to provide information on how they segregate and dispose of waste and their participation in local recycling programs. Data was collected and analysed to identify trends in waste management habits across different demographics.

3. Survey Examination :
The survey delved into waste management habits, focusing on key aspects such as the frequency of waste disposal, participation in recycling programs, and the reasons for adopting or not adopting sustainable waste practices. The study examined factors that influenced people's decision to recycle, such as convenience, environmental concerns, and economic incentives.

4. Results :
The survey results highlighted the following trends in waste management practices:

Demographic	**% Participation in Recycling Programs**	**Reasons for Participation**
Young Adults	50%	Environmental awareness, Accessibility of programs
Middle-aged	70%	Economic benefits, Environmental concern
Elderly	80%	Health concerns, Government incentives, Ease of disposal

5. Implications for Interventions :
The survey results indicate that waste management programs need to be tailored to address the specific needs of different demographic groups. For example, increasing economic incentives for young adults may encourage more participation in recycling. Similarly, enhancing accessibility to recycling programs for middle-aged individuals could improve participation rates further. For the elderly, ensuring ease of waste segregation and disposal may increase engagement in sustainable practices.

6. Conclusion :
This study provides important insights into urban waste management practices and highlights the need for targeted interventions to promote recycling. By addressing the unique concerns of each demographic, communities can work towards more effective waste management strategies that protect public health and the environment for future generations.

Answer the following questions, based on given passage.

i. Complete the following suitably. 1
In the introduction, the researcher links waste management with public health and environmental sustainability to highlight _____.

ii. What would the following be classified as? 1
To assess waste disposal habits in residential communities and evaluate the effectiveness of recycling programs.
Select the appropriate response.
(A) Method of analysis (B) Primary objective
(C) Research outcome (D) Secondary objective

iii. Give two points to support why recycling programs were included as a focus in the survey on waste management practices. 2

iv. Paragraph 3 includes words – 'factors' and 'influences.' 1
Classify the following sentences as 'factor' or 'influence':
Sentence 1 : Economic benefits drive middle-aged individuals to participate in recycling programs.
Sentence 2 : Government incentives increase recycling participation among the elderly.

v. Read the following : 1
Ravi disposes of his household waste regularly but rarely participates in recycling programs. His neighbor, Anjali, diligently recycles every week, and Arjun, who lives nearby, segregates his waste but struggles to find time to recycle.
Select the option that identifies the correct demographic Ravi, Anjali, and Arjun belong to.
(A) Ravi – young adult; Anjali – elderly; Arjun – middle-aged
(B) Ravi – middle-aged; Anjali – elderly; Arjun – young adult
(C) Ravi – young adult; Anjali – middle-aged; Arjun – elderly
(D) Ravi – elderly; Anjali – young adult; Arjun – middle-aged

vi. Although the elderly and middle-aged groups both show high participation in recycling programs, why is the percentage highest among the elderly? 1

vii. Analyse how tailored interventions can improve recycling participation rates across different demographic groups. (Paragraph 5) 2

viii. What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders, based on the insights from the study? 1
(A) Increase economic benefits for recyclers
(B) Build a comprehensive urban waste management strategy
(C) Encourage more frequent waste disposal
(D) Promote a reduction in government incentives

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 Shikha Kapoor, General Secretary of Sports Club of Meera Bai School, Dehradun. Your school has decided to celebrate the Silver Jubilee function of the school in the form of Annual Sports Day. Write a notice on the school notice board inviting the names of the students who want to participate in any of the sports activity or to put up any show on the stage.

OR

B. While walking in a park in your neighbourhood you found a small plastic bag containing some documents and some cash. Write a notice in about 50 words to be put on the park noticeboard asking the owner to identify and collect it from you. You are Amar/Amrita 943912xxxx.

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. Joseph Public School, Nainital. The school is holding its annual function on Saturday, the 9th of October, 20xx at 5 p.m. The Education Minister, Dr. M.N. Johri, has consented to be the Chief Guest. Design an invitation card to be sent to the parents and other invitees.

OR

B. You are Rachna Madan. Your friend Archana Gupta has invited you to her engagement ceremony to be held at Hotel Crowne Plaza on 27th November 20xx at 8 p.m. Draft a reply saying politely that due to an exam on that day, you cannot attend the engagement ceremony. Wish her a good luck.

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

A. You are Renu of 334, Kirti Nagar. You have just come across an advertisement concerning education abroad.

> The BTN Sussex University in collaboration with its Indian counterpart offers the first year of study in India and the three subsequent years in the UK.

You joined the above course. Despite having spent a substantial amount, you haven't been able to proceed to the UK for your studies. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the editor of a newspaper drawing attention of the public and the education authorities to such advertisements which befool students. Suggest measures which could be taken up against unscrupulous vendors of education.

OR

B. You are Krishna of 13-C/169 Sector 16, Rohini, Delhi. You have seen an advertisement in the Hindustan Times for the post of Chief Chef in a Five Start Hotel. Apply for the same with complete resume. Do not exceed 120-150 words. Invent necessary details.

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

A. You had to appear for your Maths Tutorial on 7th of May this year and were travelling by one of the local buses. You were stuck in a traffic jam. Write an article stating your experience and expressing your concern over the growing vehicular traffic on the roads and its ill effects.

OR

B. National Science Centre, New Delhi organised "Cancer Drug Discovery" workshop. Write a report on the same to be published in a newspaper.

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.
... but soon
put that thought away, and
looked out at young
trees sprinting, the merry children spilling out of their homes,

(My Mother At Sixty-Six)

i. Choose the option that displays the same poetic device as used in the last line of the extract.
(A) The sizzling summer took a tall on us.
(B) I'm as happy as I can be.
(C) Life is a roller coaster ride.
(D) The flood swallowed more than a dozen villages.

ii. Complete the following suitably.
'The merry children spilling out of their homes' is symbolic of _____ youth.

iii. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.
Assertion : The poet shifts her focus from her mother's aging to the youthful energy outside.
Reason : The lively scene of trees and children distracts the poet from her painful thoughts about her mother.
Choose the correct option regarding their relationship:
(A) Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
(B) Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.
(C) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
(D) The assertion is false, but the reason is true.

iv. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
The fact that the poem's narrative style is single sentence, punctuated by commas shows that there is only one _____ (trick/thought) which runs through the poem.

v. Why were the young trees sprinting?

vi. Give an apt title for the extract.

OR

B. If we were not so single-minded
about keeping our lives moving,
and for once could do nothing,
Perhaps a huge silence might interrupt this sadness
Of never understanding ourselves
And of threatening ourselves with death.

(Keeping Quiet)

i. What is the tone of poet in the poem 'Keeping Quiet'?
(A) frightened (B) aggressive
(C) terrific (D) calm and tranquil

ii. What does the phrase 'single-minded' mean?

iii. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
The poet wants silence and _____ (commotion/ calmness).

iv. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.
Assertion : The poet believes that taking a moment to pause and reflect can lead to greater self-understanding.
Reason : By stopping the constant motion of life, we can break free from the sadness caused by a lack of self-awareness and the constant threat of death.
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 does 'keeping our lives moving' suggest?

vi. Complete the following suitably.
Pablo Neruda stresses upon being quiet and harmless to the _____.

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

A. MR. LAMB : Like a bomb only blew up my leg. There's worse things can happen. You can burn yours elf away inside.
DERRY : After I'd come home, one person said, "He'd have been better off stopping in there. In the hospital. He'd be better off with others like himself." She thinks blind people only ought to be with other blind people and idiot boys with idiot boys.
MR. LAMB : And people with no legs altogether?
DERRY : That's right.
MR. LAMB : What kind of a world would that be?

(On the Face of It)

i. What do the given lines tell about the relationship between Mr. Lamb and Derry?

ii. Select the option that best describes the stranger's belief regarding people like Derry?
(A) That there should be a place where all people like him could stay together.
(B) That he would not live for long and so should stay at home.
(C) That no one would love him and he would be alone forever.
(D) That he should stop being a burden.

iii. The attitude shown by 'she' in the extract is _____.

iv. What does 'you can burn yourself away inside' mean?

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 news of Gandhi's advent and of the nature of his mission spread quickly through Muzaffarpur and to Champaran. Sharecroppers from Champaran began arriving on foot and by conveyance to see their champion. Muzaffarpur lawyers called on Gandhi to brief him; they frequently represented peasant groups in court, they told him about their cases and reported the size of their fee.

(Indigo)

i. What was the nature of Gandhi's mission as mentioned in the passage?

ii. The cases referred to in the extract were the cases fought against _____.
(A) the Lawyers (B) the British Landlords
(C) East India Company (D) the Indian Zamindars

iii. What does 'their cases' refer to in the extract?

iv. Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation.
The fact that the sharecroppers from Champaran began arriving on foot shows that _____.

v. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that the lawyers did not care for the condition of the poor.

vi. Based on the above extract, choose the statement that is TRUE for the lawyers.
(A) The lawyers stood with Gandhiji in his mission.
(B) The lawyers wanted to help the poor.
(C) The lawyers were apathetic to the condition of the poor.
(D) All of the above

OR

B. "My children, this is the last lesson I shall give you. The order has come from Berlin to teach only German in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine. The new master comes tomorrow. This is your last French lesson. I want you to be very attentive."
"What a thunderclap these words were to me!
Oh, the wretches; that was what they had put up at the town hall!

(The Last Lesson)

i. How would you describe Franz's tone when he says- "What a thunderclap these words were to me"?

ii. 'What a thunderclap these words were to me!"
The words were
(A) startling and unexpected (B) pleasant and welcome
(C) loud and clear (D) Both (A) and (C)

iii. What do you M. Hamel is feeling in the given lines?

iv. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that Franz realised that the order was put up on the bulletin board.

v. Based on the above extract, choose the statement that is TRUE for the speaker of the given lines.
(A) The speaker is angry at the villagers.
(B) The speaker does not want to leave Alsace.
(C) The speaker is angry at the Prussian kingdom.
(D) The speaker does not want to take the lesson.

vi. Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation, as per the extract.
'They' in the given lines refer to _____.

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

i. Who, in today's world, is our chief source of information about personalities? *(The Interview)*

ii. What is the 'misadvanture' that William Douglas speaks about? *(Deep Water)*

iii. What are the items that Aunt Jennifer is embroidering? What do they signify? *(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)*

iv. What spreads the pall of despondence over our dark spirits? How is it removed. *(A Thing of Beauty)*

v. Does Geoff believe what Sophie says about her meeting with Danny Casey? *(Going Places)*

vi. What are green wars? Who wage them and with what result? *(Keeping Quiet)*

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

i. How did Hana help the wounded man? *(The Enemy)*

ii. How is global temperature increasing? What are the immediate fears due to it? *(Journey to the End of the Earth)*

iii. In what sense is the friendship between Mr. Lamb and Derry fruitful? *(On The Face of It)*

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

A. There is a saying "Kindness pays, rudeness never." In the story, 'The Rattrap' Edla's attitude towards men and matters is different from her father's attitude. How are the values of concern and compassion brought out in the story, 'The Rattrap'?
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 to inspire your audience and to convince them to have values of concern and compassion.

OR

B. "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."
Douglas, notwithstanding his aversion to water and extreme exhaustion, keeps on trying to conquer his fear of water and finally emerges victorious. We all have one fear or another but few of us are able to overcome it. What innate quality did Douglas possess that helped him succeed in overcoming his fear of water? Write it in about 120-150 words.

(Deep Water)

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

A. "Children are keen observers. They notice every happening in their surroundings. Injustice in any form cannot escape being unnoticed by them." Bama and Zitkala Sa in 'Memories of Childhood' faced discrimination. You wish to include a cameo for the above statement's explanation in your upcoming blog post. (A short description that neatly encapsulates someone or something facing discrimination)
As a part of the research, discuss the statement in relation to Memories of Childhood in about 120-150 words.

OR

B. How did Charley reach the third level of Grand Central? How was it different from the other levels? (120-150 words)

(The Third Level)

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