SAMPLE PAPER 17

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 sun was setting over the hills, casting a golden glow on the small village nestled in the valley. As the evening breeze rustled through the trees, the villagers began to light their lanterns, filling the streets with a soft, warm light. Among them was Mira, a quiet young woman who often wandered the hills at dusk, seeking solace in the tranquil beauty of the landscape. The fading sunlight and the cool wind calmed her, offering a peaceful escape from the busyness of village life. Mira often felt disconnected from the daily routine, finding more comfort in nature than in the company of others.

2. Mira had always been different from the other villagers, preferring solitude over the lively gatherings that filled the village square every evening. While the others danced and shared stories around the fire, Mira would slip away unnoticed, climbing the steep path that led to her favorite spot on the hill. From there, she could see the entire village spread out below, the houses glowing faintly under the twilight sky. This was where she found peace, where the worries of the day seemed to fade away, and she could dream of a world beyond the hills.

3. Her family didn't understand her need for solitude. They worried that Mira spent too much time alone, lost in her thoughts. Her mother, in particular, often tried to coax her into joining the others in the village, fearing that Mira's quietness would isolate her from the community. But Mira didn't see it that way. She believed that her solitude gave her a deeper connection to the world around her, to the earth, the sky, and the wind. It was in these quiet moments, away from the noise of the village, that she felt most alive.

4. One evening, as Mira sat on the hill watching the stars appear in the sky, she felt a sense of belonging she had never known before. It was as if the world had opened up to her, revealing its secrets in the silence of the night. The stars twinkled brightly above, and the village below was quiet, save for the occasional flicker of lantern light. For the first time, Mira didn't feel alone. She realized that she was part of something much larger than the village, something vast and infinite, and in that moment, she felt a profound sense of peace.

5. Days passed, and Mira's routine remained the same. Each evening, she ventured up the hill to find comfort in the solitude of the open sky. The villagers noticed her absence but did not ask. They knew her well enough to understand that she found something on those hills that they could not provide. While they celebrated their lives in the village square, Mira celebrated in her own way, under the stars, with the world as her companion. Over time, she realized that both ways of living were valid, and though her path was different, it was no less meaningful.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

i. According to paragraph 1, how does the setting sun affect Mira's emotions? 1

ii. How does the author describe Mira's relationship with the village, as mentioned in paragraph 2? 1

iii. Read and complete the following sentence suitably. 1
The phrase "Mira's quietness" in paragraph 3 refers to her tendency to avoid the lively gatherings.
Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence.
Mira's quietness is important because _____.
(A) It allows her to connect with nature on a deeper level.
(B) It isolates her from the village completely.

iv. Complete the following with ONE example, with reference to paragraph 3 : 1
Mira's family was concerned because _____.

v. Why does the writer emphasize Mira's experience on the hill in paragraph 4? 1
Because
(A) It shows her discovery of a deeper connection to the world.
(B) It reveals her loneliness and sense of isolation.
(C) It describes how she feels about the villagers.
(D) It highlights her love for village life.

vi. Provide ONE textual evidence with reference to paragraph 4, to support the following : 1
Mira felt a sense of belonging she had never experienced before.

vii. In the line, 'The world had opened up to her' (Paragraph 4), what does the phrase 'opened up to her' suggest about Mira's transformation? 2

viii. Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph 1 : 1
sunlight: day :: lanterns: _____
(A) evening (B) light
(C) hills (D) peace

ix. Why is it fair to say that the statement 'Mira didn't feel alone' in paragraph 4 uses descriptive language? 1
(A) It describes the peace she feels in nature.
(B) It focuses on her desire to escape the village.
(C) It highlights her fear of being disconnected from others.
(D) It explains her interactions with the villagers.

x. Assess the potential challenges or benefits of Mira's preference for solitude, as suggested in paragraphs 3 and 5. 2

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

1. A large number of citizens suffer from diseases linked to tobacco addiction. In a recent check-up camp organized by the Cancer Patients Aid Association (CPAA), 830 street children were examined, revealing a troubling picture:
All boys, young and old, smoked ganja.
Girls consumed supari or burnt tobacco powder.
Children also inhaled white ink or erasing fluids to get a 'high'.
These substances are legal and cost only ₹2. This trend is seen across all sections of society, with tobacco use rampant among higher-income children as well.
2. According to CPAA officials, the consumption of gutkha has increased significantly in recent years. The absence of restrictions on advertising allows gutkha companies to sponsor festivals and display large ads.
3. Over 50% of the people screened in the camp were addicted to tobacco. The most common forms of use were gutkha and chewing tobacco, with some people consuming tobacco up to 22 times a day. Worldwide, 4 million people die each year from tobacco-related causes. By 2030, this figure is projected to rise to 10 million annually due to aggressive tobacco promotion.
4. Despite the knowledge that tobacco harms both health and economies, many governments are reluctant or unable to introduce strong legislation to control its use.
5. More young people are being drawn into tobacco use through deceptive advertising. Although the tobacco industry claims individuals make informed choices, the reality is that most youths make uninformed decisions when it comes to consuming tobacco.
6. The tobacco industry masks the harmful effects of tobacco by promoting it as key to a happy, social life.
7. According to a CPAA survey:
Children as young as 7-8 smoke bidis, and the youngest smoker was 6 years old.
87 children had already developed pre-cancerous lesions.
Over 50% of people screened were addicted to tobacco.

4 million people die annually from tobacco-related causes, a figure expected to reach 10 million by 2030.



Answer the following questions, based on given passage.

i. Complete the following suitably. 1
In the introduction, the researcher links tobacco addiction with its widespread use across different income groups to highlight _____.

ii. What would the following be classified as? 1
To investigate the rise in tobacco consumption among children and its long-term effects.
Select the appropriate response.
(A) Secondary objective (B) Research outcome
(C) Method of analysis (D) Primary objective

iii. Give two points to support why advertising is a focus in the study on tobacco use. 2

iv. Paragraph 3 includes words – 'tobacco addiction' and 'deceptive advertising.' 1
Classify the following sentences as 'tobacco addiction' or 'deceptive advertising':
Sentence 1: People consume gutkha up to 22 times a day, leading to severe addiction.
Sentence 2: Tobacco companies sponsor large festivals to promote their products.

v. Read the following : 1
Ravi regularly consumes gutkha, even though he is aware of its harmful effects. Priya, his friend, started smoking bidis to fit in with her peers. Anil, another friend, developed pre-cancerous lesions due to his long-term tobacco use.
Select the option that identifies the correct situations Ravi, Priya, and Anil face.
(A) Ravi – gutkha; Priya – bidis; Anil – pre-cancerous lesions
(B) Ravi – erasing fluids; Priya – gutkha; Anil – social pressure
(C) Ravi – bidis; Priya – white ink; Anil – tobacco advertising
(D) Ravi – gutkha; Priya – erasing fluids; Anil – tobacco addiction

vi. Why is the projected rise in deaths from tobacco-related causes considered alarming, even though governments are aware of the risks? 1

vii. Analyse how misleading advertising contributes to the increasing number of young tobacco users. (Paragraph 5) 2

viii. What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders, based on the insights from the study? 1
(A) Strengthen tobacco control through legislation
(B) Increase tobacco production to meet demand
(C) Promote traditional tobacco use in rural areas
(D) Support the tobacco industry through advertising

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 Manak/Meera, the Head Boy/Girl of St. Giri Public School, Mathura. Write a notice in about 50 words informing the students about the debate competition in the school on the topic 'School Uniforms Should be Banned'.

OR

B. You are Health Secretary, Students Council Citizens Public School, Ram Bagh, Varanasi. The Council has decided to start from the second of October a week-long cleanliness drive around the school. Draft a notice in about 50 words asking the Class XI students to enrol for the drive.

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

A. Sakshi, the secretary of the English Literature Society of St. Francis Convent Senior Secondary School, Gurugram, has to organise as Interschool Extempore competition for students of classes IX-XII. You wish to invite Rajat Sharma, the eminent media personality to preside over the function to be held on 30 September, 20xx, at 11:00 a.m. Write the letter of invitation in 50 words.

OR

B. Mr and Mrs Tiwari want to invite all their friends and acquaintances to the wedding of their granddaughter Deepika. Design an invitation card for the wedding inventing the necessary details, in 50 words.

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

A. Sunflower Public School, Jaipur, requires 2 sports coaches (one male and one female). Each should be a degree holder in Physical Education as well as an SAI certified coach in athletics. Write an application in 120-150 words along with your resume. You are Prateek/Payal, House No. 109, Azadpur, Delhi.

OR

B. You are Rajat/Raveena, a resident of Gwalior. You feel students should use the Internet mostly for gaining knowledge rather than wasting time merely on entertainment. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the Editor of The Economic Times pointing out how schools can control students net surfing at school and enable them to use the Internet fruitfully.

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

A. As a newspaper reporter, write a report of a train accident, the site which you visited. Your report should be in 120-150 words.

OR

B. You are Preeti/Pranay. You feel that India, with its rich and varied heritage, linguistic and cultured diversity, is an excellent destination for tourism. Promoting tourism will surely promote our economy. Write an article titled, 'Promoting Tourism is Promoting Ourselves', in 120-150 words, specifying the advantages of promoting tourism and how it can be accomplished.

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.

Those who prepare green wars,
wars with gas, wars with fire,
victory with no survivors,
would put on clean clothes
and walk about with their brothers
in the shade, doing nothing.

(Keeping Quiet)

i. What does the phrase "victory with no survivors" mean?
(A) The bloodshed caused by the result of wars.
(B) Nobody would be able to celebrate the victory of wars.
(C) Degradation of human life.
(D) Both (A) and (B)

ii. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.
Assertion : The poet believes that those who wage war will stop and live peacefully.
Reason : Ceasing war allows individuals to live in harmony with others.
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. Which of the following, poetic devices has been used in 'clean clothes'?
(A) Oxymoron (B) Alliteration
(C) Metaphor (D) Assonance

iv. Complete the sentence with an appropriate word(s), with reference to the extract.
The world presented in the given lines can be said to be _____.

v. What do 'green wars' refer to?

vi. Identify the phrase from the extract, that suggests the following.
The poet does not promote inactivity or death but wants fraternity.

OR

B. And
looked out at
Young Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling
out of their homes, but after the airport's
security check, standing a few yards
away, I looked again at her, wan, pale
as a late winter's moon and felt that old
familiar ache...

(My Mother at Sixty-six)

i. What is the poet's emotional state when she looked out of the window?
(A) Fearful (B) Apprehensive
(C) Nostalgic (D) Confused

ii. What does the use of the phrase 'old familiar ache' actually hide?

iii. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
The expression 'merry children' brings in _____ (weakness/happiness).

iv. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.
Assertion : The poet contrasts the vitality of the outside world with her mother's frail condition.
Reason : The sight of young trees and children highlights the poet's sense of loss and concern for her mother, who appears pale and weak.
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 has the poet capitalised 'Young Trees'?

vi. Complete the following suitably.
In 'And looked out at Young Tress sprinting, the merry children spilling,' the figures of speech used are personification and _____.

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

A. "Not by you, but by someone who does not know him. I have my own private assassins. Suppose I send two of them to your house tonight or better, any night. You need know nothing about it. It is now warm – what would be more natural than that you should leave the outer partition of the white man's room open to the garden while he sleeps?"

(The Enemy)

i. Complete the sentence appropriately.
There is a need to assassinate 'him' because _____.

ii. List the speaker's purpose behind getting the white man assassinated.

iii. The given lines indicate characteristic/s about the General. These characteristics are _____ and _____.

(A) Humanist and patriotic (B) Ignorance and self-centered
(C) Care and kindness (D) Both (A) and (C)

iv. Who hatched the plan to kill the white man? Was it successful?

OR

B. The Maharaja and the dewan held deliberations over this issue. As a result, a telegram was despatched forthwith to a famous British Company of jewellers in Calcutta. 'Send samples of expensive diamond rings of different designs.' Some fifty rings arrived. The Maharaja sent the whole lot to the British officer's good lady.
The king and the minister expected the duraisani to choose one or two rings and send the rest back. Within no time at all, the duraisani sent her reply: 'Thank you very much for your gifts.' In two days, a bill for three lakh of rupees came from the British jewellers. The Maharaja was happy that though he had lost three lakh of rupees, he had managed to retain his kingdom.

(The Tiger King)

i. Complete the sentence appropriately.
The narrator's purpose of using the phrase 'good lady' in this extract was _____.

ii. In the given extract, what emotions does the Maharaja have when he sent diamond rings to the British's good lady?

(A) Humiliation (B) Selfish act
(C) Fear of losing his kingdom (D) Unease

iii. On which issue did the Maharaja and dewan hold deliberations?

iv. What does the line, "Within no time at all, the duraisani sent her reply: 'Thank you very much for your gifts' " mean?

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

A. Poor man! It was in honour of this last lesson that he had put on his fine Sunday clothes, and now I understood why the old men of the village were sitting there in the back of the room. It was because they were sorry, too, that they had not gone to school more. It was their way of thanking our master for his forty years of faithful service and of showing their respect for the country that was theirs no more.
While I was thinking of all this, I heard my name called. It was my turn to recite. What would I not have given to be able to say that dreadful rule for the participle all through, very loud and clear, and without one mistake? But I got mixed up on the first words and stood there, holding on to my desk, my heart beating, and not daring to look up.

(The Last Lesson)

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

ii. How did the teacher react to this show of 'non-performance'?
(A) He let the iron ruler talk.
(B) He ignored his pupil's lack of commitment.
(C) He didn't utter a harsh word in response.
(D) He let Franz be free and sent him out.

iii. Complete the sentence appropriately.
The presence of the old men of the village on the back benches shows that _____.

iv. Pick out an evidence from the extract that helps one infer his way of showing patriotic love for his land and language.

v. Why does the narrator use the term 'Poor man' about M. Hamel?

vi. Which of these idioms best encapsulates the scenario at this moment in the story?
(A) Too good to believe (B) Too many cooks spoil the broth
(C) Too little, too late (D) Too cool for school

OR

B. And afterwards you wait there alone in the arcade for a long while, standing where he stood, remembering the soft melodious voice, the shimmer of green eyes. No taller than you. No bolder than you. The prodigy. The innocent genius, the great Danny Casey. And she saw it all again, last Saturday–saw him ghost past the lumbering defenders, heard the fifty thousand catch their breath as he hovered momentarily over the ball, and then the explosion of sound as he struck it crisply into the goal, the sudden thunderous eruption of exultant approbation.

(Going Places)

i. What does the author wish to portray through the words And she saw it all again'?

ii. The lines, "No taller than you. No bolder than you," can be best classified as :
(A) A theme (B) An opinion
(C) A fact (D) A plot point

iii. Explain ANY ONE possible inference that can be drawn from the lines, "The prodigy. The innocent genius, the great Danny Casey."

iv. Identify the line from the text that bears evidence to the fact that Danny Casey was too agile for the opponents.

v. Based on the context provided in the extract, which of the following conclusion matches the prodigy's success as a professional football player?
(A) He was called an innocent genius.
(B) He could deftly move past the lumbering defenders and shoot crisp goals.
(C) A crowd of fifty-thousand regularly cheered him.
(D) He was shy and soft-spoken.

vi. Complete the sentence with ONE word.
The word that matches 'lumbering' perfectly in the given context is _____.

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

i. Why were M. Hamel's words like a thunderclap to Franz? *(The Last Lesson)*

ii. Mention the hazards of working in the glass bangles industry. *(Lost Spring)*

iii. What impression do you get of Douglas from the chapter 'Deep Water'?

iv. Interpret the symbols found in the poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers'.

v. What, according to Pablo Neruda, would be the ultimate end of man if the present scenario of wars continued? *(Keeping Quiet)*

vi. Keats feels that Nature binds us to the Earth. How does he justify this statement? *(A Thing of Beauty)*

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

i. What do you infer from Sam's letter to Charley? *(The Third Level)*

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

iii. How did the Dewan manage to get the hundredth tiger for the Maharaja? *(The Tiger King)*

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

A. The peddler believed that the whole world is a rattrap. How did he himself get caught in the same? *(The Rattrap)*

OR

B. Why is the Champaran episode considered to be the beginning of the Indian struggle for Independence? *(Indigo)*

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

A. Both Derry and Lamb are victims of physical impairment, but much more painful for them is the feeling of loneliness. Comment. *(On the Face of It)*

OR

B. In India, the so-called lower castes have been treated cruelly for a long time. Who advised Bama to fight against this prejudice, when and how?

(Memories of Childhood)

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