SAMPLE PAPER 18

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 city park was a serene sanctuary nestled within the bustling urban landscape. Towering oak trees lined the pathways, their leaves gently swaying in the breeze. The afternoon sun filtered through the canopy, casting soft, dappled shadows on the ground below. In the distance, a large fountain gurgled steadily, its water glistening in the sunlight as it fell into a clear pool below. The air was filled with the fresh scent of grass and flowers, providing a refreshing contrast to the car fumes and city noise just beyond the park's edge.

2. The park was alive with people enjoying the peaceful surroundings. Some sat on benches, engrossed in books, while others strolled slowly along the winding paths, their conversations soft and relaxed. In the open lawn, children played freely, their laughter echoing through the trees. Joggers passed by, their rhythmic footsteps blending with the sound of birds chirping from the branches overhead. The park provided a temporary escape from the hustle and bustle of the city, a place where time seemed to move more slowly.

3. As the afternoon began to fade into evening, the light in the park changed, casting a golden hue over everything. The bright colors of the flowers seemed to intensify, the yellows and reds standing out vibrantly against the deep green grass. A light breeze swept through, carrying the scent of fresh water from the nearby pond, where ducks swam lazily, leaving ripples in their wake. The park's beauty was magnified in this light, and for a moment, it felt as though the city outside had disappeared entirely.

4. By dusk, the park was enveloped in a calm stillness. The once busy pathways were now quieter, with only a few people lingering to enjoy the fading sunlight. The trees stood tall and silent, their leaves barely moving in the soft evening air. The fountain continued its steady rhythm, the water shimmering in the dimming light. Streetlamps flickered on, casting a warm glow along the paths and adding to the tranquil atmosphere. The city's noise faded into the background, leaving the park as a peaceful retreat for those who remained.

5. The transformation of the park from a bustling afternoon hub to a quiet evening retreat was one of its many charms. It was a place where people could find both energy and rest, a dynamic space that changed with the time of day. Whether filled with laughter or silence, the park was always a haven of peace in the heart of the city.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

i. According to paragraph 1, how does the park contrast with the surrounding city? 1

ii. How does the author describe the atmosphere in the park during the afternoon, as mentioned in paragraph 2? 1

iii. Read and complete the following sentence suitably. 1
The phrase "dappled shadows" in paragraph 1 refers to the way sunlight filters through the trees.
Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence.
Dappled shadows are important because _____.
(A) they create a calming effect as the light filters onto the ground.
(B) they make the park feel cooler than the busy streets outside.

iv. Complete the following with ONE example, with reference to paragraph 2 : 1
The sound of people talking quietly and children laughing shows _____.

v. Why does the writer emphasize the park's beauty in the evening in paragraph 3? 1
Because
(A) It shows the park's ability to transform into a peaceful retreat.
(B) It highlights how the park becomes more vibrant in the evening.
(C) It describes how the city disappears at night.
(D) It emphasizes the fading sunlight and the movement of the ducks.

vi. Provide ONE textual evidence with reference to paragraph 3, to support the following : 1
The colors of the flowers became more vivid as the evening approached.

vii. In the line, 'the park's beauty was magnified in this light' (Paragraph 3), what does the phrase 'magnified in this light' suggest about the park's appearance? 2

viii. Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph 1 : 1
oak trees: pathways :: streetlamps: _____
(A) benches (B) ducks
(C) shadows (D) evening paths

ix. Why is it fair to say that the statement 'The park was a haven of peace' in paragraph 5 uses descriptive language? 1

(A) It highlights the contrast between the park and the busy city.
(B) It explains the types of plants growing in the park.
(C) It focuses on the physical layout of the park.
(D) It describes the noise of the park.

x. Assess the potential challenges or benefits of visiting the park in the evening, as suggested in paragraphs 4 and 5. 2

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

1. Deforestation is one of the leading causes of environmental degradation, affecting both biodiversity and climate change. As forests are cleared for agriculture, urban development, and logging, the world faces severe consequences, including the loss of species and the disruption of ecosystems. Over 3.1 million square kilometers of forest have been lost since 1990.
2. Data from the World Resources Institute shows that over 18 million hectares of forests are lost each year, contributing to approximately 15% of global CO_2 emissions. Tropical deforestation, especially in the Amazon, results in the extinction of 13% of species. Forests act as crucial carbon sinks, absorbing 2.6 billion metric tons of CO_2 annually, helping to mitigate global warming.
3. The study also reveals that 80% of global deforestation is driven by agricultural expansion. This includes crops like soy, palm oil, and areas for livestock grazing. The deforestation rate in the Amazon alone has surged by 9.5% annually in recent years. In addition, logging and infrastructure contribute to the remaining 20% of forest loss. These activities increase CO_2 emissions and affect rainfall patterns, leading to unpredictable climate changes.
4. Deforestation also leads to soil erosion, reducing the fertility of the land. The study highlights that 24 billion tons of fertile soil are lost annually due to deforestation and unsustainable farming practices. This contributes to desertification, which affects 40% of the world's land area, particularly in Africa and Asia. As more forests are cleared, the likelihood of land degradation increases.
5. Efforts to combat deforestation include reforestation, sustainable farming, and stricter laws. Reforestation can sequester up to 10% of global CO_2 emissions annually. Brazil's plan to restore 12 million hectares of land by 2030 aims to reverse some of the damage caused by deforestation.
6. This study emphasizes the urgent need for global cooperation to combat deforestation. By addressing the root causes—agriculture, illegal logging, and poor land management—the world can reduce deforestation, preserve biodiversity, and mitigate the effects of climate change.

Answer the following questions, based on given passage.

i. Complete the following suitably. 1
In the introduction, the researcher links deforestation with environmental degradation to highlight _____.

ii. What would the following be classified as? 1
To explore the causes of deforestation and its global environmental impacts.
Select the appropriate response.
(A) Secondary objective (B) Research outcome
(C) Method of analysis (D) Primary objective

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

iv. Paragraph 3 includes words – 'carbon sinks' and 'soil erosion.' 1
Classify the following sentences as 'carbon sinks' or 'soil erosion':
Sentence 1: Forests absorb CO_2, helping to regulate atmospheric carbon levels.
Sentence 2: When trees are removed, the soil is exposed to wind and water, which removes topsoil and decreases land fertility.

v. Read the following : 1
Ravi works on a palm oil plantation where forests have been cleared to make room for crops. Meanwhile, Mohan lives in a mountainous region where heavy rains have caused soil erosion due to deforestation.
Select the option that identifies the correct environmental challenges faced by Ravi and Mohan.
(A) Ravi – agriculture-driven deforestation; Mohan – soil erosion
(B) Ravi – biodiversity loss; Mohan – carbon emissions
(C) Ravi – desertification; Mohan – water shortage
(D) Ravi – soil erosion; Mohan – deforestation

vi. Although both agriculture and logging contribute to deforestation, why is agriculture the largest driver? 1

vii. Analyse how reforestation efforts can help reduce CO_2 emissions and support soil fertility. (Paragraph 5) 2

viii. What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders, based on the insights from the study? 1
(A) Promote agricultural expansion to increase food production
(B) Preserve biodiversity and mitigate climate change through sustainable practices
(C) Prioritize industrial development over environmental concerns
(D) Reduce soil erosion without addressing other factors

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. Water supply will be suspended for eight hours (10 am to 6 pm) on 6th of March for cleaning of the water tank. Write a notice in about 50 words advising the residents to store water for a day. You are Karan Kumar/Karuna Bajaj, Secretary, Janata Group Housing Society, Palam Vihar, Kurnool.

OR

B. You are Mahender, Sports Captain, St. John's School, Lucicnow. Write a notice in 50 words for the school notice board informing students about an Inter School Football match to be played in your school. Invite them to watch and cheer the teams.

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

A. The literary club of your society is putting up the play 'Macbeth. As secretary of the club, draft an invitation inviting the famous writer Rohit Sharma to be the guest of honour at the function. Write the invitation in about 50 words. You are Gaurav/Garima.

OR

B. You have been invited as a judge for a debate competition by New Hope public School. Draft a formal refusal in about 50 words.

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

A. Write a letter to Editor of local daily, New Delhi about water scarcity in you locality suggesting ways to improve the condition of water supply. You are Bobby/Babita of Ghaziabad.

OR

B. As a regular commuter by bus from Noida to Delhi, you have been witnessing rash driving by the bus drivers daily without an exception. Write a letter to the Editor, 'The Times of India' drawing the attention of the General Manager, Delhi Transport Corporation to this problem. You are Priti/Prakash, 15, Udyog Vihar, Noida.

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

A. Incessant rain has caused irrecoverable damage in your area. As an active participant in the flood relief programme, write a report in 120-150 words on the different flood relief measures carried out. You are Krishan/ Krishna.

OR

B. Accidents happen when people violate traffic rules. Careless drivers cause suffering to themselves and to others. Write an article in 120-150 words on "Safe Driving".

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. And such too is the grandeur of the dooms
We have imagined for the mighty dead;
All lovely tales that we have heard or read:
An endless fountain of immortal drink,
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.

(A Thing of Beauty)

i. Write the theme which is best represented in the given extract.

ii. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.
Assertion : The poet suggests that the tales of the mighty dead inspire us and provide eternal beauty.
Reason : These tales are compared to an endless fountain of immortal drink, which pours from heaven, symbolizing the eternal nature of inspiration.
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 "endless fountain of immortal drink" is an apt analogy for the tales of the mighty dead because _____.

iv. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
The use of the word "brink" in the extract suggests that the immortality that is being poured onto us is on the verge of overflowing. This creates a powerful image of _____ (scarcity/abundance).

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

vi. Select the option that is NOT true about the lack of punctuation at the end of line 1 in the extract.
(A) Encourages a revisit to the ideas in the preceding lines.
(B) Encourages the reader to continue reading seamlessly without any pause.
(C) Creates a sense of anticipation and expectation for the reader.
(D) Creates a sense of continuity and flow that connects the line with the second line.

OR

B. "Fishermen in the cold sea
would not harm whales
and the man gathering salt
would look at his hurt hands."

(Keeping Quiet)

i. What do the given lines tell us about mankind?
(A) Selfish nature (B) Greed
(C) Materialistism (D) All of these

ii. What does the poet expect of the fisherman?

iii. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
The poet has used _____ (metaphor/transferred epithet) in the first line of the stanza or in words 'Cold Sea'.

iv. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.
Assertion : The poet advocates for a moment of introspection where humans cease harmful activities and reflect on their actions.
Reason : By pausing, fishermen would stop harming whales, and the man gathering salt would reflect on the damage he has caused to himself.
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. How is 'keeping quiet' going to help the man who works as 'salt gatherer'?

vi. Complete the following suitably.
The tone of the poet in the given lines is _____.

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

A. In the afternoon the second thing happened. Hana, working hard on unaccustomed labour, saw a messenger come to the door in official uniform. Her hands went weak and she could not draw her breath. The servants must have told already. She ran to Sadao, gasping unable to utter a word. But by then the messenger had simply followed her through the garden and there he stood. She pointed at him helplessly.
Sadao looked up from his book ....
"What is it?" he asked the messenger and then he rose, seeing the man's uniform. "You are to come to the palace," The man said. "the old General is in pain again." "Oh", Hana breathed, "is that all?"

(The Enemy)

i. Give one reason for the following.
The messenger had come to Sadao's house

ii. The above extract has been taken from
(A) Going Places (B) The Enemy
(C) The Third Level (D) Lost Spring

iii. The phrase 'unaccustomed labour' means _____.

iv. What was Hana's fear in the given extract?

OR

B. Have you ever been there? It's a wonderful town still, with big old frame houses, huge lawns, and tremendous trees whose branches meet overhead and roof the streets. And in 1894, summer evenings were twice as long, and people sat out on their lawns, the men smoking cigars and talking quietly, the women waving palm-leaf fans, with the fire-flies all around, in a peaceful world. To be back there with the First World War still twenty years off and World War II over forty years in the future... I wanted two tickets for that.

(The Third Level)

i. The author wants two tickets to a place which he refers to in the last two lines of the extract. Which year does he wish to go back to?

ii. At the beginning of the extract, the author addresses the question to _____.
(A) Louisa, Charley's wife
(B) Sam Weiner, Charley's psychiatrist
(C) the reader
(D) nobody in particular as it's a rhetoric question

iii. Complete the sentence appropriately.
'Tremendous trees whose branches meet overhead and roof the streets' is an example of _____.

iv. How has life been described in the given extract?

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

A. 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. "I will walk," he insists. "Do you also dream of flying a plane ?" He is suddenly silent. "No," he says, staring at the ground.

(Lost Spring)

i. What was Mukesh supposed to be if not his dream to be a motor mechanic?

ii. "I will walk" this line shows Mukesh's.
(A) disappointment (B) determination
(C) shyness (D) helplessness

iii. With whom was the speaker sharing his dream?

iv. Did Mukesh sound unreasonable?
(A) Maybe (B) No
(C) Yes (D) Can't be determined

v. Why did the writer ask, "Do you also dream of flying a plane?"

vi. What can we understand from the line, "And daring is not part of his growing up:'?

OR

B. Then I started down a third time. I sucked for air and got water the yellowish light was going out. Then all effort ceased. I relaxed. Even my legs felt limp; and a blackness swept over my brain. It wiped out fear; it wiped out terror. There was no more panic. It was quiet and peaceful. Nothing to be afraid of This is nice... to be drowsy... to go to sleep... no need to jump... too tired to jump... it's nice to be carried gently... to float along in space... tender arms around me... tender arms like Mother's... now I must go to sleep... I crossed to oblivion, and the curtain of life fell.

(Deep Water)

i. The author ends the given paragraph about the seemingly long struggle of little Douglas with the words 'and the curtain of life fell.' How does he involve the reader into it?

ii. The line, 'After a while, Douglas gave up being anxious and fearful in water' can be best classified as:
(A) an effect (B) a cause
(C) a fact (D) an opinion

iii. Infer from the given extract, the author shows gradation of various stages of fear.

iv. Identify the line from the given extract that bears evidence to the fact that the author was now not much afraid.

v. The author has used this figure of speech with this meaning in- tender arms around me ... tender arms like Mother's ...
(A) metaphor, softness
(B) simile, comfort
(C) repetition, anxiety
(D) paradox, the arms don't belong to his mother

vi. Complete the sentence in ONE word.
When the curtain of life fell, Douglas surrendered before death and with _____ crossed to oblivion.

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

i. Is the society in any way affected by Aunt Jennifer's death? *(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)*

ii. Why did Gandhiji feel that it was useless for the peasants to go to law courts? *(Indigo)*

iii. For Franz, what was much more tempting than going to school and why? *(The Last Lesson)*

iv. What different image does the poet use to convey the idea of her mother's age? *(My Mother at Sixty-Six)*

v. At the crofter's home, why did the peddler feel very happy? *(The Rattrap)*

vi. How can suspension of activities help? *(Keeping Quiet)*

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

i. How did the gardener react when Dr. Sadao told him about the wounded American soldier? *(The Enemy)*

ii. If you were to give a different ending to the story, "On the Face of It" how would you end it? *(On the Face of It)*

iii. What is common between Zitkala-Sa and Bama? *(Memories of Childhood)*

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

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

OR

B. The government and other social service agencies appear to help the poor rural people but do them no good. Pick out the words and phrases that the poet uses to show their double standards. *(A Roadside Stand)*

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

A. What benefits did Derry reap from his association with Mr. Lamb? *(On the Face of It)*

OR

B. Why is Antarctica the place to go to, to understand the earth's past, present and future? *(Journey to the End of the Earth)*

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