SAMPLE PAPER 19

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 a quiet village in the heart of India, there stood an old house with walls made of mud and a roof of red clay tiles. The house had seen many seasons come and go, but it remained strong, standing tall under the shade of a giant peepal tree. Every morning, as the first rays of the sun touched the village, the house glowed softly in the golden light. The fragrance of jasmine flowers filled the air, carried by the gentle breeze from the garden where they bloomed next to marigolds and hibiscus.

2. The house belonged to the Verma family, who had lived there for generations. Grandfather Verma, now old and wise, often sat in the front courtyard under the shade of the peepal tree, telling stories to the village children. The stories were about brave kings, ancient battles, and forgotten legends of the land. His voice was slow and steady, and the children sat in a circle around him, listening with wide eyes. Even the adults would sometimes pause in their daily work to hear a story they had known since their childhood, yet never tired of.

3. The courtyard was always alive with activity. In the mornings, birds chirped from the tree branches, and the soft mooing of cows could be heard from the nearby fields. Grandmother Verma would be busy in the kitchen, preparing food for the family—chapatis on the clay stove, dal bubbling in a brass pot, and vegetables freshly plucked from the garden. The smell of spices, ginger, and coriander filled the air, and it seemed to mix with the earthiness of the mud walls.

4. As the sun began to set, casting a warm orange glow over the village, the quietness settled in. The sky turned from blue to pink, and the only sounds were the distant laughter of children and the low hum of crickets. The Verma house, with its familiar rhythms of life, stood quietly, a symbol of simplicity, tradition, and the passage of time.

5. For the villagers, the house was more than just a structure—it was a reminder of their roots. It was a place where stories were passed down, where life slowed down, and where the traditions of their ancestors lived on. Even as the world outside changed, the Verma house remained, standing strong in the heart of the village, untouched by time.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

i. According to paragraph 1, what natural feature provides shade to the old Verma house? 1

ii. How does the author describe the role of Grandfather Verma in the village, as mentioned in paragraph 2? 1

iii. Read and complete the following sentence suitably. 1
The phrase "a symbol of simplicity, tradition, and the passage of time" in paragraph 4 suggests that the Verma house is more than just a building; it represents the village's connection to its past and a simple way of life.
Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence.
The Verma house symbolizes _____.
(A) the traditions and history of the village
(B) the changing times and modern life

iv. Complete the following with ONE example, with reference to paragraph 3 : 1
The Verma family kitchen was filled with the aroma of _____.

v. Why does the writer describe the courtyard as "alive with activity" in paragraph 3? 1
Because
(A) The village children gather to listen to stories.
(B) Birds, cows, and the preparation of food make the courtyard lively.
(C) It is where the family gathers for important discussions.
(D) It represents the heart of the village's social life.

vi. Provide ONE textual evidence with reference to paragraph 4, to support the following : 1
The Verma house stands as a reminder of the village's traditions.

vii. In the line, 'the quietness settled in…' (Paragraph 4), what does the phrase 'quietness settled in' suggest about the mood as the evening approaches? 2

viii. Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph 3 : 1
chapatis: stove :: dal: _____
(A) brass pot (B) garden
(C) mud walls (D) courtyard

ix. Why is it fair to say that the statement 'the Verma house was more than just a structure' in paragraph 5 uses figurative language? 1
(A) It emphasizes the symbolic importance of the house.
(B) It compares the house to a living entity.
(C) It reflects the emotional connection of the villagers to the house.
(D) It personifies the house as something alive and active.

x. Assess the potential challenges or benefits of maintaining the old Verma house, as suggested in paragraph 5. 2

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

1. Introduction :
Climate change has significantly impacted global weather patterns, resulting in more frequent and severe natural disasters. This case study explores the frequency of various natural disasters over the last two decades and examines their geographical distribution. The study aims to understand how regions are affected differently and what measures can be taken to mitigate the impacts of such disasters.

2. Methodology :
Data was collected from multiple international agencies, tracking the occurrence of natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, droughts, and earthquakes. The data was analysed to observe trends in disaster frequency and geographical distribution over the years. A detailed comparison of regions most affected by each type of disaster was conducted, leading to actionable insights for disaster preparedness.

3. Survey Examination :
The data from the survey focused on natural disasters that have occurred globally between 2000 and 2020. The disasters were classified by type, and their frequency in various regions was compared. The study aimed to identify which regions are more vulnerable to specific disasters and why. Factors like climate, geography, and human activities were examined to understand their roles in increasing disaster risk.

4. Results: The chart below illustrates the frequency of major natural disasters in different regions of the world over the last 20 years.

Region	Floods (%)	Cyclones (%)	Droughts (%)	Earthquakes (%)
North America	30%	15%	10%	45%
South America	40%	5%	35%	20%
Africa	25%	10%	60%	5%
Asia	35%	40%	15%	10%
Europe	50%	5%	5%	40%

5. Implications for Interventions :
Understanding regional vulnerability to different natural disasters is critical for devising effective disaster management strategies. Regions like Africa, where droughts dominate, need to focus on water conservation and sustainable agriculture. In contrast, Asia, which is prone to cyclones, should invest in early warning systems and coastal defenses. International collaboration is essential to build resilience and reduce the loss of life and property from future disasters.

6. Conclusion :
This study highlights the need for targeted interventions based on the types of natural disasters each region faces. By addressing specific vulnerabilities, regions can improve their disaster preparedness and reduce the impact of future catastrophic events.

Answer the following questions, based on given passage.

i. Complete the following suitably. 1
In the introduction, the researcher links climate change with natural disasters to highlight _____.

ii. What would the following be classified as? 1
To examine the frequency and geographical distribution of natural disasters.
Select the appropriate response.
(A) Research outcome
(B) Primary objective
(C) Secondary objective
(D) Method of analysis

iii. Give two points to support why geographical distribution was included as a focus in the study on natural disasters. 2

iv. Paragraph 3 includes words – 'climate' and 'geography.' 1
Classify the following sentences as 'climate' or 'geography':
Sentence 1: The high frequency of droughts in Africa is due to prolonged dry seasons.
Sentence 2: The occurrence of earthquakes in North America is due to tectonic plate movement.

v. Read the following : 1
Sarah lives in North America, where earthquakes are frequent, while her friend Carlos lives in South America, which is more prone to floods. Meanwhile, Fatima in Africa struggles with droughts that affect her community's livelihood.
Select the option that identifies the correct disaster vulnerability for Sarah, Carlos, and Fatima.
(A) Sarah – cyclones; Carlos – droughts; Fatima – floods
(B) Sarah – floods; Carlos – cyclones; Fatima – earthquakes
(C) Sarah – earthquakes; Carlos – floods; Fatima – droughts
(D) Sarah – droughts; Carlos – earthquakes; Fatima – cyclones

vi. Although Asia and Europe experience different natural disasters, why does Europe have a higher percentage of floods? 1

vii. Analyse how targeted disaster preparedness interventions can reduce the impact of natural disasters in regions like Africa and Asia. (Paragraph 5) 2

viii. What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders, based on the insights from the study? 1
(A) To predict future natural disasters with certainty
(B) To build international cooperation for disaster relief
(C) To reduce the loss of life and property from natural disasters
(D) To focus on preventing only specific types of disasters

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. While walking in a park in your colony you found a small briefcase with some documents and 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 Rajat/Rani.

OR

B. As the head of Physical Education Department, write a notice in about 50 words informing the students about the selection of athletes for the coming Zonal Athletic meet.

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

A. Christ King College, Lalitpur, is celebrating its Annual Day and wants to invite the parents and other guests to the occasion. Design an invitation card for the same in 50 words. Invent necessary details.

OR

B. Your friend has invited you to her sister's wedding to be held at Nasik. Write a letter declining the invitation because of prior engagement. You are Abha of C-4/140, sector 8 Tandon Road, Nasik.

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

A. You are Wasim/Wahida of New Ashok Colony, Agra. The main road leading to the colony is in a very bad condition with many potholes and open manholes. To add to the woes, there is no streetlight that makes the matters worse at night. Write a letter in about 120-150 words to the Editor of The Times of India drawing attention of the authorities concerned to the problem and to seek immediate remedial action.

OR

B. You are Suraj/Sohana. You came across the following advertisement in a national daily. You consider yourself suitable and eligible for the post. Write an application in about 120-150 words in response to the advertisement.

Applications are invited for the post of a nursery teacher in a reputable school of north west Delhi. The candidate must have at least 5 years experience of teaching tiny tots. The applicant must have good command over English and be well versed in computer. He/she should be innovative and creative. Attractive salary. Interested candidates should apply to the Principal, Ramnarayan International School, Ghaziabad, within 10 day with detailed resume.

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

A. Recently you got a chance to participate in a week-long workshop on 'Energy Conservation'. By the end of the workshop, you were much enlightened about the need and ways of conserving energy. Write an article titled 'Energy Conservation: the need of the hour'. You are Amrit/Annie of Sarvodya Vidyalaya No. 1, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

OR

B. You are a reporter with 'India Today'. You recently witnessed 'illegal trade of rare animals on some websites'. Write a report in about 120-150 words about the same for your magazine.

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.
Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool,
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.
The massive weight of uncle's wedding band,
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.

(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

i. Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract?
(A) The hopeful and positive bent of mind of Aunt Jennifer
(B) The oppressed and frightened bent of mind of Aunt Jennifer
(C) The intelligent bent of mind of Aunt Jennifer
(D) The creative bend of mind of Aunt Jennifer

ii. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.
Assertion : Aunt Jennifer struggles with the burdens of her marriage, symbolized by the difficulty in pulling the needle.
Reason : The weight of the wedding band on Aunt Jennifer's hand represents the oppressive nature of her married life, making even simple tasks hard for her.
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 is suffering at the oppressive hands of the _____.

iv. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
The ivory _____ (needle/stick) used to embroider is in sharp contrast to the difficulty in using it.

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

tell	cool	tie

vi. Give an example of alliteration from the extract.

OR

B.
I saw my mother
Beside me,
Doze, open mouthed, her face
Ashen like that
Of a corpse and realized with pain
That she was as old as she
Looked but soon
Put that thought away

(My Mother at Sixty-Six)

i. Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract?
(A) Depiction of human relationships
(B) Power of imagination
(C) Inevitable relationships
(D) Immortality of art and literature

ii. Where is the poetess going when she said, "home to Cochin last Friday"?

iii. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
The extract discusses fear of _____ (childhood/brotherhood).

iv. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.
Assertion : The poet is overwhelmed with a painful realization of her mother's aging.
Reason : The poet immediately accepts the reality of her mother's old age without any emotional struggle.
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 do these lines highlight, in the context of familial relationships, and the speaker's sense of anxiety and fear at the prospect of losing her mother?

vi. Complete the following suitably.
The daughter cringed with pain at the realisation that her mother _____.

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

A. MR LAMB : And that's all true, and you know it.
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."
MR LAMB : So you believe everything you hear, then?
DERRY It was cruel.

(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 reason for using the word 'cruel' in conversation.
(A) He feels hurt and pained by the comments of the people on his face.
(B) He feels overheard comments are cruel.
(C) He wants to say so.
(D) He was not aware of the people's cruelty.

iii. The people treated Derry because they made _____.

iv. Who called Derry 'a terrible thing'?

OR

B. You lose all earthly sense of perspective and time here. The visual scale ranges from the microscopic to the mighty: midges and mites to blue whales and icebergs as big as countries (the largest recorded was the size of Belgium). Days go on and on and on in surreal 24-hour austral summer light, and a ubiquitous silence, interrupted only by the occasional avalanche or calving ice sheet, consecrates the place. It's an immersion that will force you to place yourself in the context of the earth's geological history. And for humans, the prognosis isn't good.

(Journey to the End of the Earth)

i. Complete the sentence appropriately.
The range of the 'visual scale' in Antarctica as mentioned by the author is _____.

ii. In the line, "You lose all earthly sense of perspective and time here", what could be the best synonym for the word 'perspective' in the context of the passage?
(A) awareness (b) insight
(C) opinion (d) outlook

iii. Which elements influence earth's physicality?

iv. How does the narrator feel to see the grandeur of the icy region?

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

A. I used every way I knew to overcome this fear, but it held me firmly in its grip. Finally, one October; I decided to get an instructor and learn to swim. I went to a pool and practiced five days a week, an hour each day. The instructor put a belt around me. A rope attached to the belt went through a pulley that ran on an overhead cable. He held on to the end of the rope, and we went back and forth, back and forth across the pool, hour after hour, day after day, week after week. On each trip across the pool a bit of the panic seized me. Each time the instructor relaxed his hold on the rope and I went under some of the old terror returned and my legs froze. It was three months before the tension began to slack. Then he taught me to put my face under water and exhale, and to raise my nose and inhale. I repeated the exercise hundreds of times. Bit by bit I shed part of the panic that seized me when my head went under water.

(Deep Water)

i. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that the narrator is keen to be free from his fear.

ii. What does the narrator talk about in the given extract?
(A) He wanted to overcome his fears.
(B) He never wanted to swim beyond the pool.
(C) He lost his zeal to swim with time.
(D) His efforts were half-hearted.

iii. Complete the sentence appropriately.
The writer uses the phrase 'bit by bit' to refer to the regular and gradual efforts put in by him as _____.

iv. What kind of act was the hiring of the instructor?

v. What does the phrase 'I used every way I knew' refer to?

vi. Which of the following options best suggests the central idea of the extract?
(A) The anxiety of a swimmer (B) To overcome the fear of water
(C) The importance of swimming (D) The importance of a swimmer

OR

B. "Since you have been so nice to me all day long, as if I was a captain, I want to be nice to you, in return, as if I was a real captain-for I do not want you to be embarrassed at this Christmas season by a thief; but you can give back the money to the old man on the roadside, who has the money pouch hanging on the window frame as a bait for poor wanderers."
The rattrap is a Christmas present from a rat who would have been caught in this world's rattrap if he had not been raised to captain, because in that way he got power to clear himself.
"Written with friendship and high regard, Captain von Stahle."

(The Rattrap)

i. Why did the peddler gift a rattrap as a Christmas present?

ii. This communication includes

(A) a promise (B) regret
(C) an apology (D) (A) and (C)

iii. What is the significance of the letter written to Edla?

iv. Do you think the peddler would have changed if Edla would not have been nice to him?

v. Which of the following CANNOT be attributed to the peddler, according to the above extract?

(A) Indebtedness (B) Reform
(C) Self-pity (D) Self-awareness

vi. Complete the sentence appropriately.
The peddler signs himself as Captain Von stable to _____.

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

i. Can you think of some possible reasons for the migration of people from village to city? Explain with reference to 'Lost Spring'.

ii. What made the peddler think that he had really fallen into a rattrap? (The Rattrap)

iii. What is the significance of uncle's 'wedding band'? Why does Aunt Jennifer find it heavy? *(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)*

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

v. Why does Pablo Neruda count up to twelve and what is the purpose of this exercise? *(Keeping Quiet)*

vi. Why was there a crowd in front of the bulletin-board at the town Hall? *(The Last Lesson)*

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

i. Why did the general spare the American soldier? *(The Enemy)*

ii. What qualities of Mr Lamb attracted Derry to him? (On the Face of It)

iii. Why could Charley not be convinced by his distractions that the third level was only a wish fulfilment? *(The Third Level)*

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

A. Exploitation is a universal phenomenon. The poor indigo farmers were exploited by the British landlords to which Gandhiji objected. Even after our independence, we find exploitation of unorganized labour. What values do we learn from Gandhiji's campaign to counter the present day problems of exploitation?
Imagine yourself to be a motivational speaker who has to address high school students. Write this address in about 120-150 words elaborating how the weak have always and at all times been the victims of injustice and exploitation. *(Indigo)*

OR

B. Sophie lives in her fantasies. She hopes to make it big. You realise that the modern day youth are also like her. You decide to write an article about the need to dream and how it can prove to be harmful sometimes. You are Poorti from class XII.

(Going Places)

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

A. 'Knowing too much of your future is never a good thing.' In light of this quote, examine how knowing the future paved the way for the king's end.

(The Tiger King)

OR

B. "But this eating by formula was not the hardest trial in that first day", says Zitkala-Sa. What do you understand by 'eating by formula' and how did she find it a hard trial?

(Memories of Childhood)

□□□□□□□