SAMPLE PAPER 20

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. Renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power, are becoming increasingly important in the global effort to reduce carbon emissions and combat climate change. Solar power harnesses energy from the sun using photovoltaic cells, while wind power is generated by turbines that convert the kinetic energy of wind into electricity. Hydroelectric power, on the other hand, uses the flow of water to produce energy, typically from dams built on large rivers. These energy sources are not only sustainable but also produce little to no greenhouse gas emissions, making them essential for a greener future.

2. The growth of renewable energy has led to significant technological advancements. Solar panels, for instance, are now more efficient and affordable than ever before, allowing households and businesses to install them on rooftops and generate their own electricity. Wind turbines have also evolved, with larger and more efficient designs being implemented in wind farms around the world. Hydroelectric projects, while less common, provide consistent energy supply, particularly in regions with abundant water resources.

3. Despite the advantages, renewable energy also faces challenges. Solar and wind energy are intermittent, meaning they only produce power when the sun is shining or the wind is blowing. This variability requires the development of energy storage solutions, such as batteries, to ensure a constant energy supply. Additionally, large-scale renewable energy projects can have environmental impacts, such as habitat disruption or the displacement of local communities. However, advances in technology and planning are helping to mitigate these issues.

4. Governments around the world are investing in renewable energy to meet their climate goals. Many countries have implemented policies such as subsidies for renewable energy projects, tax incentives for companies that use green energy, and mandates for reducing carbon emissions. These efforts are part of a global push to transition from fossil fuels to cleaner, more sustainable energy sources, ultimately aiming to reduce the impacts of climate change.

5. The future of energy lies in the continued development of renewable technologies. As costs decrease and efficiencies improve, renewable energy will play a central role in meeting the world's energy needs. The shift towards cleaner energy is not just a technological challenge, but a societal one, requiring collaboration between governments, industries, and communities to ensure a sustainable energy future for all.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

i. According to paragraph 1, why are renewable energy sources considered important in combating climate change? 1

ii. How does the author describe the technological advancements in renewable energy, as mentioned in paragraph 2? 1

iii. Read and complete the following sentence suitably. 1
The phrase "intermittent energy" in paragraph 3 refers to the fact that renewable energy sources like solar and wind are not always available.
Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence.
Intermittent energy sources are challenging because _____.
(A) they require energy storage solutions to ensure a stable power supply
(B) they can only be used in certain parts of the world

iv. Complete the following with ONE example, with reference to paragraph 3 : 1
One challenge faced by renewable energy sources is _____.

v. Why does the writer emphasize government policies in paragraph 4? 1
Because
(A) They reduce the cost of fossil fuels.
(B) They help promote renewable energy development.
(C) They allow companies to continue using non-renewable energy.
(D) They increase competition in the energy market.

vi. Provide ONE textual evidence with reference to paragraph 4, to support the following : 1
Governments are actively investing in renewable energy to meet climate goals.

vii. In the line, 'Renewable energy will play a central role in meeting the world's energy needs' (Paragraph 5), what does the phrase 'central role' suggest about the future of renewable energy? 2

viii. Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph 1 : 1
wind: turbines :: solar: _____
(A) panels (B) cells
(C) rays (D) energy

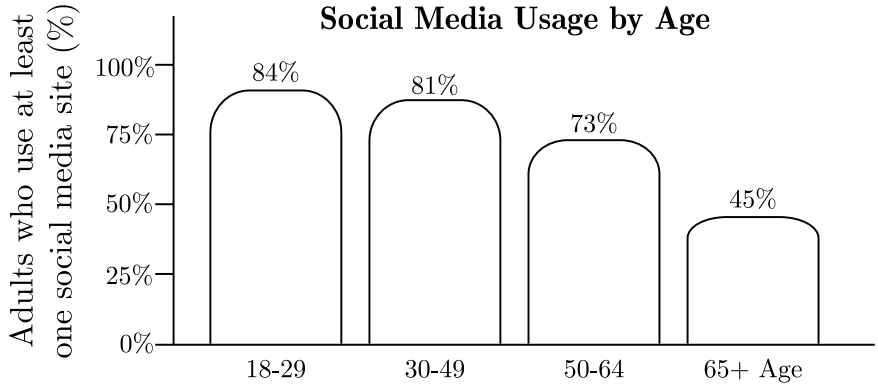
ix. Why is it fair to say that the statement 'The future of energy lies in the continued development of renewable technologies' in paragraph 5 uses descriptive language? 1
(A) It describes the current trends in the energy industry.
(B) It highlights the importance of renewable energy in the future.
(C) It explains the global energy market.
(D) It focuses on fossil fuels.

x. Assess the potential challenges or benefits of increasing investment in renewable energy, as suggested in paragraph 4. 2

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

1. A recent study revealed that less than 20% of teenagers report reading a book, magazine, or newspaper daily for pleasure, while more than 80% say they use social media every day. This shift in media consumption patterns is part of a larger trend in the digital age, according to research published by the World Psychological Association.
2. Compared to previous generations, teens in the 2010s spend significantly more time online and less time with traditional media, such as books and magazines. According to the lead author of the book yGen, this displacement of traditional media by digital platforms has transformed how young people engage with content.
3. A study analyzed data from a nationally representative sample of approximately 50,000 eighth, tenth, and twelfth-grade students. The survey, conducted from 1976 to 2016, encompassed more than 1 million teenagers and examined their media consumption habits over time.
4. The use of digital media increased substantially from 2006 to 2016. Among twelfth-graders, internet use during leisure time doubled from one to two hours per day during that period. Similarly, the study found a 75% increase in digital media use for tenth-graders and a 68% increase for eighth-graders.
5. On average, twelfth-graders in the mid-2010s reported spending two hours a day texting, just over two hours on the internet, and under two hours on social media—a total of about six hours daily on digital media during their free time. This pattern was also reflected among younger age groups, with tenth-graders spending about five hours and eighth-graders about four hours per day on digital activities.
6. Time spent on digital media has significantly reduced the amount of time students spend on traditional media, such as print books and newspapers. In the early 1990s, 33% of tenth-graders read a newspaper almost daily. By 2016, this figure had dropped to 2%. Similarly, 60% of twelfth-graders in the late 1970s read books or magazines regularly, while only 16% did so by 2016.

7. Despite having the ability to access large amounts of information, today's youth struggle with focusing on long-form content, which affects their ability to grasp complex issues and develop critical thinking skills. Their dependence on digital media often makes it challenging to concentrate for extended periods.



Answer the following questions, based on given passage.

i. Complete the following suitably. 1
In the introduction, the researcher links the shift from traditional media to social media among teens to highlight _____.

ii. What would the following be classified as? 1
To explore the decline in reading traditional media and the rise in digital media consumption among teenagers.
Select the appropriate response.
(A) Secondary objective (B) Research outcome
(C) Method of analysis (D) Primary objective

iii. Give two points to support why the increased use of digital media among teenagers is seen as problematic. 2

iv. Paragraph 6 includes words – 'traditional media' and 'digital media.' 1
Classify the following sentences as 'traditional media' or 'digital media':
Sentence 1: Twelfth-graders spend about six hours per day on digital activities, including texting and social media.
Sentence 2: In the early 1990s, a third of tenth-graders read a newspaper almost daily.

v. Read the following : 1
Arjun spends two hours each day texting and browsing the internet. Priya, his friend, rarely reads a book and spends about five hours on social media every day. Meanwhile, Manish, another friend, struggles to focus on complex issues due to his heavy reliance on digital platforms.
Select the option that identifies the correct digital media habits of Arjun, Priya, and Manish.

(A) Arjun – two hours texting; Priya – five hours on social media; Manish – difficulty focusing on complex issues
(B) Arjun – reading books; Priya – two hours on social media; Manish – no internet use
(C) Arjun – texting; Priya – no internet use; Manish – reading newspapers
(D) Arjun – social media; Priya – newspapers; Manish – difficulty with short texts

vi. Why is the decline in reading traditional media considered a significant issue, even though teenagers are more informed than ever? 1

vii. Analyse how the shift to digital media has impacted students' ability to focus and develop critical thinking skills. (Paragraph 7) 2

viii. What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders, based on the insights from the study? 1
(A) Encourage more time spent on digital media
(B) Promote a balance between digital and traditional media consumption
(C) Limit social media usage to reduce screen time
(D) Increase access to social media for younger students

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 Vijay Dhawan, a student of Florence Nightingale Convent, Rohtas Nagar, Aurangabad. Your school is planning an Inter-House poster making competition to conclude the week-long Environment Week. As the secretary of the school's cultural association, write a notice in about 50 words informing students of classes IX-XII about the competition.

OR

B. In a few days, the country will be celebrating its Independence Day. The Prime Minister will hoist the national flag of the country from the ramparts of the Red Fort and address the nation. Massive arrangements for seating and security are in the offing. The Delhi Traffic Police will be making traffic diversions on the big day in order to avoid inconvenience to the travellers and commuters, it has issued a public notice about the same. Reproduce the notice. You are Jayram Patil of Chanakya Puri, New Delhi.

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

A. You are Nidhi Aggarwal, Secretary of the Literary Club called Shakespearewala of your school. The literary club has produced some great theatre actors in the past and has a phenomenal repertoire of dramas. Now, it is putting up the famous Shakespeare play 'The Taming of the Shrew'. The principal of your school has asked you to draft an invitation inviting the famous writer Mr. Ruskin Bond to be the Chief Guest at the event. Write the invitation in not more than 50 words. Invent necessary details as required.

OR

B. Your friend, P.V. Nithish, has invited your family to attend the wedding of his sister, Jaya. You have your board examination on the day of the wedding. Since, south Indian weddings are traditionally morning events, you will not be able to attend the event. Write a formal reply in about 50 words to the family expressing your regret. You are Sushmitha Nair, M-114, Fort Road, Chennai.

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

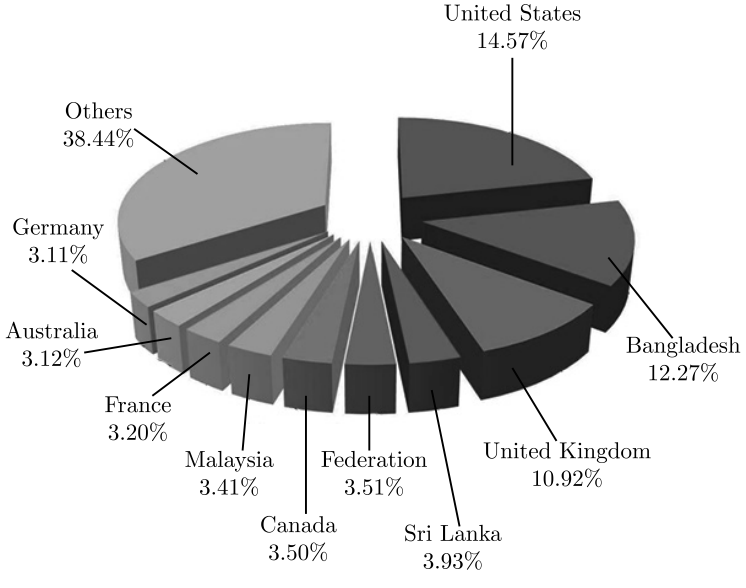
A. After passing the secondary school examination, a candidate has to make a very difficult choice from a number of streams available to him for further studies at senior secondary level. There is no valid mechanism to assess the suitability of a candidate for a particular stream. The aggregate percentage is deemed sufficient to decide the stream of a candidate. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily emphasizing the need for educational counsellors for guidance in this matter in each school. You are Rishi Negi of Koregaon, Pune, Maharashtra.

OR

B. You are Asit/Aarti Hempal of 14, West Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi. You have seen the following advertisement in The Hindustan Times for the post of Chief Chef in a Five Star Hotel. Apply for the job with complete biodata. Write a cover letter also.

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

A. India is emerging as one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world. The number of tourists has definitely picked up after the pandemic. The bar graph given below shows the criteria or parameters that play a decisive role for a foreign visitor in choosing and finalizing the country where he is going to spend his money and time. The government of India is making sustained efforts in projecting India as a great tourist destination but the citizens also need to understand their duties. Utilising this bar graph, write an article on "India as the popular choice of foreign visitors" as Lakshya Sen.



OR

B. Some students of the Senior Wing of St Mary's School, Safdarjang Enclave, New Delhi, collectively authored a book, 'School Memorabilia' that recounts episodes from their school days, anecdotes and the legacy of the school alumni who achieved legendary success in their respective fields. As student reporter for The Hindustan Times' PACE programme, write a report in 120-150 words.

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 after the airport's
Security check, standing a few yards
away, I looked again at her, wan, pale
as a late winter's Moon."

(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) Life is full of ups and downs.
(B) The lanky lad troubled all.
(C) As white as snow
(D) Nature is god's gift to us.

ii. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.
Assertion : The poet feels a deep sense of concern as she observes her mother's frail appearance.
Reason : The mother's pale and wan appearance is compared to a late winter's moon, symbolizing aging and fragility.
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 poet looked at her mother again in order to _____.

iv. What does the line 'I looked at her, wan and pale as a late winter's moon' indicate?

v. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
The figure of speech used in the lines 'the young trees sprinting is _____ (metaphor/ personification).

vi. List any two reasons for mother's pale face.

OR

B. Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green,
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.
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 Tiger)

i. What quality of Uncle can be inferred through the lines given in extract?
(A) Confident (B) Courageousness
(C) Compassionate nature (D) Dominating nature

ii. What are the tigers in the extract symbolic of?

iii. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
Aunt Jennifer's fingers have _____ (strengthened/ weakened) a lot due to her oppression.

iv. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.
Assertion : Aunt Jennifer's tigers symbolize fearlessness and confidence, in contrast to her own constrained life.
Reason : The tigers move with chivalric certainty, while Aunt Jennifer struggles with the burden of her marriage, represented by the heavy wedding band.
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 the last four lines of the given extract highlight, in the context of feminism?

vi. Complete the following suitably.
Denizens of the 'world of green' refer to _____.

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

A. Because he was perfecting a discovery which would render wounds entirely clean, he had not been sent abroad with the troops. Also, he knew, there was some slight danger that the old General might need an operation for a condition for which he was now being treated medically, and for this possibility Sadao was being kept in Japan.

(The Enemy)

i. Why was Dr Sadao not sent with the troops?

ii. What kind of a person was Dr Sadao's father?
(A) A jealous man (B) Traditional man
(C) A patriotic person (D) Both (B) and (C)

iii. The General referred to in the given extract is _____.

iv. How does the general help Dr Sadao?

OR

B. Students on Ice, the programme I was working with on the Shokalskiy, aims to do exactly this by taking high school students to the ends of the world and providing them with inspiring educational opportunities which will help them foster a new understanding and respect for our planet. It's been in operation for six years now, headed by Canadian Geoff Green, who got tired of carting celebrities and retired, rich, curiosity-seekers who could only 'give' back in a limited way.
With Students on Ice, he offers the future generation of policy-makers a life-changing experience at an age when they're ready to absorb, learn and most importantly, act.

(Journey to the End of the Earth)

i. Complete the sentence appropriately.
Students on Ice is _____ headed by Geoff Green.

ii. Characterise the celebrities based on your understanding of the extract.

iii. Select the most suitable title for the extract.
(A) High School Students
(B) Adventure in Antarctica
(C) Students on Ice Programme
(D) Wanderlust

iv. Why did Green start his Students on Ice programme?

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

A. Food is more important for survival than an identity. "If at the end of the day we can feed our families and go to bed without an aching stomach, we would rather live here than in the fields that gave us no grain," says a group of women in tattered saris when I ask them why they left their beautiful land of green fields and rivers. Wherever they find food, they pitch their tents that become transit homes. Children grow up in them, becoming partners in survival. And survival in Seemapuri means rag-picking. Through the years, it has acquired the proportions of a fine art. Garbage to them is gold. It is their daily bread, a roof over their heads, even if it is a leaking roof But for a child it is even more.

(Lost Spring)

i. List any two details about the ragpickers discussed in the extract.

ii. The phrase 'transit homes' refer to the dwellings that are _____.
(A) temporary and mobile
(B) inadequate and fleeting
(C) fragile but lasting
(D) unhygienic but permanent

iii. Pick evidence from the extract that helps one infer that ragpicking has attained the position of a skill.

iv. Complete the sentence appropriately
For a child, garbage _____.

v. What does the term 'Garbage to them is gold' mean?

vi. Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the extract?
(A) Love for other country
(B) Ragpicking – an art
(C) Food not important for survival
(D) The living standard of ragpickers

OR

B. The players who played the crowd were the responsibility of the office boy (Even the make-up department of the Gemini Studio had an 'office boy'!). On the days when there was a crowd shooting, you could see him mixing his paint in a giant vessel and slapping it on the crowd players. The idea was to close every pore on the surface of the face in the process of applying make-up. He wasn't exactly a 'boy'; he was in his early forties, having entered the studios years ago in the hope of becoming a star actor or a top screen writer, director or lyrics writer.

(Poets and Pancakes)

i. What was the responsibility of the 'office boy'?

ii. On a day of crowd shooting, the office boy would be _____.

iii. Which of the following expresses the office boy's age?
(A) 10-20 years old (B) 20-30 years old
(C) 30-40 years old (D) 40-50 years old

iv. Rationalise, to support the given opinion.
A hierarchy existed in the Gemini Studios.

v. Complete the sentence with one word.
The line "...players who played the crowd were the responsibility of the office boy..." can be best classified as _____.

vi. Why was the office boy disappointed?
(A) Could not succeed as a director
(B) Could not become a lyric writer
(C) As he could not become a star
(D) All of these

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

i. 'We realise the worth of something either before acquiring it or after losing it.' Explain this with reference to 'The Last Lesson'.

(The Last Lesson)

ii. What are we single-minded about and what are its consequences?

(Keeping Quiet)

iii. How is the ragpicker's name Saheb-e-Alam an ironical contradiction to his reality?

(Lost Spring)

iv. What is the time projected by the poet in "her terrified hands will lie, Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by"?

(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

v. Why did Edla still entertain the peddler even after she knew the truth about him?

(The Rattrap)

vi. Are Mukund and Eco on the same page when it comes to their views about Eco's work? How can you substantiate your response with reference to 'The Interview'?

(The Interview)

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

i. 'Take care of the small things and the big things will fall into place.' Elucidate the relevance of this statement in context of the environment in the Antarctica.

(Journey to the End of the Earth)

ii. Why did Charley suspect that Sam had gone to Galesburg?

(The Third Level)

iii. Only an untouchable would know the pain of being one. Dalit consciousness cannot be illustrated as poignantly by people from other castes. Do you agree with the statement with reference to Bama's life?

(Memories of Childhood)

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

A. Our scriptures tell us that determination and perseverance are cardinal virtues of a good human being. Raj Kumar Shukla was determined as well as persevering because owing to these two traits, he succeeded in taking Gandhiji to Champaran. Gandhiji, in turn, had these characteristics too. Do you agree with the comparison? How can young students today use these two qualities to make successful careers for themselves?

(Indigo)

OR

B. I went to the pool when no one else was there...in came a big bruiser of a boy...he yelled, "Hi, skinny, how'd you like to be ducked?" Later, the boy said, "But I was only fooling." The youth today is characterized by a total absence of concern for others. They also act without thinking how their deeds may have long lasting effect on others. Write a note in about 120-150 words to be published in a youth magazine on the need for inculcating regard for the fellow beings.

(Deep Water)

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

A. Satire employs irony, sarcasm, ridicule, etc. in exposing and criticising follies and vices in men. The story 'The Tiger King' criticizes self-seeking Kings who wilfully exploit both nature and their subjects for selfish interests and by a twist of fate are also paid in the same coin.

Can we relate this thought with instances in modern life too? Write your analysis in about 120-150 words.

(The Tiger King)

OR

B. Both 'The Third Level' by Jack Finney and the story 'The Adventure' by Jayant Narlikar in class XI interweave fantasy and reality. How do they compare and contrast with each other? Does Sophie in 'Going Places' belong to the same category of people as Charley and Prof. Gaitonde?

□□□□□□□