Series S5RPQ

SET-1

Q.P. Code **1/5/1**

Roll No. | | | | | | | | |

Candidates must write the Q.P. Code on the title page of the answer-book.

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NOTE

(I) Please check that this question paper contains **19** printed pages.

(II) Q.P. Code given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer-book by the candidate.

(III) Please check that this question paper contains **13** questions.

(IV) **Please write down the Serial Number of the question in the answer-book at the given place before attempting it.**

(V) 15 minute time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed at 10.15 a.m. From 10.15 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., the candidates will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.

ENGLISH (Core)

*Time allowed : **3** hours* *Maximum Marks : **80***

General Instructions :

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly 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** and 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) Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.

(v) Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

(vi) All the names, addresses, etc. used in the questions are fictitious. Resemblance, if any, is purely coincidental.

SECTION A

Reading Skills (22 marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully : *12*

(1) Robotics is transforming the healthcare landscape by revolutionizing the way medical procedures are executed, patients are managed and hospital operations are streamlined. The seamless integration of artificial intelligence (AI), engineering and automation has catalysed the emergence of cutting-edge robotic technologies that are making healthcare more precise, efficient and accessible than ever before. From surgical theatres to outpatient clinics, robotics is enhancing workflow efficiency and significantly improving clinical outcomes.

(2) Among its most notable applications is robot-assisted surgery. Advanced systems such as the 'Da Vinci Surgical Robot' empower surgeons with superior visualization, refined control and pinpoint accuracy. These minimally invasive techniques reduce surgical trauma, minimize complications and shorten recovery periods. Robotic surgery has proven especially transformative in intricate disciplines like cardiothoracic, gynaecological and neurosurgical procedures where precision is paramount.

(3) In the realm of rehabilitation therapy, robotics play a crucial role in helping patients regain motor functions following strokes, spinal cord injuries or orthopaedic surgeries. Devices like robotic exoskeletons and motion-guided therapy systems provide consistent, repetitive movements that are vital for neuro-muscular recovery — often surpassing the capabilities of manual therapy. These systems also enable real-time monitoring and adaptive treatment planning, offering a more individualized and effective rehabilitation process.

(4) Hospital automation is another rapidly expanding frontier. Robots are increasingly being deployed to perform routine yet essential functions such as medicine delivery, room disinfection and food distribution. During the COVID-19 pandemic, their use in contactless service delivery proved invaluable in reducing exposure risks and maintaining stringent hygiene protocols. The advent of diagnostic robotics further underscores the transformative power of AI in medicine. These intelligent systems analyse medical data and imagery with exceptional accuracy, facilitating early detection of conditions such as cancer, cardio-vascular disease and diabetes. By enhancing diagnostic speed and reliability, they significantly contribute to timely and effective intervention.

(5) In the field of geriatric care, assistive robots are being developed to support elderly individuals with medication reminders, vital sign monitoring and social engagement. These robots offer not only physical assistance but also emotional support, helping combat loneliness and cognitive decline — especially for those living alone or with limited human interaction.

(6) While the integration of robotics into healthcare does pose challenges — such as substantial implementation costs, the need for specialized training and concerns about diminished human connection — the long-term advantages far outweigh these limitations.

(7) As healthcare systems worldwide strive for greater accuracy, efficiency and inclusivity, robotics stands out as a catalyst for innovation. Its expanding role — from surgical precision to hospital automation and personalized patient care — heralds a future where technology and empathy coalesce to create a more advanced and humane healthcare ecosystem. *(427 words)*

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(i) According to paragraph 1, what impact has robotics had on healthcare operations ? Mention any two. *1*

(ii) What does the use of the phrase 'from surgical theatres to outpatient clinics' convey about the scope of robotics in healthcare ? (Paragraph 1). *1*

(iii) The phrase 'superior visualization, refined control and pinpoint accuracy' emphasizes the advanced capabilities of robotic systems in surgery. (Paragraph 2) *1*

Choose the correct response from the two options (A) or (B) to complete the following sentence.

This highlights that robotic-assisted surgery primarily enhances _____.

(A) the mechanical speed of operations with minimal supervision.

(B) the precision and safety of complex surgical procedures.

(iv) How does the writer emphasize the benefits of robotic-assisted surgery ? (Paragraph 2) *1*

(A) highlights how robotics can replace surgeons in all types of procedures

(B) shows how advanced systems improve accuracy and reduce patient trauma

(C) suggests robotic surgeries are faster but less reliable than traditional ones

(D) claims that robotics will eliminate the need for doctors in the future

(v) Complete the following suitably with one reason, with reference to paragraph 3. *1*

Today, rehabilitation therapy is a more individualized and effective process because _____.

(vi) Complete the analogy with one word from paragraph 4. *1*

necessary : essential : : emergence : _____

(A) advent (B) automation

(C) detection (D) intervention

(vii) Support with evidence from paragraph 4, how robotics are being deployed to help maintain strict sanitation protocol. *2*

(viii) Why is there a need to develop assistive robots ? (Paragraph 5) *2*

(ix) The integration of robotics into healthcare according to the given text is ironic because _____. *1*

(A) very few patients register for robotics-assisted therapy

(B) the country is not equipped to provide robots in villages

(C) it has resulted in an increase in human isolation

(D) human interaction has been enhanced with the use of AI

(x) Which of the following best explains why robotics is considered a catalyst for innovation in healthcare despite its challenges ? (Para 7) *1*

(A) Robotics merges technological precision with patient-centred care, improving both efficiency and empathy in healthcare delivery.

(B) It eliminates human involvement in healthcare, making systems fully automated and cost-effective.

(C) Although robotics comprises emotional connection, it is not favoured in spite of being faster than traditional care.

(D) The high cost and complexity of robotics are outweighed by its ability to make healthcare impersonal but scalable.

2. Read the following passage carefully : *10*

(1) **Introduction :** Deforestation, the clearing of forest land for other uses, is a global environmental catastrophe with profound and often irreversible consequences. While its impact on climate change and biodiversity loss is widely recognised, its most immediate and devastating effects are often borne by indigenous tribes, whose existence is inextricably linked to the health of forest ecosystems. These communities, guardians of ancient knowledge and sustainable practices, face not only the loss of their physical homes but also the erosion of their cultural identity and traditional livelihoods.

(2) **Survey Examination :** Consider the plight of the Arava Tribe, a hypothetical indigenous community living deep within a remote part of the Arava Basin. For generations, the Arava have co-existed peacefully with the rainforest, drawing from its richness for food, healing and spiritual nourishment. Their traditional knowledge, passed down through generations, encompasses intricate understanding of plant properties, animal behaviour and sustainable resource management. The Arava's diet comprises forest-sourced fruits, nuts, wild game and freshwater fish, reflecting their deep ecological integration. Their shelters, constructed from indigenous materials and their ceremonial practices, aligned with seasonal forest rhythms, underscore a lifestyle symbiotically tied to their natural surroundings.

(3) **Methodology and Implications :** Moreover, in recent decades, the Arava's ancestral lands have been encroached upon by illegal logging operations, cattle ranching and agricultural expansion. Vast tracts of their forest homes have been systematically cleared, leading to a cascade of environmental and social impacts. Environmentally, the loss of tree cover has resulted in localized climate shifts, including increased temperatures and altered rainfall patterns, leading to prolonged droughts and unpredictable floods. Biodiversity has plummeted, with many plant species vital for Arava medicine disappearing and traditional hunting grounds shrinking, impacting their food security. The pollution of waterways from agricultural runoff further compromises their health and access to clean drinking water.

(4) **Effects and Conclusion :** From a social and cultural perspective, the effects are equally dire. The destruction of sacred sites within the forest has severed spiritual ties. The forced displacement of families due to land loss has led to the breakdown of community structures and increased vulnerability to external diseases. Traditional knowledge, once practical for survival, becomes less relevant in a deforested landscape, leading to cultural erosion, particularly among younger generations. This disruption often results in increased poverty, loss of identity and heightened conflict with encroaching outsiders.

Social and Cultural Impacts of Deforestation on Indigenous Tribes

S.No.	Types of impact	Severity (on the scale of 1 – 10)
1	Destruction of sacred sites	7
2	Forced displacement	8
3	Breakdown of community structure	6
4	Vulnerability to diseases	5
5	Cultural erosion	7
6	Increased poverty	8
7	Loss of identity	7
8	Heightened conflict	6

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage.

(i) Complete the following suitably :

In the introduction, the author links deforestation with the global environment to highlight _____. *1*

(ii) What would the following be classified as ? *1*

These communities ..... face not only the loss of their physical homes but also the erosion of their cultural identity.

Select the appropriate response.

(A) Primary purpose (B) Secondary objective

(C) Method of analysis (D) Research outcome

(iii) What does the phrase 'aligned with seasonal forest rhythms' suggest about the Arava's cultural practices and way of life ? (Any two points) (Paragraph 2) *2*

(iv) Paragraph 3 includes the words — 'encroached' and 'impact'. Classify the following sentences as 'encroached' or 'impact'. *1*

Sentence 1 : Illegal logging operations, cattle ranching and agricultural expansion have been systematically clearing forest area.

Sentence 2 : Plant species vital for medicine disappeared and waterways pollution compromised health.

(v) Give two points to support how Arava's diet and lifestyle reflects ecological integration. *1*

(vi) Analyse how indigenous communities face both physical loss and erosion of cultural identities. *2*

(vii) Which statement most accurately captures the fundamental message conveyed by the passage ? *1*

(A) Deforestation has contributed to changes in diet and health patterns among forest dwellers.

(B) Environmental degradation causes irreversible spiritual and economic damage to modern societies.

(C) Indigenous tribes are impacted by deforestation, losing their environment, traditions, identity and culture.

(D) The efforts to preserve forests must prioritize biodiversity over tribal welfare.

(viii) According to the given table, which two social or cultural impacts of deforestation are rated as most severe ? *1*

(A) forced displacement and increased poverty

(B) destruction of sacred sites and cultural erosion

(C) breakdown of community structure and heightened conflict

(D) vulnerability to diseases and loss of identity

SECTION B

Creative Writing Skills (18 marks)

3. Attempt any ***one*** of the two, (a) or (b), in about 50 words. *1×4=4*

(a) Your school is planning to conduct an inter-class panel discussion on the topic 'Ethical Use of Social Media' to sensitise students about responsible online behaviour. You are Pragya/Paras, the head of the Organising Committee of Green View Public School. Write a notice to inform students and also invite registrations from classes XI and XII. Include all necessary details. Put your notice in a box.

OR

(b) Your school is celebrating 'Wellness Week' to promote healthy lifestyles. As the Cultural Secretary of Little Valley School, write a notice for the school bulletin board to inform students of classes IX to XII about a poster-making competition on the theme 'My Mental Health, My Priority'. Include other necessary details. You are Mahima/Manish. Put your notice in a box.

4. Attempt any ***one*** of the two, (a) or (b), in about 50 words. *1×4=4*

(a) You are Sonali/Sohum of Kalka Apartments, Jeevgarh. Your housing society is organising a Folk Dance Festival. It will showcase India's vibrant folk heritage through group and solo performances. Draft an informal invitation letter inviting your friend to the event. Include all necessary details.

OR

(b) You are Aarti/Aarav of 132, Shivaji Nagar, Meetnagar. Your friends have invited you to watch a live cricket match on 27th November, 2025 at the Naoroji Stadium. Unfortunately you have already agreed to volunteer on the same day at a community clean-up drive. Write an informal letter regretting your inability to accept the invitation.

5. Attempt any ***one*** of the two, (a) or (b), in 120 – 150 words. *1×5=5*

(a) Plastic pollution has become a serious environmental hazard across the country. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, expressing concern about the rising plastic pollution and suggesting effective measures to control it. You may use the cues given below along with your own ideas. You are Riya Verma/Raju Verma of 56 Nehru Nagar, Nazarshahar.

- excessive use of single-use plastics
- chokes drainage systems
- lack of public awareness
- improper garbage disposal and waste management
- need for eco-friendly alternatives
- role of schools, media and civic bodies

OR

(b) You are Kavya/Mehul from Lakeview Apartments, Jheelpur. You come across the following advertisement for the job of a graphic designer at PixelCraft Studios, a creative designing firm and wish to apply for the post advertised. Write your application along with your bio-data.

PixelCraft Studios
Invites
Applications for Graphic Designer

Job Responsibilities :

- Create visual content for digital campaigns, websites and branding
- Collaborate with marketing team on design concepts
- Ensure design consistency and creativity

Qualification :

- Degree/Diploma in Graphic Design or Fine Arts
- 2 – 4 years experience in a creative agency preferred

Skills Required :

- Proficiency in Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign)

Apply within 10 days to the Creative Director PixelCraft Studios
14, Green Park, Jheelpur

6. Attempt any ***one*** of the two, (a) or (b), in 120 – 150 words. *1×5=5*

(a) India is facing an increasing water crisis due to overuse, pollution and poor conservation policies. Water scarcity is becoming a servious concern. Write an article for 'Nature' Magazine on the need to conserve water and promote sustainable practices. You are Devina/ Dev. You may use the cues given below along with your own ideas.

- why is water conservation important ?
- causes of water scarcity
- effective water-saving methods
- how can individuals, communities and government help solve the problem ?

OR

(b) You are Mansi/Manas of Class XII C, student reporter of your school magazine. Your school recently organized an inter-school science exhibition in the school auditorium. Write a comprehensive report on the event including details of the theme, participation, exhibits and the outcome of the event. You may organise your report by using the following cues.

Who – What – When – Where – Why – How

SECTION C
Literature **(40 marks)**

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any ***one*** of the given two, (a) or (b) : *6×1=6*

(a) Driving from my parent's
home to Cochin last Friday
morning, 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 …

(My Mother at Sixty-six)

(i) What underlying concern does the poet have while recalling the memory of the drive with her mother ? *1*

(A) A reflection on the irreversible passage of time and looming mortality

(B) A moment of nostalgia for shared childhood memories

(C) A comparative portrayal of mother as youthful and old

(D) A symbolic reference to the generational divide between them

(ii) What does the phrase 'ashen like that of a corpse' suggest about the mother's frailty ? *1*

(iii) Complete the following suitably :

The image of the mother like 'a corpse' and the subsequent realisation symbolizes _____. *1*

(iv) Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank. *1*

The speaker's use of the word 'doze' suggests that the mother was _____. (pained/exhausted)

(v) Why has the poet placed the word 'pain' in a separate line ? *1*

(vi) Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract. Choose the correct interpretation of the following. *1*

Assertion : The poet attempts to mentally shield herself from her mother's physical decline.

Reason : She is emotionally unprepared to confront the inescapable reality of her mother's ageing.

Choose the correct option :

(A) The assertion is supported but the reason is ambiguous.

(B) The assertion lacks clarity, while the reason is clearly expressed.

(C) Both the assertion and the reason are strongly implied in the text.

(D) Neither the assertion nor the reason can be supported by the text.

OR

(b) A flowery band to bind us to the earth,
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways
Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
From our dark spirits. Such the sun, the moon,
Trees old, and young, sprouting a shady boon

(A Thing of Beauty)

(i) Select the option that does ***not*** agree with the ideas as conveyed in the above given extract : *1*

(A) Beauty in nature offers comfort during times of despair.
(B) Even in a world of sorrow, beautiful things continue to heal us.
(C) The poet suggests that man-made inventions promote the Earth's natural beauty.
(D) Natural elements like the sun, moon and trees are our sources of hope.

(ii) Complete the following suitable : *1*

In the line, 'of the inhuman dearth of noble natures', the phrase 'dearth of' refers to _____.

(iii) Select the phrase that suggests the following : *1*

despite our feelings of sadness and depression ….

(iv) Choose the correct option and fill in the blank. *1*

The tone of the poet in the above extract is _____.
(ironic and cynical/reflective and reassuring)

(v) In the context of the poem, the word 'pall' most closely means : *1*

(A) a dense fog that obscures light.
(B) a metaphorical shroud symbolizing grief.
(C) an ornamental veil signifying delight.
(D) a supernatural entity haunting humans.

(vi) Based on the given extract, state in one sentence, your views on the simple joys of beauty. *1*

8. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any ***one*** of the given two, (a) or (b) : *4×1=4*

(a) The corridor I was in began angling left and slanting downward and I thought that was wrong, but I kept on walking. All I could hear was the empty sound of my own footsteps and I didn't pass a soul. Then I heard that sort of hollow roar ahead that means open space and people talking. The tunnel turned sharp left; I went down a short flight of stairs and came out on the third level at Grand Central Station. For just a moment I thought I was back on the second level, but I saw the room was smaller, there were fewer ticket windows and train gates, and the information booth in the centre was wood and old-looking. And the man in the booth wore a green eyeshade and long black sleeve protectors.

(The Third Level)

(i) What initially made the narrator uncertain about the corridor he was walking through ? *1*

(A) The corridor changed direction unexpectedly.
(B) Dim lights and strange signs.
(C) The walls echoed with unfamiliar voices.
(D) The floor felt uneven and unstable underfoot.

(ii) The 'hollow roar' that the narrator heard signifies _____. *1*

(iii) Complete the sentence : *1*

The narrator's realization that he was not on the second level was triggered by _____.

(iv) Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract. *1*

Assertion : The narrator got confused about his location in the Grand Central Station.

Reason : The third level of the Grand Central Station was smaller than the second level.

Choose the correct option :

(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.

OR

(b) My Antarctic experience was full of such epiphanies, but the best occurred just short of the Antarctic Circle at 65.55 degrees south. The *Shokalskiy* had managed to wedge herself into a thick white stretch of ice between the peninsula and Tadpole Island which was preventing us from going any further. The Captain decided we were going to turn around and head back north, but before we did, we were all instructed to climb down the gangplank and walk on the ocean. So there we were, all 52 of us, kitted out in Gore-Tex and glares, walking on a stark whiteness that seemed to spread out forever. Underneath our feet was a metre-thick ice pack, and underneath that, 180 metres of living, breathing salt water. In the periphery Crabeater seals were stretching and sunning themselves on ice floes much like stray dogs will do under the shade of a banyan tree. It was nothing short of a revelation: everything does indeed connect.

(Journey to the end of the Earth)

(i) The author describes the moment near the Antarctic Circle as the best of epiphanies because _____. *1*

(ii) The author's experience of walking on the frozen ocean revealed _____. *1*

(iii) Support with evidence from the given extract, the Captain's decision to walk on the ocean. *1*

(iv) Which of the following is ***not*** a plausible interpretation of the phrase 'living, breathing' used to describe the water beneath the ice ? *1*

(A) It evokes a sense of continuous motion and vitality under the frozen surface.

(B) The phrase highlights the contrast between static ice and the dynamic ocean life.

(C) It implies that the ocean lies dormant and lifeless during the winter months.

(D) The words convey the idea that nature remains active even in extreme conditions.

9. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any ***one*** of the given two, (a) or (b) : *6×1=6*

(a) Sophie watched her back stooped over the sink and wondered at the incongruity of the delicate bow which fastened her apron strings. The delicate-seeming bow and the crooked back. The evening had already blacked in the windows and the small room was steamy from the stove and cluttered with the heavy-breathing man in his vest at the table and the dirty washing piled up in the corner. Sophie felt a tightening in her throat. She went to look for her brother Geoff.

He was kneeling on the floor in the next room tinkering with a part of his motorcycle over some newspaper spread on the carpet. He was three years out of school, an apprentice mechanic, travelling to his work each day to the far side of the city. He was almost grown up now, and she suspected areas of his life about which she knew nothing, about which he never spoke.

(Going Places)

(i) Complete the following suitably :

The phrase 'the incongruity of the delicate bow … and the crooked back' of Sophie's mother conveys _____. *1*

(ii) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank. *1*

The description of Sophie's 'mother's back' in the extract expresses Sophie's _____ (conflicted/confident) state of mind.

(iii) What role does the man in the vest play in enhancing the tone of the passage ? *1*

(A) he brings a sense of peace to the setting.

(B) he deepens the oppressive atmosphere.

(C) he reinforces the narrator's emotional connection.

(D) he introduces a moment of comic relief.

(iv) What is the most plausible interpretation of Sophie's physical reaction of 'a tightening in her throat' ? *1*

(A) a desire to express something, restrained by uncertainty

(B) apprehension about her upcoming encounter with Geoff

(C) a surge of inner turmoil triggered by her surroundings

(D) a symptom indicating that she may be unwell

(v) Why does Sophie decide to go look for Geoff ? *1*

(vi) What is Sophie's perception of Geoff's nature ? *1*

OR

(b) Mukund : The English novelist and academic David Lodge once remarked, "I can't understand how one man can do all the things he [Eco] does."

Umberto Eco : Maybe I give the impression of doing many things. But in the end, I am convinced I am always doing the same thing.
Mukund : Which is ?

Umberto Eco : Aah, now that is more difficult to explain. I have some philosophical interests and I pursue them through my academic work and my novels. Even my books for children are about non-violence and peace… you see, the same bunch of ethical, philosophical interests.

And then I have a secret. Did you know what would happen if you eliminate the empty spaces from the universe, eliminate the empty spaces in all the atoms ? The universe will become as big as my fist. Similarly, we have a lot of empty spaces in our lives. I call them interstices. Say you are coming over to my place. You are in an elevator and while you are coming up, I am waiting for you. This is an interstice, an empty space. I work in empty spaces. While waiting for your elevator to come up from the first to the third floor, I have already written an article! *(Laughs)*

(The Interview)

(i) What does Umberto Eco mean when he says, "Maybe I give the impression of doing many things" ? *1*

(A) work appears diverse but has the same core interests

(B) multitasks constantly to prove his worth

(C) hides his real work behind his many hobbies

(D) doesn't enjoy working on too many things

(ii) Complete the following suitably :

When Eco says that he is always doing the same thing he means _____. *1*

(iii) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank. *1*

Eco's secret to being productive, as implied in the passage is _____ (delegating tasks/managing time).

(iv) What does the following line in the extract showcase about Eco's nature ?

'Even my books for children are about non-violence and peace.' *1*

(A) bored (B) insolent

(C) ethical (D) playful

(v) Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract. *1*

Assertion : While waiting for the elevator, Eco has already written an article.

Reason : He pursues his philosophical interests through his work.

Choose the correct option :

(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.

(vi) Complete the following sentence suitably.

Eco's tone in the statement : *1*

'I have already written an article!" is _____.

(A) sympathetic (B) cynical

(C) humorous (D) pensive

10. Answer any ***five*** of the following six questions in 40 – 50 words each : *5×2=10*

(i) 'We've all a great deal to reproach ourselves with.' What does M. Hamel's statement reveal about his emotional turmoil following the ban on French, in 'The Last Lesson' ?

(ii) Anees Jung through the title 'Lost Spring' symbolises the plight of the marginalised children. Justify.

(iii) Why do you think that Edla's kindness had a stronger effect on the peddler than the ironmaster's hospitality in 'The Rattrap' ?

(iv) Despite criticism, why does the author suggest that interviews remain important in journalism ? (The Interview)

(v) Why did the visit of the English poet lead to confusion among the staff at Gemini Studios ? (Poets and Pancakes)

(vi) How does the poet use the phrase 'polished traffic' to highlight the contrast between urban and rural life in the poem 'A Roadside Stand' ?

11. Answer any ***two*** of the following three questions in 40 – 50 words each : *2×2=4*

(i) The Tiger King's royal power is both his strength and his greatest weakness. Discuss. (The Tiger King)

(ii) What prompted Sadao to put the unfinished report into the secret drawer of his desk ? (The Enemy)

(iii) 'Because if I don't go there, I'll never go anywhere else in this world again." What does the statement reveal about Derry's transformation ? (On The Face Of It)

12. Answer any ***one*** of the following two questions in 120 – 150 words : *1×5=5*

(a) 'Deep Water' by William Douglas and 'Keeping Quiet' by Pablo Neruda represent a state of introspection that leads to growth, understanding and liberation. Discuss.

OR

(b) Aunt Jennifer from Adrienne Rich's poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' and Gandhi from 'Indigo' struggle against oppression to fight for freedom, even though the contexts are different. Discuss.

13. Answer any ***one*** of the following two questions in 120 – 150 words : *1×5=5*

(a) Derry's journey reflects an intense personal challenge that he overcomes through courage and determination. Elaborate.

(On The Face Of It)

OR

(b) '... and heard them gnaw off one of my thick braids. Then I lost my spirit.' This episode highlighted the indignity meted out to Zitkala-Sa. Support your answer with evidence from the text.

(Memories of Childhood)

Marking Scheme Strictly Confidential (For Internal and Restricted use only) Senior Secondary School Examination, 2026 (XII) SUBJECT NAME : English Core (Q.P. CODE 301/1-5-1)	
General Instructions: -	
1	The CBSE has decided to introduce On Screen Marking (OSM) for the evaluation of Class XII answer Book with the 2026 Examination.
2	You are aware that evaluation is the most important process in the actual and correct assessment of the candidates. A small mistake in evaluation may lead to serious problems which may affect the future of the candidates, education system and teaching profession. To avoid mistakes, it is requested that before starting evaluation, you must read and understand the spot evaluation guidelines carefully.
3	**"Evaluation policy is a confidential policy as it is related to the confidentiality of the examinations conducted, evaluation done and several other aspects. Its leakage to public in any manner could lead to derailment of the examination system and affect the life and future of millions of candidates. Sharing this policy/document to anyone, publishing in any magazine and printing in Newspaper/Website, etc. may invite action under various rules of the Board and IPC."**
4	Evaluation is to be done as per instructions provided in the Marking Scheme. It should not be done according to one's own interpretation or any other consideration. Marking Scheme should be strictly adhered to and religiously followed. **However, while evaluating, answers which are based on latest information or knowledge and/or are innovative, they may be assessed for their correctness otherwise and due marks be awarded to them. In Class-XII, while evaluating two competency-based questions, please try to understand given answer and even if reply is not from marking scheme but correct competency is enumerated by the candidate, due marks should be awarded.**
5	The Marking scheme carries only suggested value points for the answers. These are in the nature of Guidelines only and do not constitute the complete answer. The students can have their own **Expression**and if the **Expression**is correct, the due marks should be awarded accordingly.
6	The Head-Examiner must go through the first five answer books evaluated by each evaluator on the first day, to ensure that evaluation has been carried out as per the instructions given in the Marking Scheme. If there is any variation, the same should be zero after deliberation and discussion. The remaining answer books meant for evaluation shall be given only after ensuring that there is no significant variation in the marking of individual evaluators.
7	Evaluators will mark (√) wherever answer is correct. For wrong answer CROSS 'X' be marked. Evaluators will not put right **(✓)** while evaluating which gives an impression that answer is correct and no marks are awarded. **This is most common mistake which evaluators are committing.**

8	If a question has parts, please award marks on the right-hand side for each part in the OSM Portal. Marks awarded for different parts of the question will be totalled up by the OSM System.
9	If a question does not have any parts, marks must be awarded in the left-hand margin in the OSM Portal. This may also be followed strictly.
10	No marks to be deducted for the cumulative effect of an error. It should be penalized only once.
11	A full scale of marks _____ (example 0 to 80/70/60/50/40/30 marks as given in Question Paper) has to be used. Please do not hesitate to award full marks if the answer deserves it.
12	Every examiner has to necessarily do evaluation work for full working hours i.e., 8 hours every day and evaluate 20 answer books per day in main subjects and 25 answer books per day in other subjects (Details are given in Spot Guidelines).This is in view of the reduced syllabus and number of questions in question paper.
13	Ensure that you do not make the following common types of errors committed by the Examiner in the past :- ● Answers marked as correct, but marks not awarded. (Ensure that the right tick mark is correctly and clearly indicated. It should merely be a line. Same is with the X for incorrect answer.) ● Half or a part of answer marked correct and the rest as wrong, but no marks awarded.
14	While evaluating the answer books if the answer is found to be totally incorrect, it should be marked as cross (X) and awarded zero (0) Marks.
15	The Examiners should acquaint themselves with the guidelines given in the "**Guidelines for Spot Evaluation**" before starting the actual evaluation.
16	The candidates are entitled to obtain photocopy of the Answer Book on request on payment of the prescribed processing fee. All Examiners/Additional Head Examiners/Head Examiners are once again reminded that they must ensure that evaluation is carried out strictly as per value points for each answer as given in the Marking Scheme.
17	**If a candidate attempts both alternatives/options in a question where only one option/ alternative is required to be attempted, the Evaluator shall award marks in both the options. The system will take the higher of two scores and disregard the other response.**
18	**In a question having two options/alternatives, if a candidate has attempted only one, then the evaluator shall mark "NA" (Not attempted) against the option that has not been attempted by the candidate.**

MARKING SCHEME

Senior Secondary School Examination 2026 (XII)

ENGLISH CORE (Subject Code- 301)

(PAPER CODE: 1/5/1)

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS: **Maximum Marks: 80**

1. **The answers given below are suggestive. Any independent interpretation should be discussed with the HE before awarding marks.**
2. **No marks shall be deducted for exceeding the word-limit.**
3. **If a spelling error is recurring, it should be penalized only once.**

	SUGGESTED VALUE POINTS		
	SECTION A **READING SKILLS**	**Steps**	**22 marks**
	NOTE: The objective of the reading section is to focus on testing a candidate's ability to comprehend. No mark(s) should be deducted for mistakes in usage and grammar, spelling or word-limit. Full marks may be awarded if a student has been able to identify the core ideas. If a student literally lifts a portion of the given passage as an answer to a question, no mark(s) to be deducted for this, as long as it is relevant.		
1.	**Answer the following questions, based on the above passage.**		**12 marks**
i.	**According to paragraph 1, what impact has robotics had on healthcare operations? Mention any two.**		
Ans.	revolutionizing the way medical procedures are executed / patients are managed / hospital operations are streamlined / makes healthcare more precise, efficient, and accessible / enhances workflow efficiency / improves clinical outcomes **(any two)**	Step 1: 0.5 mark Step 2: 0.5 mark	1
ii.	**What does the use of the phrase 'from surgical theatres to outpatient clinics' convey about the scope of robotics in healthcare? (Paragraph 1).**		
Ans.	widespread or wide range of application or usage or function across various healthcare settings / extensive or varied use in healthcare / expanding role from surgical precision to hospital automation and personalized patient care	Step 1: 1 mark	1
iii.	**The phrase 'superior visualization, refined control and pinpoint accuracy' emphasizes the advanced capabilities of robotic systems in surgery. (Paragraph 2)** **Choose the correct response from the two options (A) or (B) to complete the following sentence.**		

	This highlights that robotic-assisted surgery primarily enhances _____. **(A) the mechanical speed of operations with minimal supervision.** **(B) the precision and safety of complex surgical procedures.**		
Ans.	(B) the precision and safety of complex surgical procedures.	Step 1: 1 mark	1
iv.	**(iv) How does the writer emphasize the benefits of robotic-assisted surgery? (Paragraph 2)** **(A) highlights how robotics can replace surgeons in all types of procedures** **(B) shows how advanced systems improve accuracy and reduce patient trauma** **(C) suggests robotic surgeries are faster but less reliable than traditional ones** **(D) claims that robotics will eliminate the need for doctors in the future**		
Ans.	(B) shows how advanced systems improve accuracy and reduce patient trauma	Step 1: 1 mark	1
v.	**Complete the following suitably with one reason, with reference to paragraph 3.** **Today, rehabilitation therapy is a more individualized and effective process because _____.**		
Ans.	Robotic exoskeletons and motion-guided therapy systems / robotics enable real time monitoring / adaptive treatment planning	Step 1: 1 mark	1
vi.	**Complete the analogy with one word from paragraph 4.** **necessary : essential : : emergence : _____** **(A) advent (B) automation** **(C) detection (D) intervention**		
Ans.	(A) advent	Step 1: 1 mark	1
vii.	**Support with evidence from paragraph 4, how robotics are being deployed to help maintain strict sanitation protocol.**		
Ans.	• used in room disinfection • contactless - service delivery / food delivery / medicine delivery • reducing exposure risks by maintaining stringent hygiene protocol **(any two)**	Step 1: 1 mark Step 2: 1 mark	2
viii.	**Why is there a need to develop assistive robots? (Paragraph 5)**		
Ans.	• medication reminders • vital sign monitoring • provide social engagement • offer physical and emotional support • help combat loneliness / cognitive decline **(any two)**	Step 1: 1 mark Step 2: 1 mark	2

ix.	**The integration of robotics into healthcare according to the given text is ironic because _____.** **(A) very few patients register for robotics-assisted therapy** **(B) the country is not equipped to provide robots in villages** **(C) it has resulted in an increase in human isolation** **(D) human interaction has been enhanced with the use of AI**		
Ans.	(C) it has resulted in an increase in human isolation	Step 1: 1 mark	1
x.	**Which of the following best explains why robotics is considered a catalyst for innovation in healthcare despite its challenges? (Para 7)** **(A) Robotics merges technological precision with patient-centred care, improving both efficiency and empathy in healthcare delivery.** **(B) It eliminates human involvement in healthcare, making systems fully automated and cost-effective.** **(C) Although robotics comprises emotional connection, it is not favoured in spite of being faster than traditional care.** **(D) The high cost and complexity of robotics are outweighed by its ability to make healthcare impersonal but scalable.**		
Ans.	(A) Robotics merges technological precision with patient-centred care, improving both efficiency and empathy in healthcare delivery.	Step 1: 1 mark	1
	Passage 2		
2.	**Answer the following questions, based on the given passage.**		**10 marks**
i.	**Complete the following suitably:** **In the introduction, the author links deforestation with the global environment to highlight _____.**		
Ans.	loss of biodiversity / climate change / irreversible consequences / harmful impact on indigenous tribes	Step 1: 1 mark	1
ii.	**What would the following be classified as?** **These communities .... face not only the loss of their physical homes but also the erosion of their cultural identity.** **Select the appropriate response.** **(A) Primary purpose (B) Secondary objective** **(C) Method of analysis (D) Research outcome**		
Ans.	(D) Research outcome	Step 1: 1 mark	1
iii.	**What does the phrase 'aligned with seasonal forest rhythms' suggest about the Arava's cultural practices and way of life? (Any two points) (Paragraph 2)**		
Ans.	• ceremonial and cultural practices deeply connected with nature / seasonal cycles of nature	Step 1: 1 mark Step 2: 1 mark	2

	• lifestyle symbiotically tied / life is interdependent with their natural surroundings / nature • peaceful coexistence with nature / rainforest • reflects deep ecological integration • harmony between their culture and environment **(any two)**		
iv.	**Paragraph 3 includes the words — 'encroached' and 'impact'. Classify the following sentences as 'encroached' or 'impact'.** **Sentence 1: Illegal logging operations, cattle ranching and agricultural expansion have been systematically clearing forest area.** **Sentence 2 : Plant species vital for medicine disappeared and waterways pollution compromised health.**		
Ans.	Sentence 1 – encroached Sentence 2 – impact	Step 1: 1 mark	1
v.	**Give two points to support how Arava's diet and lifestyle reflects ecological integration.**		
Ans.	Diet: consists of local forest sourced fruits, nuts, wild game and fresh water fish Lifestyle: their shelters are constructed from indigenous materials / sustainable resource management / ceremonial practices are aligned with nature or seasonal forest rhythms **(any two – one from each aspect/part)**	Step 1: 0.5 mark Step 2: 0.5 mark	1
vi.	**Analyse how indigenous communities face both physical loss and erosion of cultural identities.**		
Ans.	Physical Loss: encroachment of their ancestral lands / forced displacement / loss of physical homes / medicinal plants disappearing / traditional hunting grounds shrinking / pollution of waterways – compromising health and access to clean water Cultural Loss: destruction of sacred sites within the forests harms their spirituality / traditional knowledge becomes less relevant in deforested landscape / breakdown of community structures **(any two – one at least from each aspect/part)**	Step 1: 1 mark Step 2: 1 mark	2
vii.	**Which statement most accurately captures the fundamental message conveyed by the passage?** **(A) Deforestation has contributed to changes in diet and health patterns among forest dwellers.**		

	(B) Environmental degradation causes irreversible spiritual and economic damage to modern societies. **(C) Indigenous tribes are impacted by deforestation, losing their environment, traditions, identity and culture.** **(D) The efforts to preserve forests must prioritize biodiversity over tribal welfare.**		
Ans.	(C) Indigenous tribes are impacted by deforestation, losing their environment, traditions, identity and culture.	Step 1: 1 mark	1
viii.	**According to the given table, which two social or cultural impacts of deforestation are rated as most severe?** **(A) forced displacement and increased poverty** **(B) destruction of sacred sites and cultural erosion** **(C) breakdown of community structure and heightened conflict** **(D) vulnerability to diseases and loss of identity**		
Ans.	(A) forced displacement and increased poverty	Step 1: 1 mark	1
	SECTION B **CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS**		**18 marks**
	OBJECTIVES: • **To test the ability to think logically and express clearly.** • **To use a style appropriate to the given situation.** • **To plan, organize and present ideas coherently.**		
3.	**Attempt ANY ONE of the two, (a) or (b), in about 50 words :**		**1x4=4 marks**
	Distribution of marks **Format-1 Content – 2 Expression– 1** **FORMAT**- Name of issuing authority- organization / agency, NOTICE, heading, date of issue, signature, name, designation (bottom left), all enclosed in a box • No mark for Format if Content is irrelevant or missing. • Full credit of 1 mark if all aspects are mentioned. • Partial credit of ½ mark if any of the aspects is missing. **EXPRESSION**- grammar, spelling, punctuation, organisation and coherence of ideas		
	NOTICE WRITING		
(a)	**Your school is planning to conduct an inter-class panel discussion on the topic 'Ethical Use of Social Media' to sensitise students about responsible online behaviour. You are Pragya/Paras, the head of the Organising Committee of Green View Public School. Write a notice to inform students and also invite registrations from classes XI and XII. Include all necessary details. Put your notice in a box.**		

Ans.	Suggested value points: • name of the event • date, time, venue, purpose • number of students to register • target classes • invite registrations • deadline for registration • contact information **(inputs given in the question may be included)** **(any other relevant point)**	Step 1: Format-1 mark Step 2: Content-2 marks Step 3: Expression-1 mark	4
	OR		
(b)	**Your school is celebrating 'Wellness Week' to promote healthy lifestyles. As the Cultural Secretary of Little Valley School, write a notice for the school bulletin board to inform students of classes IX to XII about a poster-making competition on the theme 'My Mental Health, My Priority'. Include other necessary details. You are Mahima/Manish. Put your notice in a box.**		
Ans.	Suggested value points: • name of the event • date, time, venue, purpose • other details – theme, part of 'Wellness Week', etc. • invite participation • target classes • deadline for registrations • contact information **(inputs given in the question may be included)** **(any other relevant point)**	Step 1: Format-1 mark Step 2: Content-2 marks Step 3: Expression-1 mark	4
4.	**Attempt ANY ONE of the two, (a) or (b), in about 50 words.**		**1x4=4 marks**
	Distribution of marks **Format-1 Content – 2 Expression– 1** • No mark for Format if Content is irrelevant or missing. • Full credit of 1 mark if all aspects are mentioned. • Partial credit of ½ mark if any of the aspects is missing. **EXPRESSION**- grammar, spelling, punctuation, organisation and coherence of ideas		
	INVITATION LETTER (INFORMAL)		
(a)	**You are Sonali/Sohum of Kalka Apartments, Jeevgarh. Your housing society is organising a Folk Dance Festival. It will showcase India's vibrant folk heritage through group and solo performances. Draft an informal invitation letter inviting your friend to the event. Include all necessary details.**		
Ans.	**Format: Informal letter:** Sender's address, Date, Salutation, Complimentary Close, Sign/Name Suggested value points:	Step 1: Format-1 mark	4

	• name of the event and theme • date, time and venue • informal and friendly tone **(inputs given in the question may be included)** **(any other relevant point)**	Step 2: Content-2 marks Step 3: Expression-1 mark	
	OR		
	INFORMAL REPLY		
(b)	**You are Aarti/Aarav of 132, Shivaji Nagar, Meetnagar. Your friends have invited you to watch a live cricket match on 27th November, 2025 at the Naoroji Stadium. Unfortunately you have already agreed to volunteer on the same day at a community clean-up drive. Write an informal letter regretting your inability to accept the invitation.**		
Ans.	**Format: Informal letter:** Sender's address, Date, Salutation, Complimentary Close, Sign/Name Suggested value points: • express thanks / acknowledge the invitation with the name of the event, date, time, venue • decline invitation with reason • best wishes • informal and friendly tone **(inputs given in the question may be included)** **(any other relevant point)**	Step 1: Format-1 mark Step 2: Content-2 marks Step 3: Expression-1 mark	4
5.	**Attempt ANY ONE of the two, (a) or (b), in 120 - 150 words.**		**1x5=5 marks**
	Distribution of marks: **Formal Letter Format-1 Content – 2 Expression– 2** **FORMAT**–Sender's address, Date, Receiver's address, Subject and Salutation/ Salutation and Subject, Complimentary Close, Sign/Name • No mark for Format if Content is irrelevant or missing. • Full credit of 1 mark if all aspects are mentioned. • Partial credit of ½ mark if any of the aspects is missing. **EXPRESSION**- grammar, spelling, punctuation, organisation and coherence of ideas		
	LETTER TO EDITOR		
(a)	**Plastic pollution has become a serious environmental hazard across the country. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, expressing concern about the rising plastic pollution and suggesting effective measures to control it. You may use the cues given below along with your own ideas. You are Riya Verma/Raju Verma of 56 Nehru Nagar, Nazarshahar.** **– excessive use of single-use plastics**		

	– chokes drainage systems **– lack of public awareness** **– improper garbage disposal and waste management** **– need for eco-friendly alternatives** **– role of schools, media and civic bodies**		
Ans.	Suggested value points: **Problem:** excessive use of single-use plastics / lack of recycling / weak enforcement of bans / lack of public awareness / improper garbage disposal and waste management / chokes drainage systems **Solutions:** promote cloth/jute bags and biodegradable options / need for eco-friendly alternatives / proper segregation of garbage / run awareness campaigns through schools and media / enforce strict penalties for illegal plastic use / support community-level clean-up initiatives. **(inputs given in the question may be included)** **(any other relevant point)** **(any four points with at least one from both parts)**	Step 1: Format-1 mark Step 2: Content-2 marks Step 3: Expression-2 marks	5
	OR		
	JOB APPLICATION		
(b)	**You are Kavya/Mehul from Lakeview Apartments, Jheelpur. You come across the following advertisement for the job of a graphic designer at PixelCraft Studios, a creative designing firm and wish to apply for the post advertised. Write your application along with your bio-data.** **PixelCraft Studios** **Invites** **Applications for Graphic Designer** **Job Responsibilities :** – Create visual **Content** for digital campaigns, websites and branding – Collaborate with marketing team on design concepts – Ensure design consistency and creativity **Qualification :** – Degree/Diploma in Graphic Design or Fine Arts – 2 – 4 years experience in a creative agency preferred **Skills Required :** – Proficiency in Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign) Apply within 10 days to the Creative Director PixelCraft Studios 14, Green Park, Jheelpur		

Ans.	Cover letter: • reference to the advertisement • suitability for the post • offer candidature Bio-Data/ Resume / CV: • personal details • qualifications • experience • skills / hobbies / achievements • references **Note- no marks to be deduced if the Bio-data/ Resume/ CV is included in the covering letter (inputs given in the question may be included)**	Step 1: Format-1 mark Step 2: Content-2 marks Step 3: Expression-2 marks	5
6.	**Attempt ANY ONE of the two, (a) or (b), in 120 - 150 words.**		**1x5=5 marks**
	Distribution of marks: **Format-1 Content – 2 Expression- 2** **FORMAT**-1 - Title and by-line • No mark for Format if Content is irrelevant or missing. • Partial credit of ½ mark if any of the aspects is missing. **EXPRESSION**- grammar, spelling, punctuation, organisation and coherence of ideas		
	ARTICLE WRITING		
(a)	**India is facing an increasing water crisis due to overuse, pollution and poor conservation policies. Water scarcity is becoming a serious concern. Write an article for 'Nature' Magazine on the need to conserve water and promote sustainable practices. You are Devina/ Dev. You may use the cues given below along with your own ideas.** **– why is water conservation important?** **– causes of water scarcity** **– effective water-saving methods** **– how can individuals, communities and government help solve the problem?**		
Ans.	Suggested value points: • importance of water conservation – without it life is not possible • causes of water scarcity - over extraction / wastage / poor planning • effective water-saving methods - rainwater harvesting / fixing leaks promptly / no water wastage / use water judiciously • role of individuals, communities and government - awareness campaigns in schools, colleges and neighbourhoods / strict laws	Step 1: Format-1 mark Step 2: Content-2 marks	5

	and punishment for polluting rivers and lakes / community-level water conservation drives **(inputs given in the question may be included)** **(any other relevant point)** **(any four points)**	Step 3: Expression-2 marks	
	OR		
	REPORT WRITING		
(b)	**You are Mansi/Manas of Class XII C, student reporter of your school magazine. Your school recently organized an inter-school science exhibition in the school auditorium. Write a comprehensive report on the event including details of the theme, participation, exhibits and the outcome of the event. You may organise your report by using the following cues.** **Who – What – When – Where – Why – How**		
Ans.	Suggested value points: • What – name and theme of exhibition • When – day, date, time, • Where – venue of event • Why – purpose of the exhibition • Who – chief guest, judges, invitees, number of schools/students participating • How – important guests / details of participants/ description of innovative exhibits / judgement criteria, winners, prizes / overall response from students, teachers and visitors **(inputs given in the question may be included)** **(any other relevant point)**	Step 1: Format-1 mark Step 2: Content-2 marks Step 3: Expression-2 marks	5
	SECTION C-LITERATURE		**40 marks**
	NOTE: The objective of this section is to test a candidate's ability to understand and interpret the prescribed text through short and long answer type questions. Long answer type questions have been set to test the students' understanding of the text and their ability to interpret, evaluate and respond to the issues raised therein. Hence, no particular answer can be accepted as the **only** correct answer. All presentations may be accepted as correct with consultation of the HE, if they have been duly supported by the facts drawn from the text. The student should be able to justify his / her viewpoint. **In the Inter-textual questions reference to both the texts must be included.**		
7.	**Read the following extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the given two, (a) or (b) :**		**1x6=6 marks**
(a)	**Driving from my parent's home to Cochin last Friday morning, 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 … (My Mother at Sixty-six)		
i.	**What underlying concern does the poet have while recalling the memory of the drive with her mother? (A) A reflection on the irreversible passage of time and looming mortality (B) A moment of nostalgia for shared childhood memories (C) A comparative portrayal of mother as youthful and old (D) A symbolic reference to the generational divide between them**		
Ans.	(A) A reflection on the irreversible passage of time and looming mortality.	Step 1: 1 mark	1
ii.	**What does the phrase 'ashen like that of a corpse' suggest about the mother's frailty?**		
Ans.	approaching death / sign of ageing / dull and pale / weakness	Step 1: 1 mark	1
iii.	**Complete the following suitably: The image of the mother like 'a corpse' and the subsequent realisation symbolizes _____.**		
Ans.	approaching death / mortality of life / transience of life / inevitability of death	Step 1: 1 mark	1
iv.	**Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank. The speaker's use of the word 'doze' suggests that the mother was _____. (pained/exhausted)**		
Ans.	exhausted	Step 1: 1 mark	1
v.	**Why has the poet placed the word 'pain' in a separate line?**		
Ans.	to highlight or emphasise the speaker's emotion / emphasise the difficulty in accepting mother's approaching death **(any other relevant point)**	Step 1: 1 mark	1
vi.	**Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract. Choose the correct interpretation of the following. *Assertion :* The poet attempts to mentally shield herself from her mother's physical decline. *Reason :* She is emotionally unprepared to confront the inescapable reality of her mother's ageing. Choose the correct option: (A) The assertion is supported but the reason is ambiguous.**		

	(B) The assertion lacks clarity, while the reason is clearly expressed. **(C) Both the assertion and the reason are strongly implied in the text.** **(D) Neither the assertion nor the reason can be supported by the text.**		
Ans.	(C) Both the assertion and the reason are strongly implied in the text.	Step 1: 1 mark	1
	OR		
(b)	**A flowery band to bind us to the earth,** **Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth** **Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,** **Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways** **Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,** **Some shape of beauty moves away the pall** **From our dark spirits. Such the sun, the moon,** **Trees old, and young, sprouting a shady boon** **(A Thing of Beauty)**		
i.	**Select the option that does *not* agree with the ideas as conveyed in the above given extract:** **(A) Beauty in nature offers comfort during times of despair.** **(B) Even in a world of sorrow, beautiful things continue to heal us.** **(C) The poet suggests that man-made inventions promote the Earth's natural beauty.** **(D) Natural elements like the sun, moon and trees are our sources of hope.**		
Ans.	(C) The poet suggests that man-made inventions promote the Earth's natural beauty.	Step 1: 1 mark	1
ii.	**Complete the following suitable:** **In the line, 'of the inhuman dearth of noble natures', the phrase 'dearth of' refers to _____.**		
Ans.	lack of / scarcity of / shortage of / less of	Step 1: 1 mark	1
iii.	**Select the phrase that suggests the following:** **despite our feelings of sadness and depression ….**		
Ans.	Spite of despondence	Step 1: 1 mark	1
iv.	**Choose the correct option and fill in the blank.** **The tone of the poet in the above extract is _____.** **(ironic and cynical/reflective and reassuring)**		
Ans.	reflective and reassuring	Step 1: 1 mark	1

v.	**In the context of the poem, the word 'pall' most closely means:** **(A) a dense fog that obscures light.** **(B) a metaphorical shroud symbolizing grief.** **(C) an ornamental veil signifying delight.** **(D) a supernatural entity haunting humans.**		
Ans.	(B) a metaphorical shroud symbolizing grief.	Step 1: 1 mark	1
vi.	**Based on the given extract, state in one sentence, your views on the simple joys of beauty.**		
Ans.	beauty has the power to remove darkness and negativity / has healing or soothing power / helps one cope with troubles of life **(any other relevant word or phrase)**	Step 1: 1 mark	1
8.	**Read the following extracts and answer ANY ONE of the given two, (a) or (b):**		**1x4=4 marks**
(a)	**The corridor I was in began angling left and slanting downward and I thought that was wrong, but I kept on walking. All I could hear was the empty sound of my own footsteps and I didn't pass a soul. Then I heard that sort of hollow roar ahead that means open space and people talking. The tunnel turned sharp left; I went down a short flight of stairs and came out on the third level at Grand Central Station. For just a moment I thought I was back on the second level, but I saw the room was smaller, there were fewer ticket windows and train gates, and the information booth in the centre was wood and old-looking. And the man in the booth wore a green eyeshade and long black sleeve protectors.** **(The Third Level)**		
i.	**What initially made the narrator uncertain about the corridor he was walking through?** **(A) The corridor changed direction unexpectedly.** **(B) Dim lights and strange signs.** **(C) The walls echoed with unfamiliar voices.** **(D) The floor felt uneven and unstable underfoot.**		
Ans.	(A) The corridor changed direction unexpectedly.	Step 1: 1 mark	1
ii.	**The 'hollow roar' that the narrator heard signifies _____.**		
Ans.	open spaces and people talking	Step 1: 1 mark	1
iii.	**Complete the sentence:** **The narrator's realization that he was not on the second level was triggered by _____.**		
Ans.	the smaller room / fewer ticket windows and train gates / the information booth was made out of wood and old looking / the man	Step 1: 1 mark	1

	in the booth wore a green eyeshade and long black sleeve protectors or was dressed differently		
iv.	**Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.** ***Assertion :*** **The narrator got confused about his location in the Grand Central Station.** ***Reason :*** **The third level of the Grand Central Station was smaller than the second level.** **Choose the correct option:** **(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.**		
Ans.	(A) Both the assertion and the reason are true and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.	Step 1: 1 mark	1
	OR		
(b)	**My Antarctic experience was full of such epiphanies, but the best occurred just short of the Antarctic Circle at 65.55 degrees south. The *Shokalskiy* had managed to wedge herself into a thick white stretch of ice between the peninsula and Tadpole Island which was preventing us from going any further. The Captain decided we were going to turn around and head back north, but before we did, we were all instructed to climb down the gangplank and walk on the ocean. So there we were, all 52 of us, kitted out in Gore-Tex and glares, walking on a stark whiteness that seemed to spread out forever. Underneath our feet was a metre-thick ice pack, and underneath that, 180 metres of living, breathing salt water. In the periphery Crabeater seals were stretching and sunning themselves on ice floes much like stray dogs will do under the shade of a banyan tree. It was nothing short of a revelation: everything does indeed connect. (Journey to the end of the Earth)**		
i.	**The author describes the moment near the Antarctic Circle as the best of epiphanies because _____.**		
Ans.	of sudden realisation / revelation that everything does indeed connect / she felt a strong communion in all that is present on Earth	Step 1: 1 mark	1
ii.	**The author's experience of walking on the frozen ocean revealed _____.**		

Ans.	that it seemed to spread out forever / the contrast between static ice and the dynamic ocean life / the idea that nature remains active even in extreme conditions / the expanse of Antarctica	Step 1: 1 mark	1
iii.	**Support with evidence from the given extract, the Captain's decision to walk on the ocean.**		
Ans.	instructed to climb down the gangplank and walk on the ocean as their ship was stuck	Step 1: 1 mark	1
iv.	**Which of the following is *not* a plausible interpretation of the phrase 'living, breathing' used to describe the water beneath the ice?** **(A) It evokes a sense of continuous motion and vitality under the frozen surface.** **(B) The phrase highlights the contrast between static ice and the dynamic ocean life.** **(C) It implies that the ocean lies dormant and lifeless during the winter months.** **(D) The words convey the idea that nature remains active even in extreme conditions.**		
Ans.	(C) It implies that the ocean lies dormant and lifeless during the winter months.	Step 1: 1 mark	1
9.	**Read the following extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the given two, (a) or (b):**		**1x6=6 marks**
(a)	**Sophie watched her back stooped over the sink and wondered at the incongruity of the delicate bow which fastened her apron strings. The delicate-seeming bow and the crooked back. The evening had already blacked in the windows and the small room was steamy from the stove and cluttered with the heavy-breathing man in his vest at the table and the dirty washing piled up in the corner. Sophie felt a tightening in her throat. She went to look for her brother Geoff.** **He was kneeling on the floor in the next room tinkering with a part of his motorcycle over some newspaper spread on the carpet. He was three years out of school, an apprentice mechanic, travelling to his work each day to the far side of the city. He was almost grown up now, and she suspected areas of his life about which she knew nothing, about which he never spoke. (Going Places)**		
i.	**Complete the following suitably:** **The phrase 'the incongruity of the delicate bow … and the crooked back' of Sophie's mother conveys _____.**		
Ans.	contrast or difference between the beautiful bow and crooked back / delicacy of the bow and the harshness of life / refined elegance or	Step 1: 1 mark	1

	sophistication and harsh reality or heavy burden of manual life / gap between appearance and reality **(any other relevant point)**		
ii.	**Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank.** **The description of Sophie's 'mother's back' in the extract expresses Sophie's _____ (conflicted/confident) state of mind.**		
Ans.	conflicted	Step 1: 1 mark	1
iii.	**What role does the man in the vest play in enhancing the tone of the passage?** **(A) he brings a sense of peace to the setting.** **(B) he deepens the oppressive atmosphere.** **(C) he reinforces the narrator's emotional connection.** **(D) he introduces a moment of comic relief.**		
Ans.	(B) he deepens the oppressive atmosphere.	Step 1: 1 mark	1
iv.	**What is the most plausible interpretation of Sophie's physical reaction of 'a tightening in her throat'?** **(A) a desire to express something, restrained by uncertainty** **(B) apprehension about her upcoming encounter with Geoff** **(C) a surge of inner turmoil triggered by her surroundings** **(D) a symptom indicating that she may be unwell**		
Ans.	(C) a surge of inner turmoil triggered by her surroundings	Step 1: 1 mark	1
v.	**Why does Sophie decide to go look for Geoff ?**		
Ans.	to escape the oppressive atmosphere / to search for relief / felt comfortable with her brother / he was the only one who listened to her	Step 1: 1 mark	1
vi.	**What is Sophie's perception of Geoff's nature ?**		
Ans.	introvert / quiet person / he spoke less / reserved / secretive / a good listener / mysterious	Step 1: 1 mark	1
	OR		
(b)	**Mukund: The English novelist and academic David Lodge once remarked, ''I can't understand how one man can do all the things he [Eco] does.''** **Umberto Eco: Maybe I give the impression of doing many things. But in the end, I am convinced I am always doing the same thing. Mukund: Which is?** **Umberto Eco: Aah, now that is more difficult to explain. I have some philosophical interests and I pursue them through my academic work and my novels. Even my books for children are about non-violence and peace… you see, the same bunch of ethical, philosophical interests.**		

	And then I have a secret. Did you know what would happen if you eliminate the empty spaces from the universe, eliminate the empty spaces in all the atoms? The universe will become as big as my fist. Similarly, we have a lot of empty spaces in our lives. I call them interstices. Say you are coming over to my place. You are in an elevator and while you are coming up, I am waiting for you. This is an interstice, an empty space. I work in empty spaces. While waiting for your elevator to come up from the first to the third floor, I have already written an article! ***(Laughs)*** **(The Interview)**		
i.	**What does Umberto Eco mean when he says, ''Maybe I give the impression of doing many things''?** **(A) work appears diverse but has the same core interests** **(B) multitasks constantly to prove his worth** **(C) hides his real work behind his many hobbies** **(D) doesn't enjoy working on too many things**		
Ans.	(A) work appears diverse but has same core interests	Step 1: 1 mark	1
ii.	**Complete the following suitably:** **When Eco says that he is always doing the same thing he means _____.**		
Ans.	same core interests / works on similar themes / uses similar ethical and philosophical ideas in all genres	Step 1: 1 mark	1
iii.	**Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank.** **Eco's secret to being productive, as implied in the passage is (delegating tasks/managing time).**		
Ans.	managing time	Step 1: 1 mark	1
iv.	**What does the following line in the extract showcase about Eco's nature?** **'Even my books for children are about non-violence and peace.'** **(A) bored (B) insolent** **(C) ethical (D) playful**		
Ans.	(C) ethical	Step 1: 1 mark	1
v.	**Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.** ***Assertion :*** **While waiting for the elevator, Eco has already written an article.** ***Reason :*** **He pursues his philosophical interests through his work.** **Choose the correct option :**		

	(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.**		
Ans.	(B) Both the assertion and the reason are true but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.	Step 1: 1 mark	1
vi.	**Complete the following sentence suitably.** **Eco's tone in the statement:** **'I have already written an article!'' is _____.** **(A) sympathetic (B) cynical** **(C) humorous (D) pensive**		
Ans.	(C) humorous	Step 1: 1 mark	1
10.	**Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions in 40 - 50 words each:**		**5x2= 10 marks**
	Distribution of marks: **Content – 1 Expression– 1**		
i.	**'We've all a great deal to reproach ourselves with.' What does M. Hamel's statement reveal about his emotional turmoil following the ban on French, in 'The Last Lesson' ?**		
Ans.	• blames everyone for taking the language for granted / neglecting the French language and education • holds everyone (the parents, the villagers and himself) in the community accountable for procrastinating learning • blames everyone for missed opportunity **(any one)**	Step 1: Content-1 mark Step 2: Expression-1 mark	2
ii.	**Anees Jung through the title 'Lost Spring' symbolises the plight of the marginalised children. Justify.**		
Ans.	• highlights the life of poor children who are denied basic rights like education • forced into child labour • forced to work as ragpickers and bangle-makers / loss of childhood and dreams **(any one)**	Step 1: Content-1 mark Step 2: Expression-1 mark	2
iii.	**Why do you think that Edla's kindness had a stronger effect on the peddler than the ironmaster's hospitality in 'The Rattrap' ?**		
Ans.	• Edla's compassion was genuine / unconditional. • her kindness transformed the peddler / peddler returns the money he had stolen earlier • the ironmaster's kindness and hospitality was based on a mistaken identity / conditional / wanted to send him away when the truth came out	Step 1: Content-1 mark Step 2: Expression-1 mark	2

	(any one)		
iv.	**Despite criticism, why does the author suggest that interviews remain important in journalism? (The Interview)**		
Ans.	offer insights into a person's thoughts, motivations and character traits / give most vivid impressions of people through interviews / a vital method to gain first-hand information / source of truth / a serviceable medium of communication	Step 1: Content-1 mark Step 2: Expression-1 mark	2
v.	**Why did the visit of the English poet lead to confusion among the staff at Gemini Studios? (Poets and Pancakes)**		
Ans.	no knowledge of his background / no one knew his purpose of visit / strong accent which they could not understand / speech was full of literary references which were of no interest to the Gemini staff / speech was too long and lacked context	Step 1: Content-1 mark Step 2: Expression-1 mark	2
vi.	**How does the poet use the phrase 'polished traffic' to highlight the contrast between urban and rural life in the poem 'A Roadside Stand'?**		
Ans.	• urban prosperity – rural poverty • wealthy / materialistic urban dwellers – needy and poor rural folk • money being used to maintain the flower of cities - injustice and neglect faced by the rural people • apathy for the village folk – aspiration of village folk to have a better life **(any one point of contrast)**	Step 1: Content-1 mark Step 2: Expression-1 mark	2
11.	**Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions in 40 - 50 words each.**		**2x2=4 marks**
	Distribution of marks:- **Content – 1 Expression– 1**		
i.	**The Tiger King's royal power is both his strength and his greatest weakness. Discuss. (The Tiger King)**		
Ans.	Power as Tiger King's strength: • his power allowed him to do as he pleased • launched a massive tiger-hunting campaign • passed orders imposing a ban according to his will • imposed and exempted land taxes • nobody in the kingdom could defy him Power as Tiger King's weakness: • power blinds him to reason, making him arrogant • causes his downfall • he thinks he can defy fate or destiny	Step 1: Content-0.5 mark Step 2: Content-0.5 mark Step 3: Expression-1 mark	2

	(any two – at least one from each)		
ii.	**What prompted Sadao to put the unfinished report into the secret drawer of his desk? (The Enemy)**		
Ans.	• was not sure whether to hand over the prisoner of war or enemy to the police • was not sure about the reaction of the old General • was afraid that he may be seen as a traitor for saving the enemy / afraid of being arrested **(any one)**	Step 1: Content-1 mark Step 2: Expression-1 mark	2
iii.	**'Because if I don't go there, I'll never go anywhere else in this world again.'' What does the statement reveal about Derry's transformation? (On The Face Of It)**		
Ans.	• marks Derry's awakening / coming out of his shell / taking first step towards reclaiming his independence or his individuality • shows his resolve to break free from his self-pity and isolation • decides to move on from his inhibition or obsession with his burnt face **(any one)**	Step 1: Content-1 mark Step 2: Expression-1 mark	2
12.	**Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 120-150 words.**		**1x5=5 marks**
	Distribution of marks: - **Content – 3 Expression– 2** **EXPRESSION**- grammar, spelling, punctuation, organisation and coherence of ideas		
(a)	**'Deep Water' by William Douglas and 'Keeping Quiet' by Pablo Neruda represent a state of introspection that leads to growth, understanding and liberation. Discuss.**		
Ans.	Both highlight looking inward / lead to a more enlightened / better state of being / life / introspection is essential for growth. • Douglas realises – that the only thing to fear is fear itself – leads to conquering his fear / in death there is peace • Keeping Quiet – introspection helps us realise we are hurting ourselves as well as nature – leads to a more peaceful / harmonious life / world **(any other relevant point)** **(three points with at least one from each text)**	Step 1: Content-3 marks Step 2: Expression-2 marks	5
	OR		
(b)	**Aunt Jennifer from Adrienne Rich's poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' and Gandhi from 'Indigo' struggle against oppression to fight for freedom, even though the contexts are different. Discuss.**		
Ans.	• Aunt Jennifer: oppressed by husband/ patriarchal society while Gandhi was fighting for peasants oppressed by British landlords	Step 1: Content-3 marks	5

	• Aunt was alone in her struggle and suffered silently while Gandhi's fight became a mass movement where peasants and lawyers united for the cause • Aunt used art to vent out her feelings while Gandhi used civil disobedience to seek justice • Gandhi won by getting 25% compensation for the peasants – thus empowering them, making them self-reliant but Aunt will remain mastered by her ordeals even after her death **(any other relevant point)** **(three points showing contrast between the two characters)**	Step 2: Expression- 2 marks	
13.	**Answer any one of the following two questions in 120-150 words.**		**1x5=5**
	Distribution of marks:- **Content – 3 Expression– 2** **EXPRESSION**- grammar, spelling, punctuation, organisation and coherence of ideas		
(a)	**Derry's journey reflects an intense personal challenge that he overcomes through courage and determination. Elaborate.** **(On The Face Of It)**		
Ans.	**Derry's challenge**: • not just a physical scar but the mental wall of self-pity / self-loathing and isolation he created to protect himself from the insensitive / cruel world **Shows courage and determination:** • talking to Mr. Lamb makes him gather courage and face his deep insecurities • starts seeing himself as a 'whole person', not just a burnt face / overcomes his obsession with his burnt face • realises his potential and returns to garden / asserts his independence / ready to face the world • determined to live on his own terms - no longer cares what others say but focuses on what he wants, thinks, feels **(any other relevant point)** **(any three points with one point from 'challenge' and any two points from 'overcoming the challenge')**	Step 1: Content-3 marks Step 2: Expression- 2 marks	5
	OR		
(b)	**'... and heard them gnaw off one of my thick braids. Then I lost my spirit.' This episode highlighted the indignity meted out to Zitkala-Sa. Support your answer with evidence from the text.** **(Memories of Childhood)**		

Ans.	• discriminated against as she was a native American / the school tried to suppress / destroy her cultural identity • dragged out and tied in a chair / treated like an animal / tossed about like a wooden puppet • forced cutting of her hair • cried aloud but no one cared / everybody stared at her without sympathy / she was left alone traumatised • her humiliation was not just physical but psychological **(any other relevant point)** **(any three)**	Step 1: Content-3 marks Step 2: Expression-2 marks	5

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Series : W6YXZ

Set – 1

Q.P. Code	1/6/1

Roll No.

Candidates must write the Q.P. Code on the title page of the answer-book.

ENGLISH (Core)

*Time allowed : **3** hours* *Maximum Marks : **80***

- Please check that this question paper contains **19** printed pages.
- Q.P. Code given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer-book by the candidate.
- Please check that this question paper contains **13** questions.
- **Please write down the Serial Number of the question in the answer-book at the given place before attempting it.**
- 15 minute time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed at 10.15 a.m. From 10.15 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., the candidates will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period. #

General Instructions :

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly 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** and 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) Separate 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 marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully : *12*

(1) In recent years, the rise of digital education has revolutionized the way students in India learn. With the advent of high speed internet and widespread smartphone use, online learning platforms have become increasingly popular. These platforms offer a wide range of courses, from academic subjects to vocational skills, enabling students to learn at their own pace and convenience. The flexibility of digital education is beneficial where traditional classroom learning cannot take place. Many students and educators have now embraced this new mode of learning, recognizing its potential.

(2) However, this shift to digital learning is not without its challenges. One major issue is the digital divide, which refers to the gap between those who have access to the internet and those who do not. In rural areas and among economically disadvantaged communities, many students lack the necessary devices or reliable internet connections to participate in online classes. This has led to concerns about unequal access to education and the potential for widening educational disparities. For instance, a study by the National Sample Survey Office revealed that only 24% of Indian households have internet access, highlighting the extent of the digital divide.

(3) Another significant challenge is the effectiveness of digital learning. While some students thrive in an online environment, others struggle with the lack of face-to-face interaction and the self-discipline required to stay on track. Teachers also face difficulties in both engaging students as well as providing personalized feedback in a virtual setting. The absence of a structured classroom environment can lead to distractions and reduced motivation among students. Furthermore, the lack of direct social interaction impacts social skills and emotional development.

(4) To address these issues, various initiatives have been launched. Government programmes aim to provide digital devices and improve internet connectivity in far-off areas. Educational platforms are developing more interactive and engaging content to enhance the online learning experience. Blended learning models, which combine online and offline methods, are being explored to offer a more balanced approach. The government's Digital India campaign has also made strides in promoting digital literacy and bridging the technological gap.

(5) The potential of digital education extends beyond formal schooling. Online platforms provide opportunities for lifelong learning, allowing individuals to acquire new skills and knowledge throughout their lives. This is particularly relevant in a rapidly changing job market, where continuous upskilling and reskilling are essential. Digital education empowers individuals to take control of this learning journey, breaking down traditional barriers to education. Moreover, it offers flexibility for working professionals and homemakers, who can access educational resources without disrupting their daily schedules.

(6) As we navigate this digital revolution in education, it is crucial to ensure that no one is left behind. Bridging the digital divide, supporting teachers and students, and fostering an inclusive and effective online learning environment are essential to realizing the full potential of digital education in India. Policy-makers, educators, and the private sector must collaborate to create sustainable solutions that address the diverse needs of the population. Only then can we harness the power of digital education.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(i) According to paragraph (1), what advantages do online learning platforms offer to students ? *1*

(ii) How does the author describe the 'digital divide' in the context of education ? *1*

(iii) Read the following sentence. *1*

'In rural areas and among economically disadvantaged communities, many students lack the necessary devices or reliable internet connections.'

The concern the above statement points towards is _____.

Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence.

A. an increasing gap between those living in cities and those living in villages

B. a growing divide in the educational opportunities for children

(iv) How does the lack of social interaction in digital learning affect students' overall development ? *1*

(v) Provide one textual evidence with reference to paragraph (3), to prove the following : *1*
The absence of a structured classroom environment can lead to distractions among students.

(vi) Complete the analogy with one word from paragraph (4) : *1*
flexibility : adaptability : : integrated : _____.

(A) paced (B) blended

(C) balanced (D) created

(vii) Give one benefit of continuous upskilling and reskilling. *1*

(viii) Assess the potential challenges or benefits of lifelong learning through digital platforms, as outlined in paragraph (5). *2*

(ix) To realize the full potential of digital India, it is important to _____ an environment that provides education for all. *2*

(A) refrain (B) replicate

(C) nurture (D) commemorate

(x) We can harness the power of digital education if *1*

(A) educators and policy-makers help create sustainable solutions.

(B) we shift back to traditional classrooms.

(C) we further extend the digital divide.

(D) we control the internet connections.

2. Read the following passage carefully : *10*

(1) **Introduction** : In the face of rapid urbanization, effective waste management has become a critical issue in Indian cities. This case study aims to analyze the recycling practices among different demographics in urban India and their implications for sustainable urban development.

(2) **Methodology** : A survey was conducted among residents of various urban areas, ranging from teenagers to elderly citizens, to determine their waste management and recycling habits. Participants were asked to indicate their preferred methods of waste disposal and recycling and provide reasons for their choices. The data was then analyzed to identify trends and patterns among different age groups.

(3) **Survey Examination** : The survey comprehensively examined waste disposal habits. Participants were encouraged to share the reasons for their selections, providing invaluable insight into waste management behaviour.

(4) **Results** : The survey results revealed interesting insights into waste management and recycling practices among different age groups.

S. No.	Age group for preference	%	Preferred Method	Reasons for Preference
1.	Teenagers	55%	Recycling	Environment awareness, school programme, peer pressure
2.	Young adults	68%	Recycling & Reuse	Sustainability, convenience, social responsibility
3.	Middle-aged	73%	Segregation at source	Health concerns, civic responsibility, easy to manage
4.	Elderly	62%	Traditional disposal	Habit, lack of awareness, convenience

(5) **Implications for Interventions** : By discerning the diverse preferences among different age groups, policy-makers and environmental activists can not only make interventions to address specific demographic needs, but also delve into the underlying motivations and influences guiding these choices. For instance, targeting educational campaigns towards teenagers and young adults could empower them to adopt sustainable waste management practices. Concurrently, efforts to enhance the infrastructure for segregation at source and provide incentives for recycling could improve overall waste management.

(6) **Conclusion** : The survey outcomes serve as a roadmap for designing targeted interventions that not only cater to diverse demographic needs but also foster a culture of sustainability. By harnessing the insights gleaned from this study, stakeholders can collaboratively work towards building cleaner and more sustainable urban environments for future generations.

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage :

(i) Complete the following suitably : *1*

In the introduction, the researcher links rapid urbanization with waste management by highlighting that _____.

(ii) What would the following be classified as ? *1*

To examine waste management practices across various age groups in detail.

Select the appropriate response.

(A) Primary purpose

(B) Secondary objective

(C) Method of analysis

(D) Research outcome

(iii) Give two points to support why it is likely that recycling was given as an option to the survey participants to choose from, in the study on waste management practices. *2*

(iv) Paragraph (5) includes words like 'motivations' and 'interventions'. Classify the following sentences as motivation or intervention. *1*

(A) Targeting educational campaigns towards teenagers and young adults could empower them to adopt sustainable waste management practices.

(B) Efforts to enhance the infrastructure for segregation at source.

(v) Read the following text : *1*

Radhika actively participates in school programmes that promote recycling. Her neighbour, Ragini, prefers recycling and reusing items for their environmental benefits. However, their neighbour Mrs. Gupta sticks to traditional disposal methods out of habit.

Select the option that identifies the correct demographic they belong to :

(A) Radhika – middle-aged; Ragini – young adult;
Mrs. Gupta – elderly

(B) Radhika – teenager; Ragini – young adult;
Mrs. Gupta – elderly

(C) Radhika – young adult; Ragini – elderly;
Mrs. Gupta – middle-aged

(D) Radhika – elderly; Ragini – middle-aged;
Mrs. Gupta – teenager

(vi) Why is the percentage to adopt recycling methods higher among young adults ? *1*

(vii) Analyze how targeted interventions based on the diverse waste management preferences of different age groups can lead to improved environmental outcomes. (paragraph 5) *2*

(viii) What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders, based on the insights from the study ? *1*

(A) Increase profitability through enhanced recycling infrastructure

(B) Build cleaner urban environments

(C) Reduce the cost of waste management

(D) Expand the range of recycling programmes available

SECTION B

Creative Writing Skills (18 marks)

3. Attempt any ***one*** of the two, (a) or (b), in about 50 words. *1×4=4*

(a) Your school has recently set up a 'Lost and Found Department'. As President of the department, write a notice informing students of the same. Include instructions on details to be submitted, such as description, time, location, etc. of the lost items. Include the necessary details. Put your notice in a box.

OR

(b) As President of the Social Service Club of your school, write a notice mentioning a volunteer opportunity for students of Classes IX – XII during the forthcoming summer vacation. Include necessary details about timing, location and duration of the volunteer programme. Put your notice in a box.

4. Attempt any ***one*** of the two, (a) or (b), in about 50 words. *1×4=4*

(a) You are the Principal of Happy Montessori School, Kanpur. Your school has shown outstanding success in the board examination. Draft a formal invitation card inviting parents of Class XII and other PTA members to the prize-giving ceremony, celebrating the success of students for their academic and extracurricular achievements. Invent necessary details.

OR

(b) You are Shreya/Sanjay Rao. Your child is participating in a play to be enacted on the school annual day. You have received an invitation to attend the same. Draft a reply in not more than 50 words accepting the invitation.

5. Attempt any ***one*** of the two, (a) or (b), in 120 – 150 words. *1×5=5*

(a) You are Sonia/Shivam of 52, Main Street, Green City. Write a letter to the editor of a local daily expressing your views on the usage of increased screen time among children and its effects. You may use the following cues along with your own ideas to draft the letter.

- What is meant by increased screen time ?
- What are the negative effects on physical and mental health ?
- What is the impact on academic performance and social skills ?
- How can parents and educators help in effectively managing screen time ?

OR

(b) You are Sonali/Rahul from 46, G Street, Panipur. You read the given advertisement regarding the position of a graphic designer at Creative Studios. You decide to apply for the same. Write your application along with your biodata.

JOIN CREATIVE STUDIOS

Seeking a Qualified Graphic Designer

- Experience : min. 5 years

Role Requirement

- Design logos
- Produce multimedia presentations
- Develop layout for magazines and brochures

Must-have Skills

- Adobe Photoshop
- CorelDRAW
- Adobe InDesign

Contact – Director, Creative Studios

23/7 Roseview, Lake Point Street, Panipur

6. Attempt any ***one*** of the two, (a) or (b), in 120 – 150 words. *1×5=5*

(a) You are Anjali/Anjan, a Class XII student. Write an article exploring the role of youth in environmental conservation in India. Provide examples to illustrate your points. You may use the following cues along with your own ideas.

- Effects of modern technologies and urbanization on India's environment.
- Challenges faced by youth in promoting environmental sustainability.
- What are the benefits of environmental conservation for young people ?
- Suggest ways in which young people and institutions can work together to promote environmental conservation.

OR

(b) Write a comprehensive report detailing the activities undertaken by students as part of the International Women's Day celebrations. You are Aarushi/Aarav, a Class XII student and a member of the school magazine editorial board. Include descriptions of the events, participation details, and overall impact of these activities on the school community. You may organize your report by using the following cues.

- Who – What – When – Where – Why – How

SECTION C

Literature (40 marks)

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any ***one*** of the given two, (a) or (b) : *1×6=6*

(a) What I want should not be
confused
with total inactivity.
Life is what it is about;
I want no truck with death.
If we were not so single-minded
about keeping our lives moving

(Keeping Quiet)

(i) Explain with reference to the given extract, "What I want should not be confused with total inactivity." *1*

(ii) What does the term single-mindedness ***not*** imply in the given extract ? *1*

(A) persistence

(B) determination

(C) narrow-mindedness

(D) tenacity

(iii) In the line 'Life is what it is about', the phrase 'it' refers to _____. *1*

(iv) The poet has used the phrase 'total inactivity' to illustrate _____ (irony/satire) in the perception that peace means doing nothing. *1*

(v) Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract : *1*

Assertion : The poet values an active and meaningful life.

Reason : Inactivity is equated with leisure, which the poet rejects.

Choose the correct option.

(A) Both the assertion and the reason are true.

(B) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.

(C) Both the assertion and the reason are false.

(D) Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is ***not*** the correct explanation of the assertion.

(vi) State in one sentence, what advice you would give to those engaged in ceaseless mechanized activity. *1*

OR

(b) Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways
Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
From our dark spirits.

(A Thing of Beauty)

(i) Select the phrase that suggests the following : *1*

In difficult times, beauty comes to our aid, in some form or the other, to make us overcome these difficulties.

(ii) What does the imagery of 'flowery band' ***not*** represent in the given extract ? *1*

(A) connections to life

(B) a thing of beauty

(C) imprisonment

(D) earthly ties

(iii) Complete the following suitably. *1*

In the line, 'moves away the pall from our dark spirits', the phrase 'the pall' refers to _____.

(iv) The poet's use of the phrase 'inhuman dearth' illustrates the _____ (scarcity/plentitude) of noble human qualities. *1*

(v) Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract : *1*

Assertion : The poet values beauty as it overcomes despondence and gloom.

Reason : Beauty, despite the world's hardships, provides comfort and lifts our spirit.

Choose the correct option.

(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.

(vi) State in one sentence, what advice would you give to those facing dark times. *1*

8. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any ***one*** of the given two, (a) or (b) : *1×4=4*

(a) Six hundred and fifty million years ago, a giant amalgamated southern supercontinent — Gondwana — did indeed exist, centred roughly around the present-day Antarctica. Things were quite different then: humans hadn't arrived on the global scene, and the climate was much warmer, hosting a huge variety of flora and fauna. For 500 million years Gondwana thrived, but around the time when the dinosaurs were wiped out and the age of mammals got under way, the landmass was forced to separate into countries, shaping the globe much as we know it today.

(Journey to the end of the Earth)

(i) What was the climate like in Antarctica before the humans arrived on the global scene ? *1*

(ii) Gondwana existed nearly _____. *1*

(iii) Select the suitable option to complete the following :
Gondwana, separating into countries, contributes to the reader's understanding of the _____ . *1*

(A) complexity of geological processes
(B) simplicity of continental formation
(C) speed of geological changes
(D) stability of ancient landmasses

(iv) What difference does the author draw between then and now ? *1*

OR

(b) Not that he faced no dangers. There were times when the bullet missed its mark, the tiger leapt upon him and he fought the beast with his bare hands. Each time it was the Maharaja who won.
At another time he was in danger of losing his throne. A high-ranking British officer visited Pratibandapuram. He was very fond of hunting tigers. And fonder of being photographed with the tigers he had shot.

(The Tiger King)

(i) Complete the following suitably : *1*
The passage indicates that the British officer visited Pratibandapuram because _____.

(ii) What danger was faced by the Maharaja on the tiger hunt ? *1*

(iii) From the given extract, it is evident that the Maharaja was a _____ man. *1*

(iv) Select the suitable option to complete the following : *1*

The phrase 'fonder of being photographed with the tigers' contributes to the reader's understanding of the officer's _____.

(A) indifference towards hunting

(B) desire for recognition/fame

(C) love for tigers

(D) love for photography

9. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any ***one*** of the given two, (a) or (b) : *1×6=6*

(a) The make-up department of the Gemini Studios was in the upstairs of a building that was believed to have been Robert Clive's stables .... The make-up room had the look of a hair-cutting salon with lights at all angles around half a dozen large mirrors. They were all incandescent lights, so you can imagine the fiery misery of those subjected to make-up. The make-up department was first headed by a Bengali who became too big for the studio and left.

(Poets and Pancakes)

(i) The phrase 'fiery misery' in the given text refers to the _____ of the actors. *1*

(A) realization

(B) confusion

(C) expectation

(D) discomfort

(ii) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank. *1*

The description of the make-up room is a/an _____ (criticism/admiration) of the make-up department in Gemini Studios.

(iii) Complete the following suitably : *1*

The historical significance of the make-up room was _____.

(iv) With reference to the given extract, what does the reference to 'half a dozen large mirrors' suggest ? *1*

(v) Select the textual option that is closest to indicating a sense of discomfort. *1*

(A) The make-up room had the look of a hair-cutting salon.

(B) The make-up department was first headed by a gang of nationally integrated make-up men.

(C) They were all incandescent lights, so you can imagine the fiery misery.

(D) The make-up department head was at first a Bengali, who soon quit.

(vi) What was the fate of the head of the make-up department ? *1*

OR

(b) Umberto Eco: Aah, now that is more difficult to explain. I have some philosophical interests and I pursue them through my academic work and my novels. Even my books for children are about non-violence and peace...you see, the same bunch of ethical, philosophical interests.

And then I have a secret. Did you know what will happen if you eliminate the empty spaces from the universe, eliminate the empty spaces in all the atoms ? The universe will become as big as my fist. Similarly, we have a lot of empty spaces in our lives. I call them interstices. Say you are coming over to my place. You are in an elevator and while you are coming up, I am waiting for you. This is an interstice, an empty space. I work in empty spaces.

(The Interview)

(i) What does Umberto's statement on his philosophical interest reveal about him ? *1*

(ii) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank. *1*

His academic work and children's books both reveal _____ (similar/experimental) interests.

(iii) What example of an interstice does Umberto Eco give ? *1*

(iv) The phrase 'as big as my fist' most nearly means _____ with reference to the given text. *1*

(A) strong

(B) stingy

(C) very small

(D) abundant

(v) What secret is Umberto referring to ? *1*

(vi) Umberto Eco says, he works in interstices. By this, he means that he works _____. *1*

(A) in empty spaces

(B) when he is in the university

(C) on his philosophical interest

(D) when he is with children

10. Answer any ***five*** of the following six questions in 40 – 50 words each. *5×2=10*

(i) How does the poet highlight the mean and selfish nature of the city dwellers ? (A Roadside Stand)

(ii) How did Sophie's family react when she announced that if she ever had money she would buy a boutique ? (Going Places)

(iii) What caused the lack of communication between the Englishman and the people at Gemini Studios ? (Poets and Pancakes)

(iv) Give a brief account of the reception that Gandhi got in Motihari ? (Indigo)

(v) Why was Douglas determined to get over his fear of water ? (Deep Water)

(vi) According to the poet, beauty is everlasting. Explain. (A Thing of Beauty)

11. Answer any ***two*** of the following three questions in 40 – 50 words each. *2×2=4*

(i) What makes Tishani Doshi write that she felt as if she was walking into a giant ping-pong ball ? (Journey to the end of the Earth)

(ii) Why did the booking clerk refuse to accept the money ? (The Third Level)

(iii) Why did Derry enter Mr Lamb's garden ? (On The Face of It)

12. Answer any ***one*** of the following two questions in 120 – 150 words : *1×5=5*

(a) M. Hamel in 'The Last Lesson' and Edla in 'The Rattrap' are the guiding lights of self-realization to Franz and the peddler respectively. Comment.

OR

(b) The poems 'My Mother at Sixty-six' by Kamala Das and 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' by Adrienne Rich explore the themes of pain and conflict. Explain.

13. Answer any ***one*** of the following two questions in 120 – 150 words : *1×5=5*

(a) Dr. Sadao emerges as both a true patriot and a compassionate human being. Elaborate. (The Enemy)

OR

(b) 'Memories of Childhood' deals with autobiographical episodes of Zitkala-Sa and Bama. They both come from marginalized communities, and look back on their childhood to reflect on their relationships with mainstream culture. Elaborate.

Strictly Confidential: (For Internal and Restricted use only)
Senior Secondary School Examination 2025
Marking Scheme – ENGLISH CORE (301)
(QUESTION PAPER CODE – 1/6/1)

General Instructions: -

1. You are aware that evaluation is the most important process in the actual and correct assessment of the candidates. A small mistake in evaluation may lead to serious problems which may affect the future of the candidates, education system and teaching profession. To avoid mistakes, it is requested that before starting evaluation, you must read and understand the spot evaluation guidelines carefully.
2. **"Evaluation policy is a confidential policy as it is related to the confidentiality of the examinations conducted, evaluation done and several other aspects. Its leakage to public in any manner could lead to derailment of the examination system and affect the life and future of millions of candidates. Sharing this policy/document with anyone, publishing in any magazine and printing in News Paper/Website etc. may invite action under various rules of the Board and IPC."**
3. Evaluation is to be done as per instructions provided in the Marking Scheme. It should not be done according to one's own interpretation or any other consideration. Marking Scheme should be strictly adhered to and religiously followed. **However, while evaluating, answers which are based on the latest information or knowledge and / or are innovative, may be assessed for their correctness otherwise, and due marks may be awarded to them.**
4. The Marking Scheme carries only suggested value points for the answers. These are in the nature of Guidelines only and do not constitute the complete answer. The students can have their own expression and if the expression is correct, then due marks should be awarded accordingly.
5. The Head-Examiner must go through the first five answer books evaluated by each evaluator on the first day, to ensure that evaluation has been carried out as per the instructions given in the Marking Scheme. If there is any variation, the same should be zeroed after deliberation and discussion. The remaining answer books meant for evaluation shall be given only after ensuring that there is no significant variation in the marking of individual evaluators.
6. Evaluators will tick mark (√) wherever answer is correct. For wrong answer "X" be marked. Evaluators will not put tick mark (√) while evaluating a wrong answer which gives an impression that answer is correct and no marks are awarded. **This is the most common mistake which evaluators are committing.**
7. If a question has parts, please award marks on the right-hand side for each part. Marks awarded for different parts of the question should then be totalled up and written in the left- hand margin and encircled. This must be followed strictly.
8. If a question does not have any parts, marks must be awarded in the left-hand margin and encircled. This must be followed strictly.

9. If a student has attempted an extra question, answer of the question deserving more marks should be retained and the other answer scored out with a note **"Extra Question".**
10. **If more than one option is mentioned in the answer of multiple choice questions, then marks are not to be awarded.**
11. No marks to be deducted for the cumulative effect of an error. It should be penalized only once.
12. A full scale of marks (0-80 marks) as given in Question Paper has to be used. Please do not hesitate to award full marks if the answer deserves it.
13. Every examiner has to necessarily do evaluation work for full working hours i.e. 8 hours every day and evaluate 20 answer books per day in main subjects and 25 answer books per day in other subjects (Details are given in Spot Guidelines).
14. Ensure that you do not make the following common types of errors committed by the Examiner in the past:-
    - Leaving answer or part thereof unassessed in an answer book.
    - Giving more marks for an answer than assigned to it.
    - Wrong totalling of marks awarded on an answer.
    - Wrong transfer of marks from the inside pages of the answer book to the title page.
    - Wrong question-wise totalling on the title page.
    - Wrong totalling of marks of the two columns on the title page.
    - Wrong grand total.
    - Marks in words and figures not tallying / not same.
    - Wrong transfer of marks from the answer book to online award list.
    - Answers marked as correct, but marks not awarded. (Ensure that the right tick mark (√) is correctly and clearly indicated. It should not merely be a line. Same is with the (X) for incorrect answer.)
    - Half or a part of answer marked correct and the rest as wrong, but no marks awarded.
15. While evaluating the answer books if the answer is found to be totally incorrect, it should be marked as cross (X) and awarded zero (0) Marks. 'Zero' should be mentioned both in figures and words.
16. Any unassessed portion, non-carrying over of marks to the title page, or totalling error detected by the candidate shall damage the prestige of all the personnel engaged in the evaluation work as also of the Board. Hence, in order to uphold the prestige of all concerned, it is again reiterated that the instructions should be followed meticulously and judiciously.
17. The Examiners should acquaint themselves with the guidelines given in the **"Guidelines for Spot Evaluation"** before starting the actual evaluation.
18. Every Examiner shall also ensure that all the answers are evaluated, marks carried over to the title page, correctly totalled and written in figures and words.
19. The candidates are entitled to obtain photocopy of the Answer Book on request and on payment of the prescribed processing fee. All Examiners / Additional Head Examiners / Head Examiners are once again reminded that they must ensure that evaluation is carried out strictly as per Value Points for each answer as given in the Marking Scheme.

MARKING SCHEME

Senior Secondary School Examination, 2025

ENGLISH CORE (Subject Code–301)

[Question Paper Code : 1/6/2]

Maximum Marks : 80

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS:

1. The answers given below are suggestive. Credit should be given for any relevant point which is not included in the value points listed below. However, any independent interpretation should be discussed with the HE before awarding marks.
2. No marks shall be deducted for exceeding the word-limit.
3. If a spelling error is recurring, it should be penalised only once.

	SUGGESTED VALUE POINTS	Marks
	SECTION—A **Reading Skills**	**22 marks**
	NOTE: The objective of the reading section is to focus on testing a candidate's ability to comprehend. No mark(s) should be deducted for mistakes in usage and grammar, spelling or word-limit. Full marks may be awarded if a student has been able to identify the core ideas. If a student literally lifts a portion of the given passage as an answer to a question, no mark(s) to be deducted for this, as long as it is relevant.	
Q.1.	**Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:**	**12 marks**
(i)	**According to paragraph (1), what advantages do online learning platforms offer to students?**	
Ans.	offer a wide range of courses, from academic subjects to vocational skills / enabling students to learn at their own pace and convenience / flexibility where traditional classroom learning cannot take place. **(any one)**	1
(ii)	**How does the author describe the 'digital divide' in the context of education**?	
Ans.	'digital divide' - refers to the gap between those who have access to the internet and those who do not.	1
(iii)	**Read the following sentence.** **'In rural areas and among economically disadvantaged communities, many students lack the necessary devices or reliable internet connections.'** **The concern the above statement points towards is _____.** **Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence.** **A. an increasing gap between those living in cities and those living in villages** **B. a growing divide in the educational opportunities for children**	
Ans.	(B) a growing divide in the educational opportunities for children	1

(iv)	**How does the lack of social interaction in digital learning affect students' overall development?**	
Ans.	Impacts social skills / emotional development / reduced concentration / easily distracted **(any one)**	1
(v)	**Provide one textual evidence with reference to paragraph (3), to prove the following: The absence of a structured classroom environment can lead to distractions among students.**	
Ans.	lack of face-to-face interaction and the self-discipline required to stay on track / lack of direct social interaction impacts social skills and emotional development. **(any one)**	1
(vi)	**Complete the analogy with one word from paragraph (4) :** **flexibility: adaptability : : integrated : _____.** **(A) paced (B) blended** **C) balanced (D) created**	
Ans.	(B) blended	1
(vii)	**Give one benefit of continuous upskilling and reskilling.**	
Ans.	meet the need of the rapidly changing job market	1
(viii)	**Assess the potential challenges or benefits of lifelong learning through digital platforms, as outlined in paragraph (5).**	
Ans.	**Benefits** - empowers individuals to take control of this learning journey / offers flexibility for working professionals and homemakers. **Challenges** – Challenges might involve ensuring access to digital education for all and maintaining engagement and motivation over a period of time. **(any other relevant point)** **(any two - either from benefits or challenges)**	2
(ix)	**To realize the full potential of digital India, it is important to _____ an environment that provides education for all.** **(A) refrain (B) replicate** **(C) nurture (D) commemorate**	
Ans	(C) nurture	2
(x)	**We can harness the power of digital education if** **(A) educators and policy-makers help create sustainable solutions.** **(B) we shift back to traditional classrooms.** **(C) we further extend the digital divide.** **(D) we control the internet connections.**	
Ans	(A) educators and policy-makers help create sustainable solutions.	1

	Passage 2	
Q.2.	**Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:**	**10 marks**
(i)	**Complete the following suitably :** **In the introduction, the researcher links rapid urbanization with waste management by highlighting that _____**	
Ans.	it is a critical issue / recycling practices among different demographics in urban India needs to be analysed / their implications for sustainable urban development needs to be analysed **(any one)**	1
(ii)	**What would the following be classified as?** **To examine waste management practices across various age groups in detail.** **Select the appropriate response.** **(A) Primary purpose** **(B) Secondary objective** **(C) Method of analysis** **(D) Research outcome**	
Ans.	(A) Primary Purpose	1
(iii)	**Give two points to support why it is likely that recycling was given as an option to the survey participants to choose from, in the study on waste management practices.**	
Ans.	environment awareness / part of school programme / peer pressure / sustainability / convenience / social responsibility / to analyse the recycling practices **(any two)**	2
(iv)	**Paragraph (5) includes words like 'motivation' and 'interventions'. Classify the following sentences as motivation or intervention.** **(A) Targeting educational campaigns towards teenagers and young adults could empower them to adopt sustainable waste management practices.** **(B) Efforts to enhance the infrastructure for segregation at source**	
Ans.	A – Motivation - Targeting educational campaigns towards teenagers and young adults could empower them to adopt sustainable waste management practices. B – Intervention - Efforts to enhance the infrastructure for segregation at source	1
v)	**Read the following text :** **Radhika actively participates in school programmes that promote recycling. Her neighbour, Ragini, prefers recycling and reusing items for their environmental benefits. However, their neighbor Mrs. Gupta sticks to traditional disposal methods out of habit.** **Select the option that identifies the correct demographic they belong to :** **(A) Radhika middle-aged; Ragini young adult; Mrs. Gupta elderly** **(B) Radhika teenager; Ragini young adult; Mrs. Gupta elderly** **(C) Radhika young adult; Ragini elderly; Mrs. Gupta middle-aged** **(D) Radhika elderly; Ragini middle-aged; Mrs. Gupta teenager**	

	(B) Radhika teenager; Ragini young adult; Mrs. Gupta elderly	1
(vi)	**Why is the percentage to adopt recycling methods higher among young adults?**	
Ans.	for sustainability / for convenience / for social responsibility	1
(vii)	**Analyze how targeted interventions based on the diverse waste management preferences of different age groups can lead to improved environmental outcomes. (paragraph 5)**	
Ans.	- teenagers: empower them to adopt sustainable waste management practices like conducting various competitions etc. - adults: enhance infrastructure for segregation at source / provide incentives for recycling like providing separate dustbins to each household for ease of segregation. **(any other relevant example)** **(any two)**	2
(viii)	**What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders, based on the insights from the study?** **(A) Increase profitability through enhanced recycling infrastructure** **(B) Build cleaner urban environments** **(C) Reduce the cost of waste management** **(D) Expand the range of recycling programmes available.**	
Ans.	(B) Build cleaner urban environments	1
	SECTION B **Creative Writing Skills**	**18 marks**
	OBJECTIVES: • To test the ability to think logically and express clearly. • To use a style appropriate to the given situation. • To plan, organise and present ideas coherently.	
Q.3	**Attempt *any one* of the two, (a) or (b), in about 50 words :**	4 Marks
	NOTICE WRITING	
	Distribution of marks **Format -1 Content – 2 Expression – 1** FORMAT - Name of issuing authority- organisation / agency, NOTICE, heading, date of issue, signature / name, designation (bottom left), Notice to be in a box. • *No mark for format if content is irrelevant or missing.* • *Full credit of 1 mark if all aspects are mentioned.* • *Partial credit of ½ mark if any of the aspects is missing.* EXPRESSION - grammar, spelling, punctuation, organisation and coherence of ideas	

(a)	**Your school has recently set up a Lost and Found Department. As President of the department, write a notice informing students of the same. Include instructions on details to be submitted, such as description, time, location, etc. of the lost items. Include the necessary details. Put your notice in a box.**	
Ans.	Suggested value points - Introductory line about setting up of 'Lost and Found' Department - Location of the department - Details of the lost/found items to be submitted • Description • Time • Location - Contact details **(inputs given in the question to be included)**	4
	OR	
(b)	**As President of the Social Service Club of your school, write a notice mentioning a volunteer opportunity for students of Classes IX XII during the forthcoming summer vacation. Include necessary details about timing, location and duration of the volunteer programme. Put your notice in a box.**	
Ans.	Suggested value points - information about the volunteer programme - targeted class - timing, location and duration of the volunteer programme - Contact details **(inputs given in the question to be included)**	4
Q. 4	**Attempt *any one* of the two, (a) or (b), in about 50 words.**	4 Marks
	Distribution of marks **Format -1 Content – 2 Expression - 1** • *No mark for format if content is irrelevant or missing.* • *Full credit of 1 mark if all aspects are mentioned.* • *Partial credit of ½ mark if any of the aspects is missing.* EXPRESSION - grammar, spelling, punctuation, organisation and coherence of ideas	
	FORMAL INVITATION	
(a)	**You are the Principal of Happy Montessori School, Kanpur. Your school has shown outstanding success in the board examination.** **Draft a formal invitation card inviting parents of Class XII and other PTA members to the prize-giving ceremony, celebrating the success of students for their academic and extracurricular achievements. Invent necessary details.**	

Ans.	Format: Card format, third person, in a box Suggested value points - host, line of invitation - event, day, date, time, venue, name and designation of the chief guest, RSVP - an appropriate compelling highlight of the programme – Prize giving Ceremony **(inputs given in the question to be included)**	4
	OR	
	FORMAL REPLY	
(b)	**You are Shreya/Sanjay Rao. Your child is participating in a play to be enacted on the school annual day. You have received an invitation to attend the same. Draft a reply in not more than 50 words accepting the invitation**	
Ans.	Format: Formal letter Suggested value points - express thanks - acknowledge the invitation (mention event, date, time, venue) - acceptance **(inputs given in the question to be included)**	4
Q. 5	**Attempt *any one* of the two, (a) or (b), in 120 - 150 words.**	5 marks
	Distribution of marks **Format -1 Content – 2 Expression - 2** FORMAT –Sender's address, Date, Receiver's address, Subject and Salutation/ Salutation and Subject, Complimentary Close, Name • *No mark for format if content is irrelevant or missing.* • *Full credit of 1 mark if all aspects are mentioned.* • *Partial credit of ½ mark if any of the aspects is missing.* EXPRESSION - grammar, spelling, punctuation, organisation and coherence of ideas	
	LETTER TO EDITOR	
(a)	**You are Sonia/Shivam of 52, Main Street, Green City. Write a letter to the editor of a local daily expressing your views on the usage of increased screen time among children and its effects. You may use the following cues along with your own ideas to draft the letter.** • **What is meant by increased screen time ?** • **What are the negative effects on physical and mental health ?** • **What is the impact on academic performance and social skills ?** • **How can parents and educators help in effectively managing screen time ?**	

Ans.	Suggested value points - statement of the problem (concern) - excessive use of mobile, tablet, TV, and gadgets - health problem – lack of concentration, hyperactivity, poor eye sight - urgent need for action – such as - awareness programmes in schools, checks at home - suggestions for reducing screen-time - request for raising public awareness **(any other relevant point)** **(any four)**	5
	OR	
	JOB APPLICATION	
(b)	**You are Sonali/Rahul from 46, G Street, Panipur. You read the given advertisement regarding the position of a graphic designer at Creative Studios. You decide to apply for the same. Write your application along with your biodata.** **JOIN CREATIVE STUDIOS** **Seeking a Qualified Graphic Designer** • **Experience : min. 5 years** **Role Requirement** • **Design logos** • **Produce multimedia presentations** • **Develop layout for magazines and brochures** **Must-have Skills** • **Adobe Photoshop** • **Corel DRAW** • **Adobe InDesign** **Contact - Director, Creative Studios** **23/7 Roseview, Lake Point Street, Panipur**	
Ans.	Suggested value points: **Covering Letter :** - reference to the advertisement - suitability for the post - offer candidature **Bio-Data / Resume / CV:** - personal details - qualifications - experience - skills / hobbies / achievements - references **NOTE:** • No marks to be deducted if the Resume/CV/Bio-data is included in the covering letter **(inputs given in the question to be included)**	5

Q. 6	**Attempt *any one* of the two, (a) or (b), in 120 - 150 words.**	5 marks
	Distribution of marks Format -1 Content – 2 Expression - 2 **Format -1 -** Title and byline • *No mark for format if content is irrelevant or missing.* • *Partial credit of ½ mark if any of the aspects is missing.* EXPRESSION - grammar, spelling, punctuation, organisation and coherence of ideas	
	ARTICLE WRITING	
(a)	**You are Anjali/Anjan, a Class XII student. Write an article exploring the role of youth in environmental conservation in India. Provide examples to illustrate your points. You may use the following cues along with your own ideas.** • **Effects of modern technologies and urbanization on India's environment.** • **Challenges faced by youth in promoting environmental sustainability.** • **What are the benefits of environmental conservation for young people ?** • **Suggest ways in which young people and institutions can work together to promote environmental conservation**.	
Ans.	Suggested value points : - use of alternate source of energy – solar, hydro etc - awareness programmes to sensitise the youth - promoting better physical and mental health - youth can work together and bring new ideas. **(inputs given in the question to be included)** **(any other relevant point)** **(any four)**	5
	OR	
	REPORT WRITING	
(b)	**Write a comprehensive report detailing the activities undertaken by students as part of International Women's Day celebrations. You are Aarushi/Aarav, a Class XII student and a member of the school magazine editorial board. Include descriptions of the events, participation details, and overall impact of these activities on the school community. You may organize your report by using the following cues.** • **Who - What - When –Where – Why - How**	

Ans.	Suggested value points : - day, date, venue - chief guest, invitees - description of activities/ events –such as - songs/skits/ assembly / debate/ essay writing / inviting women achievers to school etc. - participation details - impact of the activities on school community/varied stakeholders **(inputs given in the question to be included)** **(any other relevant point)**	5
	SECTION C **Literature**	**40 Marks**
	NOTE: The objective of this section is to test a candidate's ability to understand and interpret the prescribed text through short & long answer type questions. Long answer type questions have been set to test the students' understanding of the text and their ability to interpret, evaluate & respond to the issues raised therein. Hence, no particular answer can be accepted as the **only** correct answer. All presentations may be accepted as correct with consultation of the HE, if they have been duly supported by the facts drawn from the text. The student should be able to justify his / her viewpoint. **In the inter-textual questions reference to both the texts must be included.**	
Q.7	**Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any *one* of the given two, (a) or (b) :**	
(a)	**What I want should not be** **confused** **with total inactivity.** **Life is what it is about;** **I want no truck with death.** **If we were not so single-minded** **about keeping our lives moving** **(Keeping Quiet)**	1 x 6 = 6 marks
(i)	**Explain with reference to the given extract, 'What I want should not be confused with total inactivity."**	1 mark
Ans.	not confused with death / mere stillness / inactivity / mindless living	
(ii)	**What does the term single-mindedness not imply in the given extract ?** A) **persistence** B) **determination** C) **narrow-mindedness** D) **tenacity**	1 mark
Ans.	(C) narrow-mindedness.	
(iii)	**In the line 'Life is what it is about', the phrase 'it' refers to _____.**	1 mark
Ans.	life	

(iv)	**The poet has used the phrase 'total inactivity' to illustrate _____ (irony/satire) in the perception that peace means doing nothing.**	1 mark
Ans.	irony	1
(v)	**Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract :** **Assertion : The poet values an active and meaningful life.** **Reason : Inactivity is equated with leisure, which the poet rejects.** **Choose the correct option.** **(A) Both the assertion and the reason are true.** **(B) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.** **(C) Both the assertion and the reason are false.** **(D) Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.**	
Ans.	(A) Both the assertion and the reason are true	1
(vi)	**State in one sentence, what advice you would give to those engaged in ceaseless mechanized activity.**	
Ans.	pause / reflect / introspect / take a break / keeping quiet / reconnect with nature/ seek meaningful actions that enrich life **(any one)**	1
	OR	
(b)	**Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing A flowery band to bind us to the earth, Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth Of noble natures, of the gloomy days, Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all, Some shape of beauty moves away the pall From our dark spirits.** **(A Thing of Beauty)**	1 x 6 = 6 marks
(i)	**Select the phrase that suggests the following :** **In difficult times, beauty comes to our aid, in some form or the other, to make us overcome these difficulties.**	
Ans.	Some shape of beauty moves away the pall **(any one)**	1
(ii)	**What does the imagery of 'flowery band' not represent in the given extract?** (A) **connections to life** (B) **a thing of beauty** (C) **imprisonment** (D) **earthly ties**	
Ans.	(C) imprisonment	1
(iii)	**Complete the following suitably.** **In the line, 'moves away the pall from our dark spirits', the phrase 'the pall' refers to _____.**	
Ans.	darkness / gloom / negativity / shroud / cover /cloud **(any one)**	1
(iv)	**The poet's use of the phrase 'inhuman dearth' illustrates the _____ (scarcity/plentitude) of noble human qualities.**	
Ans.	scarcity	1

(v)	**Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract :** **Assertion : The poet values beauty as it overcomes despondence and gloom.** **Reason : Beauty, despite the world's hardships, provides comfort and lifts our spirit.** **Choose the correct option.** (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.**	
Ans.	(A) Both the assertion and the reason are true and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.	1
(vi)	**State in one sentence, what advice would you give to those facing dark times.**	
Ans.	• connect with nature • it will bring serenity / calmness / tranquility • look for beauty as it is a source of comfort and inspiration / hope and resilience **(any one)**	1
Q.8	**Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any *one* of the given two, (a) or (b) :**	
(a)	**Six hundred and fifty million years ago, a giant amalgamated southern supercontinent Gondwana did indeed exist, centred roughly around the present-day Antarctica. Things were quite different then: humans hadn't arrived on the global scene, and the climate was much warmer, hosting a huge variety of flora and fauna. For 500 million years Gondwana thrived, but around the time when the dinosaurs were wiped out and the age of mammals got under way, the landmass was forced to separate into countries, shaping the globe much as we know it today.** **(Journey to the end of the Earth)**	1 x 4 = 4 marks
(i)	**What was the climate like in Antarctica before the humans arrived on the global scene?**	
Ans.	warmer / huge variety of flora and fauna	1
(ii)	**Gondwana existed nearly _____.**	
Ans.	650 million ago	1

(iii)	**Select the suitable option to complete the following : Gondwana, separating into countries, contributes to the reader's understanding of the** **(A) complexity of geological processes** **(B) simplicity of continental formation** **(C) speed of geological changes** **(D) stability of ancient landmasses**	
Ans.	(A) complexity of geological processes	1
(iv)	**What difference does the author draw between then and now?**	
Ans.	• Then – humans hadn't arrived / giant amalgamated southern super continent / climate was warmer / dinosaur present • Now – age of mammals / landmass separated into countries / dinosaurs wiped out **(any one from each)**	1
	OR	
(b)	**Not that he faced no dangers. There were times when the bullet missed its mark, the tiger leapt upon him and he fought the beast with his bare hands. Each time it was the Maharaja who won.** **At another time he was in danger of losing his throne. A high-ranking British officer visited Pratibandapuram. He was very fond of hunting tigers. And fonder of being photographed with the tigers he had shot.** **(The Tiger King)**	1 x 4 = 4 marks
(i)	**Complete the following suitably :** **The passage indicates that the British officer visited Pratibandapuram because _____.**	
Ans.	he wanted to hunt a tiger.	1
(ii)	**What danger was faced by the Maharaja on the tiger hunt ?**	
Ans.	the tiger leapt upon him/ at times he had to fight the tiger with bare hands **(any one)**	1
(iii)	**From the given extract, it is evident that the Maharaja was a _____ man.**	
Ans.	brave/ strong / adventurous / courageous/ bold / fearless	1
(iv)	**Select the suitable option to complete the following : 1** **The phrase fonder of being photographed with the tigers contributes to the reader's understanding of the officer's _____.** **(A) indifference towards hunting** **(B) desire for recognition/fame** **(C) love for tigers** **(D) love for photograph**	
Ans	(B) desire for recognition/fame	1
Q.9	**Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any *one* of the given two, (a) or (b) :**	
(a)	**The make-up department of the Gemini Studios was in the upstairs of a building that was believed to have been Robert Clive s stables .... The make-up room had the look of a hair-cutting salon with lights at all angles around half a dozen large**	1 x 6 = 6 marks

	mirrors. They were all incandescent lights, so you can imagine the fiery misery of those subjected to make-up. The make-up department was first headed by a Bengali who became too big for the studio and left. **(Poets and Pancakes)**	
(i)	**The phrase 'fiery misery' in the given text refers to the _____ of the actors.** **(A) realization** **(B) confusion** **(C) expectation** **(D) discomfort**	
Ans.	(D) discomfort	1
(ii)	**Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank.** **The description of the make-up room is a/an _____ (criticism/admiration) of the make-up department in Gemini Studios.**	
Ans.	criticism	1
(iii)	**Complete the following suitably** **The historical significance of the make-up room was _____.**	
Ans.	believed to have been Robert Clive's stable	1
(iv)	**With reference to the given extract, what does the to reference to 'half a dozen large mirrors' suggest ?**	
Ans.	looks like a hair-cutting salon / heat reflected back by the mirror making room hot and unbearable / caters to large number of people. **(any one)**	1
(v)	**Select the textual option that is closest to indicating a sense of discomfort.** (A) **The make-up room had the look of a hair-cutting salon.** (B) **The make-up department was first headed by a gang of nationally integrated make-up men.** (C) **They were all incandescent lights, so you can imagine the fiery misery.** (D) **The make-up department head was at first a Bengali, who soon quit.**	
Ans.	(C) They were all incandescent lights, so you can imagine the fiery misery.	1
(vi)	**What was the fate of the head of the make-up department?**	
Ans.	he became too big for the studio and left / became ambitious and left **(any one)**	1
	OR	
(b)	**Umberto Eco: Aah, now that is more difficult to explain. I have some philosophical interests and I pursue them through my academic work and my novels. Even my books for children are about non-violence and peace...you see, the same bunch of ethical, philosophical interests.** **And then I have a secret. Did you know what will happen if you eliminate the empty spaces from the universe, eliminate the empty spaces in all the atoms ? The universe will become as big as my fist. Similarly, we have a lot of empty spaces in our lives. I call them interstices. Say you are coming over to my place. You are in an elevator and while you are coming up, I am waiting for you. This is an interstice, an empty space. I work in empty spaces.** **(The Interview)**	1 x 6 = 6 marks

(i)	**What does Umberto's statement on his philosophical interest reveal about him ?**	
Ans.	academician / scholarly / philosophical / creative / ethical	1
(ii)	**Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank.** **His academic work and children's book both reveal _____** **(similar/experimental) interests.**	
Ans.	similar	1
(iii)	**What example of an interstice does Umberto Eco give?**	
Ans.	example of elevator - time utilized while waiting for the elevator	1
(iv)	**The phrase 'as big as my fist' most nearly means with reference to the given text.** **(A) strong** **(B) stingy** **(C) very small** **(D) abundant**	
Ans.	(C) very small	1
(v)	**What secret is Umberto referring to ?**	
Ans.	interstices / working in the empty spaces **(any one)**	1
(vi)	**Umberto Eco says, he works in interstices. By this, he means that he works _____.** **(A) in empty spaces** **(B) when he is in the university** **(C) on his philosophical interest** **(D) when he is with children**	
Ans.	**(A)** in empty spaces	1
Q 10	**Answer any *five* of the following six questions in 40-50 words each :**	5 x 2 = 10 marks
	Distribution of marks:- Content – 1 Expression – 1	
(i)	**How does the poet highlight the mean and selfish nature of the city dwellers?** **(A Roadside Stand)**	
Ans.	Suggested value points- • do not let money flow into the hands of country folk / do not stop by to buy anything • rich and affluent - not ready to share their money • stop only to turn around or ask if they sold gas • complained about wrong sign boards / signboards ruin scenery **(any one)**	2

(ii)	**How did Sophie's family react when she announced that if she ever had money she would buy a boutique? (Going Places)**	
Ans.	Suggested value points- • family - wrote her off / dismissed her / ignored her without paying much attention to her thoughts / feelings / thought Sophie's ideas were unrealistic, impractical / unacceptable \unfeasible. • father contradicted - buy a decent house for them- would be more practical • brother, Derek mocked - money did not grow on trees. • mother sighed – showing her sadness/helplessness – knew she could never achieve it. **(either consolidated reaction as a family or any two members' reaction)**	2
(iii)	**What caused the lack of communication between the Englishman and the people at Gemini Studios?** **(Poets and Pancakes)**	
Ans.	Suggested value points- • visitors not known to all those who ventured to welcome him. • vague speech was made by the editor which the Englishman did not understand at all. • the content of Englishman's speech and accent were beyond the comprehension of his audience. • the poet was clueless / unsure why he was invited to address the audience with whom he did not connect. **(any one)**	2
(iv)	**Give a brief account of the reception that Gandhi got in Motihari? (Indigo)**	
Ans.	Suggested value points- greeted by the vast multitude of people at the railway station / people welcomed him enthusiastically. **(any other relevant point)** **(any one)**	2
(v)	**Why was Douglas determined to get over his fear of water ?** **(Deep Water)**	
Ans.	Suggested value points- • ruined / spoiled / his enjoyment of his fishing trips • deprived him of the joy of canoeing, boating and swimming • wanted to regain his confidence • it had become a handicap • decided to live life to the fullest by overcoming his fears **(any one)**	2
(vi)	**According to the poet, beauty is everlasting. Explain.** **(A Thing of Beauty)**	

Ans.	Suggested value points- - joy for ever - its value increases with time - 'pass into nothingness' – never forgotten - timeless / beyond boundaries - endless fountain of immortal drink **(any other relevant point) (any one)**	2
Q. 11	**Answer any *two* of the following three questions in 40-50 words each :**	2 x 2 = 4
	Distribution of marks:- Content – 1 Expression – 1	
(i)	**What makes Tishani Doshi write that she felt as if she was walking into a giant ping-pong ball?** **(Journey to the end of the Earth)**	
Ans.	Suggested value points- - devoid of human markers - no trees, billboards, buildings - expansive white landscapes - loss of earthly sense of perspective and time. **(any one)**	2
(ii)	**Why did the booking clerk refuse to accept the money?** **(The Third Level)**	
Ans.	Suggested value points- - thought that Charley was trying to dupe him as the currency was not old style / of that time	2
(iii)	**Why did Derry enter Mr Lamb's garden?** **(On The Face of It)**	
Ans.	Suggested value points- - thought it was an empty place / house - he did not think any one was there **(any one)**	2
Q. 12	**Answer any *one* of the following two questions in 120-150 words :**	5 marks

	Distribution of marks:- Content – 3 Expression – 2 EXPRESSION - grammar, spelling, punctuation, organisation and coherence of ideas	
(a)	**M. Hamel in 'The Last Lesson' and Edla in 'The Rattrap' are the guiding lights of self-realization to Franz and the peddler respectively. Comment.**	
Ans.	Suggested value points- - both have positive impact on the transformation of the characters • **The Rattrap** - Edla shows unconditional compassion / corrects his mistakes / catalyst for redemption / rekindles his faith in humanity / brings out his essential goodness /peddler is transformed • **The Last Lesson** - M. Hamel's last lesson transforms Franz / regrets procrastinating / not attending his classes / desires to learn from each lesson / realizes importance of - language, books, his teacher **(any other relevant point)** **(any three with at least one point from each text)**	5
	OR	
(b)	**The poems 'My Mother at Sixty-six' by Kamala Das and 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' by Adrienne Rich explore the themes of pain and conflict. Explain.**	
Ans.	Suggested value points- - both poems – vivid imagery / poetic devices and symbols reflect pain / conflict - tone of both poems – melancholic / reflective • **My Mother at Sixty-six** - poem reflects - pain of poet /poet's realization – ageing and declining health of the mother - feels pain and helplessness at the thought of losing her mother - forcefully smiles to hide her pain - reflects her inner conflict • **Aunt Jennifer's Tiger** - poem showcases pain and oppression in marriage in patriarchal society - massive weight of uncle's wedding band signifies emotional confinement causing lack of confidence / fear - aunt's art reflects her inner turmoil / repressed emotions / desire of longing for freedom and autonomy **(any other relevant point)** **(any three with at least one point from each text)**	5

Q. 13	**Answer any *one* of the following two questions in 120-150 words :**	5 marks
	Distribution of marks:- Content – 3 Expression – 2 EXPRESSION - grammar, spelling, punctuation, organisation and coherence of ideas	
(a)	**Dr. Sadao emerges as both a true patriot and a compassionate human being. Elaborate. (The Enemy)**	
Ans.	Suggested value points- • **patriotic** - loyal to the country - willing to serve his country - respect for authority – confides in General about the American soldier / agrees to the General's plan – of sending his private assassins - dilemma - treating an American soldier • **Compassionate** - kind and true to his duty as a doctor - believes that saving life is paramount - chooses his duty as a doctor - brings POW at home – treats him, feeds him, tends to his needs, helps him escape and provides for him (checks his vitals, directs him, gives a flash light etc.) **(any other relevant point)** **(any three with at least one from each character trait)**	5
	OR	
(b)	**'Memories of Childhood' deals with autobiographical episodes of Zitkala-Sa and Bama. They both come from marginalized communities, and look back on their childhood to reflect on their relationships with mainstream culture. Elaborate.**	
Ans.	Suggested value points- • **Zitkala Sa** – - American native woman – forced to attend boarding school for native American children - had to fight prejudice / dogma / evils of oppression - felt uncomfortable - alien language - regimental routine (eating by formula) - felt awkward / out of place - forced to cut her hair against her culture - lost - cultural identity • **Bama** – - Tamil Dalit writer - victim of untouchability - carefree as a child - unaware of oppression	5

	- received first-hand experience - an elder of her community carrying a food packet for his master in an awkward manner -finds it amusing - shares the incidence with her brother – who explains about untouchability / maltreatment / advises -upliftment through hard work and education. • **Conclusion** – - both fought against oppression in their respective countries / empowered themselves with education / escape the past shadows of their psychological struggles in life. **(any other relevant point)** **(any three with at least one from each character)**	

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SET-1

Series SRQP2/2

Q.P. Code 1/2/1

Roll No. | | | | | | | | |

Candidates must write the Q.P. Code on the title page of the answer-book.

- Please check that this question paper contains **19** printed pages.
- Please check that this question paper contains **13** questions.
- Q.P. Code given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer-book by the candidate.
- **Please write down the serial number of the question in the answer-book before attempting it.**
- 15 minute time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed at 10.15 a.m. From 10.15 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., the students will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.

ENGLISH (Core)

Time allowed : 3 hours *Maximum Marks : 80*

General Instructions :

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly 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** and 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) Separate 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 marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully : *12*

(1) As a young adult, life can be stressful and overwhelming at times. Juggling among school, work, social life, and other responsibilities, it can be easy to feel alone and disconnected from the world around us. Dogs are the ultimate companions for anyone looking to alleviate stress and loneliness. We'll explore many reasons why dogs make the best companions for young adults.

(2) Unconditional love : Dogs are known for their loyalty and love for their owners, no matter what. They don't judge us, criticize us, or hold grudges against us. No matter how flawed or imperfect we may be, our dogs will always love us unconditionally. This kind of unwavering support and affection can be incredibly comforting for young adults struggling to find their place in the world.

(3) Social connection : Dogs are great ice-breakers and conversation starters. Whether you're walking them in the park, taking them to the dog beach, or simply hanging out at home, dogs have a way of bringing people together. For young adults who may feel isolated or disconnected from their peers, having a dog by their side can be a great way to connect with others and form new friendships.

(4) Increase physical activity : Dogs require regular exercise in order to stay healthy and happy. This means that young adults who own dogs are more likely to engage in physical activity themselves. Whether its going for a run, playing frisbee, or simply taking a leisurely stroll, getting out with your dog can be a great way to boost your mood and energy levels.

(5) Emotional support : Dogs are also great emotional support animals for those struggling with mental health issues such as anxiety and depression. Their presence alone can provide a sense of calm and comfort, and their ability to sense their owner's emotions can be incredibly comforting. For young adults dealing with mental health challenges, having a dog as a companion can be a life-changing experience.

(6) Improve responsibility and self-care : Owning a dog also comes with a great deal of responsibility and self-care. Dogs require regular feeding, grooming, exercise, and attention, which can be a great way for young adults to develop a sense of responsibility and self-discipline. Additionally, having a dog as a companion can encourage young adults to take better care of themselves, such as making sure they get enough sleep, eat healthy, and engage in regular exercise.

(7) For all these reasons and more, dogs make fantastic companions for young adults. Whether you're looking for emotional support, social connection, increased physical activity , or simply someone to love and be loved by, a dog can provide all these things and more. So the next time you're feeling stressed or overwhelmed, consider finding a furry friend to take on the world with you.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(i) What is the significance of owning a dog for a young adult who is striving for acceptance in society ? *1*

(A) It means increased physical activity.

(B) It builds a sense of responsibility.

(C) It helps young adults get more sleep.

(D) It is a source of unconditional love.

(ii) A dog can encourage its owner to lead a healthier life by _____.

Complete the above sentence appropriately, in about 40 words, with a characteristic or description. *2*

(iii) Share evidence from the text, in approximately 40 words, to support the view that dogs provide a sense of calm and comfort to those struggling with mental health issues. *2*

(iv) Explain in about 40 words the statement that 'dogs are great ice-breakers'. *2*

(v) Which of the following activities help(s) young adults, owning a dog, build their sense of responsibility and self-discipline ? *1*

(A) walking the dog daily

(B) feeding it regularly

(C) engaging the services of a dog trainer

(D) Both (A) and (B)

(vi) What does this article aim to do ? *1*

(A) Explain the benefits of owning a dog.

(B) Provide advice on how to get a dog.

(C) Discuss how to take proper care of a dog.

(D) Describe the experiences of dog owners.

(vii) Select the option that is similar in meaning to the phrase 'take on the world'. *1*

(A) travel the world

(B) accept a responsibility

(C) to be pessimistic

(D) have a global outlook

(viii) What does the underlined part in the sentence "consider finding a furry friend to take on the world with you" refer to ? *1*

(ix) What is the tone of the article ? *1*

(A) critical but supportive

(B) indifferent and bored

(C) positive and informative

(D) humorous and casual

2. Read the following passage carefully : *10*

(1) A recent survey conducted by an independent research firm sought to measure levels of happiness among youth aged 16 – 24 years in seven countries. The findings revealed some intriguing insights into what makes today's youth happiest, as well as which factors influence their overall well-being. In India, an overwhelming majority of the youth reported feeling satisfied with their lives, with 87% rating of their overall happiness as 'high' or 'very high.' Financial security was identified as the primary source of happiness for 66%, followed by family support (89%), having a purpose in life (50%), and work or studies (40%). Unfortunately, 65% reported feeling stress related to academic performance or workload, while 25% reported feeling lonely. These figures point to a need for increased mental health support among India's youth.

(2) These surveys also revealed that family support is an important source of contentment for young people across countries. In Europe, 59% of respondents said that their families were a major source of happiness; in France this figure was 67%, and 63% in Germany. In North America, 64% rated family as an important factor for well-being in Canada, while 61% did so in the United States. Similarly, 89% of survey respondents in India named family support as a major contributor to their overall contentment level.

(3) It is clear that stress has a significant impact on the happiness of today's youth. The findings suggest that young people need better resources to manage their mental health and well-being. This may include access to counselling services, mindfulness activities and support groups to help them cope with challenging circumstances. It is also important to provide financial support so as to reduce some of the economic pressures.

(4) In India, 65% of youth surveyed reported feeling anxious about their academic performance or workload, while 25% felt lonely. These figures are especially significant given how important family support is for young people's overall contentment.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(i) What are the two findings that the survey mentioned in paragraph 1 reveals ? Answer in about 40 words. *2*

(ii) Explain in about 40 words the statement "It is also important to provide financial support so as to reduce some of the economic pressures." *2*

(iii) Elaborate giving data, the statement "Stress has a significant impact on the happiness of today's youth." *1*

(iv) Which of the following factors, with reference to the given passage, does ***not*** play a substantial role in the well-being of Indian youth ? *1*

(A) Family support and strong ties

(B) Social connection and technology

(C) Books and literature

(D) Economic stability

(v) State whether *True* or *False,* with reference to the given passage :

It is not necessary to provide financial support to the youth as only academic performance plays an upper hand in deciding the stress level. *1*

(vi) What are the top choices which are of maximum value to today's youth ? *1*

I. Collectivism

II. Social media

III. Individualistic society

IV. Family ties

Options :

(A) I and II

(B) II and III

(C) I and IV

(D) II and IV

(vii) The mental health of today's youth can be managed by resources like _____ and _____. *1*

(viii) Write the following sources that provide happiness to today's youth in descending order : *1*

(a) purposefulness

(b) financial status

(c) family support

(d) stress

SECTION B

Creative Writing Skills (18 marks)

3. Attempt any ***one*** of the two, (a) or (b), in about 50 words. *4*

(a) You are the President of the Cultural Club of Marigold Public School, Vir Nagar. As part of the Annual Community Service Week, you are planning to put up a cultural performance in 'Ahista', a senior citizens home. Draft a notice for the school notice board inviting participation by the students. Invent necessary details.

OR

(b) As Chief Librarian of Little Wood Library, Birpur, draft a notice informing members about the change in winter timings, effective from 1st April, 2024. Also inform the members about the newly introduced electronic international journal support service with a remote accessing facility. Invent necessary details.

4. Attempt any ***one*** of the two, (a) or (b), in about 50 words. *4*

(a) You are the Secretary of the Civil Medical Doctors Association, Sheesh Nagar. On the occasion of World Health Day, you are arranging a workshop on Drug Free Pain Management and Reversal. Draft a formal letter of invitation to be sent to all the members to attend the workshop. Request them to be punctual. Invent relevant details.

OR

(b) You are Shri E.A.S. Prasad, a well known local cricketer. You have been invited as a chief guest for an inter-school cricket championship in K.P.S School, Mahabagh. Create an appropriate formal letter of acceptance.

5. Attempt any ***one*** of the two, (a) or (b), in 120 – 150 words. *5*

(a) You are Priti/Pramod Vats, a resident of 317, Rajdhani Enclave, Rajbagh. You saw the given advertisement in the newspaper and wished to apply for the same. Write a letter to the Personnel Manager along with your bio-data, expressing your interest in the advertised post.

HARRISON & SIMPSON Ltd.
want
college graduates
for
marketing a new cosmetic range
'I Wish'
Whom do we need
Graduates, comfortable in English and Hindi,
good interpersonal skills.
Contact : Director Personnel – 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
9877763240

OR

(b) You have been making documentaries on how rivers, the lifelines of our nation, are under serious threat due to river pollution. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, examining the reasons for this pollution and suggesting ways of tackling the issue. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this letter. You are Srishti / Suraj, a concerned student.

Reasons

- pollution
- industrial waste
- agricultural runoff
- human sewage

Solutions

- strict laws
- monitoring committees
- waste handling process
- educate the masses

6. Attempt any ***one*** of the two, (a) or (b), in 120 – 150 words. *5*

(a) With rapid digitalization, students have started depending on digital devices for entertainment. This has impacted their lives, both positively and negatively. Write an article with the help of the given cues and your own ideas, highlighting the advantages and disadvantages of using digital devices. You are Rohini / Rohit.

Digital Devices and Children

Enhance skills
- academics
- psychomotor
- visual intelligence
- research

Ill effects of long use
- physical inactivity
- poor interpersonal skills
- addictive disorders
- aggressive behaviour
- lack of concentration

Solutions
- adult supervision
- strict timings
- spread awareness of addiction

OR

(b) The student counselling department in your school put up the following poster regarding an event in the community centre.

Be - Do - Live

WELL.

6th, 7th, 8th February

10 am – 6:30 pm

A Wellness Workshop
- sharing common concerns
- reducing stress
- motivation strategies
- joy of living

Theatre in Action

As Rita / Rahul, student editor, write a report on the above workshop for the school magazine.

SECTION C

Literature (40 marks)

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any ***one*** of the given two, (a) or (b) : *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 ? *1*

(A) The maturity of adulthood

(B) The glory of feminity

(C) Victim of male domination

(D) The superficial beauty

(ii) State whether the following statement is *True* or *False*, with reference to the extract. *1*

Aunt Jennifer is nervous and traumatized because of the constraints of her marriage.

(iii) Complete the following sentence appropriately : *1*

The fingers fluttering through her wool symbolize _____.

(iv) The use of the words "massive weight" creates a powerful image of _____. *1*

(v) Based on the rhyme scheme in lines 3 and 4, which word would rhyme with 'band' and 'hand' ? *1*

(A) stand
(B) wind
(C) bent
(D) tent

(vi) The heavy wedding ring is a source of : *1*

(A) joy.
(B) freedom.
(C) dignity.
(D) burden.

OR

(b) Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways
Made for our searching :

(A Thing of Beauty)

(i) Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract ? *1*

(A) The beautiful things in nature
(B) Things that cause unhappiness
(C) The immortality of human beings
(D) The early morning fragrance of flowers

(ii) State whether the given statement is *True* or *False*, with reference to the extract. *1*

The paths we follow are often not worthy of our noble nature.

(iii) Complete the following sentence appropriately : *1*

We wreathe for ourselves a flowery band every morrow because _____.

(iv) The use of the word 'dearth' creates a powerful image of _____. *1*

(v) Based on the rhyme scheme in lines 4 and 5, which of the following word will rhyme with 'days' and 'ways' ? *1*

(A) craze

(B) pays

(C) haste

(D) waste

(vi) The lack of punctuation at the end of line 3 in the extract is to : *1*

(A) create a sense of continuity and flow that connects it with the fourth line.

(B) encourage the reader to understand grammar.

(C) forewarn the reader of gloomy days ahead.

(D) keep us connected to this earth.

8. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any ***one*** of the given two, (a) or (b) : *4*

(a) "If I am able, are you ?" Sadao asked.

"No," Hana said, "But if you can do it alone…"

Sadao hesitated again. "The strange thing is," he said, "that if the man were whole I could turn him over to the police without difficulty. I care nothing for him. He is my enemy. All Americans are my enemy. And he is only a common fellow. You see how foolish his face is. But since he is wounded…"

(The Enemy)

(i) Complete the sentence appropriately. *1*

The dilemma faced by the couple was _____.

(ii) What does Hana ask Dr. Sadao to do alone ? *1*

(A) Treat the wounded soldier

(B) Give him shelter in the outhouse

(C) Throw him back into the sea

(D) Hand him over to the authorities

(iii) Explain the expression : "if the man were whole". *1*

(iv) Dr. Sadao says, "All Americans are my enemy." What character trait of Dr. Sadao does it reflect ? *1*

OR

(b) Derry : I'd not come to steal anything.

Mr. Lamb : No, no. The young lads steal….scrump the apples. You're not so young.

Derry : I just….wanted to come in. Into the garden.

Mr. Lamb : So you did. Here we are, then.

Derry : You don't know who I am.

Mr. Lamb : A boy. Thirteen or so.

Derry : Fourteen. [*Pause*] But I've got to go now. Good-bye.

Mr. Lamb : Nothing to be afraid of. Just a garden. Just me.

Derry : But I'm not....*I'm* not afraid. *[Pause]* People are afraid of *me*.

(On the Face Of It)

(i) Why does Mr. Lamb feel that Derry has not come to steal ? *1*

(ii) Cite instances from the extract which show that Mr. Lamb is trying to put Derry at ease. *1*

(iii) Choose the correct statement : *1*

(A) Derry entered the garden as he was fascinated by the bees.

(B) Derry came to meet Mr. Lamb.

(C) They were well acquainted with each other.

(D) Derry entered as he wanted to see the garden.

(iv) People are afraid of Derry because _____. *1*

9. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any ***one*** of the given two, (a) or (b) : *6*

(a) "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) Complete the sentence appropriately.
Children become partners in survival suggests that _____. *1*

(ii) Rag-picking has acquired the proportion of a fine art means : *1*

(A) artistic bend of mind is required.

(B) it has proportionately displaced art.

(C) it has become a highly skilful activity.

(D) it has discovered pieces of art.

(iii) State whether the given statement is *True* or *False* with reference to the extract. *1*

The children and their parents have left Dhaka to live in Seemapuri.

(iv) Why does the author say 'survival in Seemapuri means rag-picking' ? *1*

(v) What does the phrase "for a child it is even more" reveal about the children's dreams ? *1*

(vi) Which of the following headlines suggests the central idea of the extract ? *1*

(A) Seemapuri, A Pot of Gold

(B) Rag-picking – Different Perspectives

(C) Art in Delhi and in Seemapuri

(D) Saheb-e-Alam in Seemapuri

OR

(b) This settlement was adopted unanimously by the commission. Gandhi explained that the amount of the refund was less important than the fact that the landlords had been obliged to surrender part of the money and, with it, part of their prestige. Therefore, as far as the peasants were concerned, the planters had behaved as lords above the law. Now the peasant saw that he had rights and defenders. He learned courage.

(Indigo)

(i) What was Gandhi's purpose in agreeing to the settlement, even at a lesser amount ? *1*

(ii) Complete the sentence with one word : *1*

The commission agreed by common consent, or in other words, they agreed to the settlement _____.

(iii) Explain the impact on the landlords as a result of the settlement. *1*

(iv) Based on the content provided in the extract, select the most likely option about the behaviour of the landlords. *1*

(A) The landlords were sorry for their behaviour.

(B) The landlords were obstinate and refused Gandhi's suggestion.

(C) The landlords had to refund the money.

(D) The landlords and the planters became partners in the Indigo plantation.

(v) What did the peasants realize from the Champaran incident ? *1*

(vi) Complete the sentence appropriately. *1*

The phrase 'lords above the law' suggests that _____.

10. Answer any ***five*** of the following six questions in 40 – 50 words each : *5×2=10*

(i) What was the 'thunderclap' the narrator received as M. Hamel began the lesson ? (The Last Lesson)

(ii) Explain the sentence "an army of barefoot boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon." (Lost Spring)

(iii) The lesson 'The Rattrap' is both entertaining and philosophical. Do you agree with the statement ? Give reasons. (The Rattrap)

(iv) Bring out the contrast between Jansie and Sophie in the story 'Going Places'. (Going Places)

(v) How was there a great deal of national integration in the make-up department ? (Poets and Pancakes)

(vi) Did Umberto Eco like to be identified as a novelist ? Give reasons in support of your answer. (The Interview)

11. Answer any ***two*** of the following three questions in 40 – 50 words each : *2×2=4*

(i) Do you think the prediction made by the state astrologer "was indisputably disproved" ? Give reasons in support of your answer.
(The Tiger King)

(ii) "Then I lost my spirit." What are the incidents that led Zitkala-Sa to feel this way ? (Memories of Childhood)

(iii) Tishani Doshi considered the programme 'Students on Ice' a success. Do you agree with her ? Why/Why not ?
(Journey to the End of the Earth)

12. Answer any ***one*** of the following two questions in 120 – 150 words : *5*

(a) Franz in "The Last Lesson" realizes the importance of going to school while Saheb in "Lost Spring" yearns to go to school. Write a paragraph exploring the different perspectives of these two young boys on learning and education.

OR

(b) Write a comparative analysis for your study group focusing on how the poems "Keeping Quiet" and "My Mother at Sixty-six" illuminate the different facets of human introspection and the significance of quiet reflection in understanding oneself.

13. Answer any ***one*** of the following two questions in 120 – 150 words : *5*

(a) Justify the statement, 'It may take a long time for oppression to be resisted but the seeds of rebellion are sowed early in life.'
(Memories of Childhood)

OR

(b) The story "The Tiger King" is a satire on the conceit of those in power. How does the author employ the literary device of dramatic irony in the story ? (The Tiger King)

Strictly Confidential: (For Internal and Restricted use only)
Senior Secondary School Examination 2024
Marking Scheme – ENGLISH CORE (301)
(QUESTION PAPER CODE – 1/2/1)

General Instructions: -

1. You are aware that evaluation is the most important process in the actual and correct assessment of the candidates. A small mistake in evaluation may lead to serious problems which may affect the future of the candidates, education system and teaching profession. To avoid mistakes, it is requested that before starting evaluation, you must read and understand the spot evaluation guidelines carefully.
2. **"Evaluation policy is a confidential policy as it is related to the confidentiality of the examinations conducted, evaluation done and several other aspects. Its leakage to public in any manner could lead to derailment of the examination system and affect the life and future of millions of candidates. Sharing this policy/document to anyone, publishing in any magazine and printing in News Paper/Website etc may invite action under various rules of the Board and IPC."**
3. Evaluation is to be done as per instructions provided in the Marking Scheme. It should not be done according to one's own interpretation or any other consideration. Marking Scheme should be strictly adhered to and religiously followed. **However, while evaluating, answers which are based on the latest information or knowledge and / or are innovative, may be assessed for their correctness otherwise, and due marks may be awarded to them. In Competency based questions, please try to understand the given answer and even if reply is not from marking scheme but correct competency is shown by the candidate, due marks should be awarded.**
4. The Marking Scheme carries only suggested value points for the answers. These are in the nature of Guidelines only and do not constitute the complete answer. The students can have their own expression and if the expression is correct, then due marks should be awarded accordingly.
5. The Head-Examiner must go through the first five answer books evaluated by each evaluator on the first day, to ensure that evaluation has been carried out as per the instructions given in the Marking Scheme. If there is any variation, the same should be zeroed after deliberation and discussion. The remaining answer books meant for evaluation shall be given only after ensuring that there is no significant variation in the marking of individual evaluators.
6. Evaluators will mark (√) wherever answer is correct. For wrong answer 'X" be marked. Evaluators will not put (√) while evaluating a wrong answer which gives an impression that answer is correct and no marks are awarded. **This is the most common mistake which evaluators are committing.**
7. If a question has parts, please award marks on the right-hand side for each part. Marks awarded for different parts of the question should then be totalled up and written in the left-hand margin and encircled. This must be followed strictly.
8. If a question does not have any parts, marks must be awarded in the left-hand margin and encircled. This must be followed strictly.

9. If a student has attempted an extra question, answer of the question deserving more marks should be retained and the other answer scored out with a note "**Extra Question".**
10. **If more than one option is mentioned in the answer of multiple choice questions, then no marks to be awarded.**
11. No marks to be deducted for the cumulative effect of an error. It should be penalized only once.
12. A full scale of marks (0-80 marks) as given in Question Paper has to be used. Please do not hesitate to award full marks if the answer deserves it.
13. Every examiner has to necessarily do evaluation work for full working hours i.e. 8 hours every day and evaluate 20 answer books per day in main subjects and 25 answer books per day in other subjects (Details are given in Spot Guidelines).
14. Ensure that you do not make the following common types of errors committed by the Examiner in the past:-
    - Leaving answer or part thereof unassessed in an answer book.
    - Giving more marks for an answer than assigned to it.
    - Wrong totalling of marks awarded on an answer.
    - Wrong transfer of marks from the inside pages of the answer book to the title page.
    - Wrong question wise totalling on the title page.
    - Wrong totalling of marks of the two columns on the title page.
    - Wrong grand total.
    - Marks in words and figures not tallying / not same.
    - Wrong transfer of marks from the answer book to online award list.
    - Answers marked as correct, but marks not awarded. (Ensure that the right tick mark (√) is correctly and clearly indicated. It should not merely be a line. Same is with the (X) for incorrect answer.)
    - Half or a part of answer marked correct and the rest as wrong, but no marks awarded.
15. While evaluating the answer books if the answer is found to be totally incorrect, it should be marked as cross (X) and awarded zero (0) Marks. 'Zero' should be mentioned both in figures and words.
16. Any unassessed portion, non-carrying over of marks to the title page, or totalling error detected by the candidate shall damage the prestige of all the personnel engaged in the evaluation work as also of the Board. Hence, in order to uphold the prestige of all concerned, it is again reiterated that the instructions should be followed meticulously and judiciously.
17. The Examiners should acquaint themselves with the guidelines given in the **"Guidelines for Spot Evaluation"** before starting the actual evaluation.
18. Every Examiner shall also ensure that all the answers are evaluated, marks carried over to the title page, correctly totalled and written in figures and words.
19. The candidates are entitled to obtain photocopy of the Answer Book on request on payment of the prescribed processing fee. All Examiners / Additional Head Examiners / Head Examiners are once again reminded that they must ensure that evaluation is carried out strictly as per Value Points for each answer as given in the Marking Scheme.

MARKING SCHEME

Senior Secondary School Examination, 2024

ENGLISH CORE (Subject Code–301)

[Question Paper Code : 1/2/1]

Maximum Marks : 80

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS:

1. The answers given below are suggestive. Credit should be given for any relevant point which is not included in the value points listed below. However, any independent interpretation should be discussed with the HE before awarding marks.
2. No marks shall be deducted for exceeding the word-limit.
3. If a spelling error is recurring, it should be penalized only once.

	SUGGESTED VALUE POINTS	Marks
	SECTION—A **Reading Skills**	**22 marks**
	NOTE: The objective of the reading section is to focus on testing a candidate's ability to comprehend. No mark(s) should be deducted for mistakes in usage and grammar, spelling or word-limit. Full marks may be awarded if a student has been able to identify the core ideas. If a student literally lifts a portion of the given passage as an answer to a question, no mark(s) to be deducted for this, as long as it is relevant.	
Q.1.	Answer the following questions based on the above passage:	**12 marks**
(i)	**What is the significance of owning a dog for a young adult who is striving for acceptance in society?** **(A) It means increased physical activity.** **(B) It builds a sense of responsibility.** **(C) It helps young adults get more sleep.** **(D) It is a source of unconditional love.**	
Ans.	(D) It is a source of unconditional love.	1
(ii)	**A dog can encourage its owner to lead a healthier life by _____.** **Complete the above sentence appropriately, in about 40 words, with a characteristic or description.**	
Ans.	- giving emotional support - keeping him happy - reducing anxiety and depression - helping in mental health issues - giving a sense of calm and comfort - engaging him in physical activities	2

	(any two)	
(iii)	**Share evidence from the text, in approximately 40 words, to support the view that dogs provide a sense of calm and comfort to those struggling with mental health issues.**	
Ans.	- ability to sense their owner's emotions can be incredibly calming - having a dog as a companion can be a life changing experience - their presence is calming for the owner - support them to deal with anxiety and depression **(any two)**	2
(iv)	**Explain in about 40 words the statement that dogs are great ice-breakers .**	
Ans.	- dogs have a way of bringing people together - a great way to connect with others and form new friendships	2
(v)	**Which of the following activities help(s) young adults, owning a dog, build their sense of responsibility and self-discipline ?** **(A) walking the dog daily** **(B) feeding it regularly** **(C) engaging the services of a dog trainer** **(D) Both (A) and (B)**	
Ans.	(D) Both (A) and (B)	1
(vi)	**What does this article aim to do ?** **(A) Explain the benefits of owning a dog.** **(B) Provide advice on how to get a dog.** **(C) Discuss how to take proper care of a dog.** **(D) Describe the experiences of dog owners.**	
Ans.	(A) Explain the benefits of owning a dog.	1
(vii)	**Select the option that is similar in meaning to the phrase 'take on the world'.** **(A) travel the world** **(B) accept a responsibility** **(C) to be pessimistic** **(D) have a global outlook**	
Ans.	(B) accept a responsibility	1
(viii)	**What does the underlined part in the sentence "consider finding a <u>furry friend</u> to take on the world with you" refer to?**	
Ans.	dog / pet / companion / any hairy animal which gives companionship	1
(ix)	**What is the tone of the article ?**	

	(A) critical but supportive **(B) indifferent and bored** **(C) positive and informative** **(D) humorous and casual**	
Ans.	(C) positive and informative	1
	Passage 2	
Q.2.	Answer the following questions based on the above passage:	10 marks
(i)	**What are the two findings that the survey mentioned in paragraph 1 reveals ? Answer in about 40 words.**	
Ans.	- measure levels of happiness - overall well-being / financial security **(any two)**	2
(ii)	**Explain in about 40 words the statement "It is also important to provide financial support so as to reduce some of the economic pressures".**	
Ans.	- young people need better resources to access counselling services / mindfulness activities / support groups - any other relevant point **(any two)**	2
(iii)	**Elaborate giving data, the statement "Stress has a significant impact on the happiness of today's youth."**	
Ans.	- 65% reported feeling stress related to academic performance or workload - 25% reported feeling lonely ***(any one)***	1
(iv)	**Which of the following factors, with reference to the given passage, does *not* play a substantial role in the well-being of Indian youth ?** **(A) Family support and strong ties** **(B) Social connection and technology** **(C) Books and literature** **(D) Economic stability**	
Ans.	(B) Social connection and technology / (C) Books and literature	1
(v)	**State whether *True* or *False*, with reference to the given passage :** **It is not necessary to provide financial support to the youth as only academic performance plays an upper hand in deciding the stress level.**	
Ans.	False	1
(vi)	**What are the top choices which are of maximum value to today's youth ?** **I. Collectivism**	

	II. Social media **III. Individualistic society** **IV. Family ties Options :** **(A) I and II (B) II and III** **(C) I and IV (D) II and IV**	
Ans.	(C) I and IV / (D) II and IV	1
(vii)	**The mental health of today's youth can be managed by resources like _____ and _____.**	
Ans.	- counselling services - mindfulness activities - support groups - mental health services ***(any two)***	1
(viii)	**Write the following sources that provide happiness to today's youth in descending order :** **(a) purposefulness** **(b) financial status** **(c) family support** **(d) stress**	
Ans.	(c) family support (b) financial status (d) stress (a) purposefulness / (c) family support (b) financial status (a) purposefulness (d) stress	1
	SECTION B **Creative Writing Skills**	**18 marks**
	<u>OBJECTIVE:</u> • To test the ability to think logically and express clearly. • To use a style appropriate to the given situation. • To plan, organize and present ideas coherently.	
Q.3	**Attempt any one of the two,(a) and (b), in about 50 words :**	4 marks
	NOTICE WRITING	
	Distribution of marks **Format -1** **Content – 2** **Expression: Grammar & Spelling – ½** **Coherence of Ideas- ½**	

	FORMAT - Name of issuing authority- organisation/ agency, NOTICE, heading, date of issue, signature / name, designation (bottom left)	
Q.3 (a)	**You are the President of the Cultural Club of Marigold Public School, Vir Nagar. As part of the Annual Community Service Week, you are planning to put up a cultural performance in 'Ahista', a senior citizens home. Draft a notice for the school notice board inviting participation by the students. Invent necessary details.**	
Ans.	Suggested value points:- - date, time and venue - details of cultural performance - invite participation, last date **(inputs given in the question to be included)** **(any other relevant point)**	4
	OR	
Q.3 (b)	**As Chief Librarian of Little Wood Library, Birpur, draft a notice informing members about the change in winter timings, effective from 1st April, 2024. Also inform the members about the newly introduced electronic international journal support service with a remote accessing facility. Invent necessary details.**	
Ans.	Suggested value points:- - mention date and time - details of implementation **(inputs given in the question to be included)** **(any other relevant point)**	4
Q. 4	**Attempt any one of the two, (a) or (b), in about 50 words.**	4 marks
	Distribution of marks **Format -1** **Content – 2** **Expression: Grammar & Spelling – ½** **Coherence of Ideas- ½**	
Q.4 (a)	**FORMAL INVITATION**	
	You are the Secretary of the Civil Medical Doctors Association, Sheesh Nagar. On the occasion of World Health Day, you are arranging a workshop on Drug Free Pain Management and Reversal. Draft a formal letter of invitation to be sent to all the members to attend the workshop. Request them to be punctual. Invent relevant details.	
	Suggested value points: - formal letter	4

Ans.	- inform details - mention date, time and venue **(inputs given in the question to be included)** **(any other relevant point)**	
	OR	
Q.4 (b)	**FORMAL REPLY**	
	You are Shri E.A.S. Prasad, a well known local cricketer. You have been invited as a chief guest for an inter-school cricket championship in K.P.S School, Mahabagh. Create an appropriate formal letter of acceptance.	
Ans.	Suggested value points: - formal letter of acceptance - thanking for the invite - event and its schedule **(inputs given in the question to be included)** **(any other relevant point)**	4
Q. 5	**Attempt any one of the two, (a) or (b), in 120-150 words.**	5 marks
	Distribution of marks **Format -1 Content – 3** **Expression (Grammar & Spelling) – ½ Coherence of ideas - ½** FORMAT –Sender's address, Date, Receiver's address, Subject and Salutation/ Salutation and Subject, Complimentary Close, Name	
	JOB APPLICATION	
Q.5 (a)	**You are Priti/Pramod Vats, a resident of 317, Rajdhani Enclave, Rajbagh. You saw the given advertisement in the newspaper and wished to apply for the same. Write a letter to the Personnel Manager along with your bio-data, expressing your interest in the advertised post.**	

	HARRISON & SIMPSON Ltd. **want** **college graduates** **for** **marketing a new cosmetic range** **'I Wish'** **Whom do we need** **Graduates, comfortable in English and Hindi,** **good interpersonal skills.** **Contact : Director Personnel 10:00 am 5:00 pm** **# 9877763240**	
Ans.	**Suggested value points:** **Covering Letter :** - reference to the advertisement - suitability for post - offer candidature **Bio-Data / Resume / CV:** - personal profile - qualifications - experience - skills - references **NOTE:** • No marks to be deducted if the Resume/CV/Bio-data is included in the covering letter. **(inputs given in the question to be included)**	5
	OR	
	LETTER TO EDITOR	
Q.5 (b)	**You have been making documentaries on how rivers, the lifelines of our nation, are under serious threat due to river pollution. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, examining the reasons for this pollution and suggesting ways of tackling the issue. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this letter. You are Srishti / Suraj, a concerned student.**	

	Reasons • **pollution** • **industrial waste** • **agricultural runoff** • **human sewage** **Solutions** • **strict laws** • **monitoring committees** • **waste handling process** • **educate the masses**	
Ans.	Suggested value points **(inputs given in the question to be included)** **(any other relevant point)** **(any three)**	5
Q. 6	**Attempt any one of the two, (a) or (b), in 120 - 150 words.**	5 marks
	ARTICLE WRITING	
	Distribution of marks **Format -1** **Content – 3** **Expression (Grammar & Spelling) – ½** **Coherence of ideas - ½** FORMAT – Title and byline	

Q.6 (a)	**With rapid digitalization, students have started depending on digital devices for entertainment. This has impacted their lives, both positively and negatively. Write an article with the help of the given cues and your own ideas, highlighting the advantages and disadvantages of using digital devices. You are Rohini / Rohit.** **Digital Devices and Children** **Enhance Skills** - **academics** - **psychomotor** - **visual intelligence** - **research** **Ill effects of long use** - **physical inactivity** - **poor interpersonal skills** - **addictive disorders** - **aggressive behavior** - **lack of concentrations** **Solutions** - **adult supervision** - **strict timings** - **spread awareness of addiction**	
Ans.	Suggested value points : **(inputs given in the question to be included)** **(any other relevant point)** **(any three)**	5
	OR	
	REPORT WRITING	
	Distribution of marks **Format -1** **Content – 3** **Expression (Grammar & Spelling) – ½** **Coherence of ideas - ½** FORMAT – Title and byline	

Q.6 (b)	**The student counselling department in your school put up the following poster regarding an event in the community centre.** **Be - Do - Live** **WELL.** **6th, 7th, 8th February** **10 am 6:30 pm** **A Wellness Workshop** - **sharing common concerns** - **reducing stress** - **motivation strategies** - **joy of living** **Theatre in Action** **As Rita / Rahul, student editor, write a report on the above workshop for the school magazine.**	
Ans.	Suggested value points : **(inputs given in the question to be included)** **(any other relevant point)** **(any three)**	5
	SECTION C **Literature**	**40 Marks**
	NOTE: The objective of this section is to test a candidate's ability to understand and interpret the prescribed text through short & long answer type questions. Long answer type questions have been set to test the students' understanding of the text and their ability to interpret, evaluate & respond to the issues raised therein. Hence, no particular answer can be accepted as the **only** correct answer. All presentations may be accepted as correct with consultation of the HE, if they have been duly supported by the facts drawn from the text. The student should be able to justify his / her viewpoint. **In the Inter textual questions reference to both the texts must be included.**	
Q.7	**Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (a) or (b) :**	
Q.7 (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)**	6 x 1 = 6 marks
(i)	**Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract ?**	

	(A) The maturity of adulthood **(B) The glory of feminity** **(C) Victim of male domination** **(D) The superficial beauty**	
Ans.	(C) Victim of male domination	1
(ii)	**State whether the following statement is True or False, with reference to the extract.** **Aunt Jennifer is nervous and traumatized because of the constraints of her marriage.**	
Ans.	True	1
(iii)	**Complete the following sentence appropriately :** **The fingers fluttering through her wool symbolize _____**	
Ans.	her nervousness / anxiety / trauma due to patriarchy / dominance of her husband	1
(iv)	**The use of the word "massive weight" creates a powerful image of _____**	
Ans.	suppression / constraints of married life / male domination	1
(v)	**Based on the rhyme scheme in lines 3 and 4, which word would rhyme with 'band' and 'hand'?** **(A) stand** **(B) wind** **(C) bent** **(D) tent**	
Ans.	(A) stand	1
(vi)	**The heavy wedding ring is a source of :** **(A) joy.** **(B) freedom.** **(C) dignity.** **(D) burden.**	
Ans.	(D) burden.	1
	OR	
Q.7 (b)	**Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing** **A flowery band to bind us to the earth,** **Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth** **Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,** **Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways** **Made for our searching :** **(A Thing of Beauty)**	6 x 1 = 6 marks

(i)	**Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract ?** **(A) The beautiful things in nature** **(B) Things that cause unhappiness** **(C) The immortality of human beings** **(D) The early morning fragrance of flowers**	
Ans.	(B) Things that cause unhappiness	1
(ii)	**State whether the given statement is True or False, with reference to the extract. The paths we follow are often not worthy of our noble nature.**	
Ans.	True	1
(iii)	**Complete the following sentence appropriately :** **We wreathe for ourselves a flowery band every morrow because _____.**	
Ans.	pleasant memories connect us to the earth	1
(iv)	**The use of the word 'dearth' creates a powerful image of _____.**	
Ans.	lack of nobility / lack of virtues / scarcity of good natured people	1
(v)	**Based on the rhyme scheme in lines 4 and 5, which of the following word will rhyme with 'days' and 'ways' ?** **(A) craze** **(B) pays** **(C) haste** **(D) waste**	
Ans.	(B) pays	1
(vi)	**The lack of punctuation at the end of line 3 in the extract is to :** **(A) create a sense of continuity and flow that connects it with the fourth line.** **(B) encourage the reader to understand grammar.** **(C) forewarn the reader of gloomy days ahead.** **(D) keep us connected to this earth.**	
Ans.	(A) create a sense of continuity and flow that connects it with the fourth line.	1
Q.8	**Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (a) or (b) :**	
Q.8 (a)	**"If I am able, are you? Sadao asked.** **"No", Hana said, "But if you can do it alone…"** **Sadao hesitated again, "The strange thing is," he said, "that if the man were whole I could turn him over to the police without difficulty. I care nothing for him. He is my enemy. All Americans are my enemy. And he is only a common fellow. You see how foolish his face is. But since he is wounded…"** **(The Enemy)**	4 x 1 = 4 marks
(i)	**Complete the sentence appropriately.**	

	The dilemma faced by the couple was _____.	
Ans.	whether to save the wounded prisoner / enemy or not	1
(ii)	**What does Hana ask Dr. Sadao to do alone ?** **(A) Treat the wounded soldier** **(B) Give him shelter in the outhouse** **(C) Throw him back into the sea** **(D) Hand him over to the authorities**	
Ans.	(A) Treat the wounded soldier	1
(iii)	**Explain the expression : "if the man were whole".**	
Ans.	not wounded / not injured / strong enough to fight	1
(iv)	**Dr. Sadao says, "All Americans are my enemy." What character trait of Dr. Sadao does it reflect?**	
Ans.	patriotism / true Japanese / love for his country / loyalty towards the country	1
	OR	
Q.8 (b)	**Derry : I'd not come to steal anything.** **Mr. Lamb : No, no. The young lads steal …. scrump the apples. You're not so young.** **Derry : I just…. wanted to come in. Into the garden.** **Mr. Lamb : So you did. Here we are, then.** **Derry : You don't know who I am.** **Mr. Lamb : A boy. Thirteen or so.** **Derry : Fourteen. [Pause] But I have got to go now. Good-bye.** **Mr. Lamb : Nothing to be afraid of. Just a garden. Just me.** **Derry : But I'm not.... I'm not afraid. [Pause] People are afraid of me.** **(On the Face Of It)**	4 x 1 = 4 marks
(i)	**Why does Mr. Lamb feel that Derry has not come to steal ?**	
Ans.	he felt only young lads steal / he was not so young	1
(ii)	**Cite instances from the extract which show that Mr. Lamb is trying to put Derry at ease.**	
Ans.	Nothing to be afraid of. Just a garden. Just me. / So you did. Here we are, then.	1
(iii)	**Choose the correct statement :** **(A) Derry entered the garden as he was fascinated by the bees.** **(B) Derry came to meet Mr. Lamb.** **(C) They were well acquainted with each other.** **(D) Derry entered as he wanted to see the garden.**	
Ans.	(D) Derry entered as he wanted to see the garden.	1

(iv)	**People are afraid of Derry because _____.**	
Ans.	his face is burnt	1
Q.9	**Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (a) or (b) :**	
(a)	**"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)**	6 x 1 = 6 marks
(i)	**Complete the sentence appropriately.** **Children become partners in survival suggests that _____.**	
Ans.	they help their parents in earning a livelihood / money	1
(ii)	**Rag-picking has acquired the proportion of a fine art means :** **(A) artistic bend of mind is required.** **(B) it has proportionately displaced art.** **(C) it has become a highly skilful activity.** **(D) it has discovered pieces of art.**	
Ans.	(C) it has become a highly skilful activity.	1
(iii)	**State whether the given statement is True or False with reference to the extract.** **The children and their parents have left Dhaka to live in Seemapuri.**	
Ans.	True / False	1
(iv)	**Why does the author say 'survival in Seemapuri means rag-picking'?**	
Ans.	essential means of living / it is their daily bread / only option to live / roof over their heads / means of survival	1
(v)	**What does the phrase "for a child it is even more" reveal about the children's dreams?**	
Ans.	aspiring to get something precious / full of mystery	1
(vi)	**Which of the following headlines suggests the central idea of the extract ?** **(A) Seemapuri, A Pot of Gold** **(B) Rag-picking - Different Perspectives** **(C) Art in Delhi and in Seemapuri** **(D) Saheb-e-Alam in Seemapuri**	
Ans.	(B) Rag-picking - Different Perspectives	1
	OR	

Q.9 (b)	**This settlement was adopted unanimously by the commission. Gandhi explained that the amount of the refund was less important than the fact that the landlords had been obliged to surrender part of the money and, with it, part of their prestige. Therefore, as far as the peasants were concerned, the planters had behaved as lords above the law. Now the peasant saw that he had rights and defenders. He learned courage.** **(Indigo)**	6 x 1 = 6 marks
(i)	**What was Gandhi's purpose in agreeing to the settlement, even at a lesser amount?**	
Ans.	money not important, surrendering part of their prestige was more important	1
(ii)	**Complete the sentence with one word :** **The commission agreed by common consent, or in other words, they agreed to the settlement _____.**	
Ans.	unanimously	1
(iii)	**Explain the impact on the landlords as a result of the settlement.**	
Ans.	loss of money / loss of prestige / realized they were not above the law	1
(iv)	**Based on the content provided in the extract, select the most likely option about the behaviour of the landlords.** **(A) The landlords were sorry for their behaviour.** **(B)The landlords were obstinate and refused Gandhi's suggestion.** **(C) The landlords had to refund the money.** **(D) The landlords and the planters became partners in the Indigo plantation.**	
Ans.	(C) The landlords had to refund the money.	1
(v)	**What did the peasants realize from the Champaran incident ?**	
Ans.	they too had rights and defenders / they learnt courage	1
(vi)	**Complete the sentence appropriately.** **The phrase 'lords above the law' suggests that _____.**	
Ans.	they were not under any law / not bound by laws	1
Q. 10	**Answer any five of the following six questions in 40-50 words each :**	5 x 2 = 10 marks
	Distribution of marks:- **CONTENT – 1** **SPELLING AND GRAMMAR- ½ COHERENCE OF IDEAS- ½**	
(i)	**What was the 'thunderclap' the narrator received as M. Hamel began the lesson? (The Last Lesson)**	
Ans.	**Suggested value points:-** - order from Berlin to teach German	2

	- the Last French Lesson, a bolt from the blue **(any other relevant point)** **(any one)**	
(ii)	**Explain the sentence "an army of barefoot boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon." (Lost Spring)**	
Ans.	**Suggested value points:-** - group of young boys or rag pickers, appear early morning and disappear in the afternoon **(any other relevant point)**	2
(iii)	**The lesson 'The Rattrap' is both entertaining and philosophical. Do you agree with the statement? Give reasons. (The Rattrap)**	
Ans.	**Suggested value points:-** - Yes, it is like a fairy tale with a message **Entertaining –** - humour- calls himself a rat - takes a comical revenge by imagining others as rats - comical outburst with the ironmaster **Philosophical-** - calls the entire world a rattrap - life offers baits **(any one)** **(any other relevant point)**	½ + ½ +1
(iv)	**Bring out the contrast between Jansie and Sophie in the story 'Going Places'. (Going Places)**	
Ans.	**Suggested value points:-** **Jansie –** - pragmatic - practical minded - knows her limitation - level headed - uses reason ***(any one)***	½ + ½ +1

	Sophie- - day dreamer - romanticizing her adolescence - imaginative - infatuated - hero worshipping ***(any one)*** **(any other relevant point)**	
(v)	**How was there a great deal of national integration in the make-up department? (Poets and Pancakes)**	
Ans.	**Suggested value points:-** - people of different caste and creed - Bengali, Maharashtrian, Kannadiga, Andhra, Anglo-Burmese, Madras Indian Christians, local tamils **(any other relevant point)**	2
(vi)	**Did Umberto Eco like to be identified as a novelist ? Give reasons in support of your answer. (The Interview)**	
Ans.	**Suggested value points:-** - Umberto Eco was bothered by being called a novelist - considered himself a university professor who writes novels on Sundays - participated in academic conferences instead of meetings of pen clubs and writers - identified with the academic community **(any other relevant point)** **(any one)**	2
Q. 11	**Answer any two of the following three questions in 40-50 words :**	2 x 2 = 4 marks
	Distribution of marks:- **CONTENT – 1** **SPELLING AND GRAMMAR- ½ COHERENCE OF IDEAS- ½**	
(i)	**Do you think the prediction made by the state astrologer "was indisputably disproved"? Give reasons in support of your answer. (The Tiger King)**	
Ans.	**Suggested value points:-**	½ + ½ +1

	If yes (prediction is correct) - prince was born in the hour of bull, bull and tiger are enemies, hence death comes to him from a tiger - warned against killing tigers - death of the king by the hundredth tiger is predicted ***(any one)*** **If no (prediction is incorrect)** - neither killed by the hundredth tiger nor a real one - actually killed by wooden tiger ***(any one)*** **(any other relevant point)**	
(ii)	**"Then I lost my spirit." What are the incidents that led Zitkala-Sa to feel this way? (Memories of Childhood)**	
Ans.	**Suggested value points:-** **Incidents :-** - dragged her from under the bed - forcibly tying her to the chair - shingled hair , forcibly cutting of the hair ***(any one)*** **Reasons:-** - sign of mourning and cowardice - felt defeated - lost her spirit to fight ***(any one)*** **(any other relevant point)**	½ + ½ +1
(iii)	**Tishani Doshi considered the programme 'Students on Ice' a success. Do you agree with her? Why/Why not? (Journey to the End of the Earth)**	
Ans.	**Suggested value points:-** **Yes, I agree** - taking students, future policy makers - life changing experience - to foster a new understanding and respect for the planet ***(any one)***	½ + ½ +1

	(any other relevant point)	
Q. 12	**Answer any one of the following two questions in 120-150 words :**	5 marks
	Distribution of marks:- **CONTENT – 3** **FLUENCY – 1** **SPELLING – ½** **GRAMMAR- ½**	
(a)	**Franz in "The Last Lesson" realizes the importance of going to school while Saheb in Lost Spring yearns to go to school. Write a paragraph exploring the different perspectives of these two young boys on learning and education.**	
Ans.	**Suggested value points:-** **Franz** - takes school for granted - had a casual approach - distracted by attraction outside school - does not value what he has - realization comes only when he is deprived of the opportunity **Saheb** - deprived of educational opportunity - nurtures hope to join a school when author promises - has a desperation to attend school - denied an opportunity by false promises **(any other relevant point)** **(any three)**	5
	OR	
(b)	**Write a comparative analysis for your study group focusing on how the poems "Keeping Quiet" and "My Mother at Sixty-six" illuminate the different facets of human introspection and the significance of quiet reflection in understanding oneself.**	
Ans.	**Suggested value points:-** Both offer profound insight, human introspection a unique process **Keeping Quiet** - advocates importance of quiet introspection - feeling of mutual understanding - universal brotherhood - global harming	5

	- importance of silence and stillness - promotes self awareness and mutual understanding - no association with death - introspection for a better future **My Mother at Sixty-six** - subtle complexity of human relationship - trying to reassure oneself - poignant reflection on ageing - reveals the speaker's distress - childhood fear of separation **(any other relevant point)** **(any three)**	
Q. 13	**Answer any one of the following two questions in 120-150 words :**	5 marks
	Distribution of marks:- **CONTENT – 3** **FLUENCY – 1** **SPELLING – ½** **GRAMMAR- ½**	
(a)	**Justify the statement, 'It may take a long time for oppression to be resisted but the seeds of rebellion are sowed early in life.'** **(Memories of Childhood)**	
Ans.	**Suggested value points:-** Humiliation faced by them in childhood, education as a tool to resist the oppression felt at young age **Zitkala-Sa** - insults faced at Carlisle Indian school - tight fitting clothes, hard shoes, eating by formula, all these are a blow to her self-respect - felt like a coward, cattle - shingled hair - suffered extreme indignities - puts up a fight **Bama** - felt angry, provoked on understanding the situation why the man was holding the packet like that - infuriated at the thought of discrimination	5

	- felt their people should not do petty errands for these fellows **(any other relevant point)** **(any three)**	
	OR	
(b)	**The story "The Tiger King" is a satire on the conceit of those in power. How does the author employ the literary device of dramatic irony in the story ?** **(The Tiger King)**	
Ans.	**Suggested value points:-** **Conceit of those in power** - misuse of position and power - vested interests is their only motive - callous and indifferent attitude towards animals - Maharaja is self centered - no concern for subjects - hell bent to prove astrologers wrong - examples- gifting of rings, arbitrary laws and taxes, ignores the state and subjects **Dramatic Irony** - readers know the hundredth tiger is not killed - king's death is anticipated - killing of hundred tigers but ultimately dies due to a sliver / a wooden tiger - operation is successful but the king is dead **(any other relevant point)** **(any three)**	5

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