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FIRST TERM EXAMINATION-2025-26

SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER

Sub: - ENGLISH CORE (301)

STD:- XII

Time:- 3 Hrs.

Max. 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, (Question 1 &2);
Section B: Creative Writing Skills, (Question 3, 4, and 5); and
Section C: Literature, Question Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13.
- (iii) Attempt all the questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
- (iv) Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
- (v) Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
- (vi) Adhere to the **prescribed word limit** while answering the questions.

SECTION 'A'-READING (22 MARKS)

Q.1) Read the passage given below:

12M

1. "But have you been to Nimtita? Have you been to the palace there?" asked the old man in the tea-shop with the thatched roof. We were in the village of Lalgola, one hundred and fifty miles from Kolkata, and we had just seen our thirteenth nobleman's palace and found it unsuitable.

2. "Nimtita? Where is that?" we asked without much interest. We had never heard of the place. "It is sixty miles to the North from here. You drive up the highway. Then you come to a river which you have to cross. A ferry will take your car across. Then up the highway again for twenty miles. A sign tells you where to branch off. It's on the river Padma, on the Eastern bank. It's the palace of the Choudhary's. I've been listening to your talk, and I feel you ought to see this one before you give up."

3. We were not very hopeful. We had enough trouble taking free advice from people who had no idea of our needs. Anyway, the question was: do we or do we not undertake this last trip? If we did not like the palace. It might be either giving up making this film altogether, or seriously changing its nature. We tossed a coin to decide whether to go or not. The coin said, 'Go!' and we set out on our sixty-mile journey.

4. It was when I was in bed with my right leg in plaster that I had decided the film on Tarashankar Banerjee's famous short story, 'The Music Room (Jalsaghar).' A nasty fall on the stone steps at Banaras had brought about a serious knee injury. I lay in bed and read all the Bengali books I could lay my hands on. Just then, the film distributors were not too keen to take my film for distribution, and may be this was one of the things that made me choose 'The Music Room.'

5. Here was a dramatic story which could naturally bring in music and dancing, and distributors loved music and dancing. But here, too, was a story full of feelings. So, it would

be satisfying for me as an artist. I would cast Chabi Biswas, our greatest actor, in the leading role of the zamindar-the zamindar whose love of the big musical entertainments brings about his ruin. But the most important thing was to find a palace. As we had a low budget, there was no question of having studio -built sets. I knew that, if we had the money, my art director could easily build a set which looked like our old palace with the right style. But we just did not have the money for it.

6. Nimtita turned out to be everything that the old man had claimed-and more. No one could have described words the feeling of utter sadness that surrounded the palace. The river Padma had changed its course over the years, so now there were endless stretches of sand where once had been villages. The place itself Greek pillars and all -was a perfect realization of my dream image. It stood looking over the stretches of sand with dignity. It had somehow escaped being totally destroyed when the river damped it use. The river had reached within ten yards of the front of the palace-having swallowed the garden and then stopped. Ganendra Narayan Choudhary, who is seventy and owns a British title and the palace, told us how it happened: "We were having breakfast one morning when we heard a low rumble. We went out to the veranda and saw a big chunk of our estate-almost a square mile of it going under water disappearing forever. It all happened in a few seconds. Padma's appetite is legendary."

7. "But aren't you afraid that the river might encroach further?"

8. "Oh yes, the rains bring with them the usual fears."

9. On returning from our first trip to Nimtita, I telephoned the author, Mr. Banerji. He had been just told about the location as we were.

10. "We have found our palace at last, Mr. Banerji," I said.

11. "Have you? And where is it?"

12 "At a little-known place called Nimtita."

13. "Nimtita? There was a note of recognition in his voice." "You do not mean the palace of the Choudhary, do you?"

14. "That's the one."

15. But that is extraordinary! I have not been to Nimtita myself, but I have read about the Choudhary's in a history of Bengal zamindars, and it was the music-loving Upendra Narayan Choudhary who served as the model for my rajah."

On the basis of your understanding of the passage answer the questions given below: **12 M**

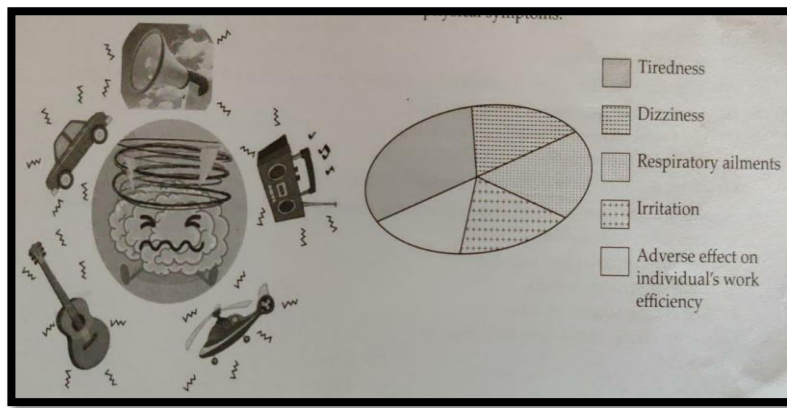
- i. State if the following statement is TRUE/FALSE. 1M
'The writer of the passage is a journalist by profession.'
- ii. What helped the author and his friends to decide whether or not to go to Nimtita? 1M
a. The suggestion made by the old man at the tea-shop
b. Their own intuitive feeling
c. Description of the palace in a travel book
d. Tossing of a coin
- iii. Why was the idea of building a set for shooting given up? 1M
a. Shooting at a set would not give a real-life effect.
b. They did not have money for a set.
c. Building a set is very time consuming
d. Shooting at the actual palace would be more authentic
- iv. Who is the central character in the story, 'The Music Room'? 1M
a. A zamindar

- b. A local raja
 - c. A British official
 - d. An artist
- v. What did the author like most about the palace? 1M
- a. Facilities for the visitors
 - b. Its huge central hall
 - c. wood carvings at the ceiling
 - d. Its Greek pillars
- vi. The suggestion made by the old man at the tea-shop to the author and his friends was _____ . 1M
- vii. Why did the author not like the idea of taking free advice? 2M
- viii. How did the author sustained a serious injury _____ . 1M
- ix. What brought about the ruin of the zamindar in the story, 'The Music Room?' 2M
- x. Give the synonym of the word 'nobility' (para 6) 1M

Q2. Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. Noise pollution, an urban territorial phenomenon, is assuming serious proportions in Delhi, the third largest urban centre of India. Back in 2011, a study by the Centre of Science and Environment (CSE) confirmed that New Delhi is the loudest city in India. The level of noise in the streets can go above 100 decibels, which is several times louder than Singapore. The frequency and intensity of pollution has been increasing day-by-day. The analysis reveals that tremendous increase in population, industrial activities, unchecked growth in vehicular traffic and rapidly changing lifestyle are the major factors that have created and aggravated the problem of noise pollution. The major health implications include irritation, disturbance in sleep, interference with communication and other harmful effects. With the help of scientific analysis, the cause-and-effect relationship between the intensity of noise pollution and occurrence of diseases among sampled households of Delhi has been established by a study conducted.

2. Traffic noise is probably the hardest and most widespread type of noise pollution. The most common manifestation of noise pollution is hearing loss or impairment. According to studies, the citizens in New Delhi are 10 years older in terms of hearing, which means they are at a greater risk of losing their hearing ability in their 50% or early 60s. Hearing impairment is mostly classified as an occupational hazard especially when the individual is affiliated with an industry that propagates loud sound or noise. Moreover, several effects of noise pollution exist. The combination of noise and air pollution is associated with respiratory ailments, dizziness, tiredness and lack in work efficiency in children and adults. The pie diagram given below depicts the effects of pollution - both noise and air pollution. Noise pollution has been found to be associated with high blood pressure and cognitive difficulties. It continues to affect negatively on foetal development. It also leads to annoyance, anxiety, mental health issues, sleep disturbance and insomnia, cardiovascular disorders in pregnant women, cardio cerebrovascular diseases, type 2 diabetes and other physical symptoms.



3. Some suggestions such as land use and transportation planning are also given for reducing and managing the noise pollution problem in the sustainable urban development perspectives. The loud noise is often generated by the honking of cars, which means changes in attitude and behaviour can reduce the main source of the noise. Other sources of noise could include trains, neighbour's music systems or televisions, factories and their machinery. Planting bushes and trees in and around sound generating sources as well as regular servicing and tuning of automobiles can effectively reduce noise pollution. Community development or urban management should be done with long term planning, along with an aim to reduce noise pollution. Social awareness programmes should be taken up to educate the public about the causes and effects of noise pollution.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer any ten questions from the eleven given below: **1x10=10M**

i. According to the passage, vehicular traffic:

- a. is the worst cause of noise pollution.
- b. does not affect human work efficiency.
- c. is homogeneous in all the cities.
- d. demolishes the need for buffer zones.

ii. Pick the options that list statements that are not true:

- 1. Regulating traffic cannot reduce the pollution levels.
- 2. High levels of noise cause health hazards
- 3. Noise pollution causes jams at intersections
- 4. Noise levels in Delhi are appallingly high.

Choose the correct option from the following:

- a. 1 and 3
- b. 3 and 4
- c. 2 and 4
- d. 2 and 3

iii. The word "tremendous" as used in paragraph 1 is similar in meaning to:

- a. Insignificant
- b. customary
- c. hard
- d. huge

iv. Which of the following is a direct effect of noise pollution on an individual?

- a. Tiredness
- b. Respiratory ailments
- c. Dizziness
- d. Irritation

v. “.....the hardest and most widespread type of noise pollution.....” The phrase suggests that it is:

- a. the limited nature of noise pollution.
- b. the most intense type of noise pollution.
- c. the rarest type of noise pollution.
- d. the irregular quality of noise pollution.

vi. Choose the option that is ‘true’ with respect to noise pollution:

- a. Noise pollution does not affect unborn babies.
- b. In Delhi, the rate of pollution has been reduced tremendously.
- c. The combination of air pollution and noise pollution affects only children.
- d. Traffic noise can cause complications for pregnant women.

vii. Based on the given pie diagram, choose the option that shows the greatest effect of noise and air pollution on an individual.

- a. Tiredness
- b. Fatigue
- c. Respiratory ailments
- d. Adverse effect on work efficiency

viii. The globe man in the cartoon seems troubled because of

- a. sleep disturbance
- b. cerebrovascular disease
- c. noisy surroundings
- d. respiratory ailment

ix. Which of the following statements is substantiated by the information provided in paragraph 2?

- a. Noise pollution is less detrimental to health.
- b. Loud noises take a toll on animals and humans.
- c. Hearing power of the residents of Delhi is at risk.
- d. Minor modification in traffic management may help.

x. According to the passage, which of the following options have been suggested to combat noise pollution?

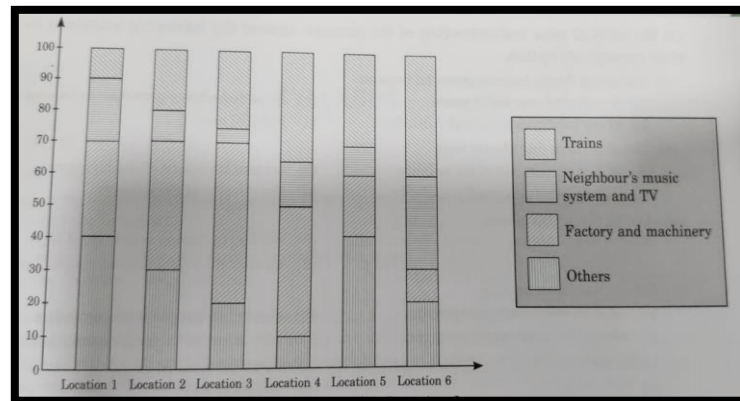
- 1. Increasing vehicular traffic.
- 2. Regular maintenance of vehicles.
- 3. Creating social awareness.
- 4. Conducting scientific analysis.

Choose the correct option from the following.

- a. 1 and 2

- b. 1 and 4
- c. 2 and 3
- d. 3 and 4

xi. Based on the bar graph given below, pick the location that shows the least noise pollution by trains.



- (a) Location 1
- (b) Location 3
- (c) Location 4
- (d) Location 6

SECTION 'B'- ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS (20MARKS)

Q3. As the Guest relations Manager, draft a notice in not more than 50 words for the guests at your resort (Sunrise Resorts, Manali) requesting them to stay indoors owing to heavy rains and bad weather. Invent the necessary details. Sign yourself as Anoop Bajaj. **4M**

OR

Draft a notice for the school notice board in not more than 50 words, informing the students of classes IX- XII about and Inter-School Music Carnival that is going to be held next month. Invent necessary details. You are Antony James, Principal, Cleavland Academy, Jaipur.

Q4. On behalf of Apex Pubic School, Bengaluru draft a formal invitation in not more than 50 words for the Drama Festival to be held in your school. **4M**

OR

On behalf of Raman International School, Jhansi, draft a formal invitation in not more than 50 words for the school annual sports day.

Q5. Write a letter to the editor of any national daily in not more than 120-150 words regarding the heavy rainfalls and condition of roads in Navi Mumbai. You are Mohit/ Manali Bhatnagar, 3/N2, Manaswi Pride Society, Nerul, Navi Mumbai. **5M**

OR

You are Nikita Chopra, a resident of Number 3, Gurugram, Haryana. There has been an alarming rise in road accidents in your neighbourhood, especially on National Highway 8, more than 11 deaths have been reported in the previous month alone, yet

the number is on the rise. Write a letter to the editor of Hindustan Times, Delhi, in not more than 120-150 words expressing your concern over the issue.

Q6. Hard work and punctuality are essential for a happy and successful life. They help in meeting the desired targets of our life. You are Kavya/ Krish. Write an article in 120-150 words highlighting the **Importance of hard work punctuality in a student's life.**

OR

5M

Education is a powerful weapon that aids an individual to face the adversities of life. Your school recently had organized a career session for the students of IX to XII. Write a report in 120-150 words for the school magazine. You are Anita/ Aniket of class XII A.

SECTION 'C'- LITERATURE READER (40 MARKS)

Q7. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: 1*6=6 M

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 but soon
put that thought away...

i. The poet described her mother as

- (a) beautiful as rose
- (b) young and charming
- (c) old and pale
- (d) kind and loving

ii. "her face ashen like that of a corpse and realized with pain..."

Which poetic device is used in the given lines?

- (a) Metaphor
- (b) Alliteration
- (c) Simile
- (d) Personification

iii. Choose the option that best applies to the given extract.

- (1) a request
- (2) an order
- (3) a piece of advice
- (4) an argument
- (5) a recollection
- (6) a suggestion
- (a) 1, 3 and 6
- (b) 2, 4 and 5
- (c) Only 5
- (d) Only 1

iv. Choose the option which is not correct as per the above stanza.

- (a) As the car travels, the daughter observes her aging mother.
- (b) The mother's face appears like ashen.
- (c) The pale complexion of the old woman seems her similar to that of a corpse.
- (d) The thought of the corpse forces the poet to think of her mother's young age.

v. Where is the poet driving to?

- (a) from Cochin airport to her parent's home
- (b) to Madras airport from her parent's home
- (c) to Mumbai airport from her parent's home
- (d) from her parent's home to Cochin

vi. Choose the option that applies correctly to the two statements given below.

Assertion: The poet wards off the thought of her mother getting old quickly.

Reason: The poet didn't want to confront the inevitability of fate that was to dawn upon her mother.

- a) Assertion can be inferred but the Reason cannot be inferred.
- b) Assertion cannot be inferred but the Reason can be inferred.
- c) Both Assertion and Reason can be inferred.
- d) Both Assertion and Reason cannot be inferred.

B. And such too is the grandeur of the dooms

We have imagined for the mighty dead;

All lovely tales that we have heard or read:

An endless fountain of immortal drink,

Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.

i. Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract?

- a. The beauty of nature
- b. The power of imagination
- c. The immortality of art and literature
- d. The inevitability of death

ii. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract:

By referring to the dead as "mighty", the poet emphasizes their importance and the power they exerted on the people.

iii. Complete the sentence appropriately:

The "endless fountain of immortal drink" is an apt analogy for the tales of the mighty dead because _____.

iv. The use of the word "brink" in the extract suggests that the immortality that is being poured onto us is on the verge of overflowing. This creates a powerful image of _____.

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

- a. Said
- b. Think
- c. Tombs
- d. None of the Above

vi. Select the option that is NOT true about the lack of punctuation at the end of line 1 in the extract:

- a. Creates a sense of continuity and flow that connects the line with the second line.
- b. Encourages the reader to continue reading seamlessly without any pause.
- c. Creates a sense of anticipation and expectation for the reader.
- d. Encourages a revisit to the ideas in the preceding lines.

Q8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: 1*4=4M

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

i. Who does 'you' refer to?

- (a) Charley's psychiatrist, Sam Weiner
- (b) Charley's wife, Louisa
- (c) The reader
- (d) Nobody in particular, it is a figure of speech.

ii. Choose the option that best describes the society represented in the above extract.

- (a) content, peace-loving
- (b) leisurely, sentimental
- (c) orthodox, upper class
- (d) comfortable, ancient

iii. Imagine that the city of Galesburg is hosting a series of conferences and workshops. In which of the following conferences or workshops are you least likely to find the description of Galesburg given in the above extract?

- (a) Gorgeous Galesburg: Archiving a Tourist Paradise
- (b) Welcome to the home you deserve: Galesburg Realtors
- (c) Re-imagining a Warless Future: Technology for Peace
- (d) The Woman Question: The world of women at home

iv. "*tremendous trees whose branches meet overhead and roof the streets*" is NOT an example of

- (i) imagery (ii) metaphor (iii) alliteration (iv) repetition
- (a) Options (i) and (ii)
- (b) Options (i) and (iii)
- (c) Options (ii) and (iii)
- (d) Options (ii) and (iv)

B. 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 the mammals got under way, the landmass was forced to separate into countries, shaping the globe much as we know it today.

i. Why do you think the separation of Gondwana was important for shaping the world?

ii. State True or False.

- a. None of the following terms can be applied to the statement — "After 500 million years, it broke apart, creating the continents and shaping the world we see today."

- (a) **Evolution** – change in living organisms over time
- (b) **Extinction** – disappearance of species
- (c) **Division** – splitting into parts
- (d) **Geological shift** – movement of Earth's crust

iii. The separation of Gondwana suggests that Earth's surface is constantly

_____.

iv. What does the breakup of Gondwana teach us about Earth's history?

Q9.) Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: 1*6=6M

A. "Why do you do this?" I ask Saheb whom I encounter every morning scrounging for gold in the garbage dumps of my neighborhood. Saheb left his home long ago. Set amidst the green fields of Dhaka, his home is not even a distant memory. There were many storms that swept away their fields and homes, his mother tells him. That's why they left, looking for gold in the big city where he now lives.

i. Who is the speaker?

- (a) Author (b) Saheb (c) Mukesh (d) Savita

ii. What is meant by 'this'?

- (a) working on gold jewellery (b) playing in the fields
(c) cleaning house (d) act of rag picking

iii. Where are 'they'?

- (a) in streets engaged in a conversation (b) playing in the lawns while talking
(c) in Seemapuri (d) in the bangle making factory

iv. Name the author of the lesson 'Lost Spring.'

- (a) John Updike (b) John Keats
(c) Alphonse Daudet (d) Anees Jung

v. Saheb's family had to leave Dhaka because

- (a) for food
(b) good health and happiness
(c) many storms that swept away their fields and homes
(d) for education of Saheb

vi. Give the antonym of - scrounging.

- (a) collect (b) opportunist
(c) looking (d) confine

B. Their spontaneous demonstration, in thousands, around the courthouse was the beginning of their liberation from fear of the British. The officials felt powerless without Gandhi's cooperation. He helped them regulate the crowd. He was polite and friendly. He was giving them concrete proof that their might, hitherto dreaded and unquestioned, could be challenged by Indians. The government was baffled. The prosecutor requested the judge to postpone the trial. Apparently, the authorities wished to consult their superiors.

i. The result of the demonstration was that _____.

ii. The participants of the spontaneous demonstration were :

- (A) Gandhi's lawyers
(B) people of Champaran.
(C) Indigo landowners.
(D) Indian soldiers.

iii. Gandhi cooperated with the British by :

- (A) not going to the court.
(B) remaining quiet when he was accused.
(C) helping to manage the mob of people.
(D) leaving Champaran for Delhi.

iv. The statement 'Apparently, the authorities wished to consult their superiors' was indicative of the Britisher's _____.

v. With reference to the extract, the word 'baffled' most nearly means :

- (A) strengthened.
- (B) disgusted.
- (C) frightened.
- (D) confused.

vi. Whose 'might' did this demonstration question?

Q10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions in 30-40 words. 2*5=10 M

- i. What is the kind of pain and ache that the poet feels in 'My Mother at Sixty-six'?
- ii. Who does M Hamel blame for Franz's failure for not reciting the rules of participles?
- iii. What are green wars? Who wage them and with what result?
- iv. Why were the elders of the village sitting in the classroom?
- v. What are the benefits of keeping quiet?
- vi. How is garbage different for adults and children in Seemapuri?

Q11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions in 30-40 words. 2*2=4M

- i. What is the aim of 'Student on Ice' Programme in the less'on, A Journey to the End of the Earth?
- ii. In The Third Level, the author uses a blend of reality and fantasy. What reality makes it relatable for the reader, what impact does the fantasy have?
- iii. What message does the story, 'The tiger king' give to its reader?

Q12. Answer ANY ONE of the following question in 120-150 words: 5*1=5M

- i. The childhood experience of terror of Douglas made him more determined. Elucidate the above statement supporting it with evidences from the text.
- ii. Rajkumar Shukla in 'Indigo' decided to take up the cause of the peasants and raise his voice against injustice. The bangle makers in 'Lost Spring' were a stark contrast and accepted their plight of oppression because of tradition and caste. Write a comparative analysis of the two different attitude towards unjust domination.

Q13. Answer ANY ONE of the following question in 120-150 words: 5*1=5M

- i. 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?
- ii. "'.....How little changes in the environment can have big repercussions?" Tishani Doshi in Journey to the End of the Earth' gives an awakening call for man. Analyse the theme of the lesson in the light of the above statement? (A Journey to the End of the Earth)

All the Best !!!!
