

DAV PUBLIC SCHOOL NEW PANVEL
SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER ENGLISH CORE (301)
CLASS-XII

Time allowed: 3 Hrs.

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. This paper is divided into three sections: A and B and C. All questions are compulsory, there are internal choices in section B and C.
2. Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.
3. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.
4. Write the question number correctly while answering.

SECTION A: READING (22 marks)

Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages

1. Read the following text.

12 m

In 1908, when he had just turned sixty, came the ultimatum. "Mr. Chipping, have you ever thought you would like to retire?"

Chips stared at him in that book-lined study, startled by the question, wondering why Ralston should have asked it. He said, at length: "No— umph—I can't say that—umph—I have thought much about it—umph—yet."

"Well, Mr. Chipping, the suggestion is there for you to consider. The Governors would, of course, agree to your being adequately pensioned."

Abruptly Chips flamed up. "But—umph—I don't want— to retire. I don't—umph—need to consider it."

"Nevertheless, I suggest that you do."

"But—umph—I don't see—why—I should!"

Ralston said, icily: "Since you force me to use plain words, Mr. Chipping, you shall have them. Your methods of teaching are slack and old-fashioned and your personal habits are slovenly."

"But—" Chips began, in sheer bewilderment.

"Mr. Chipping—since you decline to give way, there can't very well be any alternative. I aim to make Brookfield a thoroughly up-to-date school. I understand, Mr. Chipping, that your Latin and Greek lessons are exactly the same as they were when I began here ten years ago?" Because they are dead languages is no reason why they should be dealt with in a dead educational technique."

Chips stayed on. In 1911 Ralston left. Then came the War years. There was a lot of war talk—the trouble between Austria and Serbia.

1917. 1918. Chips lived through it all. He sat in the headmaster's study every morning, handling problems, dealing with complaints and requests. On Sundays in Chapel, it was he who now read out the tragic list.

One day he got a letter from Switzerland, from friends there; it was heavily censored, but conveyed some news. On the following Sunday, after the names and biographies of old boys, he paused a moment and then added: —

"Those few of you who were here before the War will remember Max Staefel, the German master. He was in Germany, visiting his home, when war broke out. Those who knew him will be sorry to hear that he was killed last week."

He was a little pale when he sat down afterward, aware that he had done something unusual. He had consulted nobody about it, anyhow; no one else could be blamed. Later, outside the Chapel, he heard an argument: —

"On the Western Front, Chips said. Does that mean he was fighting for the Germans?"

"I suppose it does."

"Seems funny, then, to read his name out with all the others. After all, he was an ENEMY."
 "Oh, just one of Chips's ideas, I expect. The old boy still has 'em."

[Adapted from: *Goodbye Mr. Chips* by James Hilton (Text link – *The Last lesson*); 450 words]

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- i What does the phrase *book-lined study* indicate about Mr. Chipping's character? 1
- ii Infer any two of feelings of Mr. Chipping, apparent from the given lines: 1
"No— umph—I can't say that—umph—I have thought much about it—umph—yet."
- iii Comment on the undercurrent of the conversation with reference to the following: 2
Chips flamed up – Ralston said, icily...
- iv Which of the following qualities best describe Ralston, as per the text? 1
 - (i) anxious
 - (ii) short-tempered
 - (iii) condescending
 - (iv) vengeful
 - (v) pessimistic
 - A. (i) and (iii)
 - B. (ii) and (iii)
 - C. (i), (iii) and (iv)
 - D. (ii) and (v)
- v Why was Chips's reaction to Ralston's "plain words", that of, "sheer bewilderment"? 2
- vi Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
 When the writer shares that '*it was he who now read out the tragic list*', he means to convey that Mr. Chipping_____.
- vii Complete the sentence with the MOST likely reason. 1
 A heavily censored letter was common because _____
- viii Read the following statement: 2
 Max Staefel had a long history of friendship with Chips and had shown no animosity toward the school or its students.
 Rationalise, in 30-40 words, why the above statement, if true, weakens the conclusion that Chips was wrong in reading out Max Staefel's name at the chapel service?
- ix Select the option that best describes the tone of the speaker in the following: 1
Oh, just one of Chips's ideas, I expect.
 - A. exasperated
 - B. surprised
 - C. inquisitive
 - D. dismissive

2. Read the following text.

10 m

- (1) Zebras are known for their distinctive black and white stripes. The intriguing enigma of these stripes lies in their function and nature. Specifically, two scientific studies have sought to understand the purpose and underlying mechanisms of zebras' unique stripes.
- (2) Study 1- The Case of Alison & Stephen Cobb's Study:
(Published in The Journal of Natural History, Volume 53, Issue 13-14)
- i) Researcher couple, Alison and Stephen Cobb, conducted an experiment that explored the idea of zebras' stripes helping to keep them cool and shared that thermoregulation was the primary function of zebra stripes.
 - ii) They measured the temperatures of black and white stripes on two zebras, throughout separate sunny days in Kenya. There was a 12–15oC difference between zebras' stripe temperatures throughout the middle seven daytime hours.
 - iii) They shared that the movement of sweat away from the skin is accelerated by the surfactant equid protein -latherin - a vital component of cooling in racehorses.
 - iv) They noted that latherin decreases the surface tension of the sweat, facilitating evaporative cooling at the hair tips.
 - v) Their theory was that the abrupt temperature difference between the stripes causes chaotic air movement above the hair surface, thus enhancing evaporative heat dissipation.
- (3) Study -2 The Case of Prof. Tim Caro's Experiment:
(Published in The Journal of Experimental Biology, Volume 226, Issue 4)
- i) Prof. Caro and four other researchers investigated what deters horseflies from landing on zebras.
 - ii) Their experiment involved close-up observations of fly behaviour around zebras. They also observed the flies' interactions with domestic horses, some of which were dressed in striped jackets, and others left without.
 - iii) The results of the study showed that flies approached all three groups—the zebras, the horses with striped jackets, and the plain horses—similarly. However, they behaved differently around the zebras and the horses with striped jackets. Flies approaching these animals merely bounced off, whereas they could land on plain horses.
 - iv) The researchers concluded that the sharply outlined and thin stripes are the deterrent to horseflies as it is the occurrence of only large monochrome dark patches that are highly attractive to horseflies at close distances.

[Created for academic usage / 350 words]

Answer the following questions, based on given passage.

- i What might be the MOST likely purpose of the author's use of "intriguing enigma", while referring to the zebra stripes? 1
- ii Supply the response to the following, in a phrase, from (2) of the text given above. According to the Cobb's study, what is the relation between zebras' stripes and thermoregulation? 1
- iii Complete the sentence with an appropriate inference. The choice of "middle...daytime hours" is likely driven by the need to study zebras under the condition of _____. 1

- iv Select the option that DOES NOT display the nature of these experiments correctly. 1
- A. Collaborative
 - B. Observational
 - C. Analytical
 - D. Fictional
- v In the absence of latherin, a surfactant protein, what is the likely consequence for an equid, such as a zebra or horse? 1
- A. Improved thermoregulation in hot conditions.
 - B. Enhanced evaporative cooling.
 - C. Impaired sweating
 - D. Increased resistance to heat stress.
- vi The text makes a mention of the studies being published. What implication does this hold for the readers? (Answer in 30-40 words) 2
- vii Which of the following can we cite as an example, to explain the meaning of “deterrent”, as used in the line - *The researchers concluded that the sharply outlined and thin stripes are the **deterrent** to horseflies ...?* 1
- A. Installing security cameras on a property will act as a deterrent for burglars.
 - B. Planting flowers in a garden will become a deterrent for pollinators like bees.
 - C. Painting a room in bright, for a welcoming atmosphere will be a perfect deterrent.
 - D. Hanging wind chimes on a porch is a common deterrent for the area’s visual appeal.
- viii In terms of the purpose of the zebra stripes, examine, in 30-40 words, how the findings in the Cobb's study and Prof. Caro's experiment align or differ? 2

SECTION B: CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 marks)

Note: All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.

- 3 Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two given below, in about 50 words. 4
- A You are Asha, the Activity Coordinator of Vomaji Public School, Mumbai. Your school is organising an excursion to Elephanta Caves for students of Class XI. Interested students will need to make a payment of Rs 500 each. Draft a notice about this, in about 50 words, for your school notice board, inviting registration of students interested in going for the excursion along with necessary details. Also, inform that registrations would be invalid without parent-consent slips, available in the Activity Room.
- OR**
- B You are Mr. Afsal Ansari, the RWA Secretary of your residential society. While on your evening walk in the neighbourhood park, you found a small faux-leather bag containing a few documents and some cash. You write a notice in about 50 words to be put up on the RWA* notice board, asking the owner to identify and collect it from you. Write this notice, with the necessary details.

[*Resident Welfare Association]

4 Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two given below, in about 50 words.

4

- A You are V. Gajender, the Secretary of the Literary Club of Model Public School, Vellore. Your club members are staging Anton Chekhov's play 'Uncle Vanya', as part of their annual showcasing. Draft an invitation in not more than 50 words for Mr. Mohan Rakesh, noted theatre and cinema artist and Chairperson of The Drama School, Chennai requesting him to be the guest of honour for the event.

OR

- B You are Simran Sodhi, the Personal Assistant of the IG (Inspector General), Police, Chandigarh. The IG has received an invitation from the 'Women's Institute for Self Defence', Chandigarh (WISDC) to preside over the Graduation Ceremony of the current batch of women cadets and address them. You draft a formal reply, on behalf of the IG, to the Chairperson of WISDC, accepting the invitation. Write this reply and include all the necessary details.

5 Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two given below, in about 120-150 words.

5

- A As Sarah Alter, a student at Lotus World Residential School, Nainital, you've observed the littering issue, in and around the city, during the tourist season. Discuss the environmental and community impact of this littering problem caused by most tourists and suggest measures to address it, in a letter to the Editor of 'The Himalayan Bugle'. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to create this letter in about 120-150 words.

Description of the issue – Consequences (environmental) -
Impact on the community (local residents) – Solutions - Appeal for
awareness & significance of a clean environment

OR

- B You are Vihan Kapadia, a recent Commerce graduate from the National College of Commerce, Surat, looking for a job. You came across the following advertisement in the Classifieds columns of a national daily. You think the job requirements are a good fit for your skills/personality. Write a letter along with your biodata, expressing your interest in the advertised post.

Star-Bharat Lever Limited
12, Greater Kent I, Hyderabad -500001

WANTED

Marketing Executives, for launching of new products. All zones of Andhra Pradesh & Telangana. Driven, goal- oriented fresh Commerce graduates, with good communication skills & the ability to multitask may apply. Working knowledge of AI tools - mandatory.

Apply within 7 days to the Manager, HR.

6 Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two given below, in about 120-150 words.

5

- A With the rise of social media platforms and the ease with which information can be shared online, false information can have dire consequences. Write an article for the local daily, in 120-150 words, highlighting the problem of the growing menace of fake news and misinformation, analysing the issue and provide suggestions to tackle it. You are Kavita Bannerji, from Siliguri, West Bengal. Use the given cues, along with your own ideas to create the article.

1. What is fake news, and why has it become a significant concern in the age of social media?
2. Analysing the Issue –
 - How does misinformation affect public opinion and behaviour?
 - What challenges do individuals and society face in combatting the spread of false information?
3. Suggestions to Tackle Fake News -
 - What measures can social media platforms take to address the issue of fake news?
 - How can individuals critically evaluate the information they encounter online?
4. Local Perspective -
 - How does the issue of fake news affect the local community?
 - What local resources or organisations can help address this problem?

OR

- B You are Riddhi Sikharwar, studying in Azad School, Bhopal, M.P. Your school has adopted a village, as a social responsibility initiative. Every month students visit the village and carry out literacy and numeracy programmes, including a fun-filled summer *Mela** for adults and children. Use the given cues (on the next page) , along with your own ideas, to write a report in about 120- 150 words, for your school magazine, on the initiative and its positive impact. [*fair/ carnival]

Cues:

1. What is the initiative?
2. What are the key components and main objective of the initiative?
3. How often are the visits?
4. About the summer camp - specific activities, events and benefits
5. Positive changes – village and students
6. Future plans

SECTION D: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40 marks)

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the two, given.

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...

(My Mother at Sixty-six)

- i What is the primary purpose of the poet recalling the memory of the drive with the mother? 1
- A. To provide a detailed account of her experience.
 B. To demonstrate the correct idea of her mother's age.
 C. To evoke a powerful image of the mother's ageing.
 D. To convey her own emotions during the drive.
- ii What does the phrase "beside me" emphasise? 1
- iii Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
 The comparison of the mother to a corpse suggests that she_____.
- iv How can the car journey to the airport be seen as a metaphor for the passage of time? 1
- v Identify the mood of the speaker in the excerpt. 1
- vi Select the option that displays the most likely effect of the enjambment in the first three lines. 1
- A. It creates a pause that highlights the speaker's emotions.
 B. It suggests the continuity of the drive and the passage of time.
 C. It creates a sense of tension and foreboding in the reader.
 D. It suggests a sudden shift in the speaker's thoughts.

OR

- B. When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie
 Still ringed by ordeals she is mastered by,
 The tigers in the panel that she made
 Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid. (*Aunt Jennifer's Tigers*)
- i Select the phrase that suggests that the speaker is contemplating the future. 1
- ii Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
 By using the term "*terrified hands*", the poet is suggesting that_____.
- iii List any one way that Aunt Jennifer's ordeals have symbolically "*mastered*" her. 1
- iv What is the poet's purpose to employ contrast in the given lines? 1
- A. To bring out the parallel between Aunt Jennifer's fear and the tigers' proud and unafraid prancing
 B. To emphasise the fleeting nature of Aunt Jennifer's artistic creation compared to the enduring struggles of her life
 C. To present the ability to create something beautiful, despite being surrounded by monotony.
 D. To highlight the juxtaposition between Aunt Jennifer's mortality and the eternal, unafraid prancing of the tigers
- v Give one reason why (1) is more relevant as a title, for the extract, than (2). 1
- (1) Conquering Fear: Aunt Jennifer's Tigers
 (2) Hands of Strength: Aunt Jennifer's Ordeals
- vi What does the tone of the speaker, in these lines, convey, with reference to Aunt Jennifer? 1

8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the two, given. 4
- A. Yes, I've taken the obvious step: I talked to a psychiatrist friend of mine, among others. I told him about the third level at the Grand Central Station, and he said it was a waking dream wish fulfilment. He said I was unhappy. That made my wife kind of mad.
- i Complete the following with reference to Charley's decision to talk to a psychiatrist. 1
The usage of the word "obvious" in obvious step suggests that_____.
- ii How can we say the psychiatrist's diagnosis of Charley's encounter as a "waking dream wish fulfilment" was insightful, in understanding the complexity of Charley's experience? 1
- iii Complete the following with an appropriate option. 1
If Charley's wife's reaction implies a sensitivity to the suggestion of marital unhappiness, then, her becoming "kind of mad" can be viewed as a_____.
- A. defensive stance
B. protective measure
C. expression of concern
D. assertion of privacy
- iv Which textual clue suggests that Charley didn't just consult his psychiatrist friend? 1

OR

- B. DERRY: I won't ever look different. When I'm as old as you, I'll look the same. I'll still only have half a face.
MR LAMB: So you will. But the world won't. The world's got a whole face, and the world's there to be looked at.
DERRY: Do you think this is the world? This old garden?
MR LAMB: When I'm here. Not the only one. But the world, as much as anywhere.
DERRY: Does your leg hurt you?
MR LAMB: Tin doesn't hurt, boy!
DERRY: When it came off, did it?
MR LAMB: Certainly.
DERRY: And now? I mean, where the tin stops, at the top?
MR LAMB: Now and then. In wet weather. It doesn't signify.
- (On the Face of It)*
- i What might Derry's certainty about not looking different as he grows older, reveal? 1
- A. His coping mechanism
B. His open defiance
C. His payback to the society
D. His denial towards ageing
- ii Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
Mr. Lamb's analogy of the world having a "whole face" suggests that_____.
- iii State whether TRUE or FALSE. 1
Derry's questions - "Do you think this is the world? This old garden?" - were a taunting response.

- iv List any ONE way how Mr. Lamb's response, "Tin doesn't hurt, boy!" contributes to his characterisation. 1
9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the two, given. 6
- A Saul Bellow, who has consented to be interviewed on several occasions, nevertheless once described interviews as being like thumbprints on his windpipe. Yet despite the drawbacks of the interview, it is a supremely serviceable medium of communication. "These days, more than at any other time, our most vivid impressions of our contemporaries are through interviews," Denis Brian has written. "Almost everything of moment reaches us through one man asking questions of another. Because of this, the interviewer holds a position of unprecedented power and influence."
- (*The Interview I*)
- i Completely the following appropriately. 1
Saul Bellow's comparison of interviews to "thumbprints on his windpipe", implies_____.
- ii What is complex and multifaceted about the dual nature of the interview process? 1
- iii Select the option that DOES NOT correspond with the view that an interview is "a supremely serviceable medium of communication". 1
- A. highly effective
B. a tool for training
C. versatile
D. impactful
- iv How do interviews play a vital role in helping shape public perceptions? 1
- v Complete the following appropriately. 1
The phrase 'everything of moment' refers to_____.
- vi List ONE possible reason for the '**unprecedented**' power of interviewer. 1

OR

- B She said this in such a friendly manner that the rattrap peddler must have felt confidence in her. "It would never have occurred to me that you would bother with me yourself, miss", he said. "I will come at once."
- He accepted the fur coat which the valet handed him with a deep bow, threw it over his rags and followed the young lady out to the carriage, without granting the astonished blacksmiths so much as a glance. But while he was riding up to the manor house he had evil forebodings. (*The Rattrap*)
- i State whether TRUE or FALSE. 1
The peddler spoke to the lady flatteringly.
- ii The writer of the story would agree to all of the following. with reference to the extract, EXCEPT: 1
- A. The peddler felt a sense of assurance about the lady.
B. The valet had to supervise the acceptance of the invite.
C. The valet was accompanying the lady to be of assistance to her.
D. The peddler knew how to behave in the presence of a lady.
- iii What might have been the purpose of the 'friendly manner' of the lady? 1

- iv Complete the following appropriately. 1
- The stark contrast between the luxurious fur coat and the rags of the rattrap peddler symbolise _____.
- v Select the option that correctly displays the MOST LIKELY reaction of the blacksmiths, as the lady moved out to her carriage. 1
- A. Oh no! We've lost a new companion.
B. Well, lucky chap! A stroke of good luck.
C. Oh goodness! He must've been shocked.
D. My word! That fur coat looked expensive!
- vi How can we say that the peddler's thoughts in the carriage were far from pleasant? 1
- 10 Answer **ANY FIVE** of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words. 5x2=10
- i How was Gandhi's strategy of sacrifice and non-violence, in the Champaran Indigo movement, a formidable catalyst for change? (*Indigo*)
- ii How does Neruda challenge the conventional notion of stillness in the poem, *Keeping Quiet*?
- iii Deduce why the act of M. Hamel writing "Vive La France!", on the blackboard, is considered symbolic. (*The Last Lesson*)
- iv How does the concept of a 'bower quiet', align with Keat's idea that a thing of beauty becomes a timeless source of solace and inspiration? (*A Thing of Beauty*)
- v In what ways does Sophie's claim (of meeting Danny Casey), contribute to our understanding of the complexities of her relationships within her family? (any one) (*Going Places*)
- vi Why was the discovery of Stephen Spender's book, "*The God That Failed*," a moment of illumination, for Ashokamitran? (*Poets and Pancakes*)
- 11 Answer **ANY TWO** of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. 2x2=4
- i How does the incident with the wooden tiger and its consequences, contribute to the overarching theme of fate and retribution, in *The Tiger King*?
- ii How does the author's choice of the wounded soldier as an American POW, contribute to the complexity of the moral decisions faced by Sadao and Hana, considering the wartime context and national loyalties? (Share any ONE aspect) (*The Enemy*)
- iii How does the autobiographical nature of Zitkala-Sa and Bama's narratives enhance the impact on readers? (*Memories of Childhood*)
- 12 Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5
- A Imagine that Edla Willmansson (*The Rattrap*), instead of Anees Jung, had the opportunity to interact with Saheb and Mukesh of *Lost Spring*. How would she react? Why do you say so ?

OR

- B Biseswar Singh is an acclaimed athlete who has recently announced giving up on sports because of successive defeats in international and national events. As his friend, write a letter to him, sharing advice to help him

overcome this mental roadblock caused by the fear of losing. Develop your response, based on your understanding of *Deep Water*, along with the given ideas:

- ⇒ Identify the reason behind his mental roadblock
- ⇒ Explain that it's common
- ⇒ Share William Douglas's experience – his resolve- his perseverance- his victory over fear
- ⇒ Offer advice

Begin this way –

Dear Biseswar

Hope you're feeling okay. Your announcement to drop out and not participate in the upcoming ...

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

5

- A Tishani Doshi, in *Journey to the End of the Earth*, shares that the *Students on Ice* programme on the Shokalsky, aims to take high school students to the ends of the world and provide them with inspiring educational opportunities which will help them foster a new understanding and respect for our planet.

As one of the students of this programme, prepare a speech draft for a Press conference, on the kinds of educational opportunities and how they are helping you contribute to fostering a new understanding.

You may begin this way –

Greetings one and all.

I stand before you today not just as a student but as a proud participant of the 'Students on Ice' programme, an expedition that has been a transformative journey toward a profound understanding and respect for our planet.

End the draft this way –

Thank you

OR

- B Derry has chosen to address the school assembly on the World Inclusion Day, using one of Mr. Lamb's Quotes- *Why is one green, growing plant called a weed and another 'flower'?*

Imagine you are Derry and write the speech draft.

(On the Face of It)

You may begin like this:

Respected Principal, esteemed faculty members, and my dear fellow students.

Today, on the occasion of World Inclusion Day, I stand before you with a quote from someone who meant a great deal to me - Mr. Lamb. He once said, "Why is one green, growing plant called a weed and another 'flower'?" I ...
