



O. S. D. A. V. Public School, Kaithal.
Pre Board Exam. 2024-2025
Class : XII
Subject: English Core (301)

Set-A

Time 3 hrs.

General Instructions:

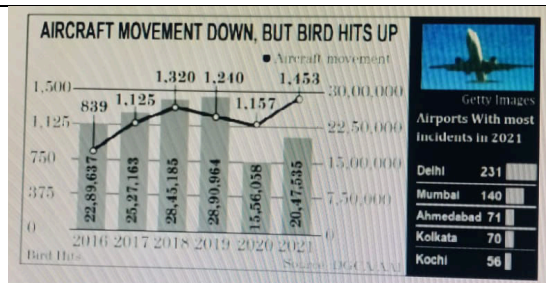
Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them :

1. This question paper has 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. This question paper contains three sections -
Section A : Reading Skills,
Section B : Creative Writing Skills
Section C : Literature.
3. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
4. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
5. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

Section A – Reading Skills

1.	<p>Read the following text carefully and answer the questions that follow:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">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	12
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	<p>encourage young adults to take better care of themselves, such as making sure they get enough sleep, eat healthy, and engage in regular exercise.</p> <p>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.</p>	
	Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:	
	<p>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.</p>	1
	<p>ii. A dog can encourage its owner to lead a healthier life by _____. Complete the above sentence appropriately, with a characteristic or description.</p>	1 2
	<p>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.</p>	2 1
	<p>iv. Explain in about 40 words the statement that dogs are great ice-breakers.</p>	
	<p>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)</p>	1
	<p>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.</p>	1 1 1
	<p>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</p>	1
	<p>viii. What does the underlined part in the sentence consider finding a furry friend to take on the world with you refer to?</p>	
	<p>ix. What is the tone of the article? A. critical but supportive B. indifferent and bored C. positive and informative D. humorous and casual</p>	
	<p>x. How do dogs exemplify unconditional love for their owners?</p>	
2.	<p>Read the following passage carefully : Read the following report and answer the questions by choosing the correct/most appropriate option:</p>	10



1. How bird hits happen, why they are a concern?

New Delhi June 20

At least two bird strike incidents happened on Sunday. Both aircrafts returned to their airports of origin and were grounded for maintenance. An ABC aircraft, which took off from Guwahati towards Delhi, suffered damage to its left engine following a bird hit at 1600 feet. The pilots returned to Guwahati. The other strike happened on another flight from Patna to Delhi. The pilots of the aircraft suspected a bird strike during the take-off roll but continued to climb.

Following the take off rotation, they were informed by the cabin crew of sparks emanating from the left engine. Subsequently, the pilots were also informed by air traffic control of smoke coming out of one of the engines. The pilots declared an emergency and returned to Patna.

2. Why are bird strikes a concern?

Bird strikes are among the most common threats to aircraft safety, and they typically occur during take-off or landing. Dozens of bird-strikes happen each day but some can be more dangerous than others. Typically, when birds collide with an aircraft's airframe, it is unlikely to cause significant problems for the pilots flying. But there are instances when the aircraft engine ingests the birds. This can lead to a loss of thrust for the engine and cause maneuverability problems for the crew. In these cases, where a jet engine ingests a bird, procedures would generally call for pilots to land the plane at the closest airport. While most airframe bird strikes are not considered critical to air safety, if a collision cracks a window or a wind screen, pilots will look to land as early as possible.

3. How critical are bird strikes to air safety?

Smaller planes would generally be more susceptible to the dangers of bird strikes than larger ones.

However, given that bird strikes mostly happen during take-off and landing, these incidents could distract the pilots during what are highly critical phases of flights that demand the complete attention of the crew.

4. What causes bird-strikes?

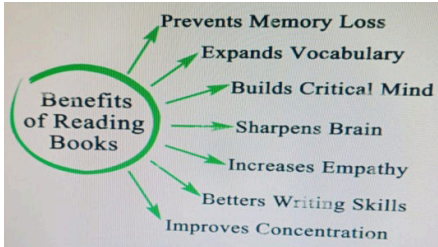
The presence of birds around an aircraft increases the chances of a bird strike. In the monsoon, as water puddles emerge on open grounds attracting insects to breed, the presence of birds increases. In some cases, bird hits also happen at higher altitudes when a plane is cruising. These are more dangerous than the low-altitude hits, given that they can cause rapid depressurization of cabins. Other reasons for bird activity around the air field could be presence of landfills or waste disposal sites that can attract a large number of birds.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

i. Does the following statement agree with the information given in paragraph 1. When an airplane is hit by a bird or is suspected to have been hit, the passengers

1

	<p>must be asked to get down at once. Select from the following : True : If the statement agrees with the information. False : If the statement contradicts the information. Not Given : If there is no information on this.</p> <p>ii. Select the option that displays the most likely reason for Bird hits. a. when the aircraft is overloaded b. at the time of landing or taking off c. when the crew become negligent d. when the passengers become panicky</p> <p>iii. Complete the sentence appropriately with one word. Smaller planes are generally more _____ than the larger ones.</p> <p>iv. Complete the sentence by selecting the most appropriate option: When the window or the windscreen of the air plane is cracked due to a bird hit _____. a. the crew must rush to the cockpit. b. the pilot must land at the earliest airport. c. the pilot must inform the maintenance engineer. d. the pilot must get instructions from the aviation wing what should do in emergency.</p> <p>v. Complete the sentence appropriately with one/two words. In cases where the aircraft engine infests the bird, it leads to the loss of thrust and causes problems in _____.</p> <p>vi. Which are the areas more prone to bird hits and why</p> <p>vii. Based on the reading of the text, state a point to challenge the given statement: The area around airfields should be clear of any waste disposal sites.</p> <p>viii. In order to save the lives of the passengers the pilots should a. be instructed not to cruise at high altitudes. b. should not rotate engines. c. not permit the passengers to open windows. d. vigilance should be beefed up</p>	<p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>2</p> <p>1</p>
	SECTION B – CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS	
3.	<p>An International Book Fair is being held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from 7 to 14 February 2025. As Librarian, Goodwill Public School, Maurice Nagar, Delhi, write a notice informing the students about the fair. Give all the other necessary details.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Mr. Virendra Sehwal, who was to deliver a talk to help the cricket players to do well in the game is not able to come on the given day. Write a notice in about 50 words informing the students about the new date on which he is coming. You are Gopal/Garima, Secretary Sports Club, Uday School, Green Park, Kanpur.</p>	4
4.	<p>You are Manoj. You are going on a picnic with a group of your classmates to Kama Lake, near Karnal. Write an informal invitation to your friend Mohit to join you on that day.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>You have received an invite on the wedding of your friend, Akshat. As Radhika/Rakesh, write a letter expressing your extreme happiness at the news and explaining your</p>	4

	inability to attend the function. Convey your best wishes for the future to the couple.			
5.	<p>National Book Trust organised a week-long book fair at Anna Grounds, Chennai. You visited the fair and bought a few books. You were pleased with the arrangements, enthusiasm of the visitors and the fact that books have not yet lost their relevance in the world of the Internet. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the editor of a local newspaper to express your feelings. You are Lalit/Latha, 112, Mount Road, Chennai.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>You are Ram/Rajani, living at 1, Rana Pratap Marg, New Delhi. Read the advertisement given below and apply for the job that suits you giving your bio-data separately.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SITUATION VACANT</p> <p>Sun University requires lecturers in English and demonstrators in Physics, Chemistry and Botany for their new Campus at Panipat. Only candidates with a minimum of a 5-year of experience can apply. Excellent command over English is a must. Excellent package and compensation for experienced persons. Those interested may e-mail to sununiversityjobs@gmail.com or mail their response to Box no 123, 'The Harbinger', New Delhi.</p>	5		
6.	<p>There are long traffic jams on roads due to the street markets that come up every evening. The narrow roads and number of honking cars creates a traffic hazard. You are perturbed to see this daily squabble between the hawkers and commuters. Write an article in 120-150 words drawing attention to this problem and suggesting ways to resolve this problem. You are Rita/Rakesh. You may use the cues given below.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PROBLEM OF TRAFFIC JAMS DUE TO STREET MARKETS</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> IMPACT * Accidents * Traffic Jams * Road Rage * Inconvenience to Pedestrians </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> SOLUTIONS * Create Awareness * Alternate Venue * Strict Action </td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>You are Sanjay/Sanjana, a reporter with. The Hindustan Times. You witnessed a fire accident in a crowded market in Delhi. Write a report to be published in the newspaper. Invent the necessary details.</p>	IMPACT * Accidents * Traffic Jams * Road Rage * Inconvenience to Pedestrians	SOLUTIONS * Create Awareness * Alternate Venue * Strict Action	5
IMPACT * Accidents * Traffic Jams * Road Rage * Inconvenience to Pedestrians	SOLUTIONS * Create Awareness * Alternate Venue * Strict Action			
SECTION C – LITERATURE				
7.	<p>Read the following extract and answer the question that follow:</p> <p>I saw my mother beside me doze, open mouthed, her face ashen like that</p>	1x6=6		

	<p>of a corpse and realised with pain that she was as old as she looked but soon put that thought away, and looked out at Young Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling out of their homes.</p> <p>i. Choose the option that displays the same poetic device as used in the expression ashen like that of a corpse.</p> <p>a. He was a lion in the battle. b. The flood swallowed more than a dozen villages. c. He walked as slowly as a snail. d. The tree blocks the free flow of water.</p> <p>ii. Choose the correct option that best explains the reason for the poet to put that thought away.</p> <p>a. The mother's face was pale and ugly. b. It was unbearable for her to see her mother sleeping. c. She was troubled by the thought of her mother's perpetual state of exhaustion. d. She was deeply pained by the thought of the mother's imminent death.</p> <p>iii. What do the expressions doze open mouthed describe about the poet's mother?</p> <p>a. She is sleeping and relaxing. b. She is aged and exhausted. c. She is tired of travelling. d. She is not in a mood to talk to her daughter.</p> <p>iv. Answer in ONE word. The poet uses the image of sprinting trees to emphasize the _____ to the ageing mother.</p> <p>v. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below. (1) The poet portrays typical mother-daughter love and affection. (2) The poet is horrified by the thought of losing her.</p> <p>a. (1) can be inferred from the extract but (2) cannot. b. (2) can be inferred from the extract but (1) cannot. c. Both (1) and (2) can be inferred from the extract. d. (2) is the reason for (1) and can be inferred from the extract.</p> <p>vi. What mood does the expression merry children spilling bring in?</p> <p>a. Happiness and enthusiasm b. Innocence and playfulness c. Laziness d. Joy</p>	
8.	Read the following text carefully and answer the questions that follow:	1x4=4
	<p>I did not open my mouth to answer. Then the steps were quickened and the voices became excited. The sounds came nearer and nearer. Women and girls entered the room. I held my breath and watched them open closet doors and peep behind large trunks. Someone threw up the curtains, and the room was filled with sudden light. What caused them to stoop and look under the bed. I do not know. I remember being dragged out, though I resisted by kicking and scratching wildly. In spite of myself, I was carried downstairs and tied fast in a chair. (Memories of Childhood)</p> <p>i. Select the appropriate option: _____ sounds came nearer and nearer _____.</p> <p>A. describes the increase in volume. B. adds suspense and anxiety to readers. C. reflects the thought of the speaker. D. is a factual narrative.</p> <p>ii. Complete the following sentence:</p>	

	<p>Inspite of myself' suggests that the speaker was _____.</p> <p>iii. What do you infer from the first line of the extract? A. It was her first day in school. B. She did not want to get caught. C. She was unprepared for the lesson. D. She preferred to be by herself.</p> <p>iv. State whether the statement given below is True or False: The speaker hoodwinked the people looking for her.</p>	
9.	Read the following extract and answer the question that follow:	1x6=6
	<p>Usually, when school began, there was a great bustle, which could be heard out in the street, the opening and closing of desks, lessons repeated in unison, very loud, with our hands over our ears to understand better, and the teachers great ruler rapping on the table. But now it was all so still! I had counted on the commotion to get to my desk without being seen; but, of course, that day everything had to be as quiet as Sunday morning. Through the window I saw my classmates, already in their places, and M. Hamel walking up and down with his terrible iron ruler under his arm.</p> <p>i. What was observed when the school began usually? a. A lot of activity leading to noise b. Cleanliness of the school premises c. Lessons of the patriotism d. Focus on the language</p> <p>ii. Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation, as per the extract. Franz was afraid to enter the class because _____.</p> <p>iii. Select the suitable word from the extract to complete the following analogy: rapping: striking :: _____ : clamour</p> <p>iv. M. Hamel can be understood to be _____ as he is standing in the given extract. a. cranky b. strict c. irritation d. arrogant</p> <p>v. Based on the above extract, choose the statement that is TRUE about that day. a. By the time Franz reached, the teacher had left the classroom. b. It seemed that the school was closed, like a Sunday morning. c. Franz reached the class without being noticed. d. M. Hamel was composed and was sitting quietly.</p> <p>vi. The class was _____ that day.</p>	
10.	Answer any five of the following questions in 40-50 words each:	10
	(i) When and how did Douglas develop the fear of water?	2
	(ii) What according to Pablo Neruda in the poem Keeping Quiet is the lesson that we should learn from Mother Earth?	2
	(iii) What is the significance of the image Massive weight of uncle's wedding band in the poem Aunt Jennifer's Tigers ?	2
	(iv) Why did Sophie wish to delve more deeply in her brother's affections ?	2
	(v) How was 'Pancake' brought to the Gemini Studios and why?	2
	(vi) What drawbacks of interviews have been pointed out (vi) by Lewis Carroll?	2

11.	Answer any two of the following questions in 40-50 words each:	4
	(i) How does one lose all earthly sense of perspective and time in Antarctica?	2
	(ii) Why did Maharaja order the Dewan to double the tax?	2
	(iii) What happened to Gondwana 650 million years ago?	2
12.	<p>Franz from The Last Lesson and the peddler from The Rattrap demonstrate the importance of learning from our mistakes to evolve into better people. Imagine that Shubhangi, your friend, feels as if she has made a mistake by not taking her academics seriously. Write an essay to Shubhangi in 120-150 words discussing instances from the two texts to give her an insight into the human tendency to make mistakes and learn from them.</p> <p>You may begin like this: Shubhangi, all of us have made mistakes at one point or another in our lives. After all, to err is human.....</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>..... but will keep A bower quiet for us. (A Thing of Beauty) Perhaps the Earth can teach us as when everything seems dead and later proves to be alive. (Keeping Quiet) Based on ideas from Keeping Quiet and A Thing of Beauty, as President of Eco Club of your school. Draft a speech on the importance of preserving nature for the benefit of mankind. You may begin like this. Good morning to one and all! After reading both the poems, I strongly believe _____.</p>	5
13.	<p>Derry who was always in search of secluded places, finds one in Mr. Lamb's garden. Although his seclusion did not last for long there as the owner turns up, he ends up being a frequent visitor of this place. Create a diary entry as Derry reflecting on the qualities of Mr. Lamb that attracted you towards him.</p> <p>You may begin like this: The moment I noticed that I was not alone as the old man could see me, I wanted to leave. But an interesting rather peculiar conversation kept me glued...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>In the story, 'The Enemy', Dr. Sadao was compelled by his duty as a doctor to help the enemy soldier. Hana, his wife, assisted him to get through this difficult time. Recalling this challenging event, write a diary entry as Hana, which was defied even by your domestic staff. You may begin this way: I was well aware of the fact that the act of saving the wounded enemy soldier was a serious crime by law and would be questioned by everyone...</p>	5



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M.M. 80

General Instructions:

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5. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A READING SKILLS (22 MARKS)		
1.	Read the following passage carefully:	12
	<p>(1) In a room filled with people, each face illuminated by the soft glow of their smart phones, moments drift away like autumn leaves in the wind. The constant hum of notifications fills the air, punctuating conversations like an incessant drumbeat. Every vibration or ping sends fingers flying to screens, a response ingrained by years of digital conditioning. The once reliable tick-tock of analog timepieces has been overshadowed by the constant flicker of notifications on the wrist watch, blurring the boundaries between the virtual and the real.</p> <p>(2) Anxiety gnaws at the edges of consciousness when the phone is out of reach, a phantom limb syndrome that leaves us feeling incomplete without our digital appendage. The fear of missing out permeates every moment spent away from the screen, driving us to constantly check for updates and notifications.</p> <p>(3) Thumbs move with the speed and precision of skillful pianists, tapping out messages and scrolling through feeds with practiced ease. Yet amidst the flurry of activity, the true rhythm of life remains unheard, drowned out by the dissonance of digital noise. The weight of constant connectivity forms a hunch upon our shoulders, a physical manifestation of the burden we carry in an age of information overload. Our minds are perpetually on high alert, scanning for the next wave of excitement that comes with each like, share, or comment.</p> <p>(4) And yet, for all our efforts to stay connected, we find ourselves increasingly isolated in a sea of digital faces. Genuine connections are fleeting, drowned out by the constant clamour for attention. In the pursuit of digital validation, we sacrifice the wealth of lived experience, trading meaningful moments for fleeting glimpses of connection. The true essence of life lies not in the pixels on a screen, but in the depth of human connection and the richness of shared experiences</p> <p>(5) As we navigate this brave new world of constant connectivity, let us not forget the value of presence and the beauty of being fully engaged in the moments that matter most. For in the end, it is not the number of likes or followers that defines us, but the depth of our connections and the richness of our experiences that truly matter.</p>	
	Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.	
	I. According to paragraph 1, what effect do smart phone notifications have on the people in the room?	1
	II. How does the author use the metaphor of 'autumn leaves in the wind' to interpret the	1

not only preferred snack choices but also delving into the underlying motivations and influences guiding these choices. Beyond mere preference, participants were encouraged to articulate the reasons behind their selections, providing invaluable insights into the multifaceted nature of snacking behavior.

(4) Results:

The survey results revealed interesting insights into snacking preferences among different age groups:

Age-group	%	Preferred snack	Reasons for preference
Children	77	Seasonal fruits	Taste, Health benefits, Parental guidance
Teenagers	65	Packaged snacks	Convenience, Taste, Peer influence
Young adults	52	seasonal fruits and packaged snacks	Transitional lifestyle(college, beginning careers, and establishing independence), Health consciousness, Convenience
Middle-aged	83	Seasonal fruits	Freshness, Nutrition, Health consciousness
Elderly	90	Seasonal fruits	Seasonal fruits Health benefits, Digestive ease

(5) Implications for Interventions:

By discerning the diverse preferences among different age groups, policymakers and health practitioners can tailor interventions to address specific demographic needs. For instance, targeting educational campaigns towards parents could empower them to instill healthy eating habits in their children from an early age. Concurrently, efforts to mitigate the influence of advertising and peer pressure on teenagers could involve regulatory measures and educational initiatives aimed at promoting critical thinking and informed decision-making. Furthermore, the prominence of seasonal fruits as a preferred snack choice among middle aged adults and senior’s points towards the importance of promoting access to fresh produce and nutritional education across all age demographics.

(6) Conclusion:

The survey outcomes serve as a roadmap for designing targeted interventions that not only cater to diverse demographic needs but also nurture a culture of health and well-being. By harnessing the insights gleaned from this study, stakeholders can collaboratively work towards building healthier communities and promoting sustainable practices for generations to come.

Answer the following questions, based on given passage.

I. Complete the following suitably. In the introduction, the researcher links a hasty lifestyle with the choice of snacks in the study to highlight_____.	1
II. What would the following be classified as? To examine snacking preferences across various age groups in detail, and assess health implications. Select the appropriate response. A. Primary purpose B. Secondary objective C. Method of analysis D. Research outcome	1
III. Give two points to support why it is likely that fresh fruits were given as an option to the survey participants to choose from in the study on snacking preferences.	2
IV. Paragraph 3 includes words – ‘motivations’ and ‘influences.’	1

	<p>Classify the following sentences as 'influence' or 'motivation':</p> <p>Sentence 1: Peer pressure leads teenagers to prefer packaged snacks over healthier options.</p> <p>Sentence 2: The drive to maintain health as one ages makes middle-aged adults to choose seasonal fruits.</p> <p>V. Read the following:</p> <p>Seema regularly enjoys snacking on chips and cool drinks while watching movies. Mohan, her neighbour, prefers to snack on oranges and also some nuts occasionally. Arindam, who lives across, often tends to eat a mix of carrot sticks and instant noodles, in between meals.</p> <p>Select the option that identifies the correct demographic Seema, Mohan and Arindam belong to.</p> <p>A. Seema – young adult; Mohan – teenager; Arindam -middle-age B. Seema - teenager; Mohan – middle-age; Arindam -child C. Seema – young adult; Mohan – child; Arindam - teenager D. Seema - teenager; Mohan – elderly; Arindam -young adult</p> <p>VI. Although children, middle-aged, and elderly groups all prefer seasonal fruits, why is the preference percentage highest among the elderly?</p> <p>VII. Analyse how targeted interventions based on the diverse snacking preferences of different age groups can lead to improved health outcomes. (Paragraph 5)</p> <p>VIII What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders, based on the insights from the study?</p> <p>A. Increase profitability through enhanced snack marketing B. Building healthier communities C. Reducing the cost of healthcare services D. Expanding the range of available snack product</p>	<p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>1</p>
	<p>SECTION B</p> <p>CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 marks)</p>	
3.	Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words	1x4=4
	<p>A. Your school is planning to conduct an inter-class seminar on the topic - The Importance of Mental Health - to create awareness in adolescents. As the head of the organising committee, write a notice to inform all students about the seminar and invite registrations from classes XI-XII. Include other necessary details. Put your notice in a box.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>B. Your school is organising an inter-House webinar on enhancing coding skills, As the President of the Computer Club, write a notice to inform all House members from IX-XII about the webinar and specify the number of registrations invited per House. Include other necessary details. Put your notice in a box.</p>	
4.	Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words.	1x4=4
	<p>A. Draft an invitation in not more than 50 words from Vani Gopalan, Chief Project Officer of an NGO, for the launch of the 'Each One Teach One' programme, addressed to school Principals and Coordinators. Mention a compelling highlight of the programme along with other necessary details</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>B. An invitation had been issued by Mr. Cherian, the HR Head of your company inviting you for the company picnic. As Joseph Vijayan, Asst. Manager, Operations, draft a reply in not more than 50 words, consenting to attend.</p>	
5.	Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in 120 150 words	1x5=5
	<p>A. Financial literacy is increasingly recognised as a crucial 21st-century skill for young individuals. Write a letter to the editor of a local daily discussing the benefits of providing financial literacy education to children. Also, suggest effective ways to raise awareness about the importance of this education among parents and guardians. You</p>	

	<p>may use some of the given cues along with your own ideas to draft the letter. You are a counsellor, Chitra Mahapatra from Puri, Odisha.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the long-term benefits of learning financial independence from a young age? • Why is understanding the power of finances beneficial for young learners? • Why skills learned during childhood tend to have a lasting impact. <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>B. You are Maya Syiem from Shillong. You read the given advertisement and wish to apply for the post advertised. Write this job application along with your bio-data.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>Join our Creative Team!</p> <p>A renowned publishing house in Shillong -A NEW WORLD- is seeking a talented illustrator for children's books. Creative individuals with a passion for storytelling through art, welcome. Experience, not mandatory. Team players with degree/ diploma in Fine Arts/ Graphic Design may apply with 5 samples from portfolio illustrating a variety of work. Write to the Project Lead, 23-C Rosewood Lane, Shillong-793005</p> </div>	
6.	Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in 120 150 words	1x5=5
	<p>A. In an era of rapid globalisation and technological advancement, the preservation of cultural heritage remains a vital challenge, particularly for the youth. India continues to navigate the complexities of maintaining tradition alongside modernity. Write an article exploring the role of cultural heritage in shaping the identities of today's Indian youth. Provide examples to illustrate your points wherever necessary. You may use some of the given cues along with your own ideas. You are Arti Nirula of Class XII-A.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * How have global interactions and technologies influenced or changed these traditional practices among today's youth? * What are the benefits of preserving cultural heritage for young people? How does it contribute to their sense of identity and community? * Suggest ways in which young people and institutions can work together to ensure the preservation of cultural heritage. </div> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>B. You are Hina Aziz, student of Class XII-D and a member of the school magazine editorial board. Write a comprehensive report detailing the activities undertaken by students as part of the celebrations on Yoga Day. Include descriptions of the events, participation details, and the overall impact of these activities on the school community. You may organise your report by following – Who – What – When – Where – Why – How</p>	
SECTION C LITERATURE (40 marks)		
7.	Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given:	1x6=6
	<p>A Those who prepare green wars, wars with gas, wars with fire, victory with no survivors, would put on clean clothes and walk about with their brothers in the shade, doing nothing. (poem - Keeping Quiet)</p> <p>I. What is a common outcome of all the wars described?</p>	

	<p>II What does the imagery of 'walking about with their brothers in the shade' primarily represent?</p> <p>A. The readiness for further conflicts. B. A return to normal activities post-conflict. C. A moment of unity and peaceful reflection. D. The physical environment of a typical war zone.</p> <p>III. Complete the following suitably. The putting on of 'clean clothes' by the warmongers, symbolises _____.</p> <p>IV. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank. The excerpt tells us that the speaker _____ (condemns / glorifies) the destructive nature of modern warfare.</p> <p>V. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract. Assertion: The poet advocates for 'doing nothing' as a way to prevent the devastation of war. Reason: 'Doing nothing' refers to a time for stopping any action for a few moments. Choose the correct option regarding their relationship.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>VI. How can the message in the excerpt, about the outcome of wars be applied to promote peace?</p>	
8.	Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given:	4x1=4
	<p>A. To visit Antarctica now is to be a part of that history; to get a grasp of where we've come from and where we could possibly be heading. It's to understand the significance of Cordilleran folds and pre-Cambrian granite shields; ozone and carbon; evolution and extinction. When you think about all that can happen in a million years, it can get pretty mind-boggling. Imagine: India pushing northwards, jamming against Asia to buckle its crust and form the Himalayas; South America drifting off to join North America, opening up the Drake Passage to create a cold circumpolar current, keeping Antarctica frigid, desolate, and at the bottom of the world. (Journey to the End of the Earth)</p> <p>I. Complete the following suitably. The passage suggests that visiting Antarctica offers insight into geological processes and Earth's history by _____.</p> <p>II. How does the author imply the role of geological knowledge in understanding the Earth's past and potential future changes?</p> <p>III. The writer says, 'When you think about all that can happen in a million years, it can get pretty mind-boggling.' What is the most likely impact on the writer?</p> <p>A. Feels overwhelmed by the vastness of geological time scales. B. Is uneasy about the rapid pace of geological changes. C. Feels indifferent towards geological phenomena.</p>	

	<p>D. Is surprised by the lack of significant geological events over a million years.</p> <p>IV. How might understanding the geological processes mentioned in the passage help scientists in predicting and mitigating future environmental changes, particularly in polar regions?</p>	
9.	Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given:	1x6=6
	<p>A. What a thunderclap these words were to me! Oh, the wretches; that was what they had put up at the town-hall! My last French lesson! Why, I hardly knew how to write! I should never learn anymore! I must stop there, then! Oh, how sorry I was for not learning my lessons, for seeking birds' eggs, or going sliding on the Saar! My books, that had seemed such a nuisance a while ago, so heavy to carry, my grammar, and my history of the saints, were old friends now that I couldn't give up. And M. Hamel, too; the idea that he was going away, that I should never see him again, made me forget all about his ruler and how cranky he was. (The Last Lesson)</p> <p>I. What was the writer's purpose in using the metaphor of a 'thunderclap'?</p> <p>II. Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank. The use of exclamatory marks in the first five sentences of the extract serves to express the speaker's _____ (hidden/ intense) emotions.</p> <p>III. Complete the following suitably. The activities of seeking birds' eggs and sliding on the Saar reveal two things about Franz's character before his change in perspective. First, his youthful carefree nature and second, his preference for _____.</p> <p>IV. What is reflected through the shift in the speaker's perception of Mr. Hamel, conveyed through his readiness to forget the ruler?</p> <p>V. Select the textual option that is closest to indicating a sense of panic. A. Oh, how sorry I was for not learning my lessons... B. Why, I hardly knew how to write! C. Oh, the wretches; that was what they had put up at the town-hall! D. And M. Hamel, too;</p> <p>VI. What does the following line from the extract, showcase? My books, that had seemed such a nuisance a while ago, so heavy to carry, my grammar, and my history of the saints, were old friends now that I couldn't give up. A. realization B. confusion C. expectation D. affirmation</p>	
10.	Answer any five of the following six questions in 40 50 words each :	5x2=10
	<p>I. Identify an instance of hope or resilience in 'Lost Spring' and analyse how it reflects one of the story's themes.</p> <p>II. Interpret the use of visual imagery by Kamala Das in her poem to depict the passage of time.</p> <p>III. What does the contrasting imagery of the church clock and the Prussian trumpets represent, in 'The Last Lesson'?</p> <p>IV. How does the author's writing style in 'The Interview' affect the reader's</p>	

	<p>understanding of the story?</p> <p>V. Explain how the rattrap symbolises the dual aspects of human nature. (<i>The Rattrap</i>)</p> <p>VI What factor/s were largely instrumental in the victory of the peasants in ‘Indigo’?</p>	
11.	Answer any two of the following three questions in 40 50 words each :	2x2=4
	<p>I. Discuss the significance of the toy tiger in the climax of ‘The Tiger King.’</p> <p>II. Interpret the significance of both literal and metaphorical journeys in the story, ‘The third Level.’</p> <p>III. How does Susan Hill subtly portray a blend of pessimism and optimism in ‘On the Face of It’?</p>	
12.	Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.	1x5=5
	<p>A Analyse the poems, A Roadside Stand and Aunt Jennifer's Tigers for the theme of inequality and its impact on the bearers.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>B How do the characters of Sophie from ‘Going Places’ and Subbu from ‘Poets and Pancakes’ compare and contrast in terms of their aspirations, constraints, and the pursuit of their dreams?</p>	
13.	Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words	1x5=5
	<p>A The influence of belief in traditions such as religion, family bonds, or patriotism can be used to develop narrative techniques like setting, motivation, sources of conflict, and pacing. Analyse how the writer has incorporated such influences to good effect in the story, The Enemy. Support your answer with valid textual evidence.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>B Discuss the narrative techniques used by the author in The Third Level. How do these techniques effectively convey the themes of escapism and nostalgia? Provide specific examples from the text to support your analysis.</p>	

Answer key (Set A)
English Core (301)
Class XII (2024-25)
Pre Board

SECTION A – READING SKILLS

1. i. (D) It is a source of unconditional love.

ii. A dog can encourage its owner to lead a healthier life by:

- 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.

iii. Dogs' ability to sense their owner's emotions can be incredibly comforting, having a dog as a companion can be a life-changing experience, they alone can provide a sense of calm and comfort, they support to deal with anxiety and depression.

iv. Dogs are great ice-breakers and conversation starters. Dogs have a way of bringing people together. Having a dog, by the side of young adults who may feel isolated or disconnected, can be a great way to connect and form new friendships.

v. (D) Both (A) and (B)

vi. (A) Explain the benefits of owning a dog.

vii. (B) accept a responsibility.

viii. Dog/pet/companion/any hairy animal which gives companionship.

ix. (C) positive and informative.

Dogs exemplify unconditional love for their owners through their loyalty and unwavering affection, as they do not judge, criticize, or hold grudges against their humans. This steadfast support can be particularly comforting for young adults who are struggling to find their place in the world.

2. i. False: If the statement contradicts the information.

ii. (b) at the time of landing or taking off

- iii. susceptible
- iv. (b) the pilot must land at the earliest airport.
- v. the maneuverability of the crew.
- vi. Open fields with puddles, as well as the existence of landfills and trash disposal sites, are more prone to bird strikes.
- vii. A high number of birds are drawn to the presence of landfills or trash disposal sites.
- viii. (a) be instructed not to cruise at high altitudes.

SECTION B – CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

3.

NOTICE

Goodwill Public Schools

4th Feb 2020

There is an international book fair is being held at Pragati Maidan New Delhi from 7th to 14th February 2020 from 7:30 a.m to 6:00 p.m. Interested students are requested to come and check different books by different writers. It would be a good opportunity for all to see and suggest some books for library purpose.

Girish Singhanian

Librarian

OR

UDAY SCHOOL NOTICE

Date: 13/10/2024

'Mr Virender Schwag has postponed the visit"

All students are hereby informed that the visit of Mr. Virendra Schwag, who was to deliver talk to help the cricket players to do well in the game is not able to come on the given day. It has been rescheduled. He will now deliver his talk on **Monday, 25th September 2024, at 10:00 AM** in the **School Auditorium**. All cricket players are requested to attend.

With regards

Gopal/Garima

Secretary, Sports Club

4. 2436

Urban Estate,

Sector-15,

Karnal.

2 April 2019.

Dear Mohit,

You will be pleased to know that we have devised a way to beat the heat this summer. I, along with five of my classmates, have decided to go on a picnic to Kama Lake this Sunday, i.e. 7th April 2019. We'll assemble at my house at 8 a.m. We all will have a great time together. Do join us and carry some of the essentials with you like water bottle, cap or hat etc.

Yours truly,

Manoj

OR

Letter of Regret

Radhika/Rakesh

Pune, Maharashtra

13th September 2024

Akshat

Nashik, Maharashtra

Dear Akshat,

I hope this letter finds you in the best of health and spirits. I was overjoyed to receive the wonderful news of your upcoming wedding. It fills my heart with immense happiness to know that you have found your life partner and are about to embark on this beautiful journey together.

Unfortunately, due to an illness in my family, I regret to inform you that I will not be able to attend the wedding. It is with a heavy heart that I convey my inability to be present on such a joyous occasion.

Please know that my thoughts and best wishes are with you and your partner on your special day.

Wishing you both a lifetime of love and joy. With warm regards,
Radhika/Rakesh

5. 112, Mount Road

Chennai - 600001

11th February, 20XX

The Editor
The Deccan Herald
Chennai
Dear Sir,

Subject: Relevance of book fairs

Through your esteemed columns, I would like to praise people's love for books. National Book Trust organized a six-day book fair at Anna Grounds, Chennai recently. I was delighted to see many books being displayed on a variety of subjects.

Different publishers including some foreign publishers had set up their stalls. A variety of books on diverse subjects were available on heavy discounts. A large crowd visited the book fair and publishers were encouraging people to buy their books. It was really a pleasure to see people's enthusiasm to buy books.

Today there is a craze for e-books. Still, people buy books which they can read sitting anywhere in their house. This shows that books still hold their relevance and importance. Modern technology and the internet cannot stop people from buying books. People have realized that books are cheaper and require no maintenance, unlike a computer. In fact, many online stores like Amazon, Flipkart, etc. try to sell the latest books at the cheapest

prices. I hope you will publish my letter in your esteemed newspaper so that the readers never forget the value of books and the pleasure of reading.

Yours truly,
Lalit.

OR

1, Rana Pratap Marg

New Delhi
01 April 2019

The Principal, Sun University

Box no 123, 'The Harbinger'

New Delhi
Sir/Madam,

Subject: Application for the post of lecturer in English

In response to your advertisement published in The Times of India, dated February 25, 2019, I got to know that the post of English Lecture is vacant in your acclaimed institution and I wish to offer my candidature for the same.

I would like to bring to your notice that I possess all the aforementioned qualities required for the post. I hold experience of 7 years of teaching in a designated organisation. I received my post-graduate and graduate degrees from a well-renowned university and completed my school education from the CBSE board. I have a passion for teaching and a hunger to learn. I assure you that my dedication to work would add more value to your institution.

I am enclosing a copy of my bio-data for your perusal and kind consideration. I am available for an

interview on any day of your convenience. If given a chance to serve you, I assure you to render the best of my services for the utmost growth of the organisation.

In anticipation of an early response. Yours

faithfully

Ram/Rajani

Encl. : (i) Bio-data

BIO-DATA

Name

Rajani

Father's Name

Mr Rajan

Date of birth

21 April 1986

Address

1, Rana Pratap Marg, New Delhi

Phone

9810045693

E-mail

ra123@gamil.com

Marital Status

Married

Age

32 years

Nationality

Indian

Academic Qualifications

(i) BA (Hons) in English

(ii) MA in English

Hobbies

Reading, travelling and net-surfing

Strengths

Proficiency in English and Hindi, computer literate

Experience

7 years as English Lecture University of Delhi

Names and Address of References

- Mr Vijay Mathur, Principal

GD Goenka Public School, Pitampura, Delhi

- Mr Satish Ohri

Head of Department: Commerce Delhi University, Delhi

6.

Hawker Dilemma: Balancing Livelihoods and City Life

By Rita/Rakesh

The daily chaos caused by street markets clogging our roads is becoming progressively intolerable. Compact streets evolve into crowded thoroughfares, filled with blaring vehicles, frustrated commuters, and vendors striving to earn a livelihood. This **problem of traffic jams** not only causes **inconvenience to pedestrians** but also leads to **accidents, road rage, and a general sense of unease**.

Finding a solution requires acknowledging the needs of both parties. While street vendors are essential to the city's vibrant character, their current presence on main roads creates a **traffic nightmare**.

To address this, a **balanced approach** is required. Firstly, **creating awareness** among commuters and hawkers about the dangers and inconvenience caused by street markets is crucial. Secondly, exploring **alternate venues** for these markets, like designated spaces with proper infrastructure, could provide a more organized and safer solution. Finally, to ensure the effectiveness of these measures, **strict enforcement** against those who flout designated areas is imperative.

By working together, we can find a sustainable solution that allows hawkers to earn a livelihood while ensuring smooth traffic flow and a safer environment for everyone.

OR

Fire Engulfed Central Market

-Sanjay / Sanjana, Staff Reporter

10 May 2019,

New Delhi Over a hundred persons were trapped for two hours when a devastating fire broke out yesterday in the Central Market Lajpat Nagar between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Though no casualties were reported officially, fifty people were injured.

The fire broke out around 4.50 p.m. due to a short circuit in the mainline and spread quickly. There was panic and stampede as people rushed out of the overcrowded marketplace. The fire brigade and police arrived at the venue within half an hour. About a dozen firemen battled for two hours to bring the fire under control. The loss incurred is estimated to be about five crore rupees.

The injured persons were rushed to a nearby hospital. Many people sustained minor burns. The Governor has announced an inquiry into the mishap. The police are investigating the matter.

SECTION C - LITERATURE

7.
 - i. He walked as slowly as a snail.
 - ii. She was deeply pained by the thought of the mother's imminent death.
 - iii. She is aged and exhausted.

- iv. contrast
- v. c. Both (1) and (2) can be inferred from the extract.
- vi. a. Happiness and enthusiasm

- 8
- i. (B) adds suspense and anxiety to readers
 - ii. Despite myself” suggests that the speaker was resisting involuntarily.
 - iii. (B) She did not want to get caught.
 - iv. False.

- 9.
- i. A lot of activity leading to noise
 - ii. he was late and saw M Hamel walking up and down.
 - iii. Commotion
 - iv. strict
 - v. b. It seemed that the school was closed, like a Sunday morning.
 - vi. quiet/silent

10. Answer any five of the following questions in 40-50 words each:

- Douglas had developed the fear of water as a child. When he was three or four years old, he went to the beach with his father for surfing where he got frightened, knocked- down and buried under water by powerful waves.
- In Neruda's "Keeping Quiet," Mother Earth imparts a crucial lesson. Just as a dormant seed blossoms when conditions permit, humanity can rectify mistakes and improve the Earth. It advocates against despair, urging us to emulate Earth's resilience and correct our wrongs, fostering a belief in the potential restoration of our damaged planet.
- The poet referred to the "wedding band" as the symbol of the wedding ring worn by Aunt Jennifer. The phrase "massive weight of Uncle's wedding band" conveyed the idea that she felt overwhelmed by her duties and responsibilities after getting married.
- Sophie was captivated by the belief that her brother, Geoff possessed knowledge of unfamiliar places and experiences. This fascination fueled her desire to learn more from him, and she yearned for his affection, hoping it would lead to him sharing those places and experiences with her.
- ‘Pancake’ was the brand name of the make-up material that was brought in truckloads to the Gemini Studios. This popular brand of make-up was used by beautiful actresses all over the world. The charming actresses from Hollywood as well as Bollywood - they all must have used it in the early years of film-making.
- Lewis Carrol considers interviews as an 'unwarranted intrusion' that is immoral and an offence against his person. He shunned interviews for fear of being projected as larger than life. His vehement refusal for interviews enabled him to keep

his fans as well as interviews at arm's length.

11. Answer any two of the following questions in 40-50 words each:

- Antarctica is very much unique as well as specific than other parts of the globe. It is completely devoid of human markers and more than 90 per cent of the earth's total ice- volumes are stored on this sub-continent. In the beginning there was no life except flora and fauna. There are neither trees nor buildings. So we lose all earthly sense of perspective and time there. There is a day of 24 hours.

- After killing ninety nine tigers, the Maharaja persisted in his search for the hundredth tiger. The king was in gloom. But soon he heard the good news that dispelled his sadness. The sudden disappearance of sheep gave them some hope and the Maharaja set out on an expedition to find the hundredth tiger, which was supposed to be the reason for all this. The Maharaja announced an exemption of tax for three years and set out on tiger hunt once again. But to find a tiger did not seem to be an easy job for them. The king waited for many days but the efforts seemed in vain and in his rage, the Maharaja ordered the dewan to double the land tax.

- Around 650 million years ago, long before humans arrived, Earth was home to a variety of flora and fauna. About 500 million years later, or 150 million years ago, Gondwana land began to break apart due to a meteorite impact on Earth. The fragmented pieces of Gondwana eventually drifted and formed new continents. As a result, we now have seven continents in the world.

12. Shubhangi, all of us have made mistakes at one point or another in our lives. After all, to err is human. However, it is important to learn from our mistakes and evolve into better people. In "The Last Lesson" by Alphonse Daudet, Franz, the protagonist, regrets not taking his French lessons seriously until it was too late. He realizes the importance of his language and culture and how it connects him to his country. Similarly, in "The Rattrap" by Selma Lagerlöf, the peddler learns from his mistake of stealing and realizes that kindness and honesty are more important than material possessions. Both characters learn from their mistakes and evolve into better people. Shubhangi, it is never too late to start taking your academics seriously. Learn from your mistakes and work hard to achieve your goals. Remember, mistakes are opportunities to learn and grow.

OR

Good morning to one and all!

After reading both poems, "Keeping Quiet" by Pablo Neruda and "A Thing of Beauty" by John Keats, I strongly believe that the preservation of nature is not just a necessity but a moral obligation for the benefit of mankind.

The Wisdom of Nature

In "Keeping Quiet," Neruda urges us to pause and reflect, suggesting that in moments of stillness, we can learn from nature. He writes, "Perhaps the Earth can teach us as when everything seems dead and later proves to be alive." This line reminds us that nature, even in its quietest moments, is full of life and wisdom.

The Beauty of Nature

Keats, in "A Thing of Beauty," celebrates the eternal beauty of nature. He writes, "but will keep a bower quiet for us," emphasizing that nature provides a sanctuary of peace and beauty. This beauty is not just aesthetic but also essential for our mental and emotional well-being.

The Importance of Preservation:

- Nature provides essential services such as clean air, water, and fertile soil, which are vital for our survival.
- Protecting natural habitats ensures the survival of countless species, maintaining the balance of our ecosystems.
- Forests and oceans play a significant role in regulating the Earth's climate, helping to mitigate the effects of climate change.
- Access to natural spaces has been shown to improve physical and mental health, reducing stress and promoting overall well-being.

Call to Action

As members of the Eco Club, it is our responsibility to lead by example and inspire others to take action. Here are some steps we can take:

- Educate our peers and community about the importance of preserving nature and the benefits it provides.
- Promote and adopt sustainable practices such as reducing waste, conserving water, and using renewable energy sources.
- Organize tree planting drives, clean-up campaigns, and other community projects that contribute to environmental conservation.
- Advocate for policies and initiatives that protect natural habitats and promote sustainability.

Thank you.

13. The moment I noticed that I was not alone as the old man could see me, I wanted to leave. But an interesting rather "peculiar" conversation kept me glued. I looked for secluded places as my self-confidence did not allow me to face the world. But I was surprised to see that Mr. Lamb did not find anything strange in me. He did not show any dislike or horror, which generally people expressed at first glance.

I noticed that like me, the old man also had a disfigured body part that attracted mockery.

Yet, he did not give in and was living his life happily. Mr. Lamb spoke words of encouragement, hope, and zest for life, which no one had ever spoken to me. He made me aware of his physical strength and explained the importance of emotional well-being. This realization drew me closer to the old man.

OR

I was well aware of the fact that the act of saving the wounded enemy soldier was a serious crime by law and would be questioned by everyone but what we did was based completely on humanitarian grounds. We also had valid reasons for this. Dr. Sadao did it because of his sense of duty as a doctor, and as his wife it was my duty to stand with him. It was a time when we had to face open defiance from our domestic staff and at that time, apparently, my humanitarian instincts prompted me to wash and feed the enemy soldier Tom. They refused to cooperate and threatened to report the matter to the police as Japan was at war with America at that time. It was a crime to provide shelter to the enemy. But how could I see a wounded person being left in the lurch?

Sadao was bound by his moral responsibility as a doctor to save Tom, but I was under no such compulsion.

Despite this, I chose to abide by my husband's decisions because I had pledged to support him even through the most difficult times. That is why I assisted Sadao in the operation on the American, even though I could not stand the blood. I started puking at the very sight of it. But anyhow we managed to arrange for a safe escape of the American.

MARKING SCHEME
ENGLISH CORE (Code No. 301)
CLASS-XII-(2024-25)

General Instructions: -

1. *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.*
2. *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".*
3. *If more than one option is mentioned in the answer of multiple choice questions, then no marks to be awarded.*

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (22 marks)		
1.	Answer the following questions, based on the passage above. (Descriptive Passage)	12
I	They lead to instant interruptions in conversations. [language / expression may vary but the idea should remain relevant]	1
II	It illustrates how moments are fleeting and unnoticed, lost amid the distractions of digital interactions / it illustrates how easily significant moments can drift away when overshadowed by the focus on technology [language / expression may vary but the idea should remain relevant]	1
III	A. a deep (psychological) dependence on technology for a sense of wholeness or connection	1
IV	reduce the anxiety associated with the need to constantly be connected	1
V	C. It interferes with our ability to engage with meaningful aspects of our life.	1
VI	Yes it does - develop a hunch / mind is constantly alert (any one)	1
VII	The phrase refers to the natural, meaningful, and often quieter moments that make up human existence and relationships—those that occur away from the digital chaos. The writer draws our attention towards the genuine life experiences, such as face-to-face conversations, quiet contemplation, enjoying nature, and real-world interactions, that are overlooked or drowned out by the constant noise of digital activity. [language / expression may vary but the idea should remain relevant]	2
VIII	D. clamour	1
IX	A. Despite the intent to connect more effectively, the result is the opposite. (Option B is satire, C is hyperbole and D is metaphor)	1

X	<p>They are – (2 points to be elaborated for either)</p> <p>Benefits: Survey outcomes can offer a detailed understanding of the specific needs and preferences of various demographic groups, which can enhance the effectiveness of health interventions by making them more targeted and relevant. Additionally, using these data-driven insights can foster a sense of collaboration among stakeholders, promoting a unified approach towards health and sustainability.</p> <p>Challenges: Relying on survey outcomes may present challenges such as the risk of biases in the data collection process, which can twist results and lead to ineffective interventions. There's also the issue of survey fatigue among participants, potentially reducing engagement and the accuracy of the data gathered. Moreover, translating survey findings into practical interventions requires resources and continuous stakeholder commitment, which might not always be feasible.</p>	2
2.	Answer the following questions, based on given passage.	10
I	... how busy daily routines influence people to opt for quick and convenient eating options, often at the expense of nutritional value	1
II	A. Primary purpose	1
III	<p>The TWO points are –</p> <p>a) Health focus, as fruits are widely recognised for their health benefits, and this aligns with the study's goal to analyse snacking habits and their implications for health (making fresh fruits a relevant choice for understanding healthy snacking behaviours).</p> <p>b) Comparative analysis, as the study aims to compare the health implications of seasonal fruits versus packaged snacks. Including fresh fruits allows researchers to directly evaluate preferences between natural, healthier choices and processed, potentially less healthy alternatives.</p>	2
IV	Influence – sentence 1 ; Motivation – sentence 2	1
V	D. Seema - teenager (taste and convenience) ; Mohan - elderly(health, digestive ease) ; Arindam -young adult (health and convenience)	1
VI	Due to their increased health needs and focus on foods that are easier to digest and nutritionally beneficial.	1
VII	Targeted interventions can effectively address specific health needs by focusing on the unique factors influencing each demographic's snacking choices. For example, educational campaigns for parents can foster early healthy eating habits in children, while initiatives for teenagers can reduce the impact of advertising and peer pressure, promoting wiser food choices. Also, ensuring that middle-aged and older adults have access to fresh produce supports ongoing health maintenance, directly contributing to overall improved health outcomes across the lifespan.	2
VIII	B. Building healthier communities.	1

SECTION B-CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 marks)			
3.	Format – 1 Content -2 Accuracy of spelling and grammar -1		4
4.	A- (Card type formal / third person/ centre aligned) B- (Letter type- formal, first/ third person) Format – 1 Content -2 Accuracy of spelling and grammar -1		4
5.	Format -1 Content -2 Organisation -1 Accuracy of spelling and grammar -1		5
6.	Format – 1 Content -2 Organisation -1 Accuracy of spelling and grammar -1		5
A.	<p>Article -Value points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cultural heritage provides a strong sense of identity, helping young people connect with their roots and understand how historical influences shape their personal and community identities. ▪ Exposure to one's own and other cultures promotes tolerance and appreciation, which are vital in today's globalised society. This helps youths navigate diverse social environments with respect and empathy. ▪ Engaging with traditional arts, crafts, and practices can inspire creativity and innovation among youths, allowing them to reinterpret cultural expressions in ways that resonate with contemporary life. ▪ Active participation in cultural festivals, rituals, and community events strengthens bonds among community members and enhances social cohesion, making cultural heritage a pivotal part of daily life for youths. ▪ Incorporating cultural studies in education can increase awareness and pride among young people about their heritage, encouraging them to become advocates and preservers of their traditions. ▪ By using technology to create appealing and accessible cultural content, such as virtual museum tours, digital storytelling, and social media campaigns, youths can be engaged with their heritage in formats they find relatable and exciting. 		
B.	Cues lead to the eliciting of relevant response points		
SECTION C-LITERATURE (40 marks)			
7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two-A or B			
A	Poetry (Flamingo)		6
I	Gaining victory with no survivors		1
II	C. A moment of unity and peaceful reflection		1
III	...a potential for change and renewal / a moment of pause and reflection / an act of cleansing of their actions /embracing a peaceful existence/ the possibility of transformation		1
IV	condemns		1
V	B. Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.		1
VI	Global leaders and communities can work toward more sustainable and peaceful solutions – Can be used to advocate for non-violent resolutions / peace		1

	negotiations in contemporary conflicts / Can be used to promote dialogue and understanding over aggression and warfare	
B		
I	enforcing benefits	1
II	A. Coordinated help	1
III	...the traditional and longstanding sleeping patterns and nighttime rituals that have been part of the rural community's lifestyle for generations (deeply rooted cultural practices) [The speaker suggests that the modern practices, possibly influenced by external forces such as urbanisation or industrialisation, disrupt the natural sleep patterns of the rural inhabitants – dilute their time-tested ways.]	1
IV	irony	1
V	D. The assertion is false, but the reason is true. (Correct assertion - The poet criticizes the way the rural poor are treated by benefactors, suggesting it dulls their senses : 'soothe them out of their wits')	1
VI	Be wary of involvements by outsiders that might appear benevolent but could ultimately undermine your autonomy and dull your critical thinking abilities. [language / expression may vary but the idea should remain relevant]	1
8.	Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (A) or (B)	4
A.		
I	... exploring Cordilleran folds, granite shields, and environmental factors like ozone and carbon	1
II	The author does so by linking geological events to Antarctica's environmental conditions, highlighting the significance of geological processes in shaping the planet's history and future trajectories.	1
III	A. Feels overwhelmed by the vastness of geological time scales.	1
IV	By providing insights into how geological events impact polar regions and influence global climate patterns.	1
B		
Iisolation and lack of support / absence of any solace or reassurance from others / being an animal to a herder thereby suggesting a loss of identity	1
II	anguish/ sense of loss/ turmoil (any other relevant)	1
III	B. manipulated and controlled	1
IV	The imagery symbolises the forced assimilation and suppression of Indigenous culture, portraying the cutting of her hair as an act of cultural violence and the imposition of Western ideals of appearance and behaviour.	1
9.	Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, A or B.	6
A		
I	To emphasise the suddenness and shock of Franz's understanding about the importance of his education./ To conveys the urgency and deep impact of this	1

	moment / To dramatically highlight how unexpected and jarring the realisation was to him – like the startling and instant nature of a thunderclap / To effectively captures the emotional intensity of the moment of deep regret and abrupt awakening experienced by Franz	
II	intense	1
III	...preference for play over study	1
IV	It reflects a newfound respect and appreciation, overshadowing past fears of discipline and strictness.	1
V	B. Why, I hardly knew how to write!	1
VI	A. realisation	1
B		
I	It highlights his precarious economic situation and his dependence on chance finds for small joys and possibly essential income, reflecting the dire poverty and limited opportunities available to him.	1
II	desperate	1
III	...finding valuable items like coins gives them hope of finding more	1
IV	For children, garbage represents a source of wonder and potential treasure, whereas for adults, it is primarily a means of survival.	1
V	B. Rag-picking has evolved into a complex skill that is valued within the community.	1
VI	C. Reminiscing about past findings in the garbage.	1
10.	Answer any five of the following six questions in 40 50 words each : 1 -Content 1- Expression ½ -1 deducted from overall, for Accuracy	10
I	An instance of hope or resilience – Saheb’s continued search in the garbage, driven by the occasional discovery of a rupee or a ten-rupee note, symbolises his hope and resilience against the overwhelming odds of his harsh life. This reflects the theme of enduring hope amidst poverty and destitution - the human spirit’s capacity to dream and hope, even in the terribly dire circumstances -- suggesting that the desire for a better life can exist independent of one's current state of poverty	2
II	(Any one) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The image of her aging mother - ‘pale as a late winter’s moon,’ -- conveys the fragility and the inevitability of aging -- highlights the physical changes brought by time and evokes a sense of gentle, serene decline rather than abrupt decay ▪ The image with the vivid, lively description of young trees sprinting and merry children spilling out of their homes --- contrasts sharply with her mother's stillness and silence --- enhances the sense of her mother's isolation in her old age / the relentless passage of time that spares no one -- life’s transient nature 	2
III	Represents -- the tension between local traditions and foreign occupation	2

	<p>The church clock -- symbol of local, everyday life and continuity --- in stark opposition to the Prussian trumpets, which symbolise disruption, military power, and the enforcement of foreign rule</p> <p>Highlights the theme of loss and the struggle to preserve one's cultural heritage against overwhelming odds</p>	
IV	<p>The author's writing style - often blends a conversational tone with introspective moments -- deeply affects the reader's engagement and understanding of the narrative.</p> <p>Use of direct dialogues interspersed with reflective commentary – this approach not only makes the interactions more dynamic and engaging but enhances the reader's insight into the complexities of personalities and themes being explored</p>	2
V	<p>Dual –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The tendency towards greed and deceit - society, driven by wealth and gain, ensnares individuals, reducing their existence to a constant struggle to escape from materialistic enticements ▪ The potential for redemption through empathy and kindness –kindness and trust by the ironmaster's daughter, Edla, inspires the peddler to reclaim his essential humanity and escape the identity of a thief - signified by his decision to return the stolen money and leaving a note explaining his thoughts about the world being a rattrap 	2
VI	<p>Largely due to the leadership and advocacy provided by Mahatma Gandhi -- his involvement brought national attention to their plight --highlighted the importance of civil rights and nonviolent resistance</p> <p>Gandhi's strategic approach to negotiations & his insistence on nonviolent protest -- empowered the peasants to stand up against oppressive landlords --- led to their immediate victory -- inspired a broader movement for social and economic justice across India</p>	2
11.	Answer any two of the following three questions in 40 50 words each :	4
I	<p>The significance of the toy tiger lies in its stark contrast to the dangerous live tigers the Maharaja had been hunting throughout his life.</p> <p>Its role in his death brings up the themes of irony and fate central to the story.</p> <p>It illustrates -- despite human efforts to control or escape destiny, it can manifest in the most unexpected and trivial forms.</p> <p>The toy tiger symbolises -- the ultimate futility of the Maharaja's efforts -- points to the folly of those who believe they can master fate through power or violence</p>	2
II	<p>The literal journey involves Charley, discovering a supposed 'third level' at the Grand Central Station--a portal to the year 1894. The metaphorical journey-- Charley's inner longing for a simpler, more reassuring past—a common human desire to retreat to a time perceived as better or less complicated.</p> <p>The significance - their portrayal of the universal quest for happiness and fulfillment -- together, these journeys explore themes of escapism, the subjective nature of reality, and the deep-seated human need for connection and comfort in familiar but idealised, settings.</p>	2
III	<p>Derry is of the pessimistic view whereas Mr. Lamb is of the optimistic view point. Both are disabled but still view life from different perspectives.</p>	2

	Both protagonists challenges with disfigurement are depicted with a stark realism that leans towards pessimism, yet interactions that offer genuine connection hint at underlying optimism -- suggest the possibility of emotional survival despite physical and social barriers	
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12. **Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words** **5**

A.
 'A Roadside Stand' focuses on the economic disparities between rural and urban areas, and 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' delves into the gender-based inequalities within marriage and society.

A Roadside Stand	Aunt Jennifer's Tigers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depicts the struggles of rural individuals facing economic inequality. • Highlights the disparity between urban and rural lifestyles. • Reflects on the exploitation of rural communities by those in power. • Explores the loss of traditional ways of life due to modernisation and industrialisation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illustrates the oppression faced by Aunt Jennifer within her marriage. • Reflects on the expectations and restrictions placed on women, socially. • Explores the theme of domestic suppression and its impact on women's autonomy. • Highlights the contrast between Aunt Jennifer's inner world and her external reality.

Impact on Bearers:

- A Roadside Stand -- rural folk are portrayed as struggling to make ends meet due to economic disparities, leading to feelings of frustration and helplessness.
- Aunt Jennifer's Tigers – Aunt experiences oppression and suppression within her marriage
- Both sets of bearers face the psychological and emotional toll of their respective inequalities, resulting in a longing for freedom and empowerment.
- Despite their challenges, the bearers in both poems demonstrate a desire to assert themselves through small acts of defiance or dreams of liberation.

B
 While both Sophie and Subbu share aspirations for success in their respective fields, they encounter different constraints and demonstrate distinct approaches in pursuing their dreams.

Sophie	Subbu
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aspiration: Sophie dreams of owning a boutique or becoming a fashion designer. • Constraints: Financial limitations and other expectations, such as her father's disapproval, hinder Sophie's pursuit of her dreams. • Pursuit of Dreams: Despite the challenges, Sophie remains determined to achieve her goals, showing persistence and creativity in her pursuits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aspiration: Subbu aims to succeed in the film industry as a poet, actor, and contributor to Gemini Studios. • Constraints: While Subbu faces challenges, such as criticism for his perceived sycophancy and overshadowing of his literary achievements by his success in films, he navigates these obstacles with grace and humility. • Pursuit of Dreams: Subbu's dedication to his craft and ability to adapt to various roles within Gemini Studios reflect his unwavering commitment to his pursuits.

13.	Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words	5
<p>A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Incorporation of Traditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Religion - how religious beliefs influence character actions and decisions. For example, Sadao's internal conflict may be influenced by his moral beliefs shaped by religious teachings. → Family Bonds - how relationships in the family impact character interactions and motivations. For example, Hana's concern for the safety of her family and the potential repercussions of harbouring an enemy soldier could drive her actions. → Patriotism - how national loyalty and patriotism create tension and conflict in the story. For example, Sadao's duty as a citizen and as a doctor may conflict with his compassion towards the wounded soldier, highlighting the complexities of wartime allegiances. ▪ Narrative Techniques: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Setting - how the wartime setting amplifies the moral dilemmas faced by the characters. The backdrop of war intensifies the stakes and adds urgency to their decisions. → Motivation - how cultural influences shape character motivations and drive the plot forward. The characters' actions may be guided by deeply ingrained cultural values and beliefs. → Sources of Conflict - the key conflicts stemming from cultural differences, expectations, and wartime circumstances. These conflicts drive the narrative forward and heighten the tension. → Pacing - how the pacing of the story reflects the characters' internal struggles and external conflicts. The pacing may fluctuate to convey moments of tension, reflection, and resolution. 		
<p>B. (Any two narrative techniques) [The examples may be references and not direct quotes]</p> <p>a) First-Person Narrative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Technique - The story is narrated from the first-person perspective of Charley, which creates an intimate and personal recounting of his experiences and thoughts. → Effect - This technique allows readers to directly engage with Charley's desires and fears, making his longing for escape and the nostalgia for a simpler past more tangible. → Textual Evidence - Charley states, "But that's the reason, he said, and my friends all agreed. Everything points to it, they claimed. My stamp collecting, for example; that's a 'temporary refuge from reality.'" <p>This personal reflection shares his internal justifications and how others perceive his escapism.</p> <p>b) Detailed Descriptive Language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Technique - The use of vivid and specific descriptions of settings and times, particularly Charley's descriptions of the third level of Grand Central Station. → Effect on Themes - These descriptions not only build a believable world but also vividly paint the past, stressing the theme of nostalgia and the allure of escapism to a seemingly better and simpler time. 		

- Textual Evidence - “Then I saw why; they were open-flame gaslights.” and “everyone in the station was dressed like eighteen-ninety-something; I never saw so many beards, sideburns, and fancy mustaches in my life.”

These details highlight the historical setting Charley escapes to, filled with elements from the past.

c) Symbolism:

- Technique - The story uses the ‘third level’ as a symbol, representing not just a physical place but a mental escape into another time.
- Effect on Themes - The third level serves as a metaphor for the psychological refuge one seeks from the modern world’s anxieties, underlining the theme of escapism.
- Textual Evidence – Charley mentions, “Grand Central has been an exit, a way of escape—maybe that’s how the tunnel I got into.”

This line explicitly connects the physical space of the third level to the concept of escaping reality.

d) Contrast and Irony:

- Technique - The stark contrast between Charley’s mundane, modern life and his adventures on the third level introduces a layer of irony.
- Effect on Themes - This contrast enhances the nostalgic appeal of the third level while ironically pointing out the impracticalities of such escapism.
- Textual Evidence - “The clerk figured the fare—he glanced at my fancy hatband, but he figured the fare—and I had enough for two coach tickets, one way. But when I counted out the money and looked up, the clerk was staring at me.”

This shows how out of place modern elements are in the past, highlighting the nostalgic yet challenging nature of his escape.