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**FIRST UNIT EXAMINATION**  
**2025-2026**  
**SAMPLE PAPER- STD XII**

**Sub:- English Core**

**Date:- .07.2025**

**Time:- 2 Hrs.**

**Max. Marks:- 50**

**General Instructions:**

1. 15-minute reading time is allotted for Q-paper reading.
2. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number in your answer sheet to indicate the option/s being attempted.

	<b>Section A: READING SKILLS- (10 marks)</b>	<b>10M</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Read the passage given below.</b>	
	<p>The World Cup is considered the apex of soccer competition. Held once every four years, it brings together some of the best footballers of the world. All of whom attempt to do their respective nations proud by winning the coveted trophy.</p> <p>The 1994 World Cup, held in the United States of America, was no different from its predecessors. Traditional favourites, like Brazil and Italy produced moments of sheer poetry on the pitch while newcomers like Nigeria and Saudi Arabia put up gallant performances. However, the event will be remembered with a touch of sadness. The otherwise spectacular competition was marred by the murder of Colombian defender, Andres Escobar.</p> <p>The Colombian team had entered the World Cup in a blaze of glory. Undefeated in the qualifying rounds, they had even trounced the 1986 champions, Argentina, with a five-goal win. Soccer is known to evoke high passions amongst fans, but in Colombia, where soccer is said to be bigger than religion', expectations soared to a fever pitch.</p> <p>The team was captained by Carlos Valderrama, a two – time winner of the South America Player of the Year Award. With brilliant attackers, Freddy Fincon and Faustino Asprilla, Colombia seemed indomitable and were even touted to be the next champions.</p> <p>However, the Colombians lost their opening match to Romania. After witnessing such a dismal performance by their favoured team, the press and fans began to wonder if the accolades heaped upon Colombia had been premature.</p> <p>Following their loss, the Colombian squad began to receive death threats. Coach Francisco Maturana was coerced into removing a player – Gabriel Jaime Gomez, whose family had been similarly threatened. Demoralized and now petrified, Colombia performed badly in their match against the Americans. It was in the thirty-fourth minute of the match that Andres Escobar</p>	

	<p>made a dreadful mistake. He slid on his right foot to cut off an attack by American John Harkes, and inadvertently directed the ball past goalkeeper Oscar Cordoba, into his own net. America's second goal, via Ernie Stewart, sealed Colombia's fate. Colombia managed a last-minute goal but it was too late. After two defeats, the team was eliminated from the competition.</p> <p>Following the defeat, in a letter to a Colombian newspaper, Escobar tried to placate fans. He reasoned, "Life does not end here." He was however brutally shot barely forty – eight hours after returning to his beloved hometown of Medellin. The drug mafia, who had lost millions of dollars in the bet favouring Columbia, was believed to be responsible.</p> <p>Andres Escobar, who represented Colombia in fifty – eight games and two World Cups, was considered one of their finest central defenders. A humble and friendly man, he was called 'the gentleman of Colombian soccer' and admired by many. Thousands of fans, including Colombian President Cesar Gaviria and Medellin Mayor, Luis Alfredo Ramos, paid their last respect to the slain hero. Sickened by the violence plaguing their country, they chanted protests against the drug lords as they escorted the body to its final place of rest.</p> <p>In spite of glorious football history, the Colombian nation has the dubious reputation of having the highest rate of violence in the world for a country not at war. Since the 1970s Colombia has been home to some of the most violent and sophisticated drug trafficking organizations in the world. Home to the rival drug empires, Medellin and Cali cartels, the country is notorious for being the drug capital of the world. Drug lords are responsible for tainting Colombia's soccer league. Exorbitant sums of drug money are betted on matches. Corruption is rampant as players and officials are often bribed.</p> <p>The violent history records the crime scene of the country. In 1983, Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla was slain, months after he had alleged that several football clubs were run by drug traffickers. In 1989, referee Alvaro Oriega was killed after a match. He had disallowed a goal by Deportivo Independiente and had sent off one of its players. Apparently, the team's defeat caused the drug lords to lose huge sums of money which caused the referee to be murdered</p>	
	<b>Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below. (ANY TEN)</b>	<b>1x10</b>
<b>i</b>	<p>..... are traditional favorites to win the World Cup.</p> <p>(a) Brazil and Italy (b) Italy and Columbia (c) Brazil and Columbia (d) All the above</p>	<b>1</b>
<b>ii</b>	<p>..... was the Columbian goalkeeper in the fateful match.</p> <p>(a) Oscar Cordoba (b) John Harkes (c) none of the above</p>	<b>1</b>
<b>iii</b>	<p>The word "rampant" means .....</p> <p>(a) Contained (b) Unbridled (c) in control</p>	<b>1</b>

<b>iv</b>	(a) The 1994 World Cup was held in ..... (b) Asia (c) Australia (d) the USA	<b>1</b>
<b>v</b>	Andres Escobar, was considered one of their finest central defenders. (True/False)	<b>1</b>
<b>vi</b>	Why is the World Cup considered the pinnacle of soccer competition?	<b>1</b>
<b>vii</b>	What does the writer imply when he says that Brazilians and Italians produced sheer poetry' on the pitch?	<b>1</b>
<b>viii</b>	Give an example from the passage to suggest that Colombians are ardent fans of soccer?	<b>1</b>
<b>ix</b>	Why is the Colombian team described as entering the tournament in 'a blaze of glory'?"	<b>1</b>
<b>x</b>	Pick out the words/phrases from the passage which mean the opposite of the following. conquerable (para 4)	<b>1</b>
<b>SECTION B – CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (13 Marks)</b>		
<b>2.</b>	<b>Attempt any one from A &amp; B given below:</b>	<b>4M</b>
<b>A.</b>	You are Rashmika Srivats/ Rahul Misra. You lost your TITAN WATCH in the school playground yesterday. Write a notice (not exceeding 50 words) to be put up on the school noticeboard requesting the finder to return it to you as soon as possible.	
	Or	
<b>B.</b>	You are Manmohan Sharma/Abhilasha Shastri, Outdoor Activity coordinator of Whitefield Senior Secondary School, Ooty. Your school is planning to organize an excursion to the different parts of South India. Draft a Notice, in not more than 50 words, inviting the students for the same by inventing necessary details.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Attempt any one from the A &amp; B given below:</b>	<b>4M</b>
<b>A.</b>	Mr. and Mrs. Rajvir Khanna have booked a meeting with the printer for the wedding invite of their daughter Paakhi, at 5 pm. You as the card designer draft a sample invite for them. You are Mukesh Rai, owner of Grand Multigraphics, Chandni Chowk.	
	Or	
<b>B.</b>	Saraswati Sr. Secondary Public School, Dwarka is going to celebrate 'Environment Day' by organizing Tree Plantation Ceremony in the school ground on 7 <sup>th</sup> July 20xx. Being the In-charge of Environment Club in your school, draft a formal invitation (CARD FORMAT) to invite Dr. Sonam Solanki, a noted Environmentalist in Mumbai, to grace the occasion, in not more than 50 words. You are Geetanjali/ Gaurav Bhardwaj.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Attempt Any one from the A &amp; B given below:</b>	<b>5M</b>
<b>A.</b>	Science attempts to explore secrets of nature while religion wants to reveal the very purpose of existence. The aim of both science and religion is to discover the truth. Write an article in 150 words on 'Science and Religion- Complementary to Each other.'	

	<b>Or</b>	
<b>B.</b>	Citizens with good value system are the greatest asset of any country. Most of us display an attitude of indifference towards all wrong being done around us resulting in damage to the healthy friendly environment Write an article, in 120-150 words on 'Honesty and Path of Righteousness are foundation of high Character'. You are Srinidhi Saxena/Ganesh Saxena.	
	<b>SECTION C – LITERATURE (27 Marks)</b>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Read the given extracts to attempt the questions with reference to context.</b>	<b>1x6=6</b>
<b>A.</b>	<b>Attempt <u>ANY ONE</u> of two extracts given.</b>	
	<b>“For once on the face of the Earth let’s not speak in any language, let’s stop for one second, and not move our arms so much. It would be an exotic moment without rush, without engines, we would all be together in a sudden strangeness.”</b>	
<b>i</b>	The expression ‘on the face of the Earth means: a. Fields and mountains. b. Rivers and landscapes. c. The face of natural surroundings. d. The entire surface of the Earth without boundaries.	<b>1</b>
<b>ii</b>	Why does the poet urge not to speak in any language? a. So that we can have ample time to introspect b. So that there is no regional difference. c. So that we can focus on the agenda of development d. So that we can concentrate to ask for blessings from the Almighty	<b>1</b>
<b>iii</b>	“What does ‘without rush, without engines’ signify?	<b>1</b>
<b>iv</b>	‘Sudden strangeness’ in the last line is an example of _____	<b>1</b>
<b>v</b>	‘Complete the analogy: Unity: togetherness: Fascinating:	<b>1</b>
<b>vi</b>	Which of the following titles is the most suitable? a. Language - A Barrier b. No Sound, No Conflict c. No Action, No War d. Silence- A Doorway to Introspection	<b>1</b>
	<b>Or</b>	
<b>B.</b>	<b>And looked out at Young Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling out of their homes, but after the airport’s security check, standing a few yards away, I looked again at her, wan, pale as a late winter’s moon and felt that old familiar ache, .....</b>	
<b>i</b>	Identify the poetic device used in the expression, ‘trees sprinting’.	<b>1</b>
<b>ii</b>	What thought did she try to drive away? a. The thought pf children spilling out of their homes. b. The thought of her mother’s approaching death	<b>1</b>

	c. The thought of boarding the flight on time d. The thought of reuniting	
iii	What do the images of 'young trees and merry children' symbolise?? a. Symbolise stark contrasts with lifelessness and helplessness b. Symbolise adolescence c. Symbolise the spring of life, its strength. Vigour and happiness d. Symbolise innocence	1
iv	What was the 'old familiar ache' that the poet felt? a. That her mother always loved and took great care of her b. The pain of being over occupied c. The realisation of bitter natural process of ageing d. A particular incident that happened when she was young	1
v	Name the poet and the poem.	1
vi	Find out two synonyms from the stanza which mean 'lighter in colour'.	1
6.	<b>Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.</b>	1x4=4
A.	<b>"There were brass spittoons on the floor, and across the station a glint of light caught my eye; a man was pulling a gold watch from his vest pocket. He snapped open the cover, glanced at his watch and frowned. He wore a derby hat, a black four-button suit with tiny lapels, and he had a big, black, handlebar mustache. Then I looked around and saw that everyone in the station was dressed like eighteen-ninety-something; I never saw so many beards, sideburns and fancy mustaches in my life. A woman walked in through the train gate; she wore a dress with leg-of-mutton sleeves and skirts to the top of her high-buttoned shoes."</b>	
i	Who is the speaker of above lines given in the extract?	1
ii	What is the speaker describing in the above extract? a. The speaker is describing how he reached the third level. b. The speaker is describing the third level where he reached in his imagination. c. The speaker is describing how he escaped from the third level. d. The speaker is describing how Sam, his friend, escaped from the third level.	1
iii	Why did the speaker feel that everything was like 1890? a. Because of the men with sideburns and fancy moustaches and the type of clothes worn by men and women. b. Because he wanted to escape from the period of 1890. c. Because he thought his friend Sam also existed in 1890. d. He is longing for the period because he also used to wear high-buttoned shoes.	1
iv	What does 'leg-of-mutton sleeves' mean?	1
	Or	
B.	<b>"At midnight when the town slept in peace, the dewan and his aged wife dragged the tiger into the car and shoved it into the seat. The dewan himself drove the car straight to the forest where the Maharaja was hunting. When they reached the forest, the tiger launched its Satyagraha and refused to get out of the car. The dewan was thoroughly exhausted in his efforts to haul the beast out the car and push it down to the ground. On the following day, the same old tiger wandered into the Maharaja's presence and stood as if in humble supplication, "Master, what do you</b>	

	<b>command of me?" It was with boundless joy that the Maharaja took careful aim at the beast. The tiger fell in a crumpled heap."</b>	
<b>i</b>	Pick the option that uses the same figure of speech as 'town slept in peace'.? a. His actions really flared up my temper, so I walked out. b. She is going through roller coaster of emotions. c. My alarm clock yells at me every morning until I get out of my bed. d. The children were screaming and shouting in the fields.	<b>1</b>
<b>ii</b>	Pick the option that best describes the dewan's attitude. 1. Desperate; 2. Submissive; 3. Servile; 4. Dishonorable; 5. Detestable; 6. Flattering a. (2), (3) & (6) b. (1), (4) & (5) c. (2), (4) & (6) d. (1), (3) & (5)	<b>1</b>
<b>iii</b>	Which of the following is not an example of 'Satyagraha'? a. People on a hunger strike as a mark of protest against law. b. People resorting to violence to ensure their demands are accepted. c. A few people blocking a roadway or passage peacefully. d. People participating in a silent march to protest against injustice.	<b>1</b>
<b>iv</b>	The name of this lesson is 'The Tiger King'. Coin a suitable alternate title to it.	<b>1</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.</b>	<b>1x6=6</b>
<b>A.</b>	<b>"Why do you do this?" I ask Saheb whom I encounter every morning scrounging for gold in the garbage dumps of my neighborhood. Saheb left his home long ago. Set amidst the green fields of Dhaka, his home is not even a distant memory. There were many storms that swept away their fields and homes, his mother tells him. That's why they left, looking for gold in the big city where he now lives. "I have nothing else to do," he mutters, looking away. "Go to school," I say glibly, realizing immediately how hollow the advice must sound.</b>	
<b>i</b>	Why did Saheb's parents migrate from the village in Dhaka to Delhi? a. For the sake of heap of garbage b. For the sake of decent living conditions c. To fulfill their dream of living in a big city like Delhi d. To take refuge amidst the green fields of Seemapuri.	<b>1</b>
<b>ii</b>	What does the above extract describe? a. It describes why Saheb is in need of gold. b. It describes the plight of Saheb and his family who survive on rag-picking. c. It describes the green fields of Dhaka. d. It describes the narrator's profession.	<b>1</b>
<b>iii</b>	What does the word 'gold' symbolize in the above extract?	<b>1</b>
<b>iv</b>	Choose the antonym of the word, 'glibly' from the following. a. Sincerely b. Insincerely c. Sternly d. Wisely	<b>1</b>
<b>v</b>	Complete the analogy:	<b>1</b>

	Face to Face : Encounter :: Searching : .....	
<b>vi</b>	Natural Calamity leads to migration. a. True b. False	<b>1</b>
	Or	
<b>B.</b>	<b>M. Hamel went on to talk about the French language, saying that it was the most beautiful language in the world – clearest, the most logical; that we must guard it among us and never forget it, because when a people are enslaved as long as they hold fast to their language it is as if they had the key to their prison. Then he opened a grammar book and read us our lesson. I was amazed to see how well I understood it. All he said seemed so easy, so easy!</b>	
<b>i</b>	Which of the following can be attributed to M. Hamel’s declaration about the French language? a. Subject expertise b. Nostalgic pride c. Factual Accuracy d. Patriotic Magnificence	<b>1</b>
<b>ii</b>	Read the quotes given below and choose the option that might describe M. Hamel’s view point. 1. Those who know nothing of foreign languages know nothing of their own. – Johanne Wolfgang von Goethe. 2. Language is the roadmap of a culture. It tells you where its people come from and where they are going. – Rita Mae Brown 3. A Poor man is like a foreigner in his own country. – Ali Ibn Abi Talib 4. The greatest propaganda in the world is our mother tongue, that is what we learn as children, and which we learn unconsciously. That shape our perceptions for life. a. Option (1) b. Option (2) c. Option (3) d. Option (4)	<b>1</b>
<b>iii</b>	“I was amazed to see how well I understood it.” Select the option that does not explain why Franz found the grammar lesson “easy”? a. Franz was paying careful attention in class this time. b. M. Hamel was extremely being patient and clam in his teaching. c. Franz was inspired and had found a new meaning and purpose of learning. d. Franz had realized that Franz was the clearest and most logical language.	<b>1</b>
<b>iv</b>	Franz was able to understand the grammar lesson easily because he was: a. Receptive b. Appreciative c. Introspective d. Competitive	<b>1</b>
<b>v</b>	What was the advice given by the teacher to everyone?	<b>1</b>
<b>vi</b>	What, according to M. Hamel, is the ‘key to their prison’? a. One’s mother tongue b. Brotherhood	<b>1</b>

	c. Being educated d. Supporting the Prussians	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 40-50 words each.</b>	<b>2x2=4</b>
<b>a.</b>	The pain of separation is expressed both literally and metaphorically in the poem 'My Mother at Sixty-Six'. Elucidate.	
<b>b.</b>	What is the condition of the children working in the glass furnaces of Firozabad?	
<b>c.</b>	Why does the author say that the bangle-makers are caught in a vicious web?	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 40-50 words each.</b>	<b>2x1=2</b>
<b>a.</b>	Why did Maharaja decide to get married?	
<b>b.</b>	How did Charley realize that he was on the Third Level?	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words.</b>	<b>5x1=5</b>
<b>a.</b>	'Lost Spring' explains the grinding poverty and traditions that condemn thousands of people to a life of abject poverty. Do you agree? Why/Why not?	
	Or	
<b>b.</b>	The Tiger King's quest for tigers was full of hurdles and challenges. Justify the statement.	

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All the best !!!