

Solved Paper, 2025

ENGLISH CORE

Class – XII

Delhi Sets | Series: ZYW1X

Time allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- (i) This question paper has 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.
- (ii) This question paper contains **THREE** sections
Section - A: Reading Skills
Section - B: Creative Writing Skills
Section - C: Literature
- (iii) Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
- (iv) Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
- (v) Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

Set-1

Q.P. Code: 1/1/1

SECTION-A

Reading Skills

(22 Marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully: 12 M

- (1) Marketing is all about creativity and expression, so it must be an art, right? Not necessarily. While marketers once relied purely on instinct, they now rely on data-driven insights. On top of that, cutting-edge technologies and analytics have shifted the focus of marketing farther toward the science side of the spectrum. Armed with so much data, marketers can now track the impact of money spent on their bottom line.
- (2) In today's world, the best approach to marketing combines both disciplines. And there's a distinct balance to the craft – a strategic mix of interpersonal empathy and tactical analysis. Neither side of the mix can be isolated or ignored, or the results will not be encouraging. Psychologists believe the brain is separated into two distinct functions: the left-brain and the right-brain. The right side of the brain is responsible for creative thinking and artistic intuition.
- (3) As an art, marketing is all about understanding the nuances of human behaviour and determining how to make an emotional connection with the customer. More importantly, some level of art is needed to create brand standards for your company, including the logo, messaging, and overall visual identity for a brand.
- (4) Right-brained marketers focus on the creative – the copy, graphics and emotions tied to the

message. The science side of marketing tells us to let the data guide what strategies will be most effective. Marketers are now reporting the need for digital-first expertise including digital proficiency, data analysis, and data science. With science, marketers adopt an outcome-centric mindset that helps them curate smarter campaigns. Over the past few years, there has been an evolving prioritization on data-savvy talent. In 2020 and beyond, brands will need to focus on recruiting talent that can understand the complexities of AI and machine technologies.

- (5) But when we reflect on earlier times, marketing was defined as the predominance of traditional advertising, like television, newspaper, and direct mail. Today, it ropes in digital channels, social media, mobile devices, and integrated, complex campaigns. And just as consumers today are more tech-savvy, employees should be able to match – and exceed – their expertise. It's important that brands continue to prioritize creative, engaging campaign messages while also focusing on key insights and performance metrics for optimal results.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:

- (i) According to paragraph 1, how does the author describe the evolution of marketing? 2
- (ii) Choose ONE of the following statements that aptly reflects the point of view of the writer. 1
 - (a) In the field of marketing, there is a conflict between Art and Science.
 - (b) Art and Science should work in tandem to do effective marketing.

- (iii) Provide ONE textual evidence with reference to paragraph 3 to support that marketing is an art. 1
- (iv) Based on the passage, assess the way data and digital platforms have transformed the field of marketing and employment. 2
- (v) _____ cutting-edge technologies and analytics have shifted the focus of marketing. (Para 1) 1
By 'cutting-edge technologies', the writer refers to _____ . 1
- (vi) Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph 2: 1
included: incorporated: _____ : secluded
(A) approach
(B) empathy
(C) isolated
(D) intuition
- (vii) Marketing is all about understanding the nuances of human behaviour. (Para 3) 1
The writer uses the word 'nuances' to denote
(A) man's appreciation for art.
(B) man's preference for branded clothes.
(C) the complexities of human character.
(D) human inclination for analytical approach.
- (viii) Complete the following based on your understanding of the above passage: 1
According to the writer, modern marketing is built on both _____ and _____.
- (ix) '_____ exceed their expertise'. (Para 5)
With reference to paragraph 5, what skills do you think the employees should possess to match the demand of the consumers? 1
- (x) What fascinating fact about the human brain is revealed by the writer in the above passage. 1
- 2. Case Study: Tourism in India 10 M**
- (1) **Introduction:** India, with its rich cultural heritage, diverse landscapes, and historical sites, attracts millions of tourists each year. Tourism significantly contributes to India's GDP, generating employment and boosting infrastructure. This case study explores factors impacting tourism in India, examines seasonal patterns, and assesses tourist satisfaction through a survey.
- (2) **Methodology:** The study involved primary data collection through a structured survey targeting 500 tourists across major destinations like Delhi, Jaipur, Goa and Kerala. Additionally, secondary data from government reports and tourism boards were used. The survey included questions about preferences, challenges and satisfaction levels, focusing on various demographics, including international and domestic tourists.
- (3) **Survey Examination:** Tourists were surveyed on travel preferences, challenges encountered, accommodation satisfaction and cultural experiences. Feedback highlighted India's appeal due to its history and cultural diversity, but also noted issues like infrastructure gaps and pollution.
- (4) **Results:** The study found that most tourists preferred historical sites and beaches. International tourists were drawn to heritage sites, while domestic tourists preferred nature destinations. Satisfaction was high among tourists who experienced local culture, but infrastructure issues and overcrowding at key locations were common complaints. Overall, 85% of tourists expressed a desire to revisit.
- Answer the following questions, based on the given passage:**
- (i) Complete the following suitably. 1
In the introduction, the researcher links tourism to India's GDP to highlight _____.
- (ii) What would the following be classified as? 1
The study involved primary data collection through a structured survey.
Select the appropriate response.
(A) Primary purpose
(B) Secondary objective
(C) Method of analysis
(D) Research outcome
- (iii) Give two points to support why the study involved primary data and secondary data. 2
- (iv) Paragraph 3 includes words – 'preferences' and 'challenges'.
Classify the following sentences as 'preference' or 'challenge':
Sentence 1: Feedback highlighted India's appeal due to its history and cultural diversity. 1
Sentence 2: Also noted issues like infrastructure gaps and pollution. 1
- (v) List any two points tourists were asked about in the survey. 1
- (vi) What were the more preferred destinations? 1
- (vii) Analyse why though there was satisfaction among tourists, there were some complaints. 1
- (viii) What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders, based on the insights from the study? 1
(A) tourists expressed a desire to revisit.
(B) tourist will visit historical sites.
(C) domestic tourism will increase.
(D) to promote India as a tourist destination.

SECTION-B

Creative Writing Skills

(18 Marks)

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

3. Attempt ANY ONE of the two (A) or (B) in about 50 words: 1 × 4 = 4

(A) Your school is organizing an Education Fair in the school premises. As the Head boy/Head girl of Sunshine Public School, Agra, draft a notice informing students of Classes IX–XII about the fair. Include other necessary details. You are Muskan/Manoj. Put your notice in a box.

OR

(B) Your school is organising an inter-house 'Maths Quiz' Competition. As president of the Quiz Club, draft a notice informing students of Classes IX–XII about the competition. Include necessary details regarding the number of participants, registration date, etc. You are Akila/Akhil. Put your notice in a box.

4. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two (A) or (B) in about 50 words: $1 \times 4 = 4$

(A) You are Mr. Abhishek Sharma. You are planning to celebrate your parents' 50th wedding anniversary in a grand manner. Draft a formal invitation card for your friends and relatives. Mention all necessary details.

OR

(B) You are Mrs. Sonali Gupta, a nutritionist. You are invited by the Principal of Radiant Public School, Jammu to address the students on 'Forming Healthy Food Habits'. Write a formal letter of reply accepting the invitation.

5. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two, (A) or (B) in 120–150 words: $1 \times 5 = 5$

(A) You are Radhika/Rakesh of 43, J.N. Colony, Cochin. You read the given advertisement and wish to apply for the post advertised. Write a job application along with your bio-data:

EduNet Innovations requires Marketing Executive	
Qualifications	- Graduation in Commerce with Post Graduation in Marketing, Advertising, Business or Economics.
Skills required	- Strong communication, presentation and interpersonal skills. - Proficient in software and data analysis. - Detail oriented and understanding of product field.
Experience	- Min. 2 years in similar field.
Apply with detailed bio-data to The General Manager, EduNet Innovations, 46 Rose Avenue, Bangalore	

OR

(B) You are Kirti/Keshav of 7, M.G. Road, Jhansi. You observe that students who come on a one day picnic to public parks leave plastic bottles and cans, littered all over the park. You are disturbed by the sight of this and write a letter to the editor of a national daily suggesting ways to inculcate civic sense among students. You may use some of the cues given along with your own ideas to draft the letter.

- What is the role of parents and school in inculcating civic sense?
- Ways to sensitize students
 - Involve them in community projects
 - emphasize on civic responsibility
- Demonstrate civic behaviour in daily routine

6. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two, (A) or (B) in 120–150 words: $1 \times 5 = 5$

(A) Children today are increasingly dependent on AI to help them complete their school tasks such as writing an article, answering questions, and making presentations. Therefore, they are unable to discover their own creative potential. However, AI can also be judiciously used for the benefit of the children.

Write an article on how Artificial Intelligence can be judiciously used for the benefit of students. You are Nirja of XII A. You may use the given cues along with your own ideas to draft the article.

- how it helps in digital literacy.
- how it enhances learning by giving real time feedback.
- facilitates collaborative learning.

OR

(B) You are Chayan, student reporter of S.M. Public School, Bhopal. Your school celebrated the annual winter carnival where various stalls, games and shows were put up by students. Write a comprehensive report of the event in detail to be published in your school magazine. You may organize your report by following – Who – What – When – Where – Why – How.

SECTION-C

Literature (40 Marks)

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the given two (A) or (B): $1 \times 6 = 6$

(A) It would be an exotic moment
without rush, without engines.
we would all be together
in a sudden strangeness
Fishermen in the cold sea
would not harm whales
and the man gathering salt
would look back at his hurt hands.

(Keeping Quiet)

(i) How according to the poet can we create this exotic moment?

(ii) Choose the correct option:

The outcome of fisherman's activity led to the _____ (destruction/protection) of environment.

- (iii) What is the common outcome of this exotic moment?
- (A) No rush and no mechanization
 (B) Men would be gathering salt.
 (C) There would be a strangeness among warring nations.
 (D) Fisherman will look at his hurt hands.

- (iv) Choose the correct option:

The tone of the poet is _____ (appealing/introspective) in the line "and the man gathering salt would look back at his hurt hands."

- (v) The poet uses the expression 'sudden strangeness' to suggest. _____.
- (vi) Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract:

Assertion: The poet advocates for taking a break to introspect the damage inflicted by man.

Reason: Introspection will make man's life better.

Choose the correct option regarding their relationship.

- (A) Both the Assertion and Reason are true, but the Reason is not the correct explanation.
 (B) Both the Assertion and Reason are true, but the Reason is correct explanation of the Assertion.
 (C) The Assertion is true, but the Reason is false.
 (D) The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.

OR

- (B) A thing of beauty is a joy forever
 Its loveliness increases, it will never
 pass into nothingness; but will keep
 A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
 Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet
 breathing,
 Therefore, on every morrow are we wreathing
 A flowery band to bind us to the earth.

(A Thing of Beauty)

- (i) By the phrase 'joy forever' the poet refers to things
- (A) that make people extremely happy.
 (B) that are a feast to eyes.
 (C) that are a constant source of happiness.
 (D) that are beautiful but transient.
- (ii) Choose the correct option:
 By using the expression 'never pass into nothingness' the poet states that nature's beauty will create a _____ (lasting/temporary) impression on man's mind.
- (iii) How does Keats make it evident that there is a link between man's wellness and nature's beauty?
- (iv) Read the Assertion and the Reason below, with reference to the given extract:
- Assertion:** Keats states that man derives strength

and inspiration from the beauty of nature.

Reason: Nature gives physical, emotional and mental solace to man.

Choose the correct option regarding their relationship.

- (A) Both the Assertion and Reason are true, and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion.
 (B) Both the Assertion and Reason are true, and the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion.
 (C) The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.
 (D) The Assertion is true, but the Reason is false.
- (v) Select one phrase from the extract which implies that man wants to continue his life on this earth despite innumerable problems.

- (vi) Complete the following sentence:

'a sleep full of sweet dreams' implies _____.

8. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the given two (A) or (B):

$1 \times 4 = 4$

- (A) At midnight when the town slept in peace, the Dewan and his aged wife dragged the tiger to 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 of 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 command of me?" It was with boundless joy that the Maharaja took careful aim at the beast. The tiger fell in a crumpled heap.

(The Tiger King)

- (i) How did the Dewan manage to take the tiger to the forest?
- (A) The Dewan conceded to the tiger's satyagraha.
 (B) The Dewan pushed the tiger into the car and drove to the forest.
 (C) The Dewan hauled the tiger into the tent.
 (D) The Dewan persuaded the tiger into a humble supplication of the Maharaja.
- (ii) Choose the correct option:
 The attitude of the Dewan in the above extract can be described as _____ (negligent and reluctant/meek and servile)
- (iii) Select one statement or expression from the extract that reflects the humorous writing style of the author.
- (iv) State one reason for the 'boundless joy of the Maharaja'.

OR

- (B) The rapid increase of human populations has left us battling with other species for limited resources, and the unmitigated burning of the fossil fuels has now created a blanket of carbon dioxide around the world, which is slowly but surely increasing the average global temperature. Climate change is one of the most hotly contested environmental debates of our time. Will the west Antarctic ice sheet melt entirely? Will the Gulf stream ocean current be disrupted? Will be the end of the world as we know it?

(*Journey to the End of the Earth*)

- (i) List one way in which the increasing human population is affecting other species.
- (ii) Choose the correct option that best reflects the tone of the writer in the last line of the extract.
- (A) happy and excited
(B) encouraging and optimistic
(C) anxious and concerned
(D) spiteful and bitter
- (iii) Choose the correct option:
'unmitigated burning of fossil fuels' reflects the _____ (avaricious/furious) streak in man's nature.
- (iv) In the above extract, what message is the author giving to mankind?
9. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the given two (A) or (B):
 $1 \times 6 = 6$
- (A) The next day both men got up in good season. The crofter was in a hurry to milk his cow, and the other man probably thought he should not stay in bed when the head of the house had gotten up. They left the cottage at the same time. The crofter locked the door, and put the key in his pocket. The man with the rattrops said good bye and thank you, and thereupon each went his own way.
But half an hour later the rattrop peddler stood again before the door. He did not try to get in, however. He only went up to the window, smashed a pane, stuck in his hand, and got hold of the pouch with the thirty Kronor. He took the money and thrust it into his own pocket. Then he hung the leather pouch very carefully back in its place and went away. (*The Rattrop*)
- (i) Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
The behaviour of the peddler as described in the above extract is an act of _____. (deceit/obedience)
- (ii) "Both men got up in good season". The author uses the expression 'good season' to denote that
- (A) They slept for a long time.
(B) They got up in a good mood.
(C) They got up early and timely.
(D) They got up hurriedly.

- (iii) State the irony in the peddler's response. "The man with the rattrops said good bye and thank you".
- (iv) Choose the correct option:
The flaw in the peddler's character as reflected in the above extract is
- (A) He is jealous of rich people.
(B) He indulges in self-pity.
(C) He can rob his benefactor.
(D) He can sleep anywhere without any hesitation.
- (v) Complete the following sentence:
The role of cow in the crofter's life is _____.
- (vi) Choose one instance from the above extract to show that peddler acted like a well mannered person.

OR

- (B) "It takes longer to build a school." I say, embarrassed at having made a promise that was not meant. But promises like mine abound in every corner of his bleak world.
After months of knowing him, I ask him his name. 'Saheb-e-Alam', he announces. He does not know what it means. If he knew its meaning – lord of the universe – he would have a hard time believing it. Unaware of what his name represents, he roams the streets with his friends, an army of bare feet boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon. Over the months, I have come to recognise each of them. "Why aren't you wearing chappals?" I ask one. "My mother did not bring them down from the shelf." He answers simply. "Even if she did he will throw them off," adds another who is wearing shoes that do not match.
(*The Last Spring*)
- Select the option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
- (i) The intention of the speaker in the first line of the extract is one of _____. (clarification/confusion)
- (ii) What is implied by the expression 'he would have a hard time believing it'.
- (A) Saheb is too innocent to believe everything.
(B) Saheb is living upto his name.
(C) Saheb's living condition is contrary to the meaning of his name.
(D) Saheb is not used to anyone calling his name.
- (iii) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank:
"Promises like mine abound in every corner of his bleak world."
The above statement of the speaker reveals the fact that people like Saheb are _____ (deluded/empowered) by such promises.

- (iv) State one reason for the boy was wearing shoes that did not match.
- (v) The speaker describes Saheb's life as a 'bleak world' because
- (A) he lives in a house without electricity.
- (B) his world is his friends.
- (C) his life is devoid of hope.
- (D) he belongs to the world of illiterates.
- (vi) "Why aren't you wearing chappals?" I asked one. The conversation between the speaker and the boys reflects the _____ of the speaker.
10. Answer **ANY FIVE** of the following six questions in 40–50 words each: $5 \times 2 = 10$
- (i) What valid reason does Rudyard Kipling have to call an interview immoral? (*The Interview*)
- (ii) How was self-reliance intertwined with the Champaran incident? (*Indigo*)
- (iii) "I've plenty of time. I'll learn it tomorrow. And now you see where we've come out."
(*The Last Lesson*)
What does M. Hamel mean to convey through these lines?
- (iv) How can Earth play the role of a teacher according to Pablo Neruda? (*Keeping Quiet*)
- (v) 'And such too is the grandeur of dooms'. How can 'grandeur of dooms' be impressive and inspiring according to Keats? (*A Thing of Beauty*)
- (vi) "Christ, Sophie, you're still at school."
(*Going Places*)
What image do you form of Geoff as a brother from the above context?
11. Answer **ANY TWO** of the following three questions, in 40–50 words each: $2 \times 2 = 4$
- (i) Charlie's desperate attempt to find the third level reflects his frustration with the modern world. Substantiate the above statement with evidence from the story. (*The Third Level*)
- (ii) 'Students on Ice Programme' proves Geoff Green's farsightedness. Explain with reference to the text of '*The Journey to the End of the Earth*'.
- (iii) 'You speak Peculiar Things.' Why does Derry find Mr. Lamb's conversation peculiar?
(*On the Face of It*)
12. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions in 120–150 words: $1 \times 5 = 5$
- (A) How do the peddler from '*The Rattrap*' and 'the office boy' from '*Poets and Pancakes*' compare in terms of their frustration, status, and grudges against others.
- OR
- (B) Analyse the characters of William Douglas from '*Deep Water*' and Mukesh from '*Lost Spring*' in terms of their determination and will power in pursuing their goals.
13. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following questions, in 120–150 words: $1 \times 5 = 5$
- (A) Why did Dr. Sadao treat the American soldier, even though it was an unpatriotic act? Describe the difficulties faced by Dr. Sadao when he decided to help the enemy soldier. (*The Enemy*)
- OR
- (B) "If you want to test a man's character, give him power." Analyse the theme of *The Tiger King* in the light of the above quote. (*The Tiger King*)

Set-2

Q.P. Code: 1/1/2

In this set, all questions are identical to those in Set-1, except for the following.

SECTION-B

Creative Writing Skills

5. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two, (A) or (B) in 120–150 words: $1 \times 5 = 5$
- (A) You are Siddharth, of 46, Krishi Apartments, Lucknow. You read the given advertisement and wish to apply for the post advertised. Write a job application along with your bio-data.

Rajan Readymade Cloth Mart requires – Store Manager	
Qualifications:	Graduate
Skills	- Knowledge of textiles, trending fashions, customer service skills, sales skills, organizational and leadership abilities.
Experience	- Minimum 5 years in store keeping
Write to The Manager, Rajan Readymade Cloth Mart, 14 M.G. Road, Lucknow	

OR

- (B) Now-a-days students are leading a stressful life. Academic deadlines, grades, competitions can leave them feeling anxious. Stress Management Skills are recognized crucial for today's youth. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily discussing the benefits of teaching stress management skills to children. Also suggest ways how school and parents can help children in coping with stress. You are a counsellor, Swati Mathur from 14, J.M. Layout, Bhubaneswar, Orissa. You may use the following cues along with your own ideas to draft the letter.

- What are the factors that cause stress?
- What are some techniques to manage stress?
- Setting goals, time management, healthy lifestyle.
- Role of school in teaching stress management skills.

6. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two, (A) or (B) in 120–150 words: $1 \times 5 = 5$

(A) Development and urbanization lead to deforestation which leads to bio-diversity loss. This results in extinction of species and further leads to ecological imbalance which adversely impacts man's survival. Write an article for your school magazine stressing on the need to prevent bio-diversity loss and suggest ways and solutions to prevent bio-diversity loss. You may use some of the given cues along with your own ideas to compose the article.

You are Akash of class XII B.

- What is bio-diversity loss?
- Why is it necessary to prevent bio diversity loss?
- What needs to be done to preserve habitat?
- Practice the 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' principle in daily life.
- What are the benefits of preventing bio-diversity loss?

OR

(B) You are Vinay, student reporter of Brook Public School, Pune. In a significant move to boost sports culture and fitness among students, your school set up a new sports arena. On the inauguration by the Sports Minister, the school showcased its new infrastructure and facilities. Write a comprehensive report of the inauguration ceremony and include details of the sports facilities.

You may organize your report by following –
Who – What – When – Where – Why – How.

SECTION-C

Literature

11. Answer **ANY TWO** of the following three questions, in 40–50 words each: $2 \times 2 = 4$

(i) Charlie's desperate attempt to find the third level reflects his frustration with the modern world. What aspects of the modern world have led to Charlie's frustration? (*The Third Level*)

(ii) Why did the servants leave the house despite their concern for their master Dr. Sadao? (*The Enemy*)

(iii) 'I'm not fond of curtains.' What does the above statement speak of Mr. Lamb's character? (*On the Face of It*)

12. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions in 120–150 words: $1 \times 5 = 5$

(A) In '*Indigo*', Gandhi as the sole representative of peasants fought against the injustice to sharecroppers and saved them from the exploitation of the British. On the other hand bangle makers in Firozabad in '*Lost Spring*' felt 'There is no leader among them, no one could help them see things differently' and they were caught in the vicious circle.

With reference to the two texts, analyse the importance of a leader and how Gandhi emerged as an ideal leader.

OR

(B) 'Nature is the best companion to man.' In the light of above quote, analyse the themes of '*A Thing of Beauty*' and '*Keeping Quiet*'.

13. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following questions, in 120–150 words: $1 \times 5 = 5$

(A) Dr. Sadao's basic human values and the education he received gave him the ability to rise above prejudices. Analyse the theme of '*The Enemy*' in the light of the above statement.

OR

(B) Analyse the theme of optimism being the right approach to life in the play '*On the Face of It*'.

Set-3

Q.P. Code: 1/1/3

In this set, all questions are identical to those in Set-1, except for the following.

SECTION-B

Creative Writing Skills

5. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two, (A) or (B) in 120–150 words: $1 \times 5 = 5$

(A) You are Reshmi of 17, Rose Valley, Avenue, Dehradun. You read the given advertisement and wish to apply for the post advertised. Write this job application along with your bio-data:

KPMG requires

Software Developer

Qualification - B.E./B.Tech. in Computer Science
Skills required - Proficiency in programming

languages, understanding of computer systems and problem solving skills.

- Understanding of user needs and software requirements.

Experience - Min. 3 years in similar field.

Apply to
The H.R. Manager,
KPMG Pvt. Ltd.,
40, New Friends Colony,
Dehradun

OR

- (B) You are Susheel of 10, R.K. Marg, New Delhi. You come across a report stating that a number of people in cities suffer from respiratory diseases, lung cancer, and heart diseases due to air pollution.

Write a letter to the editor of a national daily expressing your concern and suggestions and ways to improve the situation. You may use some of the cues given along with your own ideas to draft the letter.

- What are the causes for air pollution?
- What are the ways it affects human health?
- Ways to reduce air pollution.
- Steps to be taken by government.
- How can common people help in reducing air pollution ?
- Role of Media

6. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two, (A) or (B) in **120–150** words: $1 \times 5 = 5$

- (A) Parents want their children to excel in academics and due to this physical activity is compromised. Sports is an important aspect of education and is deeply connected with the physical, physiological, mental, and intellectual health of the students.

Write an article for your school magazine stressing on the value of sports in education. You may use some of the cues given along with your own ideas to compose the article.

You are Anil Vij of XII-G.

- Helps in maintaining physical and mental fitness.
- Brings motivation, discipline, and concentration.
- Enhances confidence levels and leadership qualities.
- Role of school in promoting sports.

OR

- (B) Your school has recently inaugurated a botanical garden in the school campus to educate children

on the need to preserve species of plants and appreciate their significance in our lives. As a member of the student editorial board, write a report of the inaugural ceremony and details of the garden to be published in your school newsletter.

You are Ayush of class XII A.

You may organize your report by following –
Who – What – When – Where – Why – How.

SECTION-C

Literature

11. Answer **ANY TWO** of the following three questions, in **40–50** words each: $2 \times 2 = 4$

(i) Why did Geoff Green start the 'Students on Ice Programme'? (*Journey to the End of the Earth*)

(ii) 'I will struggle first.' I answered. What emotion and trait of Zit-ka-la-sa is revealed in her response? (*Childhood Memories*)

(iii) "Who can limit our future? It depends on what we make it." What image do you form of Dr. Sadao's father based on the above expressions? (*The Enemy*)

12. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions in about **120–150** words: $1 \times 5 = 5$

(A) Umberto Eco: "I consider myself a University professor who writes novels on Sundays".

Umberto Eco in '*The Interview*' and William Douglas in '*Deep Water*' are multifaceted personalities. Elaborate with reference to the texts.

OR

(B) What do the images of nature signify in Keats' '*A Thing of Beauty*' and Pablo Neruda's '*Keeping Quiet*'?

13. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following questions, in **120–150** words: $1 \times 5 = 5$

(A) Compare the characters of Zit-ka-la-sa and Bama in terms of their struggle, pain, determination, and success. (*Memories of Childhood*)

OR

(B) 'It is only war that makes people enemies.' Analyse the theme of the lesson '*The Enemy*' in the light of the above statement.

Answers

English Core – 12th

Set-1

Q.P. Code: 1/1/1

SECTION-A

Reading Skills

1.
 - (i) The author describes the evolution of marketing as a transition from instinct-based, traditional approaches to a more data-driven, technology-supported scientific practice. Cutting-edge technologies and analytics have shifted marketing's focus towards science, enabling marketers to track the financial impact of their efforts.
 - (ii) *Correct Option:* (B) Art and Science should work in tandem to do effective marketing.
Explanation: The author describes the evolution of marketing as a shift from a primarily creative field to one increasingly influenced by data and analytics, suggesting a necessary integration of both art and science.
 - (iii) "Marketing is all about understanding the nuances of human behaviour and determining how to make an emotional connection with the customer."
 - (iv) Data and digital platforms have transformed marketing by making it more outcome-focused and reliant on measurable insights. They allow marketers to design smarter, more targeted campaigns. Employment in the field has also evolved, with a growing demand for data-savvy talent proficient in digital platforms, artificial intelligence and machine technologies.
 - (v) By "cutting-edge technologies" the writer refers to advanced tools and analytics, such as artificial intelligence and machine technologies, that enable marketers to adopt a scientific, data-driven approach.
 - (vi) *Correct Option:* (C) isolated
Explanation: "included" and "incorporated" are synonyms, just as "secluded" and "isolated" are.
 - (vii) *Correct Option:* (C) the complexities of human character.
Explanation: The word "nuances" refers to the subtle complexities or finer details of human behaviour, rather than anything related to art, branded clothes, or analytics.
 - (viii) According to the writer, modern marketing is built on both **creativity** and **data-driven analysis**.
 - (ix) Employees need to be digitally proficient, possessing expertise in handling digital platforms, social media and mobile technologies. They should also excel in data analysis, data science and understanding artificial intelligence and machine technologies to design effective and engaging campaigns that resonate with tech-savvy consumers.
2.
 - (i) In the introduction, the researcher links tourism to India's GDP to highlight **its significant contribution to the economy through employment generation and infrastructure development**.
 - (ii) *Correct Option:* (C) Method of analysis
Explanation: The structured survey involving 500 tourists and the use of government reports represent the **method of analysis** as they describe how data was collected and analysed to understand tourism trends.
 - (iii) **Two points to support why the study involved primary and secondary data:**
 - Primary data was collected through a structured survey of 500 tourists to gather firsthand insights into preferences, challenges and satisfaction levels.
 - Secondary data from government reports and tourism boards provided a broader perspective and context for the findings.
 - (iv) **Sentence 1:** Feedback highlighted India's appeal due to its history and cultural diversity. (**Preference**)
Sentence 2: Also noted issues like infrastructure gaps and pollution. (**Challenge**)
 - (v) **Two points tourists were asked about in the survey:**
 - Their travel preferences, such as types of destinations they enjoy visiting.
 - Challenges they encountered, including issues with infrastructure or pollution.
 - (vi) Historical sites and beaches were the most preferred destinations. International tourists were particularly attracted to heritage sites, while domestic tourists preferred nature destinations.
 - (vii) While tourists appreciated India's history, cultural diversity and local experiences, they also raised

complaints about infrastructure gaps, overcrowding at popular destinations and issues like pollution, which hampered overall satisfaction.

- (viii) *Correct Option:* (D) to promote India as a tourist destination.

Explanation: The insights from the study highlight the aim to promote India as a tourist destination by improving infrastructure, addressing challenges like overcrowding and pollution and enhancing tourists' experiences to boost satisfaction and repeat visits.

SECTION-B

Creative Writing Skills

3. (A)

SUNSHINE PUBLIC SCHOOL, AGRA
NOTICE

11th March 2025

EDUCATION FAIR

This is to inform all students of Classes IX–XII that our school is organising an **Education Fair** in the school premises. The details of the event are as follows:
Date: 18th March 2025
Time: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Venue: School Auditorium

The Education Fair will provide a platform to explore various career opportunities, interact with representatives from renowned universities and institutions, and participate in informative workshops.

Muskan/Manoj
Head Boy/Girl

OR

(B)

XYZ SCHOOL
NOTICE

11th March 2025

INTER-HOUSE MATHS QUIZ COMPETITION

This is to inform all students of Classes IX–XII that an **Inter-House Maths Quiz Competition** is being organised. Details of the competition are as follows:
Date: 20th March 2025
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Venue: School Auditorium

Guidelines:

- Each house can nominate **4 participants** (Classes IX–XII).
- Topics will include Algebra, Geometry, Calculus and Logical Reasoning.
- Interested students should submit their names to their House Captains by **15th March 2025**.

For further information, feel free to contact the undersigned.

Akhil/Akila
President, Quiz Club

4. (A)

You are cordially invited
to celebrate the
50th Wedding Anniversary
of Mr. and Mrs. Sharma.

Join us for an evening of joy, memories and love.
Date: March 30, 2025
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Venue: The Grand Ballroom, Delhi Palace Hotel, New
Delhi
RSVP
Abhishek Sharma

OR

- (B) Mrs. Sonali Gupta
Durga Colony
Jammu
12 March 2025
The Principal
Radiant Public School
Jammu
Subject: Acceptance of Invitation
- Dear Sir/Madam,
Thank you for inviting me to address students on '**Forming Healthy Food Habits**'. I am delighted to accept the invitation and will ensure an engaging session. Please share event details and requirements.

Warm regards
Sonali Gupta

5. (A)

43, J.N. Colony
Cochin
11th March 2025
The General Manager
EduNet Innovations
46 Rose Avenue
Bangalore

Subject: Application for the Post of Marketing Executive

Dear Sir/Madam,
I am writing to apply for the position of **Marketing Executive** as advertised. I hold a Graduation in Commerce and a **Post-Graduation in Marketing**. I have over **2 years of experience in marketing** and am proficient in **data analysis and marketing software tools**.

With strong communication and interpersonal skills, I have successfully led campaigns and achieved desired outcomes. My ability to understand products and develop targeted strategies aligns with your requirements. I would be honoured to contribute to EduNet Innovations.

Enclosed is my bio-data for your reference. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss how I can contribute to your team.

Yours sincerely
Radhika/Rakesh
Encl: Bio-data

Bio-Data	
Name	: Radhika/Rakesh
Address	: 43, J.N. Colony, Cochin
Phone	: 6567xxxx
Email	: abc@gmail.com
Objective	: To contribute to the success of EduNet Innovations as a Marketing Executive by leveraging my expertise in marketing strategies, communication and data analysis.
Educational Qualifications	: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduation in Commerce • Post-Graduation in Marketing
Work Experience	: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing Executive [Riva Education Mart, Bangalore]
Responsibilities	: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed and executed marketing campaigns. • Analysed market trends and data to design targeted strategies. • Fostered client relationships and improved brand visibility.
Skills	: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong communication, presentation and interpersonal skills. • Proficient in marketing software and data analysis tools. • Detail-oriented with a thorough understanding of product field requirements.
Achievements	: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully led marketing campaigns resulting in a [specific 30% of achievement]. • Recognised as Best Employee of the Year
Languages Known	: English, Hindi, French
References	: Available upon request.

OR

(B) 7, M.G. Road
Jhansi
11th March 2025
The Editor
The Times of India
Delhi

Subject: Need to Inculcate Civic Sense Among Students

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to use this prestigious newspaper to draw attention to the gauge of irresponsibility seen in learners when they mess up open spaces like parks. Their actions not only destroy nature but also showcase a deep lack of civic sense.

Civic sense stems from the citizens themselves, and parents and schools have a key part in its inception. I

believe that civic sense should be taught as a subject in schools accompanied by active participation in general cleanliness campaigns. Parents should also practice good civic etiquette, such as using trash bins for waste. Also, volunteering older students for community projects can foster civic responsibility and concern for others.

Raising campaigns concerning the throwing of litter and teaching good environmental practices could also further assist in changing the perception of students. If we all work together, I believe public spaces will be respected by the younger generation.

Yours sincerely
Kirti/Keshav

6. (A) **Judicious Use of Artificial Intelligence
in Education**

– By Nirja, XII A

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has transformed education, holding tremendous potential when applied judiciously. Rather than suppressing creativity, AI can enable students to realise their full potential and make learning more enjoyable.

To begin with, AI promotes digital literacy, enabling students to acquire essential skills to live in today's technological world.

Secondly, AI gives instant feedback, allowing students to know their strengths and weaknesses immediately. For example, AI-based learning applications can review errors and offer individualised solutions.

Thirdly, AI makes collaborative learning possible by linking students across the world. AI-powered platforms foster collaboration and sharing of knowledge, making the learning process more enriching.

Deployed carefully, AI can turn education into a more engaging, inclusive and productive experience while fostering creativity and critical thinking among students.

OR

(B) Annual Winter Carnival at S.M. Public School

—By Chayan, Student Reporter

S.M. Public School, Bhopal, organised its grand Annual Winter Carnival on 10th December 2024, turning the school campus into a colourful abode of joy and enthusiasm. The event was organised by the students and staff with the purpose of promoting creativity, teamwork and community spirit.

The carnival boasted vibrant stalls that provided mouthwatering food, handicrafts and traditional games such as ring toss and dart challenges. Engaging cultural performances, including dance and music, further enhanced the festive mood. The showpiece of the carnival was an adrenaline-pumping magic show that amazed the audience.

Students, parents and teachers joined in wholeheartedly, and the carnival was a thundering success. Charity took precedence in the proceeds, extending warmth and good wishes to the community beyond the school precincts.

SECTION-C

Literature

7. (A) (i) The poet suggests that the exotic moment can be created by keeping quiet, pausing our activities and reflecting. This collective silence and stillness would lead to unity, peace and introspection.

(ii) The outcome of the fisherman's activity led to the: destruction of the environment.

Explanation: The poet highlights how the fisherman's actions, such as hunting whales, harm marine life.

(iii) *Correct Option:* (A) No rush and no mechanisation

Explanation: The poet envisions a serene moment, free from the rush and clamour of human activities and machinery.

(iv) The tone of the poet is: Introspective.

Explanation: The line reflects the poet's invitation for self-reflection and acknowledgment of human actions and their consequences.

(v) The poet uses the expression 'sudden strangeness' to suggest an unusual yet profound sense of unity and peace among people, which would arise from collective silence and introspection.

(vi) *Correct Option:* (B) Both the Assertion and Reason are true, but the Reason is correct explanation of the Assertion.

Explanation: The poet advocates for a pause to reflect on the harm humans inflict, and this introspection will help improve life by fostering harmony and understanding.

OR

(B) (i) *Correct Option:* (C) that are a constant source of happiness.

Explanation: The poet highlights that beauty is eternal and provides joy and peace continuously, without fading or becoming transient.

(ii) By using the expression 'never pass into nothingness', the poet states that nature's beauty will create a **lasting** impression on man's mind.

Explanation: The poet emphasises the timeless nature of beauty and its ability to leave a permanent positive impact on the human spirit.

(iii) Keats illustrates that nature's beauty provides a peaceful shelter ("a bower quiet"), sweet dreams, health and calmness, which contribute to physical, emotional and mental well-being.

(iv) *Correct Option:* (A) Both the Assertion and Reason are true, and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion.

Explanation: The poet asserts that humans derive inspiration and strength from nature, and the reason behind this is the solace nature offers in all aspects—emotional, mental and physical.

(v) "A flowery band to bind us to the earth."

(vi) 'a sleep full of sweet dreams' implies **the soothing and restorative impact of nature on human life.**

8. (A) (i) *Correct Option:* (B) The Dewan pushed the tiger into the car and drove to the forest.

Explanation: The extract clearly describes how Dewan and his wife dragged the tiger, shoved it into the car and drove it to the forest.

- (ii) **meek and servile**

Explanation: The Dewan goes to extreme lengths, even dragging a tiger into a car, to ensure the Maharaja's desires are fulfilled. This reflects his subservient and obedient demeanor.

- (iii) "The tiger launched its Satyagraha and refused to get out of the car."

- (iv) The Maharaja felt immense joy because he was finally able to hunt and kill the tiger, fulfilling his ambition and proving his hunting prowess.

OR

- (B) (i) The growing human population is competing with other species for limited resources, such as food, water and habitat, leading to the displacement or extinction of many species.

- (ii) *Correct Option:* (C) anxious and concerned

Explanation: The writer poses questions about the drastic consequences of climate change, reflecting a tone of worry and apprehension for the future of the planet.

- (iii) **Unmitigated burning of fossil fuels' reflects the: Avaricious streak in man's nature.**

Explanation: The use of "unmitigated" emphasises humanity's greedy and reckless exploitation of fossil fuels without considering environmental consequences.

- (iv) The author highlights the urgent need for introspection and action to combat climate change. They stress that the unchecked burning of fossil fuels and the growing human footprint are creating dire environmental consequences, urging humanity to take responsibility for safeguarding the planet.

9. (A) (i) The behaviour of the peddler as described in the above extract is an act of **deceit**.

Explanation: The peddler pretends to leave respectfully but returns to steal the crofter's money, which is a clear act of dishonesty.

- (ii) *Correct Option:* (C) They got up early and timely.

Explanation: The phrase "good season" suggests they woke up early to begin their respective activities promptly.

- (iii) The peddler expresses gratitude and politeness while leaving, only to return and rob the crofter. This stark contrast between his words and actions creates the irony.

- (iv) *Correct Option:* (C) He can rob his benefactor.

Explanation: Despite being treated with kindness and generosity by the crofter, the peddler betrays his benefactor by stealing his money.

- (v) The cow is a significant source of livelihood for the crofter, providing him with income through milk production, as evidenced by his pride in showing the peddler the earnings.

- (vi) The peddler said "goodbye and thank you" to the crofter before leaving the cottage, which reflects polite behaviour despite his ulterior intentions.

OR

- (B) (i) The intention of the speaker in the first line of the extract is one of **clarification**.

Explanation: The speaker tries to justify why a promise to build a school for Saheb could not be fulfilled, reflecting an attempt to clarify the situation.

- (ii) *Correct Option:* (C) Saheb's living condition is contrary to the meaning of his name.

Explanation: The name "Saheb-e-Alam" means "lord of the universe", but his life is filled with poverty and hardship, making it ironic and difficult for him to relate to the grandeur of his name.

- (iii) The above statement of the speaker reveals the fact that people like Saheb are **deluded**.

Explanation: Saheb and others like him live in a world where such empty promises are frequently made but never fulfilled, leading to disillusionment.

- (iv) The boy wore mismatched shoes because of poverty, which likely forced him to use whatever footwear was available instead of owning a proper pair.

- (v) *Correct Option:* (C) his life is devoid of hope.

Explanation: Saheb's world is characterised by unfulfilled promises, poverty and a lack of opportunities, making it bleak and hopeless.

- (vi) The conversation between the speaker and the boys reflects the **curiosity and empathy** of the speaker.

10. (i) Rudyard Kipling called interviews immoral because he believed they intruded into a person's privacy and dignity, forcing individuals to expose their innermost thoughts.

- (ii) The Champaran incident highlighted self-reliance as Gandhi encouraged villagers to rely on themselves to fight injustice, empowering them to take control of their lives and rights.

- (iii) In *The Last Lesson*, M. Hamel highlights the regret of neglecting opportunities, as the villagers and Franz postponed learning French until it was too late. He illustrates how Franz and others neglected learning their language, realising its significance only when it was too late.

- (iv) According to Pablo Neruda in *Keeping Quiet*, Earth acts as a teacher by demonstrating the power of stillness and renewal. During moments of quiet, like winter when life pauses, Earth rejuvenates itself. This teaches humans the value of introspection, unity and harmony, guiding them towards a more mindful and peaceful existence.
- (v) Keats finds the 'grandeur of dooms' impressive because it reflects beauty even in tragic endings, inspiring awe through the inevitability and dignity of natural cycles.
- (vi) Geoff is a sensible and mature brother who is practical and down-to-earth. Unlike Sophie, who often dreams big and imagines things, Geoff stays realistic, making him a balanced and steady influence in their relationship.
11. (i) Charlie's desperation to find the third level symbolises his yearning to escape the stress and complexity of the modern world. His fascination with the peaceful 1890s reflects his dissatisfaction with the fast-paced, war-torn environment of his time, highlighting his desire for simplicity and tranquility.
- (ii) Geoff Green's *Students on Ice Programme* reflects his farsighted vision to educate young minds about the environmental challenges of Earth. By taking students to Antarctica, he exposes them to the stark realities of climate change and inspires them to become future ambassadors for environmental conservation.
- (iii) Derry finds Mr. Lamb's conversation peculiar because Mr. Lamb speaks in an unusual, positive way, seeing the good in everything and encouraging Derry to embrace life. Unlike others who pity him, Mr. Lamb's words challenge Derry's insecurities and offer him an uplifting perspective on his physical scars and life.
12. (A) Both the office boy and the peddler exhibit frustration as a result of their humble position and life conditions. The peddler grapples with poverty, and thus he views life as a "rattrap" that lures people with worldly desires. His frustration is evident in behaviours such as stealing, as a result of his resentment against society.
- Likewise, the office boy in *Poets and Pancakes* is not content with his secretarial work, resentful of his unrealised artistic aspirations. Both characters

represent people trapped in the stagnation cycle, but whereas the peddler manages to redeem himself, the office boy is bitter.

OR

- (B) William Douglas of **Deep Water** and Mukesh of **Lost Spring** are two such characters who represent unrelenting willpower. Douglas overcomes his intense phobia for water through relentless practice and intense training, reflecting his resolve to overcome obstacles.

Mukesh, having been born into poverty, aspires to become a mechanic and labours assiduously towards freeing himself from the slavery of child labour.

Both characters represent stamina, not yielding to their circumstances to determine their future. Their stories evoke hope and perseverance.

13. (A) Dr. Sadao, being a patriot himself, decided to treat the American soldier motivated by his sense of humanity and professional ethics as a physician. His moral conscience would not permit him to allow a seriously wounded man to die, even though it was extremely risky.

Dr. Sadao encountered many hardships. His servants were against him, apprehending the repercussions of sheltering an enemy, and ultimately deserted him.

He lived under constant suspicion and anxiety about being discovered as a traitor. Balancing his loyalty to Japan and his responsibility to humanity created internal and external conflicts, making his decision both noble and challenging.

OR

- (B) The *Tiger King* illustrates the notion that power probes a man's character. The king's desire for power blinded him into abusing his powers, indiscriminately hunting tigers in an attempt to defy a prophecy.

His arrogance blinded him to the consequences of his actions, resulting in environmental destruction and the alienation of his subjects. Ultimately, his unchecked power revealed his hubris, and ironically, his fate was sealed not by a tiger, but by a toy tiger, demonstrating the futility of his dominance. The story underscores how power, if misused, corrupts and leads to downfall.

Set-2

Q.P. Code: 1/1/2

SECTION-B

Creative Writing Skills

5. (A) 46, Krishi Apartments

Lucknow

11th March 2025

The Manager

Rajan Readymade Cloth Mart

14, M.G. Road Lucknow

Subject: Application for the Post of Store Manager

Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my interest in the position of Store Manager at Rajan Readymade Cloth Mart, as advertised. I am a graduate with over five years of experience in store management, and I possess the

skills and qualifications required for this role.

I have extensive knowledge of textiles and trending fashions, coupled with strong customer service and sales skills. My previous roles have honed my organisational and leadership abilities, enabling me to manage store operations effectively and achieve sales targets consistently. I am confident that my expertise aligns with the vision of your esteemed establishment.

I am enclosing my bio-data for your kind consideration. I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss how my experience can contribute to the success of your store.

Yours sincerely,
Siddharth

Bio-Data	
Name	: Siddharth
Address	: 46, Krishi Apartments, Lucknow
Phone	: 9818xxxxxx
Email	: abc@gmail.com
Objective	: To efficiently manage store operations and contribute to increased sales and customer satisfaction at Rajan Readymade Cloth Mart.
Educational Qualifications	: Bachelor's Degree in Textile Engineering from LPU
Experience	: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Store Manager, [Kanpur cloth Mills-5 years • Managed daily operations, inventory and team performance. • Developed sales strategies and achieved revenue growth. • Ensured customer satisfaction and maintained store ambience.
Skills	: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong knowledge of textiles and fashion trends. • Excellent customer service and sales techniques. • Leadership and team management. • Organisational and problem-solving skills.
References	: Available upon request.

OR

(B) 14, J.M. Layout

Bhubaneshwar, Orissa

11th March 2025

The Editor

The Hindustan Times

Delhi

Subject: Benefits of Teaching Stress Management Skills to Children

Sir/Madam,

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I wish to draw attention to the growing stress levels among students today. The pressure of academic deadlines, grades, competitions and societal expectations has left many children feeling anxious and overwhelmed. Stress management skills have become a crucial aspect of modern education to

help students navigate these challenges effectively.

Teaching stress management offers numerous benefits. It equips children to handle pressure calmly, enhances productivity and prevents burnout. Schools can play a pivotal role by incorporating mindfulness programmes, yoga sessions and workshops into the curriculum to cultivate resilience.

Parents, too, must support their children by fostering open communication, avoiding undue pressure and serving as role models for balanced living. Together, schools and families can empower students to cope better and lead happier, healthier lives.

I hope my suggestions find resonance with readers and bring about proactive measures for the well-being of our youth.

Yours sincerely,
Swati Mathur

6. (A) Preventing Biodiversity Loss: A Call to Action

By Akash, Class XII B

Biodiversity is the variety of life on Earth, encompassing all species of plants, animals and microorganisms. However, rapid development and urbanisation have led to massive deforestation, resulting in biodiversity loss. This loss disrupts ecosystems, causes species extinction and disturbs ecological balance, directly threatening human survival.

Preventing biodiversity loss is essential to maintain the health of ecosystems that provide vital resources such as clean air, water and food. To address this crisis, it is imperative to preserve habitats by protecting forests, wetlands and natural reserves. Afforestation, wildlife conservation programmes and sustainable urban planning can play a significant role.

In our daily lives, we can adopt the "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" principle to minimise waste and reduce the pressure on natural resources. Simple steps like using eco-friendly products, conserving water and reducing energy consumption can make a big difference.

By taking collective action now, we can preserve the beauty and balance of our planet for years to come.

Together, let's act responsibly to save biodiversity—our survival depends on it!

OR

(B) Grand Inauguration of State-of-the-Art Sports Arena at Brook Public School

By Vinay, Student Reporter

Pune, 10th March 2025: In an inspiring initiative to encourage sports culture and fitness among students, Brook Public School proudly unveiled its brand-new sports arena on Saturday. The inauguration ceremony was graced by the Honorable Sports Minister, who applauded the school for its commitment to holistic education through sports.

The event commenced with a traditional ribbon-cutting ceremony by the minister, followed by a guided tour of the modern infrastructure. Additionally, there are dedicated spaces for cricket and football training, complete with floodlights for night practice sessions.

The Sports Minister commended the school's vision, emphasising the importance of sports in building discipline, teamwork and physical well-being among students. He encouraged students to actively utilise these facilities and aim for excellence in sports.

The Principal, Ms. Anita Sharma, expressed her gratitude to the minister and highlighted that the sports arena was developed to nurture young talent and instil a lifelong habit of fitness in students. The ceremony concluded with a friendly basketball match between the staff and students, showcasing the vibrant energy of the new facility.

SECTION-C

Literature

11. (i) In *The Third Level*, Charlie is frustrated by the fast-paced, stressful nature of modern life marked by wars, insecurity and complexities. The pressures of work, high competition and a lack of peace make him yearn for an escape. This is why he obsessively searches for the "third level," a metaphorical gateway to the simpler and calmer 1890s.
 - (ii) In *The Enemy*, the servants left because they feared severe consequences for harbouring an enemy soldier during wartime. Their decision stemmed from fear of punishment and being labelled traitors, outweighing their loyalty to Dr. Sadao. Their departure highlights the tension between human compassion and societal pressure in wartime.
 - (iii) The statement "I'm not fond of curtains" reflects Mr. Lamb's open-minded and positive outlook on life. It signifies his preference for transparency, acceptance and openness to the world around him. He dislikes shutting himself away from others or hiding from reality, emphasising his belief in living fully and embracing connections.
12. (A) In *Indigo*, Gandhi was a key figure as a leader by adopting the cause of the oppressed sharecroppers of Champaran. His courageous leadership, based on non-violence and moral strength, fostered solidarity among the peasants and confronted British exploitation. Gandhi's capacity to empower the oppressed and lead them towards justice demonstrates the redemptive power of effective leadership.
Conversely, the bangle makers of Firozabad in *Lost Spring* do not have a leader who can demonstrate to them an alternative to their exploitative life. Their lack of leadership confines them to poverty, highlighting the necessity of leaders such as Gandhi, who can motivate change and assist in ending the cycle of exploitation.
- OR
- (B) Both *A Thing of Beauty* and *Keeping Quiet* celebrate nature as a source of comfort and wisdom. In *A Thing of Beauty*, Keats illustrates how nature's beauty brings everlasting joy, offering peace and hope amidst life's challenges. The trees, rivers and flowers provide solace and rejuvenation, highlighting nature's role as a nurturing companion.
In *Keeping Quiet*, Pablo Neruda emphasises the need for humans to pause, reflect and connect with nature. The silence and stillness of Earth teach humanity lessons of unity, renewal and harmony, making it an invaluable teacher and companion.
Together, these works underscore the deep bond between man and nature.
13. (A) In *The Enemy*, Dr. Sadao's actions reflect how basic human values and education can help overcome prejudices. Despite being a Japanese patriot during wartime, his medical ethics and compassion drive him to treat an American enemy soldier. Sadao's

decision to save the soldier exemplifies humanity's triumph over hostility. His education enables him to focus on his duty as a doctor, proving that moral integrity can transcend societal and national biases. The story emphasises the universal value of compassion and the importance of prioritising humanity above discrimination.

OR

(B) In *On the Face of It*, optimism is presented as the

key to overcoming life's challenges. Mr. Lamb encourages Derry, a young boy with facial scars, to embrace life positively instead of dwelling on his insecurities. Through meaningful conversations, Mr. Lamb helps Derry view the world with hope and confidence. The play underlines how a positive outlook can transform one's perspective and lead to personal growth, even in the face of adversity. It celebrates the power of optimism to enrich lives and foster resilience.

Set-3

Q.P. Code: 1/1/3

SECTION-B

Creative Writing Skills

5. (A) 17, Rose Valley Avenue

Dehradun

11th March 2025

The H.R. Manager

KPMG Pvt. Ltd.

40, New Friends Colony

Dehradun

Subject: Application for the Post of Software Developer

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to apply for the position of Software Developer at KPMG Pvt. Ltd., as advertised. I hold a B.E. in Computer Science and have over three years of experience in software development. I

am proficient in programming languages such as Python, Java and Javascript, possess a strong understanding of computer systems, and have excellent problem-solving skills.

At my previous company, I successfully developed software solutions that aligned with user requirements while meeting tight deadlines. I am confident that my technical expertise and ability to understand user needs will contribute to your company's success.

I am attaching my bio-data for your kind consideration. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss how I can bring value to your esteemed organisation.

Yours sincerely,

Reshmi

BIO-DATA

Name	:	Reshmi
Address	:	17, Rose Valley Avenue, Dehradun
Contact Number	:	7654xxxxx
Email	:	sty@gmail.com
Objective	:	To excel as a Software Developer by applying my technical expertise to deliver user-focused and innovative solutions.
Educational Qualifications	:	• B.E. in Computer Science From MDU
Experience	:	• Software Developer, [HT Solutions Ltd., Mumbai for 3 years] • Developed and maintained software solutions. • Collaborated with teams to understand user requirements and deliver results.
Skills	:	• Ensured timely completion of projects with optimal quality. • Proficiency in Programming Languages. • Strong problem-solving and analytical skills. • Understanding of software requirements and user needs. • Team collaboration and communication.
References	:	Available upon request.

OR

(B) 10, R.K. Marg
New Delhi

11th March 2025

The Editor
Hindustan Times
Delhi

Subject: Alarming Impact of Air Pollution

Sir/Madam,

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I wish to bring attention to the dire issue of air pollution in cities, which is severely affecting public health. Reports reveal a rising number of cases of respiratory diseases, lung cancer and heart ailments directly linked to the deteriorating air quality.

Air pollution is primarily caused by vehicular emissions, industrial waste, construction dust and the unregulated burning of waste.

To resolve this crisis, the government must enforce stricter regulations on industrial emissions, promote clean energy solutions and ensure proper waste management. Expanding public transport systems and encouraging electric vehicles can help reduce vehicular pollution. At the same time, individuals must adopt eco-friendly habits like carpooling, using bicycles and conserving energy.

The media plays a vital role in creating awareness about air pollution and educating people on sustainable practices.

I urge concerned authorities and the public to prioritise this issue before it becomes irreversible. Together, we can ensure a healthier future for generations to come.

Yours sincerely
Susheel

6. (A) **The Value of Sports in Education**

By Anil Vij

In today's fast-paced and competitive world, academic achievements have taken centre stage, often leading to the neglect of physical activity among students. Parents and schools alike focus heavily on grades, sometimes overlooking the critical role sports play in shaping well-rounded individuals. However, sports are not just an extracurricular activity; they are a vital component of holistic education.

Engaging in sports has far-reaching benefits. Physically, it improves strength, endurance and flexibility. Physiologically, regular physical

activity boosts immunity and regulates hormones; Mentally and intellectually, sports reduce stress and anxiety and develop problem-solving skills.

Sports also foster essential life skills such as teamwork, leadership and time management. They teach resilience, humility in victory and grace in defeat, which are crucial traits for personal and professional success. Schools must promote a balanced approach where academics and sports go hand in hand.

Parents, too, play a significant role by encouraging their children to engage in outdoor games and by understanding that physical activity is not a distraction but an asset to their overall growth.

OR

(B) **Inauguration of the Botanical Garden
at ABC School**

– By Ayush, Class XII A

On 10th March 2025, ABC School took a significant step towards promoting environmental awareness by inaugurating a beautiful botanical garden on the school campus. The inauguration ceremony was a grand affair, graced by the presence of the Principal, teachers, students and the Chief Guest, Dr. Meera Sharma, a renowned environmentalist.

The event began a ribbon-cutting ceremony by Dr. Sharma, followed by an insightful speech highlighting the critical need to preserve plant species and their indispensable role in our ecosystem. The Principal shared the vision behind the garden, emphasising the importance of educating children about biodiversity and fostering an appreciation for nature.

The newly inaugurated botanical garden is home to a diverse range of plant species, including medicinal herbs, flowering plants and rare, endangered flora. Informative plaques near each plant provide details about its scientific name, uses and ecological significance.

The garden serves as a living laboratory for students, encouraging them to connect with nature and understand the delicate balance of ecosystems. The ceremony concluded with a guided tour of the garden and a pledge by students to take active steps towards conserving nature.

SECTION-C

Literature

- 11.(i) Geoff Green started the Students on *Ice Programme* to educate young minds about environmental conservation by exposing them to the fragile

ecosystems of Antarctica. He aimed to create future leaders who are aware of climate change and can advocate for sustainable practices.

- (ii) Zitkala-Sa's response, "I will struggle first", reflects her determination and resilience. It reveals her courage to face challenges and her unwavering spirit to fight for her rights, even in adverse circumstances.
- (iii) Dr. Sadao's father comes across as a visionary and ambitious individual. His words reveal his belief in self-reliance and hard work, emphasising that one's future is not limited by external factors but shaped by one's actions and determination.
12. (A) In *The Interview*, Umberto Eco portrays himself as a humble university professor who balances academic rigor with creative writing. His ability to seamlessly blend academic research with engaging storytelling in his novels highlights his versatility and intellectual brilliance. Eco's statement about writing novels "on Sundays" underscores his commitment to multiple passions, showcasing a unique balance between intellectual and artistic pursuits.

In *Deep Water*, William Douglas reveals his determination and resilience as he conquers his deep-seated fear of water. His story reflects not only his courage but also his multifaceted nature—balancing vulnerability with strength and fear with determination. He emerges as an inspiring figure who teaches us the value of perseverance in the face of adversity.

Both personalities demonstrate how embracing diverse aspects of life—academic, creative, or personal—can lead to meaningful achievements and inspire others. Their multifaceted lives leave a lasting impact, emphasising the power of determination and passion.

OR

- (B) Both *A Thing of Beauty* and *Keeping Quiet* celebrate nature as a source of comfort and wisdom. In *A Thing of Beauty*, Keats illustrates how nature's beauty brings everlasting joy, offering peace and hope amidst life's challenges. The trees, rivers and flowers provide solace and rejuvenation,

highlighting nature's role as a nurturing companion. In *Keeping Quiet*, Pablo Neruda emphasises the need for humans to pause, reflect and connect with nature. The silence and stillness of Earth teach humanity lessons of unity, renewal and harmony, making it an invaluable teacher and companion.

Together, these works underscore the deep bond between man and nature.

13. (A) Zit-ka-la-sa and Bama, both in *Memories of Childhood*, have similar conflicts but become resilient people who survive their suffering. Zit-ka-la-sa suffers the anguish of losing her cultural identity when her hair is cut against her will—a hurtful symbol of the repression of Native Americans. Bama sees the ingrained caste discrimination within her society and feels the shame of social injustice.

They share an unwavering resolve to confront their situations. Zit-ka-la-sa employs her education to protest on behalf of her people, a symbol of defiance and respect for self. Bama finds an outlet in literature through her experience, creating consciousness of caste-based discrimination. They finally succeed through converting individual pain into social strength, motivating others to resist oppression and accept equality.

OR

- (B) In *The Enemy*, the subject is that war generates enemies but human beings are beyond borders and differences. Dr. Sadao's gesture of saving an American soldier's life during war emphasises the human principles of compassion and moral obligation. Being a dedicated Japanese citizen, Dr. Sadao overlooks national prejudices and complies instead with his professional obligation as a doctor and his conscience as a human being.

The story underscores that enmity is often a construct of circumstances like war, whereas kindness and empathy are inherent in human nature. Through Dr. Sadao's dilemma and eventual actions, the lesson conveys that acts of humanity can bridge divides and challenge the divisions imposed by war, making it a powerful commentary on the triumph of moral values over hostility.

Solved Paper, 2025

ENGLISH CORE

Class – XII

Outside Delhi Sets | Series: ZYW2X

Time allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS: *Same as in Delhi Paper.*

Set-1

Q.P. Code No. 1/2/1

SECTION-A

Reading Skills

(22 Marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully: 12 M

- (1) Having a sense of humour might mean having the ability to entertain other people by making them laugh, but it can also mean having a quick wit that is frequently employed to criticize other people with snide comments. Some might define the sense of humour as the ability to see humour in everyday life or as appreciating the cleverness of puns and other wordplay, and may think it entirely possible to possess a good sense of humour without ever having those around them become aware of it.
- (2) In any case, a sense of humour is a socially valued trait that almost all of us would prefer to have more, rather than less, of – akin to the way that we think about intelligence or good looks. A person with an undeveloped sense of humour lacks a social skill that puts him or her at a severe disadvantage in the hurly-burly of everyday social life.
- (3) Freud thought of humour as an outlet for forbidden impulses, and philosophers ranging from Aristotle to Descartes believed that we are amused by something when it makes us feel superior to other people.
- (4) Evolutionary psychologists believe that humour, along with other creative abilities, such as art and music, evolved as an honest signal of intelligence and genetic quality. The value of such a skill in defusing tense, aggressive situations and in managing alliances and friendships should not be underestimated either.
- (5) Schmoozing with a bunch of new people at a cocktail party is an opportunity to engage in light hearted banter, and other people are grateful when someone is skillful enough to turn a stiff and awkward situation into fun. Cracking jokes, making witty remarks, and engaging in tongue-in-cheek observations about the social world can be like fishing for other minds that connect

naturally with one's own. In other words, humour can be a device for connecting people who are operating on the same wavelength.

- (6) Observing the performance of other people in such situations tips you off as to who you might like to get to know better and who might be best left behind, wallowing in indignation and blank stares. In short, a sense of humour is the Swiss Army Knife of social skills. Perhaps it is indeed a single instrument, but it contains an arsenal of tools – each exquisitely designed for a unique social purpose.

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage above:

- (i) How does the author prove in paragraph 1 that sense of humour is a double edged sword? 1
- (ii) Cite evidences from the passage to prove that sense of humour is a valuable tool to make someone's life better. 2
- (iii) Complete the following sentence suitably with reference to paragraph 3. 1
One significant advantage of humour is that it helps one _____.
- (iv) Provide ONE textual evidence with reference to paragraph 5, how a good sense of humour can be a great ice breaker. 1
- (v) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank: 1
According to evolutionary psychologists, people with a sense of humour can _____ (trigger/ lighten) tense situation.
- (vi) Choose the correct option: 1
“...humour can be a device for connecting people who are operating on the same wavelength.”
By the phrase ‘same wavelength’ the author refers to
(A) people of age group
(B) people who belong to same line of profession.
(C) people having similar interests and attitudes.
(D) people who are working in the same organisation.

(vii) Complete the analogy with one word from paragraph 6: advantage: benefit: _____: anger 1

- (A) situation
(B) stare
(C) indignation
(D) arsenal

(viii) In the line perhaps 'it is indeed a single instrument, but it contains an arsenal of tools.....' What does the phrase 'arsenal of tools' refer to? 2

(ix) Provide ONE textual evidence from the text which states lack of sense of humour may prove to be a handicap in one's life. 1

(x) An undeveloped sense of humour shows lack of a social skill that puts him or her at a disadvantage. 1

Choose the correct option (A) or (B) which reaffirms the idea conveyed in the above extract.

- (A) Sense of humour elevates the status of a person in the social circle.
(B) People with sense of humour are not taken seriously in the society.

2. Read the passage carefully: 10 M

(1) This report presents findings from the Youth Aspirations in India Survey in which 5,764 youth between the ages of 15 and 30 were asked about their employment, education, and skilling aspirations.

(2) Indian youth valued higher education. 50 percent of respondents aspire to attain a post-graduate degree, 24 percent a PhD, and 21 percent a bachelor's degree. Only 2 percent of respondents hope to attain a college or vocational diploma as their highest form of education.

(3) Respondents have a strong preference for attaining higher education degrees. At the same time, there is an awareness of changing skills requirements and an interest in augmenting their skills. 76 percent of youth report being very interested in pursuing a skills development programme. 70 percent of youth identified more employment opportunities as the main motivation for wanting to pursue skills development training.

(4) A study related to their job preference reveals their strong desire for job security and opportunities for career advancement. It is evident from the following data:

Percentage	Preference
49	Public Sector
23	Private Sector
17	Entrepreneurship

(5) In the context of technological adoption and digitization, jobs and tasks, along with the

competencies required to execute them, are changing. 86 percent of youth feel very or moderately up to date with changes in skills requirements. Yet, 39 percent of youth feel very prepared or prepared for their ideal job, while 16 percent of youth feel either not prepared or very unprepared for their ideal job.

(6) Female respondents' education and employment aspirations match, if not exceed, those of male respondents. Yet, female respondents face discriminatory biases in hiring, have less paid work experience than their male counterparts, and face greater barriers in pursuing skills development opportunities. 60 percent of female respondents, for example, report having no paid work experience, compared to 54 percent of male respondents. In addition, 15 percent of female respondents report personal biases such as marital status, gender, age, or family background as a main barrier to employment compared to 9 percent of male respondents. While more female respondents report being very interested in participating in a skills development programme, only 19 percent have enrolled in a programme, compared to 26 percent of male respondents.

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage:

(i) As per the survey, Indian youth is broadly focussed on 1

- (A) skill development and entrepreneurship.
(B) private sector jobs and technology.
(C) higher education and career opportunities.
(D) vocational diploma and public sector jobs.

(ii) With reference to paragraph 3, what is the latest trend among Indian youth in preparing themselves for the job market? 1

(iii) With reference to the table, state one reason for entrepreneurship being the last preference among Indian youth. 1

(iv) Cite two evidences from the text to show that gender bias is still a hindrance in the progress of women in society. 2

(v) Complete the following sentence suitably. 1
The driving force for the Indian youth to join a skill development programme is _____.

(vi) Paragraph 5 uses words 'competencies' and 'adoption'. Classify the following sentences which talks about 'competency' and which talks about 'adoption'. 1

Sentence-1: Ria embraced new technology to gain global market for her paintings.

Sentence-2: Ria displays her artistic skill through her paintings.

(vii) Cite two evidences from the text to show that Indian youth is adapting itself to the needs of the job market. 2

- (viii) Choose the correct option: 1
 The main road blocks to employment opportunities for females are:
- (i) lack of interest
 - (ii) marriage
 - (iii) lack of opportunities
 - (iv) over qualification
 - (v) family background
- (A) (i) & (ii)
 (B) (iii) & (iv)
 (C) (ii), (iii) & (v)
 (D) (iv) & (v)

SECTION-B

Creative Writing Skills

(18 Marks)

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

3. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two (A) or (B) in about 50 words: 1 × 4 = 4

(A) Your school is organizing a road safety awareness workshop for students of class IX–XII. As the head boy of your school, draft a notice informing the students about the workshop. Include other necessary details. You are Ashna/Ashish. Put your notice in a box.

OR

(B) Your school is organising an Inter-House Science Model-Making-Competition. As President of the Science Club, draft a notice to inform all House members from IX to XII about the competition and specify the number of registrations invited per house. Include other necessary details. You are Mitali/Mukesh. Put your notice in a box.

4. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two (A) or (B) in about 50 words: 1 × 4 = 4

(A) Draft an invitation card on behalf of the Principal of J.B. Bhatia Public School for the launch of 'Yoga for Life' programme in the school. Mention a compelling highlight of the programme along with other necessary details.

OR

(B) You are Mrs. Savita Manjrekhar, a professor in English. You are invited to be one of the judges for the inter-school debate competition by the Principal of J.M. Public School, Cochin. Write a formal letter expressing your inability to accept the invitation.

5. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two, (A) or (B) in 120–150 words: 1 × 5 = 5

(A) You are Ajay of 36, N.J. Colony, Pune. You read the given advertisement and wish to apply for the post advertised. Write this job application along with your bio-data.

Bloom Public School, Bhopal

Requires

Hockey Coach – Graduates with B.P.Ed degree preferred. Minimum 4 years experience.

Skills – Well versed in defence techniques, knowledge of physical and psychological performance development. Ability to foster team culture and promote sportsmanship. Prepare students for state/national championships.

Write to The Principal, Bloom Public School, Bhopal

OR

(B) Social literacy is increasingly recognized as a crucial 21st century skill for young individuals. Write a letter to the editor of a local daily discussing the benefits of providing social literacy education to children. Also, suggest effective ways to raise awareness about the importance of this education among parents. You may use some of the given cues along with your own ideas to draft the letter. You are a counsellor, Reena Sharma of 36, M.V. Apartments, Pune.

- What is social literacy?
- What is the role of school in imparting social literacy to young students?
- What are the benefits of social literacy?
- How is social literacy connected to career advancement?

6. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two, (A) or (B) in 120–150 words: 1 × 5 = 5

(A) Write an article on the commercialisation of festivals, analyzing the reasons for commercialisation and its impact on the younger generation. You may use some of the given cues along with your own ideas. You are Vinita Yadav of XII B.

- impact of globalization on celebration of festivals.
- sanctity & essence of festivals.
- role of Media in commercializing festivals.
- suggest ways in which individuals and communities can work together to preserve tradition and culture in the celebration of festivals.

OR

(B) You are Suraj, reporter of The Times of India. You are sent to cover the Mango Festival organized at the farmer's market.

Write a comprehensive report detailing the activities at the festival. Include descriptions of the events, participation details, the overall impact of these activities on the local community.

You may organize your report by following –
Who – What – When – Why – How.

SECTION-C

Literature (40 Marks)

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the given two (A) or (B):

1 × 6 = 6

(A) It is in the news that all these pitiful kin
Are to be bought out and mercifully gathered in
To live in villages, next to the theatre and the store.
Where they won't have to think for themselves anymore,
While greedy good-doers, beneficent beasts of prey,
Swarm over their lives enforcing benefits
That are calculated to soothe them out of their wits,
And by teaching them how to sleep they sleep all day
Destroy their sleeping at night the ancient way.

(A Roadside Stand)

- (i) The expression 'It is in the news' suggests
- (A) it is good news for the roadside stand owners.
- (B) an important decision has been taken by the government.
- (C) the roadside stand owners have protested against the government.
- (D) that the news was not there in the newspaper.
- (ii) Read the Assertion and the Reason below, with reference to the given extract.
- Assertion:** The poet complains that the rural people are exploited by the people in power.
- Reason:** The rural people reposed blind faith in the false promises of the people in power.
- Choose the correct option regarding their relationship.
- (A) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true and the Reason is the correct explanation.
- (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.
- (iii) Complete the following suitably:
- In the line 'that are calculated to soothe them out of their wits', the phrase 'soothe them out of their wits' refers to _____.
- (iv) Bring out the irony in the expression 'they won't have to think for themselves'.
- (v) Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.
- The poet uses the expression 'greedy good-doers' to _____ (criticize / appreciate) the intention of the powerful people.

- (vi) Complete the following suitably.
- The tone of the poet in the above extract is _____.

OR

- (B) If we were not so single-minded
about keeping our lives moving,
and for once could do nothing,
perhaps a huge silence
might interrupt this sadness
of never understanding ourselves with death.
Perhaps the Earth can teach us
as when everything seems dead
and later proves to be alive.
Now I'll count up to twelve
And you keep quiet and I will go.

(Keeping Quiet)

- (i) Complete the following suitably.
- The poet uses the expression 'single minded' to refer to _____.
- (ii) Why does the poet refer to silence as a welcoming interruption?
- (iii) Read the Assertion and the Reason below, with reference to the given extract.
- Assertion:** The poet personifies Earth as a teacher.
- Reason:** We learn from the Earth that pausing doesn't mean the end.
- Choose the correct option regarding their relationship.
- (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.
- (iv) Complete the following suitably.
- By the expression "keeping our lives moving" the poet refers to _____.
- (v) Choose the correct option:
- The intention of the poet in the above extract is _____.
- (A) to make us aware of the importance of Earth.
- (B) to criticize our single mindedness.
- (C) to highlight the reason for our sadness.
- (D) to highlight the importance of sustaining peace and silence.
- (vi) What is the significance of the last line of the extract 'you keep quiet and I will go'?

8. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the given two (A) or (B):

1 × 4 = 4

(A) When I heard this, I didn't want to laugh any more, and I felt terribly sad. How could they believe that it was disgusting if one of us held that package in his hands, even though the Vadai had been wrapped first in a banana leaf, and then parcelled in paper? I felt so provoked and angry that I wanted to touch those wretched Vadais myself straight away. Why should we have to fetch and carry for these people. I wondered. Such an important elder of ours goes meekly to the shops to fetch snacks and hands over reverently, bowing and shrinking, to this fellow who just sits there and stuffs them into his mouth. The thought of it infuriated me.

(*Memories of Childhood*)

(i) 'I felt terribly sad'. The reason for the speaker's sadness is because it was an act of _____.

(ii) Choose the correct option:

'The thought of it infuriated me' with reference to the above line, what do you think is the impact of the incident on the speaker?

- (A) The speaker was sympathetic and helpless.
- (B) The speaker was angry and condemning.
- (C) The speaker was excited to see the incident.
- (D) The speaker was very impressed and motivated.

(iii) Complete the sentence suitably:

'I wanted to touch those wretched Vadais myself'

The above expression indicates the speaker's _____.

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

The incident made the speaker realize that the discrimination was _____.
(dehumanizing/elevating)

OR

(B) Mr. Lamb : When I go down the streets, the kids shout 'Lamey Lamb'. But they will come into the garden, into my house; it's a game. They're not afraid of me. Why should they be? Because I'm not afraid of them, that's why not.

Derry : Did you get your leg blown off in the war?

Mr. Lamb : Certainly

Derry : How will you climb on a ladder and get the crab apples down, then?

Mr. Lamb : Oh, there's a lot of things I've learned to do and plenty of time for it. Years. I take it steady. (*On the Face of It*)

(i) Complete the following suitably:

'Years. I take it steady'. The above line speaks of the speaker's _____.

(ii) Derry, how will you climb on a ladder? What does Derry hint at in the above query?

(iii) 'When I go down the streets, the kids shout Lamey Lamb.'

The attitude of the speaker expressed in the above line is

- (A) his habit of finding fault.
- (B) he is timid and faint hearted.
- (C) his acceptance of reality and positive attitude.
- (D) his indifferent and careless attitude.

(iv) Fill in the blank suitably:

Mr. Lamb's handicap has not _____ his attitude towards life.

9. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the given two (A) or (B): $1 \times 6 = 6$

(A) Those were the days of mainly indoor shooting, and only five percent of the film was shot outdoors. I suppose the sets and studio lights needed the girls and boys to be made to look ugly in order to look presentable in the movie. A strict hierarchy was maintained in the make-up department. The chief make-up man made the chief actors and actresses ugly, his senior assistant 'second' hero and heroine, the junior assistant the main comedian and so forth. The players who played the crowd were the responsibility of the office boy. (Even the make-up department of the Gemini Studio had an 'office boy')

On the days when there was crowd-shooting, you could see him mixing his paint in a giant vessel and slapping it on the crowd players. The idea was to close every pore on the surface of the face in the process of applying make-up.

(*Poets and Pancakes*)

(i) What does the writer mean by the phrase 'indoor shooting' in the first line of the extract?

(ii) Pick up one sentence from the extract that reflects the sarcastic tone of the writer.

(iii) The hierarchy in the make-up department puts the 'office boy' in the _____ (lowest/top) rung of the ladder.

(iv) Complete the following suitably:

On the days when there was a 'crowd-shooting'. By the phrase crowd-shooting, the author refers to _____.

(v) Choose the correct option:

".....mix his paint in a giant vessel and slapping it on the crowd players."

The choice of words like 'paint' and 'slapping' by the author reflects.

- (A) author's intention to degrade the office boy's role in the make-up department.
- (B) the office boy's lack of seriousness.
- (C) author's sarcastic and humorous writing style.
- (D) author's dislike of the office boy.

(vi) Choose the correct option:

What does the following line from the extract showcase?

"A strict hierarchy was maintained in the make-up department."

- (A) The office boy took all the decisions in the make-up department.
- (B) A system of ranks according to importance of work was followed.
- (C) Everyone was given an equal share of work in the department.
- (D) Nepotism was prevalent in the make-up department.

OR

(B) My Last French Lesson! Why, I hardly knew how to write ! I should never learn any more! 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.

Poor man! It was in honour of this last lesson that he had put on his fine Sunday clothes, and now I understood why the old men of the village were sitting there in the back of the room. It was because they were sorry, too, that they had not gone to school more. It was their way of thanking our master for his forty years of faithful service and of showing their respect for the country that was theirs no more.

(The Last Lesson)

(i) Choose the correct option:

What is the tone of the speaker in the expression 'I hardly knew how to write ... how sorry I was for not learning my lessons'?

- (A) confused
- (B) regretful
- (C) surprised
- (D) happy

(ii) Choose the correct option:

The speaker refers to 'seeking birds' egg' and 'sliding on the Saar' as

- (A) part of his routine
- (B) his daily routine
- (C) source of distraction from learning
- (D) fun time with friends

(iii) What is reflected through the shift in the speaker's perception of his books through his expression of calling them his 'old friends' rather than considering them as 'nuisance'?

(iv) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank:

"It was because they were sorry too..."

They were sorry for _____ (not following the government order / not learning their language)

(v) What is inferred from the expression 'the country that was theirs no more'?

(vi) What does M. Hamel's ruler reflect about his image?

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions in 40-50 words each: $5 \times 2 = 10$

(i) "One of these days you're going to talk yourself into a load of trouble;" her father said aggressively. What do you learn about Sophie's father's from these lines? (*Going Places*)

(ii) 'A thing of beauty is a joy forever.' Explain with reference to the poem. (*A Thing of Beauty*)

(iii) How did Franz plan to turn the commotion in the classroom to his favour? (*The Last Lesson*)

(iv) How do the expressions 'polished traffic' and a stand that 'pathetically pled' depict the contrasting worlds that co-exist in the poem 'A Roadside Stand'?

(v) 'What I want should not be confused'. What clarification does Pablo Neruda give to his readers? (*Keeping Quiet*)

(vi) 'But the game he is watching so intently is out of his reach.'

What are the factors that have made their game inaccessible to Saheb? (*Lost Spring*)

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in 40-50 words each: $2 \times 2 = 4$

(i) What is so ironical about Sam reaching the third level?

(ii) What image of the Tiger King is revealed in the diamond ring episode?

(iii) "In that short time, we've managed to create quite a rukus." What does Tishani Doshi refer to by 'rukus'?

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 120-150 words: $1 \times 5 = 5$

(A) 'Where there is a will, there is a way.' The above saying aptly describes the character of Douglas from 'Deep Water' and Mukesh from 'Lost Spring'. Compare and contrast their characters in terms of their courage, determination, and the pursuit of their goals.

OR

(B) Pablo Neruda in 'Keeping Quiet' and Keats in 'A Thing of Beauty' depict nature as a source of inspiration and strength to man. Analyse both the poems in terms of the above perspective.

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in 120-150 words: $1 \times 5 = 5$

(A) The element of dilemma, between humanity and patriotism elevates the character of Dr. Sadao in 'The Enemy'. Support your answer with evidence from the text.

OR

(B) How did Tishani Doshi's visit to Antarctica as part of the Students on Ice Programme make her realise the importance of preserving the Earth?

(*Journey to the End of the Earth*)

Set-2

Q.P. Code: 1/2/2

In this set, all questions are identical to those in Set-1, except for the following.

SECTION-B

Creative Writing Skills

5. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two, (A) or (B) in 120–150 words: $1 \times 5 = 5$

(A) You are Nidhi of 42, M.G. Road, Gwalior. You read the given advertisement and wish to apply for the post advertised. Write job application along with your bio-data.

M.V. Public School, Shimla

Requires

Western Music Teacher

Qualification : Graduate in music

Experience : Min. 2 years in similar field

Skills : • Lesson planning, preparing students for competitions and performances.
• Organize school bands, orchestra and choir groups.
• Proficiency in computers and technology aided music.

Apply to The Principal, M.V. Public School, Shimla

OR

(B) The rapid expansion of urban sprawl (the geographic extent of cities and towns,) is mainly due to the desire for increased living space. This urban sprawl comes with a cost of air pollution, water pollution, and disruption of environmentally sensitive areas. Write a letter to the editor of a National daily expressing your concern over the above issue and also suggest ways to improve the situation. You are Sonal of 14, A, R.P. Nagar, New Delhi. You may use the following cues along with your own ideas to compose the letter.

- What is urban sprawl?
- What is the long term impact of urban sprawl in over daily lives?
- How can effective urban design and planning reduce problems of urban sprawl?

6. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two, (A) or (B) in 120–150 words: $1 \times 5 = 5$

(A) In this competitive world, students are expected to excel in all fields like academics, sports, music, art, etc. The main reason for students to reel under stress is poor time management.

Write an article stressing on the need to develop the skill of time management. You may use the following cues along with your own ideas to compose the article. You are Seema of class XII C.

- What is time management?
- Why are realistic goals important?
- Ways to prioritize tasks, minimize distractions.
- How to utilize technology effectively?

OR

(B) You are Heena of class XII E and a member of the school magazine editorial board. Write a comprehensive report on Republic Day celebrations held in your school. Include descriptions of the events, participation details and the overall impact of these activities on the school community.

You may organize your report by following – Who – What – When – Where – How.

SECTION-C

Literature

11. Answer **ANY TWO** of the following three questions, in 40–50 words each: $2 \times 2 = 4$

- (i) What is the significance of the third level?
(*The Third Level*)
- (ii) 'Not at all', Sadao said. "It is inconvenient to have you here any longer."
(*The Enemy*)
What image do you form of Dr. Sadao based on the above remark?
- (iii) Mr. Lamb: ... you thought it has an empty house, but inside it's full. What do these words tell you about Mr. Lamb?
(*On the Face of It*)

12. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions in 120–150 words: $1 \times 5 = 5$

(A) Gandhi said, "The real relief for them is to be free from fear."
(*Indigo*)
Roosevelt knew when he said, "All we have to fear is fear itself."
(*Deep Water*)
Analyse the status of share-croppers and plight of William Douglas in the light of the above statements.

OR

(B) Sophie is an escapist and a dreamer. Franz loves to miss school. Analyse the result of both these characters as a result of their attitude towards life.
(*'Going Places', 'The Last Lesson'*)

13. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions, in 120–150 words: $1 \times 5 = 5$

(A) Derry in '*On the Face of It*' is a victim of self-pity. Analyse Derry's behaviour in the light of the above statement.

OR

(B) "...how little changes in the environment can have big repercussions" Tishani Doshi in '*Journey to End of the Earth*' gives an awakening call for man. Analyse the theme of the lesson in the light of the above statement.

Set-3

Q.P. Code No. 1/2/3

In this set, all questions are identical to those in Set-1, except for the following.

SECTION-B

Creative Writing Skills

5. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two, (A) or (B) in **120–150** words: $1 \times 5 = 5$

(A) You are Swati of 35, Jyoti Apartments, Hyderabad. You read the given advertisement and wish to apply for the post advertised. Write this job application along with your biodata:

WE24 Media Network, Jaipur	
Requires News Reporter	
Qualification :	Graduate in Journalism or Mass Communication
Experience :	Min. 2 years in relevant field
Skills required:	Communication skills, proficiency in computers, strong writing and research skills, in-depth knowledge of current affairs.
Write to The HR Manager, WE24 Media Network, 12, J.M. Road, Jaipur	

OR

(B) Adolescent obesity is a growing concern in India. Too little activity and too many calories from junk food and sweetened drinks are the main contributors to obesity. Write a letter to the editor expressing your concern over the issue and suggest ways to prevent obesity among teenagers. You may use some of the cues along with your own ideas to draft the letter. You are Mohan Lal, 40, J.N. Colony, Pune.

- Causes of teenage obesity
- Solutions
 - Healthy eating
 - Active lifestyle
- Role of parents and schools in inculcating health awareness among students.
- Role of media in creating awareness.

6. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two, (A) or (B) in **120–150** words: $1 \times 5 = 5$

(A) We are living in a stressful world which leads to many health issues like depression and anxiety. Medical researches have revealed that laughter gives relief from stress and it is suggested as an alternative therapy to promote well-being. Write an article for a Health Magazine on the therapeutic benefits of laughter therapy. You may use the cues given along with your own ideas to draft the article. You are Anmol

- What is laughter therapy?
- What are the emotional and physical benefits of laughter?
- How does laughter bring people together?

OR

(B) You are Pawan of XII B, student reporter of your school. Your school conducted the Zonal Football match finals in your school playground. Write a comprehensive report of the match including details of the participating teams, results and the highlights of the finals.

You may organize your report by following –

Who – What – When – Where – Why – How.

SECTION-C

Literature

11. Answer **ANY TWO** of the following three questions, in **40–50** words each: $2 \times 2 = 4$

(i) How was Annan instrumental in Bama achieving success in life? (*Memories of Childhood*)

(ii) What was Charlie's vision about Galesburg as it was in 1894? (*The Third Level*)

(iii) Dr. Sadao had saved the life of the American soldier, but agreed to the General's proposal of sending assassins. What prompted Dr. Sadao to agree to the General's proposal? (*The Enemy*)

12. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions in **120–150** words: $1 \times 5 = 5$

(A) '*Deep Water*' and '*Indigo*' bring out the importance of overcoming fear. Discuss the two texts with reference to the above statement.

OR

(B) Franz from the '*Last Lesson*' and the peddler from the '*Rattrap*' learn from their mistakes. Discuss with reference to the above texts, the human tendency to make mistakes and learn from them.

13. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following questions, in **120–150** words: $1 \times 5 = 5$

(A) The world's geological history is trapped in Antarctica. Discuss with reference to the chapter '*Journey to the End of the Earth*'.

OR

(B) Bama and Zit-Ka-la-Sa have proven that education is the antidote to all social evils.

(*Memories of Childhood*)

Analyse their characters in terms of their struggles and their will to win.

Answers

English Core – 12th

Set-1

Q.P. Code No. 1/2/1

SECTION-A

Reading Skills

1. Discursive Passage

- (i) The author proves that having a sense of humour is a double-edged sword by stating that it is both the ability to entertain other people by making them laugh and a quick wit that is frequently used to criticise people.
- (ii) Evidence from the passage which proves that sense of humour is a valuable tool:
- “Schmoozing with a bunch of new people at a cocktail party is an opportunity to engage in a light-hearted banter” (Paragraph 5)
 - “Cracking jokes, making witty remarks, and engaging in tongue-in-cheek observations about the social world can be like fishing for other minds that connect naturally with one’s own.” (Paragraph 5)
- (iii) to feel superior to other people and cope with stress.
- (iv) “Schmoozing with a bunch of new people at a cocktail party is an opportunity to engage in light-hearted banter, and other people are grateful when someone is skilful enough to turn a stiff and awkward situation into fun.”
- (v) lighten
- (vi) *Correct Option:* (C) people having similar interests and attitudes.
Explanation: The phrase “same wavelength” refers to a shared way of thinking, similar interests, or compatible attitudes, which help people connect through humour.
- (vii) *Correct Option:* (C) indignation
Explanation: ‘advantage : benefit’ suggests that the two words are synonyms. Similarly, anger should match with a synonym and the correct synonym for “anger” is indignation.
- (viii) The phrase ‘arsenal of tools’ suggests that humour can be used as a skill to manage different situations effectively.
- (ix) “A person with an undeveloped sense of humour lacks a social skill that puts him or her at a severe disadvantage in the hurly-burly skill of everyday social life.”
- (x) *Correct Option:* (A) Sense of humour elevates the status of a person in the social circle.
Explanation: The extract suggests that a well-developed sense of humour is a valuable social skill, which helps people avoid being at a disadvantage in social settings.

2. Case-Based/Factual Passage

- (i) *Correct Option:* (C) higher education and career opportunities.
Explanation: The survey highlights that Indian youth predominantly aspire to pursue **higher education** (e.g., postgraduate and doctoral degrees) and focus on **career opportunities**, such as job security and advancement through skill development.
- (ii) The latest trend among Indian youth is a strong preference for attaining higher education degrees, along with increased awareness of changing skill requirements and a growing interest in augmenting their skills.
- (iii) Entrepreneurship being the last preference among Indian youth is due to the strong desire for job security and opportunities for career advancements. Entrepreneurship involves a lot of risk, investment and time.
- (iv) The following lines can be two pieces of evidence highlighting gender bias as a hindrance to the progress of women in society:
- “Yet, female respondents face discriminatory biases in hiring, have less paid work experience than their male counterparts.”
 - “15 per cent of female respondents report personal biases such as marital status, gender, age, or family background as a main barrier to employment compared to 9 per cent of male respondents.”
- (v) the increasing awareness of the skill requirement and identifying better employment opportunities.
- (vi) **Sentence 1:** Adoption; **Sentence 2:** Competency.
- (vii) Text that shows that Indian youth is adapting itself to the needs of the job market:
- “76 per cent of youth report being very interested in pursuing a skills development programme.”
 - “86 per cent of youth feel very or moderately up to date with changes in skills requirements.”
- (viii) *Correct Option:* (C) (ii), (iii) & (v)
Explanation: The passage indicates that female respondents face challenges such as:
- Marriage (personal biases like marital status).
 - Lack of opportunities (fewer paid work experiences compared to men).
 - Family background (a barrier due to gender and family expectations).

SECTION-B

Creative Writing Skills

3. (A)

ST. JOSEPH'S CONVENT SR. SEC. SCHOOL
NOTICE11th March 2025

ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS WORKSHOP

This is to inform all students of **Classes IX to XII** that our school is organising a **Road Safety Awareness Workshop** to educate students about the importance of road safety and traffic rules. The workshop will be conducted by experts from the **Delhi Traffic Police**.

Date: 18th March 2025**Time:** 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**Venue:** School Auditorium

All students are requested to attend the workshop in proper school uniform and be seated by **9:45 a.m.** Attendance is compulsory. For any queries, contact the undersigned.

Ashish**(Head Boy)**

(B)

ABC SCHOOL, NEW DELHI
NOTICE**Date:** 11th March 2025INTER-HOUSE SCIENCE MODEL
MAKING COMPETITION

This is to inform all students of **Classes IX to XII** that the school is organising an **Inter-House Science Model-Making Competition** to encourage creativity and scientific thinking. Each house can register a maximum of **3 teams** consisting of **2 members per team**. The competition will be held on **20th March 2025** from **10:00 a.m., to 1:00 p.m.**, in the **Science Lab**. The theme for the competition is **"Innovative Solutions for a Sustainable Future."** Interested students must submit their names to their respective House Captains by **15th March 2025**. Exciting prizes await the winners! For more details, contact the undersigned.

Mitali**(President, Science Club)**

4. (A)

J.B. BHATIA PUBLIC SCHOOL

Cordially Invites You

To the grand launch of the

"Yoga for Life" Programme —

a transformative initiative aimed at promoting physical and mental well-being among students and staff.

Highlight of the Programme: A special session on **Stress Management Through Yoga** by renowned yoga expert **Dr. Meera Sharma**.

Date: 25th March 2025**Time:** 10:00 a.m. onwards**Venue:** School Auditorium

Your presence will make the occasion even more special. Please be seated by **9:45 a.m.**

We look forward to your gracious presence.

Principal**J.B. Bhatia Public School**

(B) Mrs. Savita Manjrekhar

Professor of English

XYZ University

Mumbai

11th March 2025

The Principal

J.M. Public School

Cochin

Subject: Inability to Accept Invitation

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for inviting me to judge the inter-school debate competition. Unfortunately, I am unable to accept due to prior commitments. I regret missing this opportunity and wish the event great success.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Savita Manjrekhar

5. (A)

36, N.J. Colony

Pune

Date: 11th March 2025

The Principal

Bloom Public School

Bhopal

Subject: Application for the post of Hockey Coach

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is in response to your advertisement in the Times of India dated 10th March 2025, for the post of a Hockey coach. I possess essential requisites for the aforementioned post and I wish to offer my candidature for the same.

Besides holding an M.P.Ed. degree, I am also a certified coach in athletics from the Sports Authority of India (SAI) with an experience of seven years. I have been a brilliant player of cricket and football too. I am well versed in defence techniques and possess knowledge of physical and psychological performance development. . Being a versatile teacher, I can teach games at primary level too. I am a hardworking and honest person and have

been fulfilling my duties with utmost sincerity. I assure you that I shall prove to be an asset for your school. I am also enclosing my resume for your perusal.

Thank you

Yours sincerely,

Ajay

Encl- Resume

RESUME

Name: Ajay Kumar

Mother's name: Shikha Kumari

Father's name: Vimal Kumar

Address: 36, N.J. Colony, Pune

Mobile Number: 941XXXXXXX

Email Address: ajay51@gmail.com

Date of Birth: 31 March 19XX

Age: 30 years

Marital Status: Married

Educational Qualification:

Class	Board/University	Percentage
X	CBSE Board	90%
XII	CBSE Board	92%
B.P.Ed.	M. P. University	82%
M.P.Ed.	M. P. University	73%

Additional Qualification: Certified coach in athletics from the Sports Authority of India (SAI)

Other fields of interest: Cricket and Football

Languages Known: English, Hindi, French, Marathi

Job Experience: Seven years in Aztech Public School, Pune

Achievements: National-level athletics player. As a Hockey coach, my team won the first prize in National Competition.

Hobbies: Reading, Painting

Expected Salary: Negotiable

References: 1. Mr. Deb, in-charge SAI

2. Dr. Raman Singh, Hockey HOD, M.P. University

Ajay

(B) 36, M.V. Apartments
Pune – 411001

11th March 2025

The Editor
The Times of Pune
Pune – 411002

Subject: Importance of Social Literacy Education for Children

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to draw attention to the growing importance of social literacy education for children in today's fast-changing world. Social literacy refers to the ability to communicate effectively, understand social

norms, and interact respectfully with others. It is becoming an essential 21st-century skill for personal and professional success and enables children to develop empathy, build positive relationships and navigate social situations confidently

Schools play a key role in fostering social literacy among students. Through group activities, discussions, collaborative projects and conflict resolution exercises, schools can help children understand different perspectives, practice teamwork and develop emotional intelligence.

The benefits of social literacy are profound. Socially literate children are more likely to display leadership qualities, make thoughtful decisions and contribute positively to their communities.. In today's globalised and highly connected job market, employers value professionals who can communicate effectively, collaborate in diverse teams and demonstrate adaptability and emotional intelligence.

To raise awareness about the importance of social literacy, schools and community organisations should organise workshops and interactive sessions for parents.

Yours faithfully

Reena Sharma
(Counsellor)

6. (A) **The Commercialisation of Festivals:
Impact on the Younger Generation**
- By Vinita Yadav, XII B

Festivals have always held a special place in human society as they provide an opportunity to celebrate tradition, culture and spirituality and serve as a bridge between the past and the present, reinforcing values and strengthening social bonds. However, in recent decades, the growing commercialisation of festivals has started to dilute their essence, transforming them from sacred and communal events into highly commercialised spectacles.

Globalisation has blurred cultural boundaries, leading to the exchange and blending of traditions across the world. Multinational companies and big brands have turned festivals into marketing opportunities, introducing global trends into local customs and encouraging consumerism. Festivals like Christmas, Diwali and Valentine's Day are now heavily marketed with discounts, sales and special edition products, encouraging people to spend more rather than reflect on the deeper significance of the occasion.

The media plays a significant role in the commercialisation of festivals.

The younger generation, growing up in an era dominated by technology and consumerism, is increasingly associating festivals with materialism rather than spirituality. The deeper meaning of rituals and traditions is often overlooked in favour of the latest fashion, food trends and social media trends.

Festivals are a reflection of a society's cultural and spiritual values. By encouraging meaningful participation, promoting local culture and redefining the way festivals are portrayed in the media, individuals and communities can strike a balance between modernity and tradition.

(B) **Mango Festival Brings Sweet Delight to the Farmer's Market**

By Suraj, Reporter, *The Times of India*

The Mango Festival was organised annually in Mountain View on the Saturday closest to 10 March 2025. The festival included a range of mango-themed activities, such as a mango-eating contest, a mango-cooking contest, a mango-tasting contest, a mango art contest, a mango music festival, a mango dance festival, a mango fashion show and a mango market. The festival was free entry and public.

The highly anticipated Mango Festival at the local Farmer's Market proved to be a huge success, attracting visitors from all over the region. The Local Farmers' Association organised the festival to celebrate the abundant mango crop and push for the need to patronise local farmers. Over 10,000 attendees made the festival a huge success. The mango cooking competition was also highly attended, with over 100 entries for recipes.

The festival had more than 30 types of mangoes, including well-known ones like Alphonso, Dasheri, Langra and Kesar. The guests were able to taste various kinds of mangoes and understand their distinct flavors and origins. The festival witnessed active participation from local farmers, traders and chefs, as well as hundreds of tourists from surrounding towns and cities.

SECTION-C

Literature

(POETRY – EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS)

7. (A) (i) *Correct Option:* (A) it is good news for the roadside stand owners.

Explanation: The phrase implies that this action or decision has gained public attention and is being discussed or promoted as a positive development, even though the speaker seems to criticise it as a harmful or misguided effort.

- (ii) *Correct Option:* (A) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true and the Reason is the correct explanation.

Explanation:

- **Assertion:** The poet criticises how rural people are exploited by those in power, referring to the "greedy good-doers" who enforce so-called benefits that are not genuinely helpful. This is true.
 - **Reason:** The rural people placed blind trust in the false promises made by these beneficent individuals, believing in the prospects offered to them. This is also true and explains why they end up being exploited.
- (iii) the false promises and benefits given to the poor by those in power.
- (iv) The irony lies in the fact that the so-called "help" from the government and wealthy benefactors does not empower the poor but rather makes them dependent.
- (v) Criticise
- (vi) Sarcastic and critical
- (B) (i) The people's relentless focus on materialistic progress and constant activity, without pausing for self-reflection.
- (ii) The poet sees silence as a welcoming interruption as he believes that taking a moment of stillness allows people to reflect, understand themselves and connect with nature.
- (iii) *Correct Option:* (A) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion.

Explanation: Assertion is true as the poet suggests that Earth can teach humanity valuable lessons, particularly about cycles of life and death — "as when everything seems dead/and later proves to be alive". Reason is also true as the poet implies that just as the Earth appears lifeless in certain seasons but comes back to life, taking a pause in life doesn't signify an end but rather a potential for renewal and growth.

- (iv) The continuous working movement of humans and their minds.
- (v) *Correct Option:* (D) to highlight the importance of sustaining peace and silence.
- Explanation:* The poet's main intention in the extract is to emphasise the value of peace and silence as a way to understand ourselves and find inner calm. The reference to counting to twelve and remaining quiet suggests that pausing and embracing stillness can lead to deeper self-awareness and harmony.
- (vi) The poet emphasises the importance of silence and self-reflection. By asking the reader to "keep quiet,"

the poet suggests that silence and stillness are essential for self-discovery and understanding. The phrase "I will go" implies that the poet has shared his message and now leaves the reader to reflect independently.

8. (A) (i) Caste-based discrimination and untouchability.

(ii) *Correct Option:* (B) The speaker was angry and condemning.

Explanation: The phrase "The thought of it infuriated me" clearly indicates that the speaker felt anger and disapproval towards the incident.

- (iii) Disregard and anger towards the act.
- (iv) DEHUMANISING
- (B) (i) Patience and resilience
- (ii) Derry is hinting at Mr. Lamb's physical disability as he wonders how Mr. Lamb does all his daily activities despite the disability.
- (iii) *Correct Option:* (C) his acceptance of reality and positive attitude

Explanation: The speaker acknowledges the situation (kids shouting) without bitterness, indicating that he has accepted reality and maintains a positive outlook despite it.

- (iv) Changed/affected.
9. (A) (i) Film shooting that takes place inside a studio, using artificial lighting and sets.
- (ii) "I suppose the sets and studio lights needed the girls and boys to be made to look ugly in order to look presentable in the movie."
- (iii) LOWEST
- (iv) The shooting of scenes involving a large number of people/artists.
- (v) *Correct Option:* (C) author's sarcastic and humorous writing style.

Explanation: The use of exaggerated and playful terms like "paint" and "slapping" suggests that the author is describing the situation in a humorous and sarcastic manner.

- (vi) *Correct Option:* (B) A system of ranks according to importance of work was followed

Explanation: The phrase "A strict hierarchy was maintained" clearly indicates that there was an organised structure where roles and responsibilities were assigned based on rank and importance.

OR

- (B) (i) *Correct Option:* (B) regretful

Explanation: The speaker expresses regret for not learning lessons, which indicates a tone of remorse.

- (ii) *Correct Option:* (C) source of distraction from learning
Explanation: These activities symbolise the carefree childhood distractions that kept the speaker from focusing on studies, which he now regrets as he realises the importance of learning.
- (iii) The shift in perception reflects the speaker's realisation of the value of education and his regret for not being appreciative about it.
- (iv) Not learning their language
- (v) It refers to the loss of Alsace and Lorraine to the Prussians, symbolising the end of French rule in the region and the imposition of German control.
- (vi) Hamel's ruler reflects his strict and disciplined nature as a teacher.
10. (i) We learn that Sophie's father is concerned about her tendency to fantasise or exaggerate, believing it will eventually lead her into problems. He is also portrayed as somewhat aggressive or stern in his communication style—a worked-up, no-nonsense man. He does not encourage his daughter's hallucinations and he is very practical.
- (ii) 'A Thing of Beauty', in many ways, signifies a romantic finale of Keats's firm belief in the non-destruction of beauty, and of its claim to legitimacy with reference to its permanence, and its ability to call up, or contextualise the truth. This forms the main theme of the poem. The poet's artistic view of beauty as an obstinate source of pleasure and joy comes in the face of a knowledge of the sharp problems of life, to which the essential thing of beauty offers their own mode of struggle. Unlike the common place objects of everyday certainty, the objects of beauty are resistant to the perishability of time, and indeed of mortality. The sun, the moon, the flora and the fauna in nature are protectors of an infinity that can never be equated with the temporariness and incontinuity of human schemes.
- (iii) Franz planned to take advantage of the commotion in the classroom to try and sneak to his desk unnoticed when he was late. However, when he arrived, he was surprised to find the classroom unusually quiet and serious, which made him feel uneasy.
- (iv) The phrase 'polished traffic' represents the wealthy, urban elite who travel in luxury, indifferent to the struggles of the poor. In contrast, the 'pathetically pled' roadside stand symbolises the desperation of rural people, seeking attention and economic support from the privileged. "A Roadside Stand" by Robert Frost is a social satire that portrays the two contrasting worlds that exist in society. The poet talks of the rural countryside, where there is a roadside stand selling farm produce like squash and wild berries. Two social classes of the rich and poor are highlighted in the poem.
- (v) The poet is advocating for silence or stillness. He makes it quite clear that 'stillness' should not be confused with "total inactivity or equated to it". Total inactivity brings death. But Neruda has 'no truck with death'. His stillness means halting of harmful and hostile human activities. Instead, he encourages people to pause, reflect and embrace silence to understand themselves and others. This moment of stillness can lead to inner peace and harmony.
- (vi) Economically speaking, Saheb does not have the funds to buy even the basic tennis equipment – a racquet and a ball. He does have someone's discarded tennis shoes, but that is not enough to play tennis. Saheb is deprived of basic necessities and opportunities. His poverty and social status make it impossible for him to access the games played by privileged children. The lack of financial resources and social inequality prevent him from fulfilling his dreams.
11. (i) Sam believed that only two levels existed. He explained Charley's experience as 'Waking – dream wish fulfillment'. He believed the third level was a medium to escape from the tension of modern life. But later, Sam himself found the third level and got settled there. Earlier, he believed there was not the third level at all, but ironically he himself became a resident of Galesburg. He even urged Charley to keep finding it. The non-existent third level of Grand Central station offers just such an escape: it is a kind of portal to the past. The ending is ironic because it is the narrator Charley's "psychiatrist friend" Sam who makes it back to Galesburg, Illinois in 1894, not Charley himself.
- (ii) The diamond ring episode reveals that the Tiger King was authoritative and influential as he immediately ordered the British officer's gift to be rejected, showing his power and control. To avoid offending the British officer and risking his kingdom, he sent fifty diamond rings to the officer's wife as a bribe, cleverly handling the situation without losing face. Sending such an expensive gift reflects his immense wealth and willingness to spend lavishly to protect his pride and position. This episode highlights the Tiger King's cunning nature and his determination to maintain his dominance and authority.
- (iii) By 'rukus', Tishani Doshi refers to the controversies, debates and discussions that have arisen in a short period concerning Antarctica and its future. It reflects the chaos humans have brought to the planet, highlighting the urgency of sustainable living and harmonious coexistence with nature.

12. (A) Both Douglas from "Deep Water" and Mukesh from "Lost Spring" embody the saying, "Where there is a will, there is a way". Douglas faces a deep-rooted fear of water after a traumatic incident in his childhood. However, through courage and persistent training with an instructor, he gradually overcomes his fear and learns to swim confidently. His journey reflects the triumph of inner strength over personal limitations. Mukesh, on the other hand, is born into a family of bangle makers but dreams of becoming a car mechanic. Despite the societal and economic pressures that bind his family to generational poverty, Mukesh shows remarkable courage and determination in pursuing his dream. His willingness to challenge the status quo highlights his strength of character and desire for a better future. Both characters demonstrate that courage and perseverance can lead to success despite personal and social challenges.

OR

(B) Both Pablo Neruda in "Keeping Quiet" and John Keats in "A Thing of Beauty" present nature as a source of inspiration and strength to humanity. In "Keeping Quiet", Neruda emphasises the importance of silence and introspection through nature. He suggests that pausing and observing nature can bring peace, unity and self-awareness. Nature's calmness and stillness inspire humans to reflect and heal from chaos and conflict. In "A Thing of Beauty", Keats highlights the enduring beauty of nature, describing how it provides solace and strength. The beauty of nature—like the sun, moon, trees and flowers—lifts human spirits and helps overcome sadness and despair. Keats views nature's beauty as a constant source of joy and motivation. While Neruda focuses on stillness and self-awareness through nature, Keats emphasises the healing power and joy that beauty in nature brings. Both poets reflect that connecting with

nature restores peace, strength and inspiration in human life.

13. (A) Dr Sadao Hoki was not only a trained surgeon but also a fervent patriot who dedicated himself to the cause of serving his country in wartime through scientific research. However, the dilemma that Sadao faced upon the arrival of the wounded enemy soldier on his doorstep was a clash between his duties as a doctor and that of a citizen of his nation. Sadao remarked that if the man had been whole and uninjured, then he would not have faced any difficulty in turning him over to the police. However, the fact that he was wounded complicated this issue because as a doctor, Sadao had taken the oath to put his professional duties first and serve mankind as a whole, without any discrimination on the basis of nationality. Nevertheless, he was able to uphold his patriotism by informing the General about the matter. This moral dilemma between loyalty to his country and his humanitarian values elevates Sadao's character, showcasing his strength, courage and deep sense of integrity.

OR

(B) Tishani Doshi considers witnessing the pristine beauty of the Antarctic landscape to be the best experience. It highlighted the fragility of the environment and the impact of human activities, making her realise the importance of preserving nature. Witnessing the untouched glaciers, vast expanses of snow and diverse marine life made her realise the fragility of the environment and the delicate balance of the ecosystem. The sight of melting glaciers and the thinning ozone layer highlighted the impact of human activities on nature. This experience deepened her understanding of the urgent need for environmental conservation. Doshi's journey underscores the importance of preserving the natural world to protect future generations and maintain ecological balance.

Set-2

Q.P. Code No. 1/2/2

SECTION-B

Creative Writing Skills

5. (A) 42, M.G. Road
Gwalior
Date: 11th March 2025
The Principal
M.V. Public School
Shimla

Subject: Application for the post of Western Music Teacher

Sir/Madam,

This is in response to your advertisement in the Times of India dated 10th March 2025, for the post of a Western Music Teacher. I possess essential requisites for the aforementioned post and I wish to offer my candidature for the same.

very serious. This has resulted in heightened air and water pollution as a result of more vehicular movements and industrial activity leading to respiratory conditions and other ailments. In addition, it has disrupted the ecological balance, imperiling local wildlife and heightening the prospects for natural disasters such as flooding.

To counteract such problems, successful urban design and planning are inevitable. Encouraging mixed development—having living, commercial and recreational space together—may cut down long-distance traveling requirements.

I call on the authorities concerned to implement sustainable urban planning policies and encourage environmentally friendly infrastructure to make urban living healthier and more balanced.

Yours sincerely,

Sonal

6. (A) The Importance of Time Management for Students

By Seema, Class XII C

In today's competitive world, students are expected to perform well in academics, sports, music and art. The pressure to excel in every field often leads to stress, and the main reason behind this is poor time management.

Time management is a skill that involves organising and planning how to use your time in the most effective way. For students, it is essential to learn how to manage their time effectively in order to balance school work, extracurricular activities and leisure time.

One effective way to manage your time is to create a schedule. Another tip for managing your time is to set priorities. Determine which tasks are most important and need to be completed first. This will help you focus on the most critical tasks and ensure they are completed on time.

Setting realistic goals is important because it helps students stay focused and motivated. Unrealistic goals can lead to disappointment and stress. Students should learn to prioritise tasks by identifying what is most important and urgent. Technology can also help manage time better. Using apps for scheduling and reminders can keep students organised and on track.

(B) Pride and Patriotism on Display – Republic Day Celebrations

By Heena, Class XII E

(Member, Editorial Board)

Like every year, St. Joseph's Convent Sr. Sec. School, Mahidpur celebrated the Republic Day with great pomp and splendour. Since this was the 72nd Republic Day, the school decided to celebrate the

occasion in a grander way. The Principal of the school, Mr. Soby Thomas, invited army officials from the Base Camp to be a part of the programme. Apart from them, Ms. Shaily, the M.P. of the area, was invited to be the chief guest of the occasion. The Republic Day function started at 10 o'clock in the morning with the army personnel and Ms. Shaily lighting the diyas and unfurling the national flag. On Republic Day, the Manager also unveiled the first magazine published by the school. The students sang a few patriotic songs and performed a beautiful dance too. The programme concluded with the National Anthem, followed by the Manager expressing his gratitude to all the esteemed guests at the event and to the students who had performed beautifully.

The Republic Day celebrations instilled a sense of pride and responsibility in the students. The event reinforced the importance of unity and the values enshrined in the Constitution.

The Republic Day celebrations not only honoured the significance of the day but also strengthened the bond among students and teachers, fostering a deeper understanding of national values and traditions.

SECTION-C

Literature

(Textbook and Supplementary Reading Text)

11. (i) The third level refers to the imaginary third underground level of the Grand Central Railway Station. It symbolises man's yearning to delve deeper into the world of imagination as an escape from the world of harsh realities. The third level signifies an escape from the modern world that is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry and all the rest of it.
- (ii) Dr. Sadao comes across as a practical yet compassionate man. Though he initially finds it inconvenient to shelter an enemy soldier, his medical ethos and humanity overrides his patriotic duty. His actions depict a conflicted but morally upright individual who values human life above political boundaries. Thus, the remark highlights Sadao's internal struggle between his humanity and his national loyalty, reinforcing the image of a conflicted but fundamentally ethical man.
- (iii) Mr. Lamb's words reflect his positive outlook on life. Though physically disabled, he does not let his loneliness define him. He sees beauty in companionship and surroundings, filling his life with hope, optimism and imagination. His house may seem empty, but his heart is full of life. This statement also reflects his attempt to teach Derry, the young boy with a burnt face, to look beyond appearances and recognise the hidden richness in

life and people. Therefore, Mr. Lamb emerges as a wise, philosophical and compassionate figure who encourages others to see the world with an open and positive mind.

12. (A) We all know what it's like to be afraid. Fear is our body's natural response to a perceived threat or danger. However, when fear immobilises us and prevents us from progressing, it becomes a hindrance. This was the case with William Douglas—his fear of water prevented him from leading a normal life; he could not go fishing, canoeing, etc. Similarly, due to their fear of the British, the peasants of Champaran could not take a stand for their rights. Fear immobilises us and prevents us from progressing. To overcome it, we need to devise a plan and work through it, just as William Douglas did when he confronted his fear rather than giving in to it. Likewise, when the peasants gathered around the courthouse in Motihari, it was a step towards overcoming their fear. It took Douglas months to overcome his fear of water and learn to swim. Similarly, it took nearly a year to get justice for the peasants in Champaran. Both instances highlight that liberation—whether from physical oppression or psychological barriers—requires confronting and overcoming fear. Courage is the key to self-reliance and personal growth.

OR

- (B) Sophie, in *Going Places*, is a dreamer who indulges in fantasy and unrealistic ambitions. She imagines meeting football star Danny Casey, seeking an escape from her mundane reality. However, her impractical aspirations lead to disappointment and detachment from reality. Similarly, Franz, in *The Last Lesson*, is indifferent towards education, frequently missing school. His negligence towards learning makes him realise the value of education only when it is too late—when French is no longer taught in his school due to the Prussian occupation.

Both characters suffer the consequences of their attitude—Sophie faces disillusionment, and Franz regrets his wasted opportunities. Their stories highlight the importance of realism and responsibility in life.

13. (A) Derry is scared of meeting people as he hates seeing their fear of him and facing their rejection. He is too sensitive and people's comments hurt him deeply. He becomes upset due to his parents' over-protectiveness and mother's repulsion for his burnt face. He is defiant and rude and does not talk to people. He sees everything in a bad light and is pessimistic about everything. He not only hates himself but also the world and remains away from everyone. He indulges in self-pity over his face but he harbours a deep inner desire to be accepted, which he hides beneath an abrasive exterior. However, he changes in the end after listening to Mr. Lamb and becomes ready to face the world and overcome obstacles. Eventually he finds courage and strength to get what he wants.

OR

- (B) Tishani Doshi's "Journey to the End of the Earth" emphasises how minor changes in the environment can lead to significant consequences. The lesson highlights the impact of human activities on climate change and the delicate balance of ecosystems. Humans, who have existed a mere 12,000 years, have caused tremendous damage and played havoc with nature. Population explosion, strain on available resources, carbon emissions, fossil fuels and global warming have all resulted in climatic and ecological imbalances that have affected Antarctica too.

The Antarctic expedition serves as a wake-up call for humanity, showcasing how global warming, melting glaciers and rising sea levels threaten life on Earth. The lesson reinforces that small environmental disruptions today can lead to catastrophic consequences in the future.

Set-3

Q.P. Code No. 1/2/3

SECTION-B

Creative Writing Skills

5. (A) 35, Jyoti Apartments

Hyderabad – 500001

11th March 2025

The HR Manager

WE24 Media Network

12, J.M. Road

Jaipur – 302001

Subject: Application for the Post of News Reporter

Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my keen interest in the

position of News Reporter advertised by WE24 Media Network. With a strong educational background in Mass Communication and over two years of experience in the field of journalism, I am confident in my ability to contribute effectively to your esteemed organisation.

I hold a Bachelor's degree in Mass Communication from Osmania University, Hyderabad, and have been working as a News Reporter for the past two years with Hyderabad Times.. I am proficient in computer applications related to news reporting and editing, which allows me to work efficiently under tight deadlines.

I am particularly attracted to this opportunity at WE24 Media Network because of its reputation for unbiased and impactful news reporting.

Thank you for considering my application. I look

forward to the possibility of contributing to your esteemed organisation.

Yours sincerely,

Swati

BIO-DATA	
Name	: Swati
Address	: 35, Jyoti Apartments, Hyderabad – 500001
Contact Number	: 9876543210
Email	: swati123@gmail.com
Date of Birth	: 5 th August 1990
Marital Status	: Single
Nationality	: Indian
Educational Qualification	: Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communication – Osmania University, Hyderabad – 2015
Work Experience	: News Reporter – Hyderabad Times (2017–2024) Covered political, social and cultural events. Conducted interviews and wrote detailed reports. Managed news content for online and print platforms.
Skills	: Excellent communication and research skills Proficiency in computer applications (MS Office, Editing Software) Strong knowledge of current affairs
Languages Known	: English, Hindi, Telugu
Hobbies	: Reading, Writing, Traveling

(B) Mohan Lal
40, J.N. Colony
Pune – 411001
13th March 2025

The Editor

The Times of India
Pune – 411001

Subject: Concern over Growing Adolescent Obesity in India

Sir/Madam,

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I wish to express my deep concern over the increasing problem of adolescent obesity in India. It is alarming to see that a growing number of teenagers are falling prey to unhealthy lifestyles, leading to serious health issues at a young age.

The main causes of teenage obesity are excessive consumption of junk food and sugar-laden drinks, coupled with a lazy lifestyle. The rise of digital entertainment and social media addiction has further reduced the time teenagers spend on physical activities, contributing to weight gain and poor overall health.

To address this issue, a multi-pronged approach is needed. Schools and parents should encourage

balanced diets rich in fruits, vegetables and whole grains while limiting processed and sugary foods. Teenagers should be motivated to engage in regular physical activities such as sports, yoga and outdoor games to maintain physical fitness.

I hope that my concerns will find space in your esteemed publication and inspire action among parents, schools and policymakers.

Thank you for considering my views.

Yours sincerely,

Mohan Lal

6. (A) **The Healing Power of Laughter Therapy**

– By Anmol

With the world moving at a fast pace these days, stress has become an integral part of life. The state of constant pressure to deliver within a deadline, manage personal duties and deal with social dilemmas usually results in severe health conditions like depression, anxiety and insomnia. Though medical science provides numerous treatments for dealing with stress, one ancient, easy and natural cure is gaining popularity for its wonderful effects — Laughter Therapy. Laughter Therapy invites individuals to employ laughter as a means to enhance their emotional and physical wellbeing. It comprises guided sessions wherein

participants perform laughing exercises, comedies and playful interactions that trigger laughter, even if they begin as involuntary actions. Laughter is not only a natural reaction to humour; it is a potent healing and stress-relief instrument. Laughter is a language that is understood by people of all cultures, languages and ages. It provides a feeling of belonging and connection, making social bonds stronger. Whether at laughter therapy clinics, with friends by telling jokes, or when watching a comedy show, allocating some time to laughter is crucial for having a balanced and healthy lifestyle.

(B) Zonal Football Match Finals Held at Our School

– *By Pawan, XII B*

Our school was privileged to host the long-awaited Zonal Football Match Finals on 10 March 2025, in the school playground. The event was hosted to foster sportsmanship, collaboration and a healthy spirit of competition among the schools in the zone.

The last match was between ABC Public School and XYZ International School. Both the teams had performed excellently throughout the competition, and the last match did not disappoint anyone. The match started at 10:00 a.m., with a dramatic beginning as both teams performed fantastically and in perfect coordination.

The opening goal of the match was struck by ABC Public School in the first 15 minutes. But XYZ International School staged a miraculous comeback during the second half, scoring two goals back to back and taking the lead.

SECTION-C

Literature

(Textbook and Supplementary Reading Text)

11. (i) When Bama apprised her brother about an incident, her brother told her that they were born into a community of 'low caste' people and so were not given any honour, dignity, or respect. Bama was told by Annan to research carefully and to learn everything she could. People would come to her on their own and bind themselves to her if she was still ahead in her classes. Bama took her brother's advice and trained diligently. These words had a deep and lasting impression on Bama, and she started studying very hard and stood first in the class.
- (ii) Charley wanted to go to Galesburg. He had been there in his childhood days. It was a wonderful town has tremendous trees and frame houses. In 1894, it was a heaven of peace and tranquility.

People lived a carefree life. Charley thought that Galesburg was still a wonderful town. In that century in 1894, people used to sit in their lawns, having sufficient time to talk to each other, smoking cigars and women waving palm leaf fans on very long summer evenings. Charlie wanted to live in a small town like Galesburg. He wanted to settle as a hay, feed and grain businessman.

- (iii) Dr. Sadao's decision to agree to the General's proposal of sending assassins to kill the American soldier was driven by a complex conflict between his professional duty as a doctor and his loyalty to his country during wartime. Dr. Sadao had saved the life of the wounded American soldier purely out of his ethical responsibility as a doctor. His training and moral values as a doctor compelled him to treat the injured man, regardless of his nationality or the political situation. However, after saving the soldier's life, Dr. Sadao faced the harsh reality that harbouring an enemy soldier could be seen as an act of treason, punishable by death.

12. (A) We all know what it's like to be afraid. Fear is our body's natural response to a perceived threat or danger. However, when fear immobilises us and prevents us from progressing, it becomes a hindrance. This was the case with William Douglas—his fear of water prevented him from leading a normal life; he could not go fishing, canoeing, etc. Similarly, due to their fear of the British, the peasants of Champaran could not take a stand for their rights. Fear immobilises us and prevents us from progressing. To overcome it, we need to devise a plan and work through it, just as William Douglas did when he confronted his fear rather than giving in to it. Likewise, when the peasants gathered around the courthouse in Motihari, it was a step towards overcoming their fear. It took Douglas months to overcome his fear of water and learn to swim. Similarly, it took nearly a year to get justice for the peasants in Champaran. Both instances highlight that liberation—whether from physical oppression or psychological barriers—requires confronting and overcoming fear. Courage is the key to self-reliance and personal growth.

OR

- (B) Mistakes are common – all of us, whether young or old, may make numerous mistakes. If not corrected in time, our mistakes bring our growth to a standstill. Characters like Franz from "The Last Lesson" and the peddler from "The Rattrap" emphasise the value

of growing from one's mistakes, a recurrent literary theme. At first, both characters exhibit problematic traits: the peddler gives in to small-time thievery, while Franz disregards his studies. But both go through pivotal moments that make them face their deeds.

Franz feels great regret after learning that his native French is no longer spoken. This inspires him to study with renewed zeal. Similarly, although moved by Edla's generosity, the peddler feels guilty about what he did. He shows a change in morals by returning the stolen funds.

These tales demonstrate that a person's errors do not define them. Acknowledging mistakes, comprehending their effects and acting to improve are the foundations of true progress. As a result of this process of introspection and transformation, we become more responsible and compassionate people. Mistakes can serve as the impetus for constructive change when accepted as a chance for development.

13. (A) Antarctica gives us an idea of how the earth would have been like millions of years ago and how it got divided into various earth masses. It helps us to understand where we came from and where we are going. It helps us to understand the significance of Cordilleran folds and pre-Cambrian granite shields. It helps us to understand about evolution and extinction. Antarctica has remained unspoiled by humans. The melting and colliding ice masses also give us insight into how our future is going to be if we continue with interference in the working of nature. Moreover, Antarctica holds, within the depth of its ice, half a million year old

carbon records, which are helpful in understanding the past, present and future of the Earth. Therefore, Antarctica is the place which reveals our past, shows our present and visualises our future.

OR

- (B) The struggle for identity and the oppression faced by the marginalised communities is the common thread between the lives of Bama and Zitkala-Sa. Both were school-going children when they witnessed rough treatment being meted out to themselves or their community. Both episodes prove that injustice in any form does not escape notice, even by children.

Zitkala-Sa revolts and resists the school authorities with all her might because she does not want her hair to be shingled like that of a coward's. She reacts strongly and says that she would not give up without struggling. Bama, too, realises the oppression that her community faces. She puts up a fight by bringing laurels to her community through her scholarly achievements, after her brother Annan advises her to study with care and to stay ahead of others in her lessons so that they could throw away all those indignities. Thus, she also proves herself and challenges the oppression against her, leading to saving not only her own dignity but also the self-respect of her whole community. Both the girls refused to bow down to exploitation and oppression and fought the social discrimination that their communities had to face. Thus, Bama, who is now a well-known author, and Zitkala-Sa both live without fear.

Both Bama and Zitkala-Sa faced systemic oppression. However, both recognised that education was the key to empowerment.