

S-2

**MID TERM EXAMINATION - 2024
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (SET I)**

TIME DURATION: 3 hours

MM: 80

General Instructions:

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, GRAMMAR & WRITING and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

**SECTION A : READING SKILLS (20 marks)
Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages****1. Read the following text.****(10 marks)**

1. Archaeology may conjure up images of ancient ruins or elusive treasures. But large-scale digs that excavate foundations of buried cities are a small fraction of archaeological projects. In 2010, as a construction crew began to tear up sidewalks in New York City's South Street Seaport to replace a water pipe, Alyssa Loorya and her team watched eagerly, picks and brushes in hand. Loorya, an urban archaeologist, leads Chrysalis Archaeology, a firm at the forefront of uncovering the remnants of history in the New York metro area.
2. Any New York City construction project using municipal funds is required to consider whether historical artefacts will be affected during construction, and if that possibility exists, an urban archaeologist must be consulted. Since the South Street Seaport area was a bustling commercial centre for early colonists, Loorya anticipated that a rich history lay beneath the pavement. "It's our job to document and recover that history before it's lost," she said.
3. As the work continued, therefore, the team faced obstacles. Fieldwork in a city has to be done intermittently: the construction crew had to proceed one block at a time to avoid interrupting traffic, and the archaeological team's work was periodically halted—at times, by stormy weather or by the discovery of toxic materials underground. Moreover, as archaeologists underground attempted to relay information to those at the surface, they had to contend with the noise of construction vehicles, car horns, and pedestrians' noise on the busy New York City streets.
4. Despite these setbacks, Loorya and her team eventually began to uncover some interesting artefacts. In 2012, the team discovered a foundation wall, a network of wooden pipes, and several well bases dating back to the eighteenth century. In August 2013, the archaeologists discovered thousands of objects in a single fifteen-foot stretch that was likely a garbage disposal site. These objects included buttons from Revolutionary War uniforms, clay pipes, and an imported mineral water bottle from Germany.
5. As they cleaned and catalogued the artefacts, the archaeologists took stock of their findings. The team's discoveries provided a snapshot of the various kinds of construction materials that were used in the eighteenth century. Colonial-era New Yorkers went to

great lengths to secure fresh drinking water, Loorya noted, given the effort involved in laying wooden pipes to bring in fresh water from surrounding areas, digging very deep wells, efforts to mask the water's salty taste, and even importing bottled water. Through such discoveries, they tell the story of a city's history in a new way. "One of my favourite things is putting together someone's life," Loorya said.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- i. Infer one reason why Loorya and her team eagerly looked forward to the South Street Seaport construction project. (1)
- ii. Complete the following analogy using an appropriate word from paragraph 2. (1)
dig : excavate :: busy : _____
- iii. Fill in the blank appropriately. (1)
In the city of New York, if a construction project is utilising municipal funds, it is essential to consult an urban archeologist since there is a possibility of _____.
- iv. What were the challenges faced by Loorya and her team during the construction project of 2010? Answer in about 40 words. (2)
- v. Complete the sentence appropriately. (1)
In August 2013, while excavating a single fifteen-foot stretch that was likely a garbage disposal site, the archaeologists discovered various objects like _____.
- vi. How did colonial-era New Yorkers ensure availability of fresh drinking water? Answer in about 40 words. (2)
- vii. State if the given statement is TRUE or FALSE. (1)
The urban archeologists primarily operate in the cities and their job is to document and recover history before it's lost.
- viii. On the basis of your understanding of the passage, state whether the given process is in the correct order. (1)
 1. Cataloguing and preserving the artefacts
 2. Cleaning the artefacts
 3. Discovery of a site of historical significance
 4. Excavation of the artefacts

2. Read the following text.

- (10 marks)**
1. The advertising industry is witnessing a revolution with the advent of AI-powered billboards. Lamar Advertising and other companies are discarding the static approach in favour of dynamic displays that adjust in real-time, driven by artificial intelligence. Traditionally, billboards relied on general demographics and traffic data, but AI has

transformed the landscape by analysing live trends like weather forecasts, traffic patterns, and social media activity.

2. These AI-powered billboards adapt seamlessly to contextual cues, such as promoting sunglasses on hot days and hot chocolate during cold spells. Such personalised advertising resonates with audiences, fostering engagement and driving click-through rates. For instance, Lamar Advertising reported a significant 30% increase in click-through rates for campaigns using AI-driven "virtual food truck" displays, which targeted fast-food ads based on real-time traffic data.
3. However, the integration of AI in advertising also raises concerns regarding privacy and data collection. Balancing personalization with consumer privacy will be essential for widespread acceptance of AI-powered billboards. Moreover, ensuring responsible data practices, including anonymization and secure storage, is paramount to maintaining consumer trust.
4. Yet, the potential applications of AI extend beyond traditional marketing. AI-powered billboards could provide real-time traffic updates, personalised public service announcements, or interactive games for commuters. As AI technology continues to evolve, so too will the regulations governing its use in advertising. Ultimately, the success of AI-powered billboards hinges on their ability to deliver valuable and engaging experiences while respecting consumer privacy. The future of billboards is dynamic and full of possibilities, thanks to the innovative integration of AI technology.

TABLE 1

Feature	2022	2023	2024 (Estimated)
Click-Through Rate Increase (AI-powered vs. Static)	15%	25%	30% (as mentioned in passage)
Number of AI-powered Billboards Deployed Globally	1,000	5,000	10,000
Consumer Awareness of AI-powered Billboards	20%	40%	60%
Public Concern Regarding Privacy and Data Collection	High	Moderate	Low (as trust in responsible data practices increases)
Integration of AI-powered Billboards with Public Services (Traffic Updates, PSAs)	Limited	Pilot Programs Begin	Widespread Adoption

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- i. Complete the following analogy appropriately, based on your understanding of the passage. (1)
Moving from traditional billboards to AI-powered billboards is like switching from analog watches to smartwatches because _____.
- ii. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of paragraph 2. (1)
Lamar Advertising reported a significant increase in click-through rates for campaigns using AI-driven "virtual food truck" displays. This is a/an _____ (fact/opinion).
- iii. Based on the data provided in table 1, what trend can be observed about public concern regarding privacy and data collection as AI-powered billboards become more prevalent? Mention a reason for the same. (1)
- iv. Justify the following, in about 40 words. (2)
The advertising industry is witnessing a revolution with the advent of AI-powered billboards.
- v. Based on the survey results in table 1, the number of AI-powered billboards deployed globally is projected to reach 10,000 by 2024. State any one inference that can be drawn from this. (1)
- vi. In the given sentence taken from paragraph 4, replace the underlined word, with its most likely antonym. (1)
The potential applications of AI extend beyond traditional marketing.
- vii. Infer one benefit and one drawback of AI in advertising. (Answer in about 40 words) (2)
- viii. Based on the data given in table 1, how do you think AI-powered billboards displaying real-time traffic updates benefit commuters? (1)

SECTION B : WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20 marks)

GRAMMAR (10 marks)

3. Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed. (1x10)

- i. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a magazine article:
If physical books disappear, what could it mean for children who are learning to read? It's too early to know, although research _____ (begin) in the US.

- ii. Read the given sentence. Identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence.
During the 17th century, the gondola was a major means of transportation and the more common watercraft within Venice.

Use the given format for your response.

ERROR	CORRECTION

- iii. Naina and Milind had a conversation about Milind's classical orchestra performance. Report Naina's question.

Will you be performing at the Opera Hall tonight?

- iv. Read the dialogue between two colleagues, Diljot and Ali, discussing their vacation plans.

Diljot : I am planning to visit Mumbai to meet my friends. What are your plans?

Ali : I will be flying to Dubai next week for my cousin's wedding.

Complete the reporting of the above dialogue.

Diljot said that he was planning to visit Mumbai to meet his friends and asked Ali _____ . Ali replied that he would be flying to Dubai the following week for his cousin's wedding.

- v. Fill the blank with an appropriate determiner, to complete the following extract.
The 'Incredible India' campaign stands as a shining example of effective tourism. Showcasing India's diverse tapestry, _____ campaign paints a vivid picture of the country's rich cultural heritage, historical treasures, and breathtaking landscapes.
- vi. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the given extract.
Classical Sanskrit literature develops rapidly during the first few centuries of the first millennium BCE.

Use the given format for your response.

ERROR	CORRECTION

- vii. Complete the given extract using the most appropriate form of the verb given in brackets.
The ancient Romans _____ (consider) amazing architects and engineers! They built a system of channels and bridges called aqueducts, in order to bring water to their cities.
- viii. Report the dialogue between Hina and Juliet, by completing the sentence:
Hina : My car has been giving me a lot of trouble recently.
Juliet : Why don't you get a mechanic to look at it?
Hina : I have had a lot of trouble finding a reliable mechanic!

Hina told Juliet that her car had been giving her a lot of trouble recently. Juliet suggested that she should get a mechanic to look at it. Hina lamented that _____.

ix. Fill in the blank with an appropriate modal.
Rajan wondered to himself, "_____ it have made any difference, if I had arrived on time?"

x. Identify the error and supply correction for the following advertisement:

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Konic Hills is a luxury development, offering magnificent views of the Juhu beach. Its modern-designed villas and apartments provide high-end amenities, such as private pools, gardens, and sound security. Additionally, it feature a golf club and a fitness centre. Interested buyers to contact konichills@gmail.com.

Use the given format for your response.

ERROR	CORRECTION

xi. Fill the blank using an appropriate modal, to complete the following extract from a documentary on William Shakespeare.
William Shakespeare and his theatre company built a large, open-air theatre called the Globe. The theatre was open to people from all walks of life, meaning that anyone _____ watch a performance there.

xii. Fill the blank to complete the announcement on a website.
Last year, the first ten participants of the 'Good Food Challenge' _____ (receive) a cutlery set sponsored by Wonderchef.

WRITING (10 marks)

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

4A. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily, in 100-120 words, emphasising the importance of integrating summer internship programmes into school curriculums where students gain practical experience and skills directly applicable to their fields of study. Suggest how these programmes may help in bridging the gap between classroom learning and the demands of the workforce. (5)

OR

4B. Write a letter in 100 - 120 words to the sales manager of Bajaj Electricals to complain regarding a recently purchased faulty microwave. Further, you are appalled at the customer service and demand a refund /replacement of the product. You are Rishi/Simran residing at Indus Apartments, Pune.

5A. In today's digital world, where most people get news from the internet, it's suggested that newspapers should go completely online. This would mean stopping the printing of newspapers, which wastes ink and paper. Write a paragraph in 100-120 words analysing the given argument. You can think about what alternative explanations might weaken the given conclusion and include rationale/evidence that would counter/strengthen the given argument. (5)

OR

5B. Sagar, a passionate shopper, aims to assess the advantages and disadvantages of online shopping to optimise his shopping experience and time management. Write a paragraph in about 100-120 words, analysing his SWOT notes to support your stand on whether he should consider online shopping as a viable option to fulfil his shopping needs efficiently.

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Convenience of shopping from home ● Wide variety of products available ● Access to customer reviews for informed decisions 	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inability to test products before purchase ● Additional shipping fees, custom duty, and other hidden charges. ● Requires internet access and familiarity with online shopping platforms.
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Many online stores offer straightforward return and refund policies. ● People can use virtual reality to try products. ● Websites can suggest things you might like based on what you've looked at. 	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Products may not match the description or images provided online. ● Delays, lost packages, or damaged goods during transit. ● Risk of personal data being compromised.

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

6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. (5)

A. Then in the seventh grade he got a hint of what real science is when he entered a county science fair — and lost. “It was really a sad feeling to sit there and not get anything while everybody else had won something,” Ebright said. His entry was slides of frog tissues, which he showed under a microscope. He realised the winners had tried to do real

experiments, not simply make a neat display. Already the competitive spirit that drives Richard Ebright was appearing. "I knew that for next year's fair I would have to do a real experiment," he said. "The subject I knew most about was the insect work I'd been doing in the past several years."

- i. State TRUE or FALSE.
Richard Ebright's perception of what defines real science remained unchanged after his defeat at the science fair. (1)
- ii. In 40 words, justify the following statement based on the given context. (2)
A miniature model of the water cycle featuring small-scale water bodies might not be a winning project at the county science fair.
- iii. What was Ebright's reaction to losing at the county science fair in the seventh grade? (1)
- iv. Which word would correctly substitute 'something that shows results or proves a theory', from the extract? (1)

OR

B. The policy of apartheid created a deep and lasting wound in my country and my people. All of us will spend many years, if not generations, recovering from that profound hurt. But the decades of oppression and brutality had another, unintended, effect, and that was that it produced the Oliver Tambo, the Walter Sisulus, the Chief Luthulis, the Yusuf Dadoo, the Bram Fischers, the Robert Sobukwe of our time* — men of such extraordinary courage, wisdom and generosity that their like may never be known again. Perhaps it requires such depths of oppression to create such heights of character. My country is rich in the minerals and gems that lie beneath its soil, but I have always known that its greatest wealth is its people, finer and truer than the purest diamonds.

- i. How does Nelson Mandela describe the long-term impact of apartheid on South Africa? (1)
- ii. What is the tone of the speaker in the following lines taken from the extract? (1)
My country is rich in the minerals and gems that lie beneath its soil, but I have always known that its greatest wealth is its people, finer and truer than the purest diamonds.
- iii. How does Nelson Mandela describe the relationship between oppression and character development? Answer in about 40 words. (2)
- iv. The expression, "their like may never be known again" means _____ (1)

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. (5)

A. *He senses first responsibility
In a world of possessions. People will take balls,
Balls will be lost always, little boy,
And no one buys a ball back. Money is external.
He is learning, well behind his desperate eyes,
The epistemology of loss, how to stand up
Knowing what every man must one day know
And most know many days, how to stand up...*

- i. Complete the sentence appropriately. (1)
Through the poem, the poet is trying to convey that loss is inevitable and everyone _____.
- ii. What does the phrase "first responsibility" suggest? (1)
- iii. Identify the poetic device used in the phrase "desperate eyes"? (1)
- iv. Infer the meaning of the phrase "Money is external". Answer in 40 words. (2)

OR

B. *But if it had to perish twice,
I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction ice
Is also great
And would suffice.*

- i. In what way can ice lead to destruction? Answer in about 40 words. (2)
- ii. What is the significance of the term "also" in the fourth line of the given stanza? (1)
- iii. What does the poet mean when he says "I think I know enough of hate"? (1)
- iv. The rhyme scheme of the given stanza is _____. (1)

8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words. (4x3=12)

- i. How did the Buddha respond to Kisa Gotami's request, and what does this indicate about his teaching method? (The Sermon at Benares) (3)
- ii. Rajvir conducted in-depth research before visiting the tea plantation. Is it beneficial to prepare extensively before starting a new venture, or does it diminish the excitement of discovery? Explain your viewpoint. (Glimpses of India) (3)
- iii. "If strolling forth, a beast you view, Whose hide with spots is peppered, As soon as he has leapt on you, You'll know it is the Leopard." Comment on the use of humour in this quote from the poem "How to Tell Wild Animals". (3)
- iv. How does Carl Sandburg describe the fog using qualities typically associated with a cat? (3)
- v. To what extent do you agree that maintaining a positive attitude can bring a spark of brightness even in difficult situations? Provide an example from the course by citing specific chapter/s or character/s to illustrate your viewpoint. (3)

9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. (2x3=6)

- i. How did Hari Singh reason with himself to justify stealing from Anil? (3)
- ii. Often, what we perceive might not be the reality. In the view of the above statement, discuss Horace's belief regarding the Lady in Red being the owner of Shotover Grange. (3)
- iii. "And in her smiling eyes was the light of a deep satisfaction that an artist feels when contemplating the completion of her masterpiece." Explain with reference to the story 'Bholi'. (3)

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. (1x6=6)

- i. You thought about two situations that taught important lessons: Valli visiting the town without telling her mother and a boy losing his ball, experiencing responsibility for the first time. Reflecting on these stories, you feel more prepared to face life's challenges while exercising caution. Express your views in the form of a diary entry.

You may begin like this...

Today, after thinking about Valli's bold trip to the town without her mother's knowledge and the touching poem about the boy losing his ball, I found myself reflecting on.....

OR

- ii. How does the young seagull's journey contribute to the theme of self-discovery and growth in the text, 'His First Flight' ? Support your response with instances from the text.

11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. (1x6=6)

- i. As evident from the text, 'A Triumph of Surgery', Mrs Pumphrey's and Mr Herriot's notions of responsibility towards a pet are vastly different. Imagine a conversation between the two, regarding the disagreement in their approaches towards Tricky's care. You may begin like this...

Mr Herriot: It is very important to strike a balance between indulgence and discipline.

Mrs Pumphrey: I really love Tricky and want him to have the best of everything.

OR

- ii. "Science is the key to unlocking the mysteries of the universe and harnessing its power for the benefit of humanity." - Vera Rubin

Comment on the given quote with reference to Griffin and Richard Ebright.