

TERM 1 EXAMINATION (2024-25)

ENGLISH CORE

Class: XII

Time allowed :3 hours

M M: 80

General Instructions:

1. The paper is divided into THREE sections -Reading ,Writing and Literature.
2. All the sections are compulsory.
3. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.
4. Please write down the serial number of the question in the answer script correctly .
5. Separate instructions are given with each question, wherever necessary. Read these carefully.

SECTION--A: READING SKILLS (22 Marks)

1.Read the following passage:

(12 marks)

As you approach your career goals, you feel the need of having skill in making presentations. These presentations open the door to a brighter, bigger and more prestigious career. This works in two ways: they open the closed avenues and bigger ones for those who are already in the queue. These will lead them up the pole of success, promotion and prosperity. These attempts should not be taken carelessly or casually because they put you on the path of realization of your ambition.

As in many other spheres, marketing yourself for a job in a career stream too needs your meticulous attention and preparation. This also shows your inner urges; how you look at your job, your long-term career perspectives and the ultimate result from it.

Failing to prepare is preparing to fail! This should be your guideline. There is no reason to fear making a presentation if one is aptly prepared for it. Plodding is not enough to create an impression and get a concept approved. You have to be able to inform and convince others to get their approval. This is where your presentation skills come into play. Absence of these skills mars your chances.

Genuine preparation is the first step. This begins with mental readiness and storing the mind with sufficient relevant matter. An empty mind cannot deliver the goods. Fill the mind with ideas, concepts, facts and figures. You will have a lot of material for presentation. Add to your information base. When your research base is extensive, you can select the best for the presentation. Conduct research through books, magazines, newspapers and publications, interviews, informal chats and letters exchanged with experts in the field. The presentation will be most appreciated when you are able to give the audience something new, more than what it already knows. Add some new slants.

Find a presentation with an action point to make it more persuasive. If you know who is going to form the majority of your audience you can tailor to make your presentation to suit

it. Make every effort to hit the bull's eye. Begin by stating the purpose and providing a preview of what will be created. The preview should be a quick summary of the outline of what is going to follow. Arouse curiosity and anticipation.

Go through the outline point by point. Be sure to cover every topic promised in the preview. In the end sum up your points briefly, but effectively. Think of some punch lines. Arrange your material in a logical sequence. Put down one idea or one piece of information and carefully link it to the next. One technique you can employ is the use of semantic bridges. For example, "Amazingly, Interestingly" can be put before the sentence runs its own course. The duration is dependent on the nature of the topic, its importance, relevance to a particular situation and audience. The main aim is to express as well as to impress.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below:

i. 'Failing to prepare is preparing to fail!' suggests _____ (1)

Complete the statement in a suitable manner.

ii. By "marketing yourself for a job in a career stream" the writer means

A. to face an interview with confidence

B. to please your authorities

C. to work in the field of marketing

D. to show yourself in the best light to employers (1)

iii. What two purposes does a good presentation serve? Answer in about 40 words. (2)

iv. Assertion: Genuine preparation for a presentation includes filling the mind with sufficient relevant matter and conducting extensive research.

Reasoning: Effective presentations require a deep understanding of the audience's needs and preferences. (1)

A. Assertion and Reasoning are true

B. Assertion is true, and Reasoning is false

C. Assertion is false, and Reasoning is true

D. Assertion and Reasoning are false

v. All the statements given below are true **EXCEPT** (1)

A. Presentations should be taken carefully and not casually

B. A preview is not necessary for a presentation

C. Preparedness is essential for any presentation

D. Novelty in a presentation is appreciable

vi. Do you agree with the idea that 'Genuine preparation is the first step' for a good presentation. Justify in about 40 words. (2)

vii. "Amazingly, interestingly" are considered to be semantic bridges. By this the writer means that _____ (1)

viii. The main aim of a presentation is to express as well as impress. Discuss the complementary nature of expressing and impressing in about 40 words. (2)

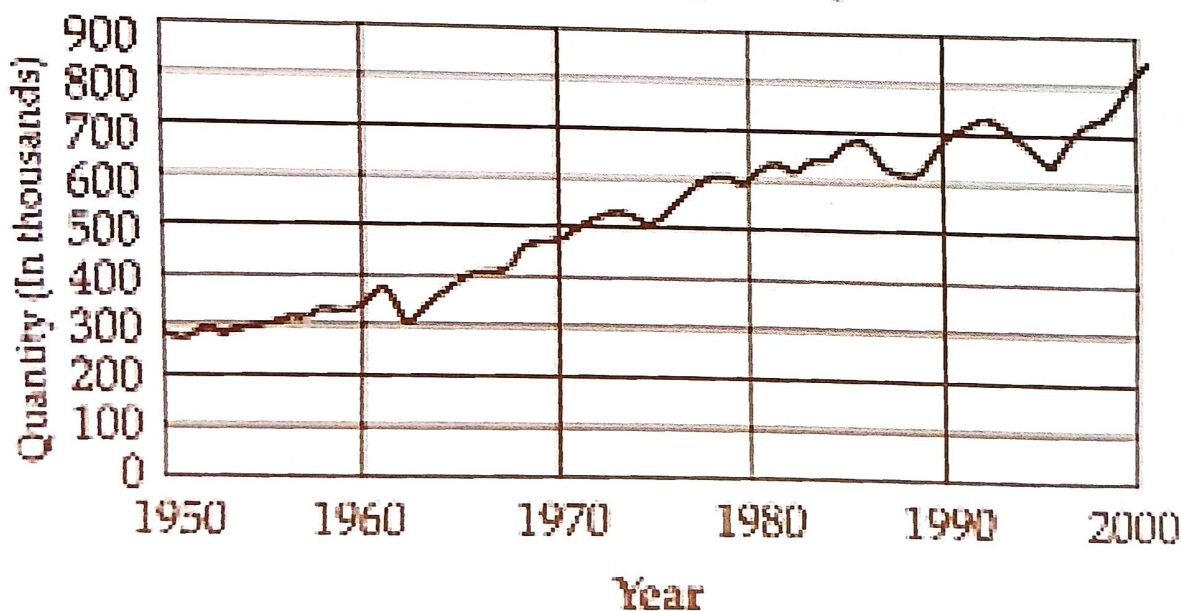
ix. Identify the word which means the same as 'showing great attention to details' (1)

A. preparation B. meticulous. C. Urge D. perspectives

2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: (10 marks)

(1) Andy Dehart is a shark expert and TV presenter who lives in the United States of America. He has had a lifelong interest in sharks and is always trying to look for ways to educate the public about them. Many people think that sharks have little or no intelligence, but Andy points out that recent study have shown that many shark species possess powerful problem-solving abilities and social skills. "Sharks do not want to attack humans," he asserts. "There is no shark species that eats humans as part of its regular diet. In most shark attack cases, the shark leaves after realising that it has mistakenly bitten a human and not its intended prey."

Sharks caught globally



(2) In Andy's opinion, all shark fishing should be stopped until the shark populations have had time to grow again. We then need to do a better job of managing the fishing of sharks. However, even if the direct fishing of sharks is stopped, many will still be killed when they are caught up in the nets of boats fishing for other species of fish.

(3) When Andy was a boy, his father worked for a national oceanic organisation, and Andy travelled with him all over the Caribbean. He grew up by the coast and he has been connected with the sea for as long as he can remember. He also lived near one of the best aquariums in America. Andy then went on to build a career working with sharks in an aquarium environment. More recently, he has been involved with television and the making of programmes about the sharks.

4) Andy and his wife had their first child two years ago. They were amused and amazed to see to what extent their work with animals has proved to be useful in bringing up their daughter. They know how to observe her behaviour and teach her how to do things by rewarding her.

(5) Andy loves sharks and is very passionate about their survival and protection. He feels extremely lucky to have had opportunities working at the National Aquarium and the television station which presents the Nature Channel. He never wastes a moment in either place that could be spent educating people about sharks. He does admit that it is probably not possible for everyone to love sharks as he does. However, he does hope to persuade people personally or through the media, to respect sharks and the critical role they play in our environment. His main objective is to keep spreading awareness that sharks are not dangerous man-eaters but essential creatures in our oceans, as they provide ecological balance and help to control other species.

Based on your understanding of the above passage, answer the questions given below:

i. How can we infer that sharks can be intelligent? (Answer in about 40 words) (2)

ii. How did Andy's work help him and his wife when bringing up their daughter?(1)

(A) They knew how to teach her things by rewarding her.

(B) They taught her by reprimanding her.

(C) They taught her to observe behaviour of others.

(D) Connection of animals to the daughter's keenness

iii. Why does Andy believe that Sharks only attack humans by mistake? (2)

iv. Even after the ascending trend, in which year the number of sharks caught show maximum variation? (1)

(A) 1990-2000

(B) 1970-1980

(C) 1980-1990

(D) 1960-1970

v. State whether the given statement is true or false . (1)

Andy Dehart's upbringing near the coast and his career experiences have solely contributed to his belief that sharks are misunderstood creatures crucial to marine ecosystems.

vi. Complete the sentence appropriately:

(1)

Sharks are indispensable creatures because _____.

vii. Which word is the antonym of "amazed" as used in the passage to describe Andy Dehart's reaction to his daughter's behaviour?

(1)

A) Indifferent

B) Surprised

C) Delighted

D) Awestruck

viii. How does Andy hope to educate people about sharks?

(1)

(A) Through his work at the National Aquarium

(B) Through the Radio

(C) Through the Environment Channel

(D) Through the Internet

SECTION--B CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 Marks)

3. Draft a notice in not more than 50 words informing students about Inter- House Debate Competition on "Moonlighting in IT sector" to be held in the first week of October. Invent necessary details. You are Aman, Head of IT Department (4 marks)

OR

You are Naveen, the Secretary of the Residents' Welfare Association, Ansal Apartments, Lucknow. The association has formed the "Night Watch Squad" to ensure safety in your colony. You want to enrol 30 volunteers to take up night watch duties twice a month in groups of two. Write a notice appealing to the residents to volunteer for the squad in not more than 50 words.

4. You are Rajnish/Rajni Mehta, an eminent educationist. You have been invited to Nav Nirmaan School, Kolkata to attend and speak at a workshop on the topic 'The Importance of Time Management'. Draft a letter of acceptance of the invitation to the Cultural In-Charge, in about 50 words. (4 marks)

OR

The literary club of your school is putting up the play 'Hamlet'. As Secretary of the club, draft an invitation inviting the famous writer, Kartikayen Sinha, to be the Guest of Honour at

the function. Write the invitation in not more than 50 words. You are Arun/Arunima of Foundation Public School, Mumbai

5. Answer ANY ONE of the two questions given below, in about 120-150 words
(5marks)

Acute insanitary conditions prevail in your city. Heaps of garbage and sewage infested with flies can be seen everywhere. This worsens during the monsoons posing a potential health hazard. You are Ranveer Singh, a concerned citizen. Write a letter to the Editor, The Times Of India, New Delhi, voicing your concern and appealing to authorities and residents to join hands to deal with this crisis. Use the clues as given below.

Reasons of health hazards during monsoon, effects on people , accidents , water logging , traffic jams, municipal corporation to work on insanitary conditions and garbage disposals before monsoon, roads to be repaired ,

OR

You are Vikas Gupta, of 25, Rajpur Road, New Delhi - 21. You have read the advertisement given below in the Times of India. You are interested in applying for the position. Write a job application in not more than 150 words. The application includes the Covering letter and the Resume.

MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVES WANTED

Max Health Care Private Limited, Mumbai requires medical representatives to market its generic medicines and health care products in Mumbai & Pune. Candidates must have a Bachelors in science or Bachelors in Pharmaceuticals preferably with at least 5 years experience in a similar field. Attractive salary and incentives as well as growth opportunities. Send your application and CVs to Recruitment Manager, HR Department, Mumbai within seven days.

6. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions, in about 120-150 words. (5 marks)

The Ministry of Transport, New Delhi organised a one day 'Auto-Mela' at the Institute of Driving, Saket to motivate women drivers to take up commercial driving. The daylong event was inaugurated by the Commissioner of Police and included an introduction to commercial driving — its rules and regulations, a basic training session in self-defence, a run through of the licensing procedures and a sale of second-hand cars. You are Anita/Anil, Staff Reporter of 'The Daily News'. Write a report in **120-150 words** mentioning date, time, no. of participants,

resource person, main features, purpose and response of the participants.

(5 marks)

OR

Choice of course/stream after clearing Senior School Examination, produces a great deal of stress in the minds of our students. Counselling can be of great help to them.

Write an article in **120-150 words** on the topic "Role of counselling in choice of course". You are Mohini/ Manav. Use the clues given below.

deciding a career goal important -discover their potential and interests -the pressure starts building up- at the threshold -counselling can help-decide your career based on your aptitude, skills, interests, performance and personality- strengths and weaknesses -counsellor identifies qualities and guides informed choice.

SECTION--C: LITERATURE

(40 Marks)

Q7. Read the given extract and answer the following questions: (6x1=6 Marks)

"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
and of threatening ourselves with death.
Perhaps the earth can teach us
as when everything seems dead
and later proves to be alive."

1. In the excerpt, the speaker suggests that silence might interrupt sadness primarily by:

- A) Encouraging introspection and self-understanding.
- B) Eliminating external distractions.

- C) Fostering a connection with nature.
D) Bringing about a sense of mortality.
2. The speaker implies that the earth's ability to teach is likened to:
- A) A deceptive calm before a storm.
B) The cycle of life and death.
C) A profound spiritual awakening.
D) An unexpected resurgence of hope.

3. "Perhaps a huge silence might interrupt this sadness of never understanding ourselves and of threatening ourselves with ____."

4. Complete the following:

"Perhaps the earth can teach us _____"

5. Assertion: The use of the literary device of personification is evident in the line "Perhaps the earth can teach us."

Reasoning: Personification is used to attribute human qualities to the earth, suggesting it has the capacity to impart wisdom and lessons to humanity.

- A) Assertion is true and Reasoning is correct and explains why personification is used in this line.
B) Assertion is false and reasoning is correct and explains why personification has been not used in these lines.
C) Assertion is false and reasoning has been incorrectly used.
D) Assertion and reasoning both are falsified in application.
6. What is the speaker suggesting about the human condition in the excerpt?
- A) Humans are perpetually sad and misunderstood.
B) Silence can alleviate the fear of death.
C) Self-reflection is hindered by external distractions.
D) Understanding oneself requires a profound silence.

OR

"...and such are daffodils

With the green world they live in, and clear rills

That for themselves a cooling covert make

'Gainst the hot season; the mid forest brake,

D) Serious and contemplative

Q8. Read the following extract and answer the questions: (4x1 = 4 marks)

But I have never again found the corridor that leads to the 3rd level at Grand Central station, although I have tried often enough. Louisa was pretty worried when I told her all this and didn't want me to look for the 3rd level anymore and after a while I stopped; I went back to my stamps. But now we are both looking, every weekend because now we have proof that the 3rd level is still there. My friend Sam Weiner disappeared! Nobody knew where, but I sort of suspected because Sam is a city boy, and I used to tell him about Galesburg-I went to school there-and he always said he liked the sound of the place. And that's where he is alright in 1894.

1. What is the narrator's current attitude towards finding the third level at Grand Central station?

- A) He has given up searching for it.
- B) He continues to look for it regularly.
- C) He believes it doesn't exist anymore.
- D) He occasionally thinks about it nostalgically.

2. The implication made by the narrator about Sam Weiner's disappearance is _____.

3. Why does the narrator and Louisa search every weekend now?

- A) They believe Sam Weiner is hiding there.
- B) They have proof that the third level still exists.
- C) They want to find their lost stamps collection.
- D) They suspect foul play in Sam Weiner's disappearance.

4. The literary device employed by the author towards the end of this chapter to bring in the surprise element is _____.

OR

“Well, well!” the old man said in a tone of amazement, “so I did!” But you see, I was suffering a good deal. The truth is, I thought of nothing but myself. In short I forgot my promise to you.”

“I wondered, Your Excellency,” Sadao murmured.

“It was certainly very careless of me”, the General said. “But you understand it was not lack of patriotism or dereliction of duty.” He looked anxiously at his doctor. ‘If the matter should come out you would understand that, wouldn’t you?’”

“Certainly, Your Excellency,” Sadao said. He suddenly comprehended that the General was in the palm of his hands.

1. The promise the General made to Sadao was that he would

- A) not send him to the war front
- B) report to the police about the American POW
- C) send assassins to kill the POW
- D) ensure that Sadao and his family were safe

2. Select the statement that is NOT correct

The General was anxious because

- A) Sadao could disclose the matter to the authorities
- B) he was suffering a good deal due to ill health
- C) the nation would never accuse him of dereliction of duty
- D) he thought of nothing but himself and forgot to keep his promise

3. The meaning of dereliction in this context is _____

- A) dilapidation
- B) deterioration
- C) negligence
- D) rejection

4. Complete the following sentence “that the General was in the palm of his hands” means _____

Q9. Read the following extract and answer the questions . (6x1 =6 marks)

“The great prose writers of the world may not admit it, but my conviction grows stronger day after day that prose writing is not and cannot be the true pursuit of a genius. It is for the patient. It is for the patient, persistent, persevering drudge with a heart so shrunken that nothing can break it; rejection slips don't mean a thing to him; he at once sets about making a fresh copy of the long prose piece and sends it on to another editor enclosing postage for the return of the manuscript. It was for such people that the Hindu had published a tiny announcement in an insignificant corner of an unimportant page—a short story contest organised by a British periodical by the name the encounter. Of course, The encounter wasn't unknown commodity among the Gemini literati. I wanted to get an idea of the periodical before I spent a considerable sum in postage sending a manuscript to England.”

1. Why does the narrator consider prose writing to be unsuitable for true genius?
 - A) Prose lacks the complexity needed to challenge a genius.
 - B) True genius is impatient and unwilling to endure rejection.
 - C) The best prose writers are not recognized as geniuses.
 - D) Prose writing requires persistence and resilience.
2. What is the narrator's initial reaction upon discovering the short story contest by The Encounter?
 - A) Indifference towards literary competitions.
 - B) Scepticism about the contest's authenticity.
 - C) Eagerness to learn more about The Encounter.
 - D) Hesitation to invest in postage costs.
3. What does the narrator imply about the reception of rejection slips by a prose writer?
 - A) They are taken as a personal insult.
 - B) They are a necessary part of the writing process.
 - C) They deter future submissions to editors.
 - D) They guarantee publication in the next issue.
4. What prompted the narrator to consider submitting to The Encounter?
 - A) A recommendation from Hindu literati.
 - B) A story contest announcement by The Encounter.
 - C) The endorsement of British periodicals.
 - D) The promise of substantial prize money.
5. What does the narrator imply about The Encounter in the excerpt?
 - A) It is well-known among Gemini literati.
 - B) It is an insignificant periodical.
 - C) It publishes exclusively for British authors.
 - D) It lacks credibility among literary circles.
6. What does the narrator suggest about the role of literary contests like the one organized by The Encounter?
 - A) They often lead to disappointment due to biased judging.

- C) They provide opportunities for established writers to gain recognition.
- D) They are insignificant in the literary world compared to other avenues.
- D) They are crucial for launching the careers of aspiring writers.

OR

Presently the landlords learned that Germany had developed synthetic indigo. They thereupon obtained agreements from the sharecroppers to pay them compensation for being released from the 15 percent arrangement.

The sharecropping arrangement was irksome to the peasants, and many signed willingly. Those who resisted, engaged lawyers; the landlords hired thugs. Meanwhile, the information about synthetic indigo reached the illiterate peasants who had signed, and they wanted their money back.

1. Why did the information that Germany had developed synthetic indigo make the landlords revise the agreement? Select statements that are NOT CORRECT:

- A) synthetic indigo could be mass produced
- B) natural indigo dye was considered toxic and so lost popularity
- C) natural indigo dye was highly sought after in European markets.
- D) British landlords could lose their market share to synthetic indigo

i) A,B,C ii) A,C iii) B,C iv) A,D

2. Why was the agreement irksome to the peasants? Select the CORRECT statements:

- A) The peasants were forced to cultivate the indigo crop in half of their land holding
- B) The peasants had to hand over the entire harvest to the landlords
- C) They were compelled to plant three twentieths of their land holding with indigo
- D) They had to pay a hefty rent in addition to surrendering the entire indigo harvest to the landlords.

i) A, C ii) B,C iii) B,C,D iv) A,B,C

3. The meaning of irksome in the context is

- A) wearisome. B) annoying
- C) tedious. D) tiring

4. "...and many signed willingly". Why?

- A) They were glad that they could now plant Indigo in their entire land holding
- B) They could now grow whatever they wanted on their land.

C) They did not have to pay the rent anymore.

D) They were happy to be released from the 30% agreement

5. Complete the following:

When the peasants heard about the synthetic indigo, they realized _____

6. "The landlords hired thugs" reflects

a) the need to avenge anyone who challenges the indigo farmers.

b) the high-handedness of the Zamindars

c) The British landlords thinking they were above law

d) using fear and coercion to suppress the peasants

A) Statements a and b are true

B) Statement a is false and b is true

C) Statements c and d are true

D) Statement b is true and d is false

Q 10 Answer any five out of the six questions, given below, in about 40 words

(2x5= =10 marks)

1. How does the fear of water serve as a metaphor in the story "Deep Water" by William Douglas?
2. How does the poet use sensory imagery to evoke emotions in the poem "My Mother at Sixty-six"?
3. How does the concept of redemption play out in the story "The Rattrap" by Selma Lagerlöf?
4. What was the MRA and why was it welcomed at Gemini Studios?
5. How does the setting of the story "The Last Lesson" contribute to its theme of loss and nostalgia?
6. How does the character of Saheb reflect the cycle of poverty and lost opportunities in the story "Lost Spring"?

Q 11. Answer any TWO out of three questions given below, in 40 words (2x2=4 marks)

1. What was the objective of the 'Students on Ice Programme'? (Journey To the End of the Earth)
2. How does Charley's fascination with the third level mirror his dissatisfaction with the present in "The Third Level"?

3. On the seventh day after operating on the prisoner of war, what were the two things that happened? (The Enemy)

Q12. Imagine you are one of the oppressed farmers from the story "Indigo" by Louis Fischer. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the British District Collector, Motihari, protesting the exploitative practices of the indigo planters. Highlight the challenges faced by the farmers and appeal for justice and fair treatment. **(5 marks)**

OR

Imagine you are Saheb, from the story "Lost Spring" by Anees Jung. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the District Education Officer requesting financial assistance for your education. Describe your circumstances as a ragpicker and highlight your aspirations for a better future.

Q13. On behalf of the Dewan, write a diary page detailing the circumstances surrounding the demise of the tiger king, analysing the irony in the events leading to his tragic end. (120-150 words) **(5 marks)**

OR

Imagine you are Dr. Sadao from the story "The Enemy" by Pearl S. Buck. Write a speech addressing a medical conference, reflecting on your decision to save an enemy soldier's life during wartime. Discuss the ethical dilemmas faced and the importance of humanity and compassion in times of conflict. (120-150 words)