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XII-K

SS4

HALF YEARLY EXAM - SEPTEMBER 2024

SUBJECT ENGLISH – CORE (301)

SET 1

Time Duration: 3 Hrs.

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

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

Section A: READING SKILLS

22 Mks

I Read the passage given below.

(12 M)

1. If you're a fawn type, you're likely very focused on showing up in a way that makes those around you feel comfortable, and avoid conflict. But the downside to this is that you're not necessarily being your most authentic self. The more you fawn and appease others, the more likely you are to feel unknown to others, even in your close relationships. If no one sees your authentic self, it can lead to feelings of being misunderstood, and even resenting the fact that no one really sees you. The painful irony is that often, you're the one obscuring their ability to see you in the first place.
2. Fawn types are almost always stretched thin. This is because we're so eager to make others happy, we blurt out "of course!" and "yes!" before it even occurs to us to say "I can't right now" or "no thanks." Your catchphrase might even be something like "it's no trouble at all, really!" Meanwhile, you're silently dreading the mountain of favours you've signed up for — a list that only seems to get longer as the day wears on. You've got a love/hate relationship with being helpful, and no matter how many times you try to break up with the word "yes," saying "no" just doesn't come naturally to you.
3. You're either spewing emotions out of nowhere or unloading them onto distant strangers. You want to make those closest to you happy, which means you're reluctant to open up when you're struggling — so you only do so when you're on the brink of totally breaking down, because you've held it all in for far too long. On the other hand, distance makes it easier to have feelings, too.
4. A kind stranger on a bus? Sure, I'll tell you all about my trauma. Oh, here's a Twitter thread about the worst thing that ever happened to me. We need an outlet for our emotions, but having emotions can be so off-putting, right? So we unload them onto people we aren't yet invested in, that we won't see again, or where a safe distance is in place. That way, if someone bails on us for being messy or "too much" — otherwise known as being human — it stings less, and the stakes don't feel as high.

5. Whenever I recommend a restaurant or a book to someone, there's a moment or two of intense panic. "What if they hate it?" I wonder. "What if it's not as good as I remember?" Sometimes I just let other people make decisions on where we go and what we do together, because if something goes awry, it won't be because I failed to make a good choice.
6. I once felt guilty because a friend of mine spent thirty minutes looking for parking near the cafe I chose to meet them at. As if I somehow control whether or not a parking space is available. You can't arrange someone else's taste buds, magically know their book preferences, or anticipate whether or not that art exhibit you want to see is actually worth going to. Yet I take a ridiculous amount of responsibility for whether or not people are having a good time — so much so that I forget that I'm supposed to be enjoying myself, too.

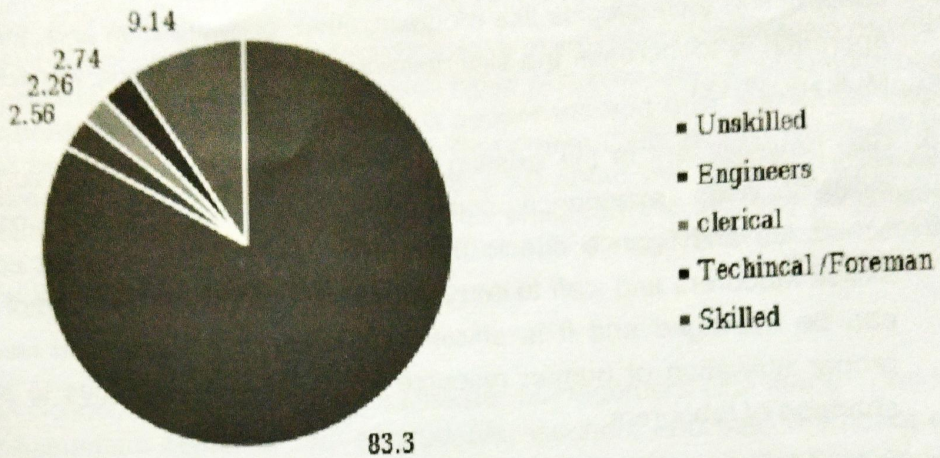
Source (edited): <https://letsqueerthingsup.com/2019/07/06/7-subtle-signs-your-trauma-response-is-to-fawn/> 544 words

Answer the following questions based on the passage above.

- i. How are you harming yourself when you indulge in sycophancy, according to the passage? 1
 - ii. Complete the given sentence by filling in the blanks. 1
Those who are fawn type desire to be _____ and are often _____.
 - iii. Fill in the given blank with one word only. 1
The first paragraph of the passage shows that the writer is _____ towards those who are the 'fawn type'.
 - iv. What are some catch phrases that the 'fawn type' should be mindful of, in order to be sincere and honest? 1
 - v. Why, according to the writer, do we spew our emotions onto strangers? Give any two reasons. 2
 - vi. State whether True or False with explanation. 1
'Fawn types are almost always stretched thin.'
- The above sentence in paragraph 2 most closely means that those who fawn over others are mostly malnourished and emaciated.
- vii. Why do some people hesitate to give recommendations? 2
 - viii. Based on your reading of paragraph 1, explain what 'obscuring' means. Answer in one word only. 1
 - ix. Bring out the element of irony in paragraph 3. 2

2. Read the following text and study the graph given below

Employment across the work classes



Unskilled	83.3%
Engineers	2.56%
Clerical	2.26%
Technical/Foreman	2.74%
Skilled	9.14%

- The Indian construction industry accounts for 11% of GDP, and is the second-largest industrial sector after agriculture. The Indian construction sector is labour-intensive, which creates direct and indirect employment of 33 million in total (Indian government, 2021), and the current workforce of 33 million is expected to increase to 72 million by 2022.
- With the massive demand for housing and 100 % direct foreign investment, there is great demand for resources like material and human resources. In terms of labour expertise, around 83.3 % of the total workforce is unskilled, as per the Indian Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship report (MSD&E).
- Ramakrishna Nallathiga stated that many unskilled workers are employed and also required in every part of the construction because of the shortage of skilled labour. The construction worker demand is not matched with the

supply because of various factors and the shortfall of the labour workforce worsened because of the COVID-19 outbreak.

4. Two approaches can be followed to manage the shortage of skilled labour either by reducing the need of construction workers by using modern construction technologies like modularization, prefabrication and the second approach is to increase the skill development of the existing workforce (A.R. Malkani, 2013).
5. Skill development of the existing workforce in the general construction industry often experience complexities in meeting project completion schedules and finance due to the non-availability of a sufficient number of skilled labourers and staff to carry out the planned work. This kind of intricacy can be managed and it is efficiently possible to handle such issues with proper utilisation of human resource management techniques to avoid the shortage of labourers.
6. It has been observed that the concern of human resources management (H.R.M) in construction is increasing day by day along with the greater emphasis on human resources (A.R. Malkani, 2013) . Human resource practices are very crucial and it affects the performance of the entire project.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- i It can be inferred that the _____ opportunities are better for unskilled workers due to a _____ of skilled workers. 1
- ii How is the Indian construction industry an important propeller of GDP? 2
- iii Explain 'labour intensive' in paragraph 1. 1
- iv What impacted the labour workforce supply chain adversely? 1
- v The percentage of engineers is _____ in comparison to the clerical workforce but _____ than the technical workforce. 1
- vi State two ways to increase the percentage of the skilled workforce. Answer within 40 words. 2
- vii What are the challenges faced in the timely completion of projects? 1
- viii State TRUE or FALSE. 1
Human resource practices are an indispensable part of a project.

SECTION B : CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 marks)

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

3 Attempt ANY ONE of two given questions in about 50 words.

4

A Rovam High School has recently created 'Spicez' a designated garden area near the school playground which showcases different types of spices used in Indian kitchens such as cinnamon, cloves, cardamom, black pepper etc and their numerous health benefits. As Manik Sen, the President of the Eco-Green Club, draft a notice for the school notice board informing students of class XII about the garden and inviting them to volunteer as expert speakers who can enlighten the students of classes VI-XI on the different types of spices and their benefits during the break time, every Wednesday and Friday.

OR

B Solset High School, will be conducting a Disaster Management Drill every Tuesday during the homeroom period to help all students, teachers and staff members get familiar with the emergency evacuation procedures. As Riya Kumar, the President of the Disaster Management Club of the school, draft a notice for the school notice board informing all students of classes VI-XII about the drill along with the safety protocols to be followed while moving to the designated assembly point.

4 Attempt ANY ONE of two given questions in about 50 words.

4

A As Renee Gupta, draft an invitation for the opening of 'Legacy' your Art Gallery located near Sri Fort Auditorium. The Chief Guest for the occasion will be Ms Amrita Kapoor, renowned artist and professor at the New York School of Arts. Invent all necessary details.

OR

B As Rohit, draft an invitation inviting your friend, Sameer to register and join you for a week long Astronomy Camp being organised in Astroport in Sariska, Rajasthan. Provide all necessary details about the camp and encourage your friend to join you.

5 Attempt ANY ONE of two given questions in about 120 – 150 words

5

A Delhi's Weather Chaos - How the national capital went from extreme heat waves to waterlogging in days. Experts attribute the occurrence of extreme rainfall events to climate change, as every degree increase in the earth's temperature can lead to a 7% increase in atmospheric water vapour. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily, sharing your views on the topic. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this letter. You are Sheena Baruah, a concerned city resident.

What's the issue?

- Severe heat wave temperatures touching almost 50 degree celsius
- Followed by unprecedented rains- Delhi experienced 228.1 mm of rainfall in 24 hours

What can be done?

- Experts suggest- creating more lakes and ponds to store excessive rain water
- Drains and canals should be unclogged to avoid flooding

OR

B You recently read an article in the Times of India on how 'No-selfie zones' were established in certain areas in India yet many continue to take selfies near water bodies, hilly areas, near moving trains and vehicular traffic which has cost us several lives. The reports showed that there were 259 selfie deaths in 137 incidents reported globally with the highest occurrences in India. Selfie is a recent phenomenon and was named as the word of the year 2013 by Oxford Dictionary. It is described as a photograph that a person takes of himself (or group) typically using a smartphone likely for the purpose of sharing on social media. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily on the trend of taking selfies and its impact on people. You are Mrinal Kapoor.

6 Attempt ANY ONE of two given questions in about 120 – 150 words

5

A You are Nina Sharma, a student of class XII. Write an article for your school magazine, on the values lacking in the youth of today. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this article.

Values Lacking in the Youth

- Lack of politeness and courtesy - saying excuse me, please, thank you
- Being genuinely apologetic on making a mistake

What to do?

- Making a conscious effort-Do the right thing, even if it takes more effort
- Paying more attention to things and to people around you- limiting the use of technology

OR

B Honouring the father of the Library Movement, the late P.N. Panicker, the CBSE celebrated the Reading Month and encouraged all schools to participate actively. As part of the celebrations your school conducted a Guest Speaker Programme, inviting a few notable authors to come and speak to the students about the importance of inculcating good reading habits. Write a report on the programme organised, giving all relevant information with the help of the following cues:

- When and where was the programme conducted?
- Who were the authors who were invited?
- How many students attended the programme?
- What was the sequence followed in the event?
- What was the purpose of the programme?
- What was the takeaway for the students ?

**SECTION C : LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY
READING TEXT (40 marks)**

40

7 Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two. 1x6=6

A *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,

Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth

Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,

Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways

Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,

- i. Fill in the blanks in the following sentence. 1
'A bower quiet' in the above extract is a _____ (literary/poetic device) and it means _____.
- ii. The poet used 'therefore' to show that the second thing he was talking about happened because the first thing happened. What was the first thing that happened? 1
- iii. Justify the following statement as false. 1
'A flowery band' in the above extract is a simile.
- iv. State the reason for the following: 1
The poet uses the word 'spite' twice in the above extract.
- v. Explain the significance of the following line: 1
'of the inhuman dearth
Of noble natures'
- vi. Complete the following sentences. 1
'of the gloomy days,'
The poetic device in the above phrase is _____.

OR

B. *For once on the face of the Earth
let's not speak in any language,
let's stop for one second,
and not move our arms so much
It would be an exotic moment*

*without rush, without engines,
we would all be together
in a sudden strangeness.
Fishermen in the cold sea
would not harm whales*

- i. In which line does the poet advise us to not use weapons? 1
- ii. Complete the given sentence appropriately. 1
Pablo Neruda wants us not to speak in any language in order to _____
- iii. State whether True or False with justification. 1
The term 'arms' in the above extract is an example of synecdoche which represents the entire body.
- iv. What is 'sudden strangeness', according to the poet? 1
- v. What does the speaker imply through the following line? 1
'without rush, without engines'
- vi. Read the given line and fill in the blanks that follow. 1
'Fishermen in the cold sea'
The poetic device in the above line is _____ and it means _____
- 8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given 1x4=4**
- A** *MR LAMB: I haven't said it.
DERRY: And think of all those people worse off than you. Think, you might have been blinded, or born deaf, or have to live in a wheelchair, or be daft in your head and dribble.
MR LAMB: And that's all true, and you know it.
DERRY: It won't make my face change. Do you know, one day, a woman went by me in the street — I was at a bus-stop — and she was with another woman, and she looked at me, and she said.... whispered....only I heard her.... she said, "Look at that, that's a terrible thing. That's a face only a mother could love."*
- i. What does Derry intend to say in his first dialogue in the above extract? 1
- ii. What is 'all true' according to Mr Lamb? 1
- iii. Fill in the blank with one word only. 1
The woman in Derry's second dialogue shows _____ attitude of our society.
- iv. What does the following statement tell us about Derry? 1
"It won't make my face change."

OR

- B. *Days go on and on and on in surreal 24-hour austral summer light, and a ubiquitous silence, interrupted only by the occasional avalanche or calving ice sheet, consecrates the place. It's an immersion that will force you to place yourself in the context of the earth's geological history. And for humans, the prognosis isn't good.*
- i Complete the given sentence appropriately. 1
The writer describes the austral summer light as surreal because _____.
- ii Based on the given extract, explain how the writer shifts her tone from extreme wonder to an alarming tone. 1
- iii Justify the following sentence as False. 1
'ubiquitous' most closely means rare.
- iv Why, according to the writer, will a visit to Antarctica make a difference? 1
9. **Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given.** 1x6=6
- A *The old man was just as generous with his confidences as with his porridge and tobacco. The guest was informed at once that in his days of prosperity his host had been a crofter at Ramsjo Ironworks and had worked on the land. Now that he was no longer able to do day labour, it was his cow which supported him. Yes, that bossy was extraordinary. She could give milk for the creamery every day, and last month he had received all of thirty kronor in payment.
The stranger must have seemed incredulous, for the old man got up and went to the window, took down a leather pouch which hung on a nail in the very window frame, and picked out three wrinkled ten-kronor bills.*
- i. How did the crofter prove to be generous with his confidences? 1
- ii. Justify the following statement as TRUE 1
The crofter ended up 'digging his own grave' by showing excessive generosity.
- iii. Fill in the blanks with different meaning of the same words (homonyms) given below: 1
Frame : _____ (as used in the passage)
Frame : falsely incriminate (homonym)

Bills : banknotes (as used in the passage)
Bills : _____ (homonym)
- iv. Complete the given sentence. 1
The old man was generous towards the rattrap seller because _____
- v. Which line in the above extract tells us that the crofter was affluent at one point of time? 1
- vi. 'Incredulous' in the above passage most closely means _____ 1

OR

- B** *At the railway station, a vast multitude greeted Gandhi. He went to a house and, using it as headquarters, continued his investigations. A report came in that a peasant had been maltreated in a nearby village. Gandhi decided to go and see; the next morning he started out on the back of an elephant. He had not proceeded far when the police superintendent's messenger overtook him and ordered him to return to town. Gandhi complied. The messenger drove Gandhi home where he served him with an official notice to quit Champaran immediately. Gandhi signed a receipt for the notice and wrote on it that he would disobey the order*
- i** Bring out one trait of Gandhi which is revealed in the following line. 1
At the railway station, a vast multitude greeted Gandhi.
- ii** Complete the given sentence. 1
 Gandhi's investigations included _____
- iii** What place in Champaran was Gandhi being greeted at, in the above passage? 1
- iv** Justify the following statement as TRUE 1
 The above extract discusses elements of agreement and disagreement in the same passage.
- v** Locate and explain an example of Gandhi's belief in non violence in the given 1
 passage.
- vi** What was the outcome of Gandhi's disobeying the official notice? 1
- 10** **Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions in about 40-50 words.** **5x2=10**
- i** Alphonse Daudet beautifully captures the touching and poignant emotional journey 2
 experienced by M Hamel on the day of 'The Last Lesson'. Support the statement
 with instances from the story.
- ii** Anees Jung compares Saheb and his friends to the morning birds. Why? What 2
 episode takes away Saheb's freedom?
- iii** How did the misadventure at the YMCA pool, later traumatise William Douglas? 2
- iv** The lesson 'Indigo' is peppered with instances portraying Gandhi's leadership 2
 qualities. Give any two examples to support the statement.
- v** *Time after time he looked at the young girl who had interceded for him. Why had she* 2
done it? What could the crazy idea be?
 Why was the rattrap seller puzzled by Edla's behaviour even though the crofter too
 had displayed warmth and generosity?
- vi** Which are the two instances when Robert Frost expresses his anger using the 2
 phrase 'this crossly' in the poem The Roadside Stand?

- 11 Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. 2x2=4
- i Jack Johnson aptly said, "It's always better when we're together."
Hana proves to be an earnest partner to Sadao. 2
Support the above statement using instances from 'The Enemy'. Give any two details.
- ii "The Maharaja vowed he would attend to all other matters only after killing the hundred tigers."
It is evident from the above statement that the Tiger King was negligent towards his duties. Give two other examples to bring out Maharaja's whims. 2
- iii Because one night, fussing with my stamp collection, I found — Well, do you know what a first-day cover is? 2
What is a first-day cover? What incredible thing did Charley discover while fussing with his stamp collection?
- 12 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 120-150 words. 5

- A If one has a clear 'why' to live then one can work on the 'how'.
While Mukesh in 'Lost Spring' dares to dream, William Douglas in 'Deep Water' exemplifies will and determination to achieve.

Imagine that Douglas strikes a conversation with Mukesh. Complete the two sets of dialogues between Douglas and Mukesh. You may follow the given format and include the content given below.

Douglas : Hello Mukesh! I lived with fear of water for a long time. It started with _____
Mukesh: Oh! I am sorry to hear that. Even our parents have pushed us into bangle making because _____

Douglas: That must be hard. Ofcourse! I would like to share my experience of overcoming my fear. _____

Mukesh: No, I am not afraid of breaking free from _____

OR

- B Observe the following lines from two different poems.

"and realised with pain that she was as old as she looked"

"and felt that old familiar ache, my childhood's fear,"

(My Mother at Sixty Six)

"Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool"

"her terrified hands will lie / Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by"

(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

The poets have shared the underlying emotions of fear and pain, in two different contexts. Write an article bringing out these emotions experienced by Aunt Jennifer and Kamala Das.

You may begin this way:

Aunt Jennifer's fear and pain is rather distinct from that of Kamala Das's emotions, yet the two poems have left an indelible mark on the readers _____

13 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 120-150 words. 5

- A** The price of greatness is responsibility. Recall the story 'The Enemy' from the text Vistas. Dr Sadao Hoki exceptionally personifies true elements of responsibility. He is a faithful patriot, dedicated doctor, loving son and an honest human being. Justify the statement with instances from the text.

OR

- B** "Miracles happen everyday, change your perception of what a miracle is and you'll see them all around you."
'The Third Level' and 'On the Face of It' manifest miracles of sorts. You are Jagmeet, an avid reader and a believer in miracles. After reading the above two stories you wish to pen a diary entry. Draft your diary entry describing what led to the miracles in the lives of Sam and Derek.

You may begin this way:

Dear Diary

We will only understand the miracle of life fully when we allow the unexpected to happen. Sam and Derek went through life changing moments _____