



GURU HARKRISHAN PUBLIC SCHOOL

(Running under the aegis of GHPS Society)

Half Yearly Examination

SESSION (2024-25)

SUBJECT- ENGLISH CORE (301)

CLASS- XII

MM:80

TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Read the instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

- i. This question paper comprises 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.
- ii. The 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.

Section – A: Reading Skills

(22 Marks)

1. Read the passage given below:

12

- 1) I saw 'Jaws', the popular sharks movie, the summer it came out, in 1975 and became paranoid about sharks. Though I kept swimming after Jaws, it was always with a vague fear that a shark's teeth could tug on my leg at any moment. Never mind that there'd been only two shark bites since 1900 on the Connecticut coast, where I lived.
- 2) So, when I got the assignment for the National Geographic Magazine, I decided to accept and do what I'd never wanted to do: swim with the sharks. I had to go to a place in Bahamas known as Tiger Beach and dive with the tiger sharks, the species responsible for more recorded attacks on humans than any shark except the great white. It was to be my first dive after getting certified – which meant it was my first dive anywhere other than a swimming pool or a quarry – and without a diver's cage. Most people who got wind of this plan thought I was either very brave or very stupid.
- 3) But I just wanted to puncture an illusion. The people who know sharks closely tend to be the least afraid of them, and no one gets

closer to sharks than divers. The divers who run operations at Tiger Beach speak lovingly of the tiger sharks the way people talk about their children or their pets. In their eyes, these sharks aren't man-eaters any more than dogs are.

- 4) The business of puncturing illusions is never just black and white. My fellow divers had hundreds of dives below their belt and on the two hour boat ride to the site in the morning of our first dive, they kept saying like, "Seriously, it's your first dive." All this was okay with me until I reached the bottom and immediately fend off the first tiger shark, I had ever laid my eyes on. However when I watched the other divers feeding them fish and steering them gently, it became easy to see the sharks in a very benign light.
- 5) I think it would be unfair not to mention that (though tiger sharks are apex predators. (They act as a crucial balancing force in ocean ecosystems, constraining the numbers of animals like sea turtles and limit their behaviour by preventing them from over grazing the sea grass beds. Furthermore, tiger sharks love warm water, they eat almost anything, have a huge litter and are the hardiest shark species. If the planet and it's oceans continue to warm, some species will be winners and others will be losers, and tiger sharks are likely to be winners.)

Answer the following questions based on the given passage:

- i. Cite a point in evidence, from the text, to suggest that in the writer's post - JAWS - fear was not justified. 1
- ii. The trait of the writer is evident in para-2 is _____. (adventurous / coward) 1
- iii. People thought the writer was 'either very brave or very stupid' . Explain 2
- iv. The writer says that people who know sharks closely tend to be least afraid of them because - 1
- A. he finds the sharks to be very dangerous
- B. he finds the sharks to be harmless
- C. he wants to swim with tiger sharks
- D. he does not find sharks as docile as pets
- v. Rewrite the given sentence by replacing the underlined phrase with another one from the fourth paragraph.
- Some academician think that reward, as a form of discipline, is a simple right or a wrong issue. 1

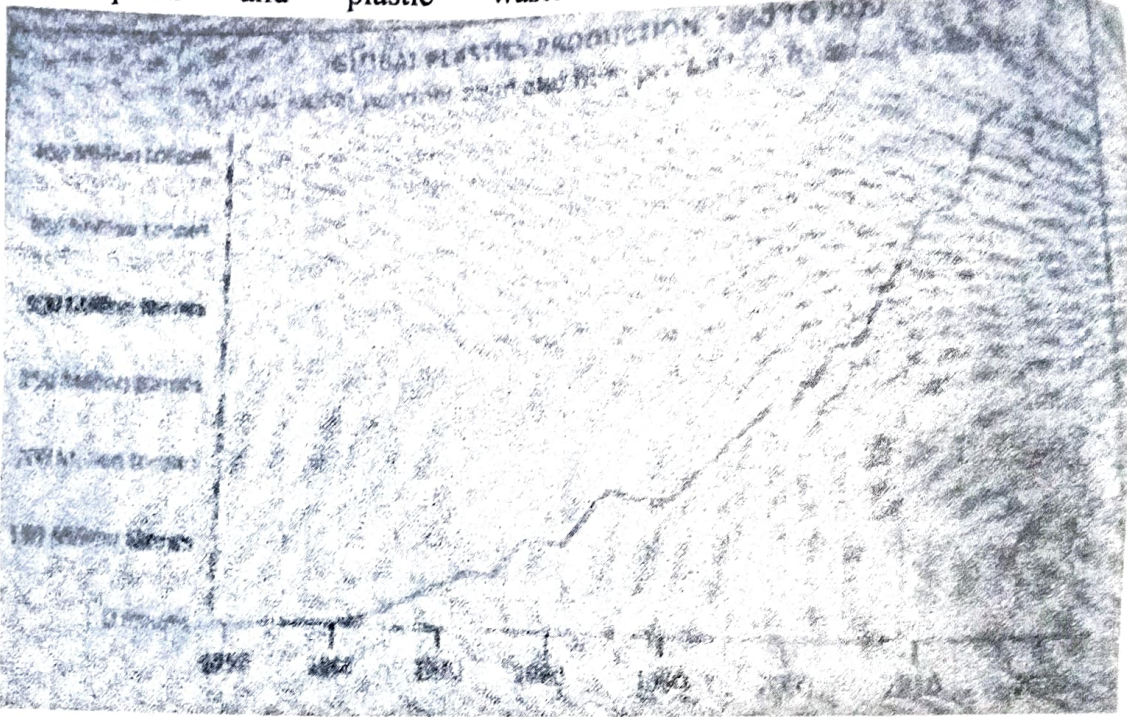
- vi. The use of the phrase 'benign light' suggests in the context of the writer's viewpoint about the tiger sharks that they are - 1
- A. viewed as gentle and less harmful
 - B. viewed as dangerous and wild
 - C. viewed as helpful for human beings.
 - D. As beautiful as light
- vii. How does the writer justify that sharks are just as 'benign' as 'apex predators'? 2
- viii. What one feature of tiger sharks ensure their survival in the face of persistent global warming? 1
- ix. We can say that tiger sharks are apex predators because they 1
- A. restrict the number of sea turtles
 - B. act as balancing force in the ecosystem
 - C. indirectly protect sea grass
 - D. All of these
- x. Complete the following sentence suitably. - 1
- The people who know sharks closely _____

2. Read the text given below:

10

- 1) Our history makes it evident that the Indian Plastic Industry made a vigorous beginning in 1957 but it took more than 30 years for it to pervade Indian lifestyles. In 1979 'the market for plastics' was just been seeded by the state owned Indian Petro – chemicals and it was only in 1994 plastic soft drink bottles became a visible source of annoyance.
- 2) In the same year people in the city were concerned about the state of public sanitation and also urged regulatory bodies to ban the production, distribution and use of plastic bags. However, the challenge was greater than it appeared at first.
- 3) The massive generation of plastic waste in India is due to rapid urbanisation, spread of retail chains, plastic packaging from grocery to food and vegetable products, to consumer items and cosmetics. The projected high rate of GDP and continuing rapid urbanisation suggests that India's trajectory of plastic

consumption and plastic waste is likely to increase.



- 4) According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report of 2018, India stands among few other countries like France, Mongolia and several African countries that have initiated total or partial national – level bans on plastics in their jurisdictions. On World Environment Day in 2018, India vowed to phase out single use plastics which gave a much needed impetus to bring this change.
- 5) In this context thereafter ten states (Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Odisha, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu) are currently sending their collected waste to cement plants for co – processing. Twelve other states are using the plastic waste for polymer bitumen road construction and still four other states are using the plastic waste for waste – to – energy plants and oil production. A world of greater possibilities has now opened up to initiate appropriate and concrete actions to build up the necessary institutions and systems before oceans turn, irreversibly into thin soup of plastic.
- 6) However there is no single masterstroke to counter the challenges witnessed by staggering plastic waste management in the country. This time is now to formulate robust and inclusive National Action Plans and while doing so, the country will establish greater transparency to combat the plastic jeopardy in a more suitable and holistic way.

- i. Does the following statement agree with the information given in paragraph -1? 1
The Indian Plastics Industry pervaded the Indian lifestyles in 1994.
Select from the following:
True: If the statement agrees with the information
False: If the statement contradicts with the information
Not Given: If there is no information on this.
- ii. What does the writer mean by 'visible source of annoyance'? 2
- iii. Select the option that displays the most likely reason that urged the regulatory bodies to ban the use of plastic bags in 1994 – 1
A. The changing lifestyle in the country.
B. Rapid urbanization
C. The deteriorating state of public sanitation
D. Plastic packaging grocery
- iv. Why was the high demand of plastic created in India? 1
- v. Select the option that displays the most likely reason for India standing with countries like France, Mangolia and many other African countries – 1
A. These countries vowed to ban single use plastics by 2022.
B. In these countries, plastic consumption and waste have increased.
C. In these countries, plastic consumption and waste would increase.
D. These countries have put total or partial national bans on plastics.
- vi. Complete the following sentence: 1
The line 'Oceans turn irreversibly into a thin soup of plastic' suggests _____.
- vii. Which of the following steps can be taken to combat the challenges of plastic waste management? 1
A. A single masterstroke at national level.
B. A single masterstroke at state levels.
C. Slowing the rate of rapid urbanisation
D. Formulation on Inclusive National Action Plans.
- viii. Mention two ways in which India is adhering to the vow taken on World Environment Day in 2018? 2

Section – B: Creative Writing Skills

(18 Marks)

Note: All details created in the paper are imaginary and are created for assessment purpose.

3. Attempt any **ONE** of the following two in about **50** words.

4

a) You are Vijay / Veena, Head Boy / Girl of Minerva Public School, Bhopal. Your school is planning to organise a Career Counselling Workshop for the students of Classes 9 to 12. Draft a notice in about 50 words informing students about the workshop mentioning day, date, time and venue.

OR

b) You are the Secretary of the School Photography Club, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Jastinapur. Draft a notice for the notice board in not than 50 words, informing students of Class-12 about the theme of upcoming photography competition. You are Dhruv Prasad.

4. Attempt any ONE of the following two in about 50 words. 4

a) You are Mr. Anmol Gupta. You are planning to organise your house warming party. Draft an invitation card to be sent to relatives, and friends sharing all relevant details.

OR

b) You are Manoj/ Meena. You have received an invitation from your friend Vijay to a party to celebrate his admission in a prestigious Management Institute. Write an informal letter accepting the invitation. Mention date, time and venue.

5. Attempt any ONE of the following two in about 120 - 150 words. 5

a) You have recently come across an advertisement for the post of Marketing Executive in India Book House. Write an application with bio-data to The Manager, India Book House, Mall Road, Kanpur. You are Ranjan / Ritu of View Side Road, Kanpur.

INDIA BOOK HOUSE

Requires Marketing Executive

Job Responsibilities:

- Setting targets and timelines
- Supervising sales

Preferred Skills and Qualifications:

- Graduate in marketing and Sales
- Experience- 3 to 5 years.
- Fluency in English and local language
- Knowledge of basic computer skill

OR

b) You are counsellor of a reputed public school. You are concerned to see that bullying has become common among school students. Write a letter to the editor of

a national daily expressing your concern and suggesting ways and methods to end this menace in schools. You are Rajesh/ Radhika of A.P. Colony, Pune.
Use the following clues along with your own ideas to draft the letter.

Bullying can be physical, emotional and verbal.

Leads to depression, anxiety, anger, stress and poor performance.

SOLUTIONS:

- Strict implementation of rules.
- Counselling
- Encourage students to speak out
- Set up anti – bullying cell

6. Attempt any **ONE** of the following two in about **120 - 150** words. **5**

a) You are Anuj, a student of Class – XII. You travel to school by the metro rail every day. You are delighted to observe how well maintained it is even after ten years. Based on the experience write an article expressing your views on the sense of civic responsibility among citizens today.

Use the following clues along with your own ideas to compose the article:

METRO – OUR PRIDE

- Keep it clean
- Disciplined travel
- Our responsibility
- It takes us home

OR

b) Your school recently conducted an Inter School Heritage Quiz Contest. As a student reporter, write a report of the event to be published in your school magazine. You are Amit/Archana. Mention date, time and venue.

Know Your Heritage

An Inter – School Quiz Contest

- History
- Mythology
- Culture
- Monuments
- Handicrafts

Attractive prizes for audience question

Friday, 27th September 24, St. Marks School, Meerut

Section – C: Literature

(40 Marks)

7. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow. Attempt any
ONE

6X1=6

a) A thing of Beauty is a joy forever

It's 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;

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 (A Thing of Beauty)

- i. Keats define beauty as _____
- ii. Explain one inference that can be drawn from – 'and will keep a bower quiet for us'
- iii. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below :
 1. Beautiful things uplift the soul.
 2. Beauty is everchanging.
 - A. 1 can be inferred from the extract but 2 cannot.
 - B. 2 can be inferred from the extract but 1 cannot.
 - C. both 1 and 2 can be inferred from the extract.
 - D. both 1 and 2 cannot be inferred from the extract
- iv. The things that can cause unhappiness are :
 1. lack of noble nature
 2. old tunes
 3. dull days
 4. calm mind
 5. a flowery band
 6. strong relationships

Choose the most appropriate option

 - A. 1 and 2
 - B. 1 and 3
 - C. 4 and 5
 - D. 3 and 6
- v. Complete the analogy.
flowery band: metaphor :: _____ : alliteration.
- vi. Complete the sentence appropriately.
According to the poet 'every morrow' we are _____

OR

b) but soon

put that thought away, and

looked out at Young

Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling

out of their homes, but after the airport's security check, standing a few yards away, I looked again at her, wan, pale, as a late winter's moon and felt that old familiar ache, my childhood's fear, (My Mother at Sixty Six)

i. Select the correct option.

The impact of 'merry children' on poet's mind _____ .

A. caused anxiety

B. created a sense of longing

C. brought comfort

D. reminded her of her own childhood

ii. The tone of the poet expressed in the above lines is

A. sadness and helplessness

B. excitement and eagerness

C. appreciation and gratitude

D. anger and anxiety

iii. The words 'wan, pale' indicate the mother's _____ .

iv. Complete the following sentence appropriately. The poet looked at her mother again to _____ .

v. Explain one inference that can be drawn from the line 'felt that old familiar ache'

vi. 'put that thought away'.

What is the intention of the poet that can be inferred from the above line?

8. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow. Attempt any **ONE** **4x1=4**

a) The rapid release of human population has kept us all battling with our species for limited resources, and the unmitigated burning of 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 hotly contested environmental debates of our time. Will the West Antarctica ice sheet melt entirely? Will the Gulf Stream Ocean be disrupted? Will this be the end of the world as we know? (Journey to The End Of This World)

i. List the factor that increases that increases the average global temperature, according to the extract.

ii. The other species are being affected due to the rapid increase of human populations because _____

iii. In the extract, 'unmitigated burning' refers to:

- A. sumptuous burning B. restricted burning C. unconditional burning
D. none of these

iv. Mention consequences of climate change being deduced in the given extract.

OR

b) "There were brass spittoons on the floor, and across the station a glint of light caught my eye; a man was pulling a gold watch from his vest pocket. He snapped open the cover, glanced at his watch and frowned. He wore a derby hat, a four-button suit with tiny lapels, and he had a big, black, handlebar moustache. Then I looked around and saw that everyone in the station was dressed like eighteen ninety something; I never saw so many beards, sideburns and fancy moustaches in my life. A woman walked in through the train gate; she wore a dress with leg of mutton sleeves and skirts to the top of her high buttoned shoes." (The Third Level)

- i. The mentioned incident happened _____.
- ii. Why is the narrator so stunned?
- A. Because he found himself on the third level.
- B. Because he had never seen such a dress.
- C. Because of fancy moustaches
- D. Because he had never seen a gold watch.
- iii. What can be assessed about time and space from the above extract?
- iv. List one significant thing about the dresses worn by women there.

9. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow. Attempt any ONE

6x1=6

a) But although his guest was so well groomed, the ironmaster did not seem pleased. He looked at him with puckered brow, and it was easy to understand that when he had seen the strange fellow in the uncertain reflection from the furnace he might have made a mistake, but that now, when he stood there in broad daylight, it was impossible to mistake him for an old acquaintance.

"What does that mean?"

The stranger made no attempt to dissimulate. He saw at once that the splendour had come to an end.

"It is not my fault, Sir," he said. "I never pretended to be anything but a poor trader, and I pleaded and begged to be allowed to stay in the forge. But no harm has been done. At worst I will put on my old rags and go away." (The Rattrap)

- i. Who is 'the guest' here?
- ii. The ironmaster did not seem pleased _____
- iii. Which of the following is the correct statement?
- A. The stranger pleaded in the house to be stayed alone.

B. The stranger did not plead to be allowed to stay in the forge.

C. The stranger begged to be apologised.

D. The stranger was ready to go away immediately.

iv. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that the stranger had not stolen anything from the iron master's home.

v. Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation:

It was not stranger's fault as _____.

vi. Which word from the following means same as 'concealed'?

A. Dissimulated

B. Puckered

C. Pleased

D. Thundered

OR

b) I crossed to oblivion, and the curtain of life fell.

The next I remember I was lying on my stomach beside the pool, vomiting. The chap that threw me in was saying, "But I was only fooling." Someone said, "The kid nearly died. Be all right now. Let's carry him to the locker room."

Several hours later, I walked home. I was weak and trembling. I shook and cried when I lay on my bed. I could not eat that night. For days a haunting fear was in my heart. The slightest exertion upset me, making me wobbly in the knees and sick to my stomach. (Deep Water)

i. The 'curtain of life fell' corresponds to an act to:

~~A. History~~

B. Drama

C. Swimming

D. Bravery

ii. Why was the speaker vomiting?

iii. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that the speaker became unconscious.

iv. What is the tone of 'the chap'?

~~A. Aggressive~~

B. Shocked

C. Embarrassed

D. Casual

v. Complete the following sentence:

The harm done to the speaker was a/an _____.

vi. Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation as per the extract.

The incident made him physically and mentally weak as _____.

10. Answer any FIVE out of Six questions in about 40-50 words: **5x2=10**

(a) What does Gandhi refer to as 'conflict of duties'? (Indigo)

(b) Why did the iron master compare Edla to a parson? (The Rattrap)

(c) How and why does Keats relate 'mighty dead' to the 'Thing of Beauty'? (A Thing of Beauty)

(d) What handicap did Douglas suffer from? How did he overcome that? (Deep Water)

(e) What according to Pablo Neruda in the poem 'Keeping Quiet' is the lesson that we should learn from mother earth?

(f) Explain the inference that can be drawn from the line: 'Will they make them sing in German, even the pigeons'. (Last Lesson)

11. Answer any **TWO** out of Three questions in about **40-50** words: **2x2=4**

- (a) Why did the Maharaja order the Dewan to double the land tax?
(Tiger King)
- (b) Antarctica is a doorway to the past. Explain.
(Journey to the end of this world)
- (c) 'Sam's letter to Charley is a fine blend of reality and fantasy. Comment
(The Third Level)

12. Answer any **ONE** of the two questions in **120-150** words: **5**

- (a) 'A Thing of Beauty' and 'Keeping Quiet' talks about all what human beings can learn from nature. Inspired by the thought, analyse the theme of the poems and impact on readers.

OR

- (b) In the lesson 'Lost Spring' Saheb and Mukesh are deprived of their childhood pleasures and education. Noble Peace Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi has been fighting for the rights of the children. Express your views on how the writer has incorporated theme like evils of child labour and denial of education with valid textual evidence.

13. Answer any **ONE** of the two questions in **120-150** words: **5**

- (a) The boy drank the milk of an English cow, was brought up by an English nanny, tutored in English.... (The Tiger King)
You realise that western influence on Indian culture is deep rooted since the days of Tiger King. Elucidate paying emphasis on the narrative technique.

OR

- (b) In the story, 'The Third Level' by Jack Finney, Charlie was obsessed with finding the third level. In an attempt to thrash out whether the obsession is good quality or harmful one, how has the things of escapism and nostalgia conveyed effectively in the chapter. Support your answer with valid textual evidence.