

MOKSH

FIRST TERM EXAMINATION 2024-2025
CLASS 12 – ENGLISH CORE

SECTION A
Reading Skills

80 MARKS

Q1 Read the following passage carefully :

(22 Marks)
12

- (1) Often people are getting news online as the convenience and accessibility of online news is difficult to compete with.
- (2) Physical newspapers are typically large, need to be folded and aren't always free, making them an overall hassle. With virtual media outlets being available to nearly everybody at the click of a button, it comes as no surprise that it's grown to be a dominant form of news consumption. However, it's important for readers to consider exactly what they're consuming when getting their news through an app vs a newspaper, namely the influence of an algorithm.
- (3) A search algorithm is a set of rules made to put forward content the reader is more likely to engage with and filter out what they will ignore. Based on one's viewing history, an app or service determines what kind of content the user enjoys, and then recommends similar content from that point onwards. Algorithms give the viewer what they want, that's undeniable, but it's also the problem.
- (4) Digital media experts warn readers to be cautious of how an algorithm processes content. These systems show a reader more of what they want, but in the process, they block out any pieces that aren't in sync with their observed beliefs for the sake of customer service. The result is a person who is always given the same type of content, rarely venturing outside of their own viewpoints.
- (5) There is, fortunately, a way for readers to still get their news without risking the entrapment of an algorithm: classic print newspapers which are not limited by any ruleset constantly tailoring the words offered to the reader. News in print needs to satisfy every type of reader with only one copy, allowing it to offer a wide scope of topics. Printed news offers its viewership more freedom over what they choose to read.
- (6) While an algorithm purposely chooses and narrows potential news, a physical paper's diversity its news a more exploratory nature. Taking the time to engage with every part of a physical paper put a variety of subjects, views and information on display for readers.
- (7) It'd be naive to believe that print newspapers are completely free from bias or a certain degree of filtering. Still, a physical newspaper will almost never be as narrow in scope as the suggestions of digital media outlet will be.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

- (i) Online news is becoming popular because it's 1
(A) Economically Affordable (C) Less cumbersome
(B) Readily accessible (D) More interesting
- (ii) The phrase 'venturing outside of their own viewpoints' in para 4 most nearly means 1
(A) Stepping into someone's shoes
(B) Challenging others' opinions
(C) Combining traditional beliefs with modern ideology
(D) Moving away from one's personal opinion
- (iii) Complete the sentence with evidence from the text: 1
Online readers are unaware that the news that they read on a digital platform is
- (iv) Share evidence from the text in about 40 words to support the view that though algorithms give the reader what they want to read, they are also the problem. 2
- (v) Why according to the writer is reading the news online becoming increasingly popular? 2
- (vi) State two reasons in support of why a newspaper is a better source of news than online apps. 2

(vii) From the passage we understand that the writer concedes that newspapers too are....

(viii) The passage suggests that the reader while reading news online must be
(A) Focused (B) Discerning (C) Indifferent (D) Attentive

(ix) Read the headlines A – E given below:

- ~~(A) NEWSPAPERS – FREEDOM OF SPEECH~~
~~(B) INTERNET – THE NEWS ENTERTAINER~~
~~(C) ONLINE NEWS – A LIMITED PERCEPTION~~
~~(D) NEWSPAPER VS ONLINE NEWS APPS~~
~~(E) NEWS – A BIASED PERSPECTIVE~~

Identify the option that displays the headlines that do not correspond with occurrences in the passage.

Q2 Read the following passage carefully:

10

(1) In a rapidly changing world, transition from school to work has become more complex and challenging for young people as finding employment is difficult for the youth. If academic studies may be an excellent path to successful career and lives, other types of education like Vocational Education and Training (VET) programmes are more than ever being emphasized by the governments globally to support work-ready professionals with relevant on-the-job experience to match the needs of various industries.

(2) According to the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), India aims to skill 400 million people by 2025. Vocational training programmes, such as Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) provide training in fields such as engineering, health care, hospitality, construction and more. According to NSDC estimates, India is expected to witness significant job creation. With the help of this training, opportunities for self-employment have been enhanced. As of July 2021, over 1.5 million candidates have been placed in various jobs after acquiring vocational training.

(3) Vocational training programmes also encourage entrepreneurship by providing aspiring entrepreneurs with the knowledge and skills required to establish and operate their own businesses. The NSDC states that out of the 12 million people entering the workforce in India every year, only 4.5 million are skilled, highlighting the need for further vocational training initiatives. Vocational training plays a significant role in India by addressing the skill gap, improving employability, fostering entrepreneurship, and driving economic growth. This contributes to the nation's overall development and prosperity.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

(i) What are the problems faced by many young people when they shift from school to work? 1
(A) Finding employment (B) Transition (C) Loneliness (D) Social Anxiety

(ii) Why are governments promoting Vocational Education and Training programmes? 1

(iii) Infer why the National Skill Development Corporation of India has increased its efforts to skill 400 million people in 2025. Answer in about 40 words. 2

(iv) Share evidence from the text, in about 40 words, to support the view that vocational training improves self-employment. 2

(v) Identify the entrepreneur from the three people who has acquired vocational training. 1

(A) Ravi : I am working as a carpenter and getting very high wages.

(B) Narain: I have acquired the skill of cooking and will work for an established hotel.

(C) Bani: After doing a course in fashion designing, I have opened my own boutique

(vi) How does vocational training help in bridging the skill gap? 1

(vii) Complete the sentence appropriately. 1

The NSDC states that less than half the people entering the workforce in India are skilled so _____.

(viii) State True or False: 1

The title 'Improve your Skills, Gain Better Jobs' is appropriate for this passage.

SECTION B
CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

(18 Marks)

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

Q3 Attempt any ONE of the two, (a) and (b), in about 50 words. 4

(a) The Trips and Treks Club of Ravindra High School is organizing a trip for grade 11 students to take them all to Paninagar. As Ravi/Reena, the Club Senior School Prefect, draft a notice for your school notice board informing the students to be seated at 5pm in the auditorium to listen to the instructions for the event. Invent necessary details.

OR

(b) You are Pradeep/Pratibha Choube, Secretary of Arihant Housing Society, Dhol Nagar. Draft a notice for the society board informing the residents to send their children for swimming from 9am to 1 pm in the society swimming pool, as the swimming coach and life guard will be present during these hours. Invent necessary details.

Q4 Attempt any ONE of the two, (a) and (b), in about 50 words. 4

(a) You are Trisha/Trilok Swami, Student Head, Morning Star High School, Hawapur. Your school is organising a 4-day health camp for the parents and students of your school. Create a formal invitation card inviting the parents for the health camp where renowned doctors, nutritionists and fitness experts will address the gathering. Invent necessary details.

OR

(b) Your mother, Shagun Gupta has received an invitation from a nearby Women's Wellness Centre in Vayu Town to participate in a 2-day Yoga Workshop at its centre. Draft an appropriate reply accepting the invitation. You are Vanya/Vineet. Invent necessary details.

Q5 Attempt any ONE of the two, (a) and (b), in about 120-150 words. 5

(a) You are Animesh/Anisha of Ramnagar, Meerut. Often you watch reality shows on various channels. Write a letter to the editor about how reality shows ruin the childhood of the young and impressionable viewers. Use the given cues:

- Mushrooming of Reality Shows
- Children are forced by adult households to watch a common show
- Loss of Innocence
- Neglect Studies
- Attraction towards the world of glamour
- Parents need to be counselled

OR

(b) You are Animesh/Anisha, a resident of Ambernath, Mompur. While walking, you see a lot of construction debris dumped on the roadside claiming the footpaths and creating garbage dumps. As you are a concerned citizen, you decide to write a letter to the editor of a national daily, sharing your concern for the insensitive attitude of builders dumping their construction debris on roadsides, endangering people's health and barring paths for walking.

Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this letter.

- Problem - Construction Material dumped on the roadside
- Causes - No checks
- Can get away with irregularities
- Suggestions - Action by Municipal Corporation
- Stricter laws and their implementation
- Create awareness

Q6 Attempt any ONE of the two, (a) and (b), in 120-150 words.

- (a) You are Hitesh/Heena, a 'blog' writer. You are also a voracious reader and keep yourself abreast with current topics of the day. Reading about the trends in Digital Marketing, you decide to write an article on "Digital Marketing has gained tremendous momentum in the past couple of years." Use the following cues along with your own ideas to compose this article. Invent necessary details.

Digital Marketing

- Importance - Connect with customers
- Allows you to get creative
- Benefits - Hands-on Experience
- Easy to target right audience
- Cost Effective
- Access to global markets

OR

- (b) You are Bela/Bhanu, a student editor of your school magazine. "The return of Cheetahs will help in the restoration of open forests and grassland eco system in India. Write an article for your school magazine expressing your views on how this will help conserve bio-diversity, wildlife and soil conservation.

Use the following cues along with your own ideas

- Ecological balance of nature
- Maintains ecological stability
- Helps keep food chain in place
- Diversity ensures healthier ecosystem

SECTION C

(Literature Textbook and Supplementary Reading text)

(40 Marks)

Q7 Read the given extracts and answer the questions for any ONE of the given two, (a) and (b) : 6

- (a) "Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,
Spite of despondence, of inhumane dearth,
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways
(A Thing of Beauty)

- (i) The message in the above extract as per Keats is : 1
(A) For all earthly nuances, a thing of beauty is the cure
(B) Beauty of the beloved lies in the eyes of the beholder
(C) Nature provides ample objects to make us sad
(D) There is beauty in death
- (ii) State whether 'True' or 'False': 1
'Sweet memories bind us to this earth'
- (iii) Complete the sentence appropriately: 1
'Wreathing a flowery band...'
- (iv) Why has Keats used the phrase, 'Spite of despondence'? 1
- (v) 'Gloomy Days' – which figure of speech is used here? 1
- (vi) The poet attributes the trials and tribulations one encounters in the journey of life to: 1
(A) Unhealthy and o'er darkened ways (C) We wreathing
(B) A flowery band (D) On every morrow

OR

- (b) ...and realised with pain
that she was as old as
she looked but soon
put that thought away, and
looked out at Young
Trees sprinting

(My Mother at Sixty-Six)

- (i) What does the use of the word 'and' suggest at the beginning of the line, 'and realised with pain' suggest? 1
- (ii) Why was the poetess' heart in pain? 1
 (A) She saw her enfeebled mother. (C) She did not want to go back to Cochin.
 (B) The poetess herself was unwell. (D) The jerks of the car caused the pain.
- (iii) What does the line 'but soon she put the thought away' mean? 1
- (iv) She started 'looking out' because : 1
 (A) She wanted to distract herself (C) The colourful flowers caught her attention
 (B) She found interesting visuals (D) She was feeling impatient
- (v) Which poetic device is used in 'Trees sprinting'? 1
- (vi) There is a contrast between the images within the car and outside. What does the image of 'Young Trees' signify? 1

Q8 Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any ONE of the given two, (a) and (b): 4

(a) "Antarctica, because of her simple ecosystem and lack of biodiversity, is the perfect place to study how little changes in the environment can have big repercussions. Take the microscopic phytoplankton — those grasses of the sea that nourish and sustain the entire Southern Ocean's food chain. These single-celled plants use the sun's energy to assimilate carbon and synthesise organic compounds in that wondrous and most important of processes called photosynthesis. Scientists warn that a further depletion in the ozone layer will affect the activities of phytoplankton, which in turn will affect the lives of all marine animals."
 (Journey to the End of the Earth)

- (i) Antarctica is a perfect place to study ecological evolution because _____ 1
- (ii) Phytoplankton can be defined as: 1
 (A) Microscopic grasses of the sea. (C) Multi-celled plants
 (B) Plants at the bottom of the sea. (D) Small viruses in ice-covered areas
- (iii) What, according to the scientists, will impact the activities of the phytoplankton? 1
- (iv) What is the reaction of human beings when they come to Antarctica? 1

OR

(b) "At midnight when the town slept in peace, the dewan and his aged wife dragged the tiger to the car and shoved it into the seat. The dewan himself drove the car straight into the forest where the Maharaja was hunting. When they reached the forest, the tiger launched its satyagraha and refused to get out of the car. The dewan was thoroughly exhausted in his efforts to haul the beast out of the car and push it down to the ground.
 On the following day, the same old tiger wandered into the Maharaja's presence and stood as if in humble supplication, "Master, what do you command of me?" It was with boundless joy that the Maharaja took careful aim at the beast. The tiger fell in a crumpled heap.

(The Tiger King)

- (i) Complete the sentence appropriately: 1
 The reason for the dewan and his aged wife to drag the tiger to the car was _____.
- (ii) The author described the tiger's action as 'satyagraha' because: 1
 (A) He was in poor health, old and weak
 (B) He had become a maneater and only ate humans
 (C) He did not like the dewan and his wife's ways of handling him
 (D) He refused to comply with what the dewan wanted
- (iii) What was the role of the dewan? 1
- (iv) Explain the phrase 'in humble supplication'. 1

Q9 Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any ONE of the given two, (a) and (b): 6

- (a) While I was thinking of all this, I heard my name called. It was my turn to recite. What would I have not given to be able to say that dreadful rule for the participle all through, very loud and clear, and without one mistake? But I got mixed up on the first words and stood there, holding on to my desk, my heart beating, and not daring to look up.
- I heard M. Hamel say to me, 'I won't scold you, little Franz; you must feel bad enough. See how it is! Every day we have said to ourselves, "Bah, I've plenty of time. I'll learn it tomorrow." And now you see where we've come out. Ah, that's the great trouble with Alsace; she puts off learning till tomorrow. Now those fellows out there will have the right to say to you, 'How is it; you pretend to be Frenchmen, and yet you can neither speak nor write your own language?' But you are not the worst; poor little Franz. We've all a great deal to reproach ourselves with.' (The Last Lesson)
- (i) What was the mental state of Franz when his name was called out? 1
- (ii) 'My heart beating and not daring to look up.' The reason for this state of Franz was: 1
- (A) The news that it was the last French lesson shocked him.
- (B) He made a big mistake of coming late
- (C) He had not learned participles
- (D) He was guilty of standing in front of the billboard listening to his teacher
- (iii) What made M. Hamel say to Franz: "You must feel bad enough"? 1
- (iv) Give one word for, 'Every day we have said to ourselves, "Bah, I've plenty of time. I'll learn it tomorrow."' 1
- (v) What makes M. Hamel say, 'You pretend to be Frenchmen, and yet you can neither speak nor write your own language?' 1
- (vi) M. Hamel says, 'We've all a great deal to reproach ourselves with' as: 1
- (A) He was reproachful because he made them do his personal work, and went fishing when he felt like
- (B) He was dissatisfied with their lack of interest in studies
- (C) He was unhappy with their lack of attendance
- (D) He was unhappy with the lackadaisical attitude

OR

- (b) "I sometimes find a rupee, even a ten-rupee note," Saheb says, his eyes lighting up. When you can find a silver coin in a heap of garbage, you don't stop scrounging, for there is hope of finding more. It seems that for children, garbage has a meaning different from what it means to their parents. For the children it is wrapped in wonder, for the elders it is a means of survival.

One winter morning I see Saheb standing by the fenced gate of the neighbourhood club, watching two young men dressed in white, playing tennis. "I like the game," he hums, content to watch it standing behind the fence. "I go inside when no one is around," he admits. "The gatekeeper lets me use the swing."

Saheb too is wearing tennis shoes that look strange over his discoloured shirt and shorts. "Someone gave them to me," he says in the manner of an explanation. (Lost Spring)

- (i) What reasons does Saheb give for children like him indulging in scrounging? 1
- (ii) "When you can find a silver coin in a heap of garbage, you don't stop scrounging." The expression 'don't stop scrounging' in the context, denotes: 1
- (A) Hope (B) Experimentation (C) Impossibility (D) Illusion
- (iii) Explain the expression: 'For the children it is wrapped in wonder.' 1
- (iv) Why does Saheb stand and watch the two men playing tennis? 1
- (v) The gatekeeper, in allowing Saheb to use the swing shows: 1
- (A) Empathy (B) Greed (C) Cynicism (D) Indifference
- (vi) Saheb explained that someone had given him the shoes to him because _____ 1

Q10 Answer any FIVE of the following six questions in 40-50 words each :

5 x 2 = 10

- (i) What does Neruda mean by an 'exotic moment without rush' in the poem 'Keeping Quiet'?
- (ii) Why did Douglas use the metaphor 'Deep Water' as the title to his autobiographical account?
(Deep Water)
- (iii) What is the significance of the title 'The Rattrap'?
(The Rattrap)
- (iv) In the poem, 'A Thing of Beauty', how is grandeur connected with the mighty dead?
- (v) Explain the meaning of the word 'Interview' as signified in the lesson.
- (vi) What are the two most admirable qualities in Mukesh?

Q11 Answer any TWO of the following three questions in 40-50 words each:

2 x 2 = 4

- (i) Why did the booking clerk refuse to accept the money offered by Charley?
(The Third Level)
- (ii) What did the Maharaj expect the duraisani to do with the diamond rings?
(The Tiger King)
- (iii) Antarctica is a doorway to the past. Explain.
(Journey to the End of the Earth)

Q12 Answer any ONE of the following of the two questions, (a) or (b), in 120-150 words.

5

- (a) You are Pablo Neruda, the poet of 'Keeping Quiet'. After reading the poem 'A Thing of Beauty' by John Keats, you wonder how nature is a teacher and a nurturer at the same time. You have been asked to address the school students advising them to 'Conserve Nature'. Write a speech taking ideas from both the poems, 'Keeping Quiet' and 'A Thing of Beauty'.

You may begin with:

'Good morning everyone,
It is our duty to take care of our Earth as.....'

You may conclude with:
'I'd like to say.....'

OR

- (b) Imagine you are Edla Willmansson and you have had a talk with William Douglas, as to show how he was able to conquer his fear of water. As Edla, write a paragraph expressing your happiness about reforming the tramp and freeing him from the metaphorical rattrap he was trapped in after stealing the three ten kronor notes from the old crofter.

Q13 Answer any ONE of the following two questions in 120-150 words.

5

- (a) Louisa, the protagonist's wife in 'The Third Level' is amazed at Sam's suggestions that her husband is unhappy. In her state of anger, she expresses her feelings by writing in her diary. As Louisa, Charley's wife, write this diary entry. Support your response with reference to the story. You may begin with:
"I have been married to Charley for a few years now and I have always known him to be an intelligent man with an imaginative mind. However, his recent obsession with finding the Third Level has"

OR

- (b) You are one of the students who had the opportunity to visit Antarctica as a part of "Student on Ice" programme. Write an article for your school magazine about your visit and experience that you have had there. You are K. Vishwanath.