

Roll No. ..12059.....

MC-250+170=420

No. of Printed Pages : 16

HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION 2024-25

ENGLISH CORE (301)

Time : 3 hrs.]

Class XII

[M.M. : 80

General Instructions—

- (i) This question paper has 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.
- (ii) The Question Paper contains three sections-READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
- (iii) Attempt 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. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them strictly.
- (v) Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION-A : READING SKILLS

22

12

1. Read the passage given below—

As a young adult, life can be stressful and overwhelming at times. Juggling among school, work, social life, and other responsibilities, it can be easy to feel alone and disconnected from the world around us. Dogs are the ultimate companions for anyone looking to alleviate stress and loneliness. We will explore many reasons why dogs make the best companions for young adults.

Unconditional love: Dogs are known for their loyalty and love for their owners, no matter what. They do not judge us, criticize us, or hold grudges against us. No matter how flawed or imperfect we may be, our dogs will always love us unconditionally. This kind of unwavering support and affection can be incredibly comforting for young adults struggling to find their place in the world.

P. T. O.

Social connection: Dogs are great ice-breakers and conversation starters. Whether you are walking them in the park, taking them to the dog beach, or simply hanging out at home, dogs have a way of bringing people together. For young adults who may feel isolated or disconnected from their peers, having a dog by their side can be a great way to connect with others and form new friendships.

Increase physical activity: Dogs require regular exercise to stay healthy and happy. This means that young adults who own dogs are more likely to engage in physical activity themselves. Whether it's going for a run, playing frisbee, or simply taking a leisurely stroll, getting out with your dog can be a great way to boost your mood and energy levels.

Emotional support: Dogs are also great emotional support animals for those struggling with mental health issues, such as anxiety and depression. Their presence alone can provide a sense of calm and comfort, and their ability to sense their owner's emotions can be incredibly comforting. For young adults dealing with mental health challenges, having a dog as a companion can be a life-changing experience. Improve responsibility and self-care: Owning a dog also comes with a great deal of responsibility and self-care. Dogs require regular feeding, grooming, exercise, and attention, which can be a great way for young adults to develop a sense of responsibility and self-discipline. Additionally, having a dog as a companion can encourage young adults to take better care of themselves, such as making sure they get enough sleep, eat healthy, and engage in regular exercise.

For all these reasons and more, dogs make fantastic companions for young adults. Whether you're looking for emotional support, social connection, increased physical activity, or simply someone to love and be loved by, a dog can provide all these things and more. So, the next time you're feeling stressed or overwhelmed, consider finding a furry friend to take on the world with you.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

- (i) What is the significance of owning a dog for a young adult who is striving for acceptance in society? 1
- (a) It means increased physical activity.
- (b) It builds a sense of responsibility.
- (c) It helps young adults get more sleep.
- (d) It is a source of unconditional love.
- (ii) A dog can encourage its owner to lead a healthier life by _____
Complete the above sentence, in about 40 words, with a characteristic or description. 2
- (iii) Share evidence from the text, in approximately 40 words, to support the view that dogs provide a sense of calm and comfort to those struggling with mental health issues. 2
- (iv) Explain in about 40 words the statement that 'dogs are great ice-breakers'. 2
- (v) Which of the following activities help young adults, owning a dog, build their sense of responsibility and self-discipline? 1
- (a) walking the dog daily
- (b) feeding it regularly
- (c) engaging the services of a dog trainer
- (d) both (a) and (b)
- (vi) What does this article aim to do? 1
- (a) Explain the benefits of owning a dog.
- (b) Provide advice on how to get a dog.
- (c) Discuss how to take proper care of a dog.
- (d) Describe the experiences of dog owners.
- (vii) Select the option that is similar in meaning to the phrase 'take on the world'— 1
- (a) travel the world
- (b) accept a responsibility
- (c) to be pessimistic
- (d) have a global outlook

(viii) What does the ^{quote} underlined part in the sentence "consider finding a furry friend to take on the world with you" refer to? 1

(ix) What is the tone of the article? 1

(a) critical but supportive (b) indifferent and bored

(c) ~~positive and informative~~ (d) humorous and casual

2. Read the following passage carefully— 10

- (1) A recent survey conducted by an independent research firm sought to measure levels of happiness among youth aged 16-24 years in seven countries. The findings revealed some intriguing insights into what makes today's youth happiest, as well as which factors influence their overall well-being. In India, an overwhelming majority of the youth reported feeling satisfied with their lives, with 87% rating of their overall happiness as 'high' or 'very high'. Financial security was identified as the primary source of happiness for 66%, followed by family support (89%), having a purpose in life (50%), and work or studies (40%). Unfortunately, 65% reported feeling stress related to academic performance or workload, while 25% reported feeling lonely. These figures point to a need for increased mental health support among India's youth.
- (2) These surveys also revealed that family support is an important source of contentment for young people across countries. In Europe, 59% of respondents said that their families were a major source of happiness; in France this figure was 67%, and 63% in Germany. In North America, 64% rated family as an important factor for well-being in Canada, while 61% did so in the United States. Similarly, 89% of survey respondents in India named family support as a major contributor to their overall contentment level.
- (3) It is clear that stress has a significant impact on the happiness of today's youth. The findings suggest that young people need better resources to manage their mental health and well-being. This may include access to counselling

services, mindfulness activities and support groups to help them cope with challenging circumstances. It is also important to provide financial support so as to reduce some of the economic pressures.

- (4) In India, 65% of youth surveyed reported feeling anxious about their academic performance or workload, while 25% felt lonely. These figures are especially significant given how important family support is for young people's overall contentment.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

- (i) What are the two findings that the survey mentioned in paragraph 1 reveals?
Answer in about 40 (2) words. 2
- (ii) Explain in about 40 words the statement "It is also important to provide financial support so as to reduce some of the economic pressures." 2
- (iii) Elaborate giving data, the statement "Stress has a significant impact on the happiness of today's (1) youth." 1
- (iv) Which of the following factors, with reference to the given passage, does not play a substantial role in the well-being of Indian youth? 1
- (a) Family support and strong ties—
(b) Social connection and technology—
(c) Books and literature
(d) Economic stability ✓
- (v) State whether TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the given passage—
It is not necessary to provide financial support to the youth as only academic performance plays an upper hand in deciding the stress level. 1
- (vi) What are the top choices which are of maximum value to today's youth?
(1) Collectivism (2) Social media
(3) Individualistic society (4) Family ties
(a) (1) and (2) (b) (2) and (3)
(c) (1) and (4) (d) (2) and (4)

(vii) The mental health of today's youth can be managed by resources like _____
and _____

(viii) Write the following sources that provide happiness to today's youth in
descending order—

- (a) purposefulness (b) financial status
(c) family support (d) stress

SECTION-B : CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

3. Attempt any one from (A) and (B) given below in about 50 words—

(A) To encourage students to participate in outdoor activities, your school has planned a 7 day trek to Rohtang Pass for students of class XII during the summer vacation. Draft a notice informing the students of the proposed tour. Invent all necessary details. You are Akhil/Amala, the Secretary of the Trekking Club of Margaret Public School, Utsavnagar.

OR

(B) The problem of the residents' parking of vehicles, often leading to minor scuffles, has become a source of growing concern. As Secretary of Goodwill Society Welfare Association, Shripur, Write a notice informing the residents about a meeting to discuss the problem and find an acceptable solution. Invent all necessary details.

4. Attempt any one from (A) and (B) given below in about 50 words—

(A) You are Student Head, Cultural Affairs Club at Newton Public School. The School is holding its annual function on Saturday, 20th October, 2024 at 4 pm. The Honorable Education Minister, Dr. Shah has consented to be the Chief Guest. Design an invitation card to be sent to the parents and other invitees. Mention necessary details.

OR

(B) You are Dr. S.K.Rai, a renowned doctor and have been invited by your school

alumni as Chief Guest to the Annual Graduation Ceremony of Green Valley School on Sunday, 15th December, 2024. Write a letter to the President of the Alumni Association expressing your inability to attend due to a prior commitment. Also convey your congratulations to the graduating students.

5. Attempt any one from (A) and (B) given below in about 120-150 words— 5
- (A) You are Amar Amrita, a fresh MBA graduate from Singla Institute of Management, Khushbagh. You saw the given advertisement in a newspaper and wish to apply for the position advertised. Write a letter to India Helptel Company along with your bio-data, expressing your interest in the advertised post.

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES REQUIRED

BY

INDIAHELPTEL COMPANY

For its

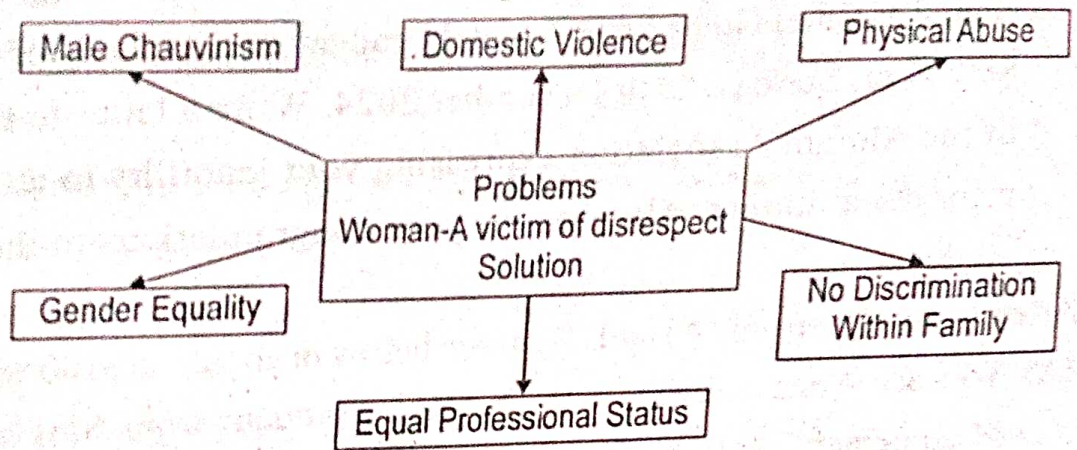
INDIA-WIDE LOGISTICS Department

Whom Do We Need

- Fresh MBA Graduates
- Specialisation in Marketing
- Skills- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal.
- Languages- English and State language

OR

- (B) In our society we do not give our women the respect and status that they deserve. Women are stared at, stalked, and even molested. We need to change the male mindset about women. Write a letter to the editor of a national newspaper giving your views on the problem based on the cues given below. You are Omar/Amna, A-114, Mall Road, Delhi.



6. Attempt any one from (A) and (B) given below in about 120-150 words— 5

(A) The newspapers today have more of full-page advertisements than news items or editorials. Write an article to be published in a national daily on how these advertisements take away the purpose of a newspaper and mislead the reader. Suggest how journalism can become more responsible. You are Madhu/Mahesh. You may use the given cues along with your own ideas.

Impact of advertisements :

- advertisements should not overwhelm the reader and distract from the purpose of news information
- gradual decline in newspaper readership
- newspapers lose credibility and appeal
- merely as a promotional me

Suggestions :

- reinforce idea that newspapers and other print media are gateways to information focus more on news - rather than commercial visibility
- focus on in-depth coverage
- direct advertisements to a designated section of the paper

(B) The Literary Society of your school organised a library week. As student editor of the school magazine, draft a report on the week-long activities. You are Rani/Rahul. You may use the following cues along with your ideas to write the report. Invent necessary details.

- exhibition-cum-discount sale of books by leading publishers to meet the author session
- creative writing - creating a graphic story and book cover making workshops
- inter-school literary quiz
- short story writing competition

SECTION-C: LITERATURE

40

7. Read the given extracts to attempt the questions with reference to context for any one of the given two— 6×1=6

(A) I saw my mother, beside me,

doze, open mouthed, her face ashen like that

of a corpse and realized with pain

that she was as old as she looked but soon

put that thought away, and looked out at Young

Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling out of their homes.

(i) The phrase 'ashen like that of a corpse' gives the impression that the mother :

(a) frustrated

(b) depressed

(c) dead

(d) weak

(ii) State whether the following statement is True or False, with reference to the extract.

"The mother was suffering from some fatal disease."

(iii) Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract?

(a) Life is short and one must enjoy it

(b) Ageing and Mortality

(c) Sleeping and Playing

(d) Art of Parenting

(iv) Pick the option in which the word 'spilling' is used in the same sense as in the extract—

(a) Rahul was responsible for spilling the beans by telling everyone the secret.

(b) He opened the bag, spilling all its contents on the table.

(c) Try to keep that crowd from spilling onto the main street.

(d) The cat spilled all the milk.

(v) The phrases 'Young Trees sprinting' and 'merry children spilling' represent:

(a) Youth

(b) Old age

(c) Disease

(d) Travel

(vi) Complete the sentence appropriately—

'She was as old as she looked.'

The repetition of the word 'as' suggests that _____

OR

(B) What I want should not be confused with total inactivity.

Life is what it is about;

I want no truck with death.

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.

(i) Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract?

(a) Silence alleviates sadness of our life.

(b) Life and death are part of our existence.

(c) We must keep our lives moving.

(d) Life is stressful and monotonous.

(ii) State whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract—

The poet feels that quiet productivity in place of all activities is desirable.

(iii) The sadness being referred to (line 8) is due to :

- (a) failure to understand ourselves.
- (b) failure to understand others.
- (c) loss of peers in life.
- (d) inability to achieve what we desire.

(iv) The poem has been written from the point of view of a/an :

- (a) environmentalist
- (b) feminist
- (c) social activist
- (d) linguist

(v) Based on the rhyme scheme, which of the following does not rhyme with line 1 ?

- (a) cruised
- (b) mused
- (c) complaint
- (d) bruised

(vi) Complete the sentence appropriately—

In 'Life is what it is about', the poet is talking about _____

Attempt any one of the two extracts given below—

4×1=4

(A) To make sure, I walked over to a newsboy and glanced at the stack of papers at his feet. It was *The World*; and *The World* hasn't been published for years. The lead story said something about President Cleveland. I've found that front page since, in the Public Library files, and it was printed June 11, 1894.

I turned toward the ticket window knowing that here on the third level at Grand Central - I could buy tickets that would take Louisa and me anywhere in the United States we wanted to go.

(i) Why does the narrator resort to wishful day-dreaming and want to travel back in time ?

(ii) The year 1894 holds so much importance because _____

- (iii) The World, the news about President Cleveland - what do they hint at?
- (a) The narrator used to like reading the newspaper.
 - (b) The narrator fantasises about past events.
 - (c) The narrator wants to escape to a world that was unaffected by the two World Wars.
 - (d) The narrator tends to forget things.
- (iv) Give one reason why the writing style of the extract can be called autobiographical.

OR

(B) From that day onwards it was celebration time for all the tigers inhabiting Pratibandapuram. The State banned tiger hunting by anyone except the Maharaja. A proclamation was issued to the effect that if anyone dared to fling so much as a stone at a tiger, all his wealth and property would be confiscated. The Maharaja vowed he would attend to all other matters only after killing the hundred tigers. Initially the king seemed well set to realise his ambition.

- (i) Select the correct option :
'.....he would attend to all other matters only after killing hundred tigers'.
This reflects Tiger King's
- (a) courage
 - (b) determination
 - (c) selfishness
 - (d) kindness
- (ii) Complete the sentence appropriately :
From that day onwards it was celebration time for all the tigers.
The above statement is ironical in the sense _____.
- (iii) '... if anyone dared to fling so much as a stone at a tiger, all his wealth and property would be confiscated!
What trait of the king is reflected in the above line?
- (iv) State whether the following statement is True or False :
The King's ambition is to save people from the tigers.

9. Attempt any one of the two extracts given below—

(A) "Why do you do this?" I ask Saheb whom I encounter every morning scrounging for gold in the garbage dumps of my neighbourhood. Saheb left his home long ago. Set amidst the green fields of Dhaka, his home is not even a distant memory. There were many storms that swept away their fields and homes, his mother tells him. That's why they left, looking for gold in the big city where he now lives.

"I have nothing else to do," he mutters, looking away.

"Go to school," I say glibly, realising immediately how hollow the advice must sound.

"There is no school in my neighbourhood. When they build one, I will go."

(i) Choose the correct option :

The expression 'scrounging for gold' refers to—

- (a) searching for gold items
- (b) looking for something that can fetch money
- (c) rummaging the garbage
- (d) digging to find food to eat

(ii) The influence of nature in Saheb's life was that it—

- (a) brought prosperity
- (b) yielded food for them
- (c) gave them home
- (d) brought disaster

(iii) Complete the sentence with an appropriate word :

Saheb's conversation with the narrator draws attention of readers towards Saheb.

(iv) Explain one inference that can be drawn from the line ".....realising how hollow the advice must sound".

(v) The expression 'when they build one, I will go' indicates Saheb's determination to go to school.

(vi) State whether the following statement is True or False :

'... his home is not even a distant dream' states that Saheb sees his home often in his dream.

F

OR

(10) Then the poet spoke. He couldn't have addressed a more dazed and silent audience - no one knew what he was talking about and his accent defeated any attempt to understand what he was saying. The whole thing lasted about an hour; then the poet left and we all dispersed in utter bafflement - what are we doing? What is an English poet doing in a film studio which makes Tamil films for the simplest sort of people? People whose lives least afforded them the possibility of cultivating a taste for English poetry. The poet looked pretty baffled too, for he too must have felt the sheer incongruity of his talk about the thrills and travails of an English poet. His visit remained an unexplained mystery.

(i) Choose the correct option—

The reason for the bewilderment of the audience is :

- (a) unknown identity of the visitor
- (b) that the speaker had not been introduced to them
- (c) the visit of an English poet to a Tamil film studio
- (d) that they did not understand English

(ii) By 'thrills and travails" the author refers to :

- (a) joy and happiness
- (b) interest and aspiration
- (c) excitement and pain
- (d) shocks and surprises

(iii) Explain one inference that can be drawn from the line, "He could not have addressed a more dazed and silent audience".

(iv) The failure of the speaker to connect with the audience with reference to the extract is his _____.

(v) What information in the extract reveals the fact that the people have no exposure other than to their own circle?

(vi) State whether the following statement is True or False—

The audience were enthralled by the poet's impressive speech.

10. Answer any five of the following six questions in 40-50 words each— $5 \times 2 = 10$

- (1) Explain the inference that can be drawn from the line :
"Will they make them sing in German, even the pigeons?"
- (2) "Father laughed, but there was a terror in my heart." What does the above statement speak of the father?
- (3) What is Pablo Neruda's complaint against Fisherman?
- (4) How and why does Keats relate 'mighty dead' to the Thing of Beauty'?
- (5) How does the setting of the remote forest location in 'The Rattrap' contribute to the overall tone and mood of the story?
- (6) What can be inferred from Rajendra Prasad's recorded upshot of the lawyer consultations, at Motihari ?
[Reference- The senior lawyer replied, they had come to advise and help him; if he went to jail there would be nobody to advise and they would go home. What about the injustice to the sharecroppers, Gandhi demanded.]

11. Answer any two of the following three questions in about 40-50 words each— $2 \times 2 = 4$

- (1) How can you say 'Students on Ice Programme' was a step towards the future?
- (2) Imagine that Mr. Lamb had not fallen off the ladder at the end. Recalling his conversation with the bees, do you think Derry's return might have changed him as much as he had changed Derry? Elaborate. *physicist*
- (3) How would you evaluate Sam's character? Elucidate any two qualities, and substantiate with evidence from the text.

12. Answer any one of the following questions in about 120-150 words—

(A) but will keep

A bower quiet for us.

Perhaps the Earth can teach us

as when everything seems dead

and later proves to be alive.

5

Based on the ideas from 'Keeping Quiet' and 'A Thing of Beauty', as President of Eco- Club of your school, draft a speech on the importance of preserving nature for the benefit of mankind.

You may begin like this:

Good morning to one and all!

After reading both the poems, I strongly believe _____

(B) She gave a little cry of joy. She found a small rattrap _____ (The Rattrap)

Saheb-e-Alam received a pair of discarded shoes with a hole in one of them.

In spite of this he was very happy. (Lost Spring)

Compare the joy that both Edla and Saheb experience after receiving their respective gifts.

13. Answer any one of the following questions in about 120-150 words— 5

(A) In the story, 'The Third Level' by Jack Finney, Charley is obsessed with finding the third level. To thrash out whether this obsession is a good quality or a harmful one, Charley's wife Louisa expresses her thoughts in a diary entry. As Louisa, write this diary entry. Support your response with reference to the story.

You may begin this way:

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) "Tiger population became extinct in the forests of Pratibhandapuram." Tiger King is a typical example of man's dominance over nature.

As a member of your school Eco Club, write an article for your school magazine on how man should follow the policy of 'Live and Let Live'.

You may begin like this:

The noblest principle, man should follow in his life is co-existence.....