

# 1 TERM EXAMINATION

2024

CLASS XII

ENGLISH



MAX. TIME: 3 HOURS

MAX. 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. Write the correct question number in your answer sheet to indicate the option/s being attempted.

## Section A: READING SKILLS (22 marks)

1 Read the passage given below.

12 marks

1. Ghost nets aren't supernatural, but they are legitimately scary. A ghost net is a fishing net that's been lost or abandoned in the ocean. They are one particularly appalling part of the global ghost fishing problem, which includes fishing gear abandoned in the water. Any net or line left in the ocean can pose a threat to marine life. Just because a net is no longer used by fishers doesn't mean it stops working. These nets continue to trap everything in their path, presenting a major problem for the health of our oceans and marine life.
2. Ghost nets entangle sea turtles, dolphins and porpoises, birds, sharks, seals and more, apart from catching fish. The nets keep animals from moving freely, cause injuries and keep mammals and birds from rising to the surface for air. Since hundreds of animals can be caught in a single net, this threat is monumental. The ghost nets harm coral reefs too—breaking corals, exposing them to disease and even blocking the reefs from needed sunlight.
3. Ghost nets are also a major contributor to the ocean plastics' crisis. Most modern nets are made of nylon or other plastic compounds that can last for centuries. According to a 2018 study in Scientific Reports, ghost nets make up at least 46 percent of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Those abandoned fishing lines and nets that do breakdown never go away; they just become smaller pieces of plastic. Marine animals mistake this microplastic for food and eat it, which can harm internal organs, keep them from eating and expose them to toxic chemicals.
4. Exorcising ghost nets from our oceans will require commitment, cooperation and innovation. Many groups are working to remove ghost nets from the sea and are collaborating with local fishers and governments around the world to identify target areas and remove as many nets as possible. In 2015, a single World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF)-led mission in the Baltic Sea hauled up 268 tons of nets, ropes and other material.
5. To stop these nets from becoming ghosts in the first place, conservation organisations advocate for fishing gear that can be traced to its owner so anyone dumping nets can be fined.

and refundable deposits on nets to encourage returning or recycling rather than littering. Tools like sonar reflectors that can make ghost nets easier to find and working with small-scale fisheries to develop more sustainable fishing gear and practices are other suggestions. It is only by attacking this problem from all sides, together with conservation partners, fishers and supporters, can we banish ghost nets and protect our oceans.

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

i Complete the sentence by choosing an appropriate option.

Ghost nets have been named so because they

- A. cause much harm to the marine life.
- B. are functional though not in use by fishers.
- C. are not owned by anyone.
- D. act as a snare for all animals in oceans.

1 mark

ii Comment on the writer's reference to the ghost nets in paragraph one, as a health problem for the oceans. 2

iii List the two ways being entangled in a ghost net is likely to impact a walrus. (Clue: Think about the type of animal a walrus is) 1

iv Select the option that conveys the opposite of 'negligible', from words used in paragraph two.

- A. unimpressive
- B. monumental
- C. exposing
- D. threat

1

v The writer would agree with the given statements based on paragraph three, EXCEPT:

- A. Most ghost nets take a few years to completely disintegrate.
- B. Ghost nets contribute to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.
- C. Most ghost nets provide nutrition to marine animals, upon disintegration.
- D. Ghost nets can curtail freedom of marine animals.

1

vi Some records share that fishing nets used to be made of common rope using natural fibres prior to the 1960s. Based on your understanding of paragraph three, list one major advantage that these had over the fishing nets being used in present times. 1

vii Why is it fair to say that commitment and innovation have to go hand-in-hand to rid the oceans of ghost nets?

viii Complete the given sentence with an appropriate inference, with respect to the following. The writer quotes the example of the WWF-led mission in the Baltic Sea (Paragraph 4), in order to.....

1 mark

ix How can the solutions, suggested in paragraph five, best be described?

- A. practical
  - B. presentable
  - C. popular
  - D. prejudiced
- 1 mark

X Select the most suitable title for the above passage.

- A. The Scary Side of Ghost Nets
  - B. Ghost Nets – A Result of Human Dominance
  - C. Ghost Nets – A Menace to Marine Life
  - D. Ways to Tackle the Problem of Ghost Nets
- 1 mark

II. Read the following passage & answer the questions that follow:

10 marks

A large majority of the elderly in India does not get long-term and palliative care, revealed a study conducted for the United Nations. The survey of more than 10,000 respondents across Northern, Southern, Western, Eastern and Central India during May-June 2018, showed that 62.1% of the elderly did not get such care. More than half of these people, 52.4%, said they primarily need traditional family support, says a study by Age well Research and Advocacy Centre.

2. Older people in India often face problems such as disability, restricted mobility, loneliness, poverty and lack of awareness on accessing old-term care. With a fast-growing population of older people, the ever-increasing gap between generations and the fast and demanding lifestyle of young people, for a majority of older people, life is still a struggle for independence.

3. "According to 64% of elderly respondents, loneliness, marginalisation and isolation are the most critical issues faced by bedridden, elderly patients as they cannot visit, meet or interact with their relatives, friends and neighbours," said Himanshu Rathi, founder of Age well Foundation.

4. The elderly have to compromise and make adjustments in their lifestyle according to the wishes of the younger members of their families to ensure they are cared for, the study revealed. It highlighted that 67.6% of the elderly being taken care of their family members have to look after the children of the families. They have to perform tasks such as babysitting in return for proper care and support.

5. "Around 73.7% said they have to take care of the house and other properties of their younger family members to ensure long-term and palliative care in old age", the study report said. "Over 75% of respondents have to limit their personal social interactions as their family members direct them to do so, otherwise their family members can avoid providing their basic needs of food and medicines." Most elderly respondents (68.5%) said breaking up of the joint family system is one of the biggest factors for the challenges they face in getting long-term palliative care.

6. Healthcare equipment such as wheelchairs, relief material such as adult diapers and care-giving service should be provided on a regular basis to destitute older people, who are bedridden and suffering from acute mobility issues, the report said.

7. Although providing long-term and palliative care to older persons comes in the purview of family responsibilities in India, it is observed that older persons, who are financially independent, have a high net worth or hold property entitlements, are treated comparatively well by their family members"; said Rathi.

8. "Managing home care for the elderly is a massive challenge as multiple service providers—nursing agencies, physiotherapists and medical suppliers—are small scale and unorganised and, therefore, provide incomplete care," he said. "In India, health insurance coverage is essentially limited to hospitalisation. The concept of geriatric care has remained a neglected area of medicine so far in the country."

Answer the following questions, based on given passage.

(i) List two essential requirements for older people suffering from mobility issues. (2)

(ii) Select the option that displays the reason behind financially independent elderly being better off. (1)

- (a) They have money to meet their financial needs.
- (b) They are treated with much more care and respect.
- (c) They are seen as one to be revered.
- (d) They have medical expenses.

(iii) After reading the passage, what do you think is the primary need of all the elderly people in India? (1)

(iv) Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option. (1)

According to the study, long-term and palliative care comes under the purview of

- (a) government responsibilities
- (b) liabilities
- (c) social responsibilities
- (d) Both (a) and (c)

(v) Select the option that displays the most likely reason for stating that older people who live with family are no better. (1)

It is so because

- (a) they also suffer from loneliness
- (b) they have no one who loves or cares for them
- (c) they have additional burden of responsibility
- (d) All of the above

(vi) Based on the reading of the text, state a point to challenge the given statement. (2)

Joint Family System along with the need for private space has brought challenges to the long-term elderly care.

passage. (1)

The concluding paragraph of the passage makes a clear case for .....

(viii) State whether the given statement is True or False. (1)

In order to get proper care and support, the old people have to adjust their lifestyle as per the wishes of their children.

### SECTION B – CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

18 marks

3. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.

4 marks

A. You are Josely Mathew, the President of the schoolbook club. The club is organising a drive for promoting reuse of study materials and books. Draft a notice in about 50 words, for the school notice board, addressing students of classes X-XII, informing them about this drive and urging them to contribute to the endeavour. Mention how the donated books would benefit a charitable cause.

OR

B. As the House Captain of A.B.M Public School, Telangana, draft a notice in not more than 50 words for the school notice board, informing House members from X-XII about the change in topic and submission dates for Round 1 of 'Discovery' - the upcoming Interhouse Research-based Paper Presentation Competition. Do not forget to issue an apology for the above. You are Kruthika Reddy.

4. Attempt any one:

4 marks

A. The Literary Club of your school is putting up the play 'Waiting for Godot'. As secretary of the club, draft an invitation for the same inviting the parents for the presentation.

OR

B. As principal of Blooms berry Public school, New Delhi, invite Mr. Pankaj Kapoor, Secretary of National School of Drama to adjudge the Inter-School Drama competition to be held in your school.

5. Attempt any one:

A. Sunshine Public school, New Delhi, requires a sports coach. You should be a degree holder in Physical Education as well as i. ISI CERTIFIED COACH in ATHLETICS. You have seen their advertisement, and you know you have these qualifications. Write an application along with your resume. You are Praveen, M-114, Najafgarh, New Delhi.

5 marks

OR

- C.* You are Rita or Rohan. Write a letter to the Editor of the Times Of India, Lucknow, about your village which does not have a primary health centre. The sick villagers have to travel a long distance for medical help. Many villagers have died due to lack of timely medical care.
- B.* Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words.

5 Marks

- A.* You are Sohail Hassan of class XII-B. Write an article for your school magazine, sharing the importance of young adults, as volunteers in one's local community, the need to do so and the benefits involved. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this article.

Clues: Importance for personal growth + Community development

Benefits for self: New skills experiences and a sense of purpose.

What are the ways in which one could get involved?

OR

- B.* The R.W.A (Resident Welfare Association), Nandipura -II, launched a volunteer programme for the young adults in and around the neighbourhood, on 18 January 2023. As Sunitha J., the local correspondent of the neighbourhood newsletter, write a report, covering this event. Support your ideas with outline cues given below, to draft your report.

Which volunteer programme? purpose of the launch event- its importance.

Activities that took place who attended?

Any key messages delivered?

How were young adults encouraged to join the volunteer programme?

Any resources and information provided to attend days?

Any insight into follow up activities planned?

What impact is expected to be achieved in the community?

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

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

6 marks

...I looked again at her, wan,  
pale as a late winter's moon  
and felt that old familiar ache,  
my childhood's fear,

but all I said was, 'see you soon, Amma,  
all I did was smile and smile and smile.....

(My mother at Sixty-six)

i What is the speaker's emotional state when looking at her mother?

- A. Confused and disoriented
- B. Nostalgic and longing
- C. Empathetic and understanding
- D. Fearful and apprehensive

ii What does the use of the word "but" at the beginning of the line, 'but all I said..', suggest?

iii Select the word that WILL NOT complete the sentence appropriately. The description of the mother as "wan, pale / as a late winter's moon" creates a vivid image of \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. vulnerability
- B. sensitivity
- C. frailty
- D. mortality

iv State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE. The poetic device used in the line, 'pale as a winter's moon' is the same as the one used in the line, 'the winter wind wistfully wailed at night'.

v What message do these lines highlight, in the context of familial relationships, and the speaker's sense of anxiety and fear at the prospect of losing her mother?

vi Complete the sentence appropriately. The repetition of the word, 'smile' suggests that \_\_\_\_\_.

OR

Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool  
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.  
The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band;  
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand." (Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

- (i) Aunt Jennifer feels the weight of the wedding band. This indicates .....  
(1)
  - (a) her dissatisfaction with her marriage
  - (b) her anger in her marriage
  - (c) her isolation with her marriage
  - (d) her silence in her marriage.
- (ii) State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the statement given below. (1)

The image massive weight of the wedding band' means a wedding bond of a hard married life.

- (iii) Complete the following sentence with an appropriate word. (1)  
Aunt Jennifer uses ..... to express her repressed desires.
- (iv) What do Aunt Jennifer's fluttering hands through her wool tell us? (1)
- (v) Identify the phrase from the extract, that suggests the following. (1)  
Aunt Jennifer may be scared of her husband finding out about her embroidery.
- (vi) Which of the following states the correct rhyming scheme of the extract. (1)
  - (a) abab
  - (b) abba
  - (c) aabb
  - (d) abca

8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given. (4)

A. Yes. I've taken the obvious step: I talked to a psychiatrist friend of mine, among others. I told him about the third level at Grand Central Station and he said it was a waking dream wish fulfillment. He said I was unhappy. That made my wife kind of mad, but he explained that he meant the modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry and all the rest of it and that I just want to escape.  
*Well, who doesn't? Everybody I know wants to escape, but they don't wander down into any third level at Grand Central Station. (The Third Level)*

- (i) Why did the narrator go to a psychiatrist? (1)
- (ii) What is 'waking dream wish fulfillment' according to the psychiatrist in the lesson? (1)
  - (a) Charley's finding of a Third Level at Grand Central Station.
  - (b) Charley's realisation of his wish to visit Galesburg Illinois.
  - (c) Charley's escaping into his daydreaming everyday.
  - (d) Charley's post stamp collecting habit.
- (iii) Complete the sentence appropriately, with reference to the extract. (1)  
The third level, according to Charley, was .....
- (iv) What does the psychiatrist explain to Charley? (1)

OR

B. "Not by you, but by someone who does not know him. I have my own private assassins. Suppose I send two of them to your house tonight or better, any night. You need know nothing about it. It is now warm - what would be more natural than that you should leave the outer partition of the white man's room open to the garden while he sleeps?" (The Enemy)

- (i) Complete the sentence appropriately.  
There is a need to assassinate 'him' because ..... (1)
- (ii) List the speaker's purpose behind getting the white man assassinated. (1)
- (iii) The given lines indicate characteristic/s about the General. These characteristics are ..... and ..... (1)



- (a) Care and kindness
- (b) Ignorance and self-centered
- (c) Humanist and patriotic
- (d) Both (a) and (c)
- (iv) Who hatched the plan to kill the white man? Was it successful? (1)

9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

6 marks

A Usually, when school began, there was a great hustle, which could be heard out in the street, the opening and closing of desks, lessons repeated in unison, very loud, with our hands over our ears to understand better, and the teacher's great ruler rapping on the table. But now it was all so still! I had counted on the commotion to get to my desk without being seen; but, of course, that day everything had to be as quiet as Sunday morning. Through the window I saw my classmates, already in their places, and M. Hamel walking up and down with his terrible iron ruler under his arm. I had to open the door and go in before everybody. You can imagine how I blushed and how frightened I was. (The Last Lesson)

i List any two sensory details present in this extract. 1

ii Why does the protagonist feel anxious about entering the classroom on this particular day?

- A. The classmates have started the lesson
- B. The teacher is in a bad mood
- C. The classroom is too quiet
- D. The protagonist is running late 1

iii Complete the sentence appropriately. The phrase "as quiet as Sunday morning" suggests that \_\_\_\_\_ 1

iv Pick evidence from the extract that helps one infer that this was *not* the protagonist's first time being late to school. 1

v What does the term 'terrible iron ruler' indicate about M. Hamel? 1

vi Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the extract?

- A. The Fears of a Latecomer
- B. The Importance of Punctuality
- C. The Rigidity of the School System
- D. The Anxiety of a Young Student

OR

B. Unaware of what his name represents, he roams the streets with his friends, an army of barefoot boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon. Over the months, I have come to recognise each of them. "Why aren't you wearing chappals?" I ask one. "My mother did not bring them down from the shelf," he answers simply. "Even if she did, he will throw them off," adds another who is wearing shoes that do not match. When I comment on it, he shuffles his feet and says nothing. "I want shoes," says a third boy who has never owned a pair all his life. Travelling across the

country I have seen children walking barefoot, in cities, on village roads. It is not lack of money but a tradition to stay barefoot, is one explanation. (Lost Spring)

i What is the writer's purpose in allowing the boys to speak for themselves via dialogue, as opposed to only a writer's commentary? 1

ii The line, "It is not lack of money but a tradition to stay barefoot" can be best classified as:

- A. A fact
- B. An opinion
- C. A theme
- D. A plot point 1

iii Explain any one possible inference that can be drawn from the line, "an army of barefoot boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon". 1

iv Identify the line from the text that bears evidence to the fact that the writer's association with the boys is not a recent one. 1

v Based on the context provided in the extract, select the most likely comment that the writer would have made, based on the boy's reaction to the mismatched shoes.

- A. "Why are your shoes mismatched? That's not a good look."
- B. "Don't worry about your shoes, you can wear a matching pair later."
- C. "I like your shoes. What matters is that they protect your feet."
- D. "Have you chosen to mismatch your shoes? 1

vi Complete the sentence with ONE word. The phrase "he answers simply", suggests that the boy's response to the writer's question about why he wasn't wearing chappals was \_\_\_\_\_ . 1

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words. 5x2=10

i 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.] (Indigo)

ii Douglas uses sensory details to create a vivid image of the unfortunate experience in the pool. What might be the impact on the reader if the narration were more informative than sensory? (Deep Water)

iii How does the setting of the remote forest location in 'The Rattrap' contribute to the overall tone and mood of the story?

iv How might the message of the poem, 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' be different, if the following last four lines were omitted? 'When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by. The tigers in the panel that she made Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid'.

v How did Rajkumar Shukla establish that he was resolute?

vi What changes did the order from Berlin cause in the school that day?

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. 2x2=4

✓ Answer the question in the context of the following lines from 'The Enemy'.

"Stupid Yumi," she muttered fiercely. "Is this anything but a man? And a wounded helpless man!" In the conviction of her own superiority she bent impulsively and untied the knotted rugs that kept the white man covered.

Explain the superiority Hana is convinced about.

ii Do you think the author has induced several instances in the Tiger King & faces the risk of being too cynical? Explain.

✓ Explain the working conditions of the bangle makers of Firozabad.

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

A. In the modern world full of death, disease and violence, some quiet time and peace is always appreciated. The need for a peaceful world was imagined by Pablo Neruda way earlier in the poem Keeping Quiet.

*You are making a speech on how Neruda has thought of this ideal world which is forever going to be relevant. Imagine how you will make your speech relevant while referring to the poem. You may begin like this*

*Good Morning to one and all present here, I am standing here, in front of all, with a simple view in mind talking about .....*

OR

✓ The different portrayals of women in the texts 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers', 'Lost Spring' and 'My Mother at Sixty-six', offer insights into the experiences of women in society. You have been asked to address your peers and share- → the ways these portrayals highlight the diversity of the female experience. → the importance of understanding each individual woman's challenges and experiences. Compose this draft, with reference to the three prescribed texts listed above.

You may begin this way: Good morning, everyone. As I analysed the allotted texts... You may end this way. To conclude, I'd like to say that ...

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120 - 150 words. (5)  
A. "The modern world, as has been said, is full of stress, anxieties and worries for innumerable things. In the face of these stresses, we want an escape as did Charley from the story The Third Level. Charley's escape, however, is the past."

You read the given lines in a journal. Write what do you think about the given opinion. You can begin like this  
The modern world is full of fear, insecurity, war, worry and stress .....

**OR**

How would you explain the reluctance of the soldier to leave the shelter of the doctor's home even when he knew he couldn't stay there without risk to the doctor and himself. (The Enemy)