

MID - TERM EXAMINATION (2024 - 25)
CLASS XII
ENGLISH CORE
SET - 2

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Duration: 3 Hours
Max Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. This question paper consists of three sections.
 - > Section A - Reading Comprehension: 22 Marks
 - > Section B - Creative Writing Skills: 18 Marks
 - > Section C - Literature: 40 Marks
2. Attempt the questions based on specific instructions for each part.
3. Adhere to the word limit.

SECTION A : READING SKILLS

Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages

12 Marks

1. Read the following text.

1. In the heart of the Amazon rainforest, deep within its dense foliage, a team of scientists embarked on an expedition to uncover its hidden secrets. Dr. Amelia Rodriguez, a renowned botanist, led the team. Their mission was to discover new plant species, some of which could hold the key to breakthroughs in medicine, and to document the rich biodiversity of this pristine environment.
2. The rainforest was a world of contrasts, where vibrant colours and harmonious sounds coexisted with the unseen dangers lurking beneath the canopy. As the team journeyed deeper into the jungle, they marvelled at the iridescent wings of butterflies and the haunting calls of howler monkeys.
3. One day, while collecting samples near a tranquil river, they stumbled upon a mysterious plant unlike anything they had ever seen. It had deep indigo leaves and delicate, translucent petals that seemed to shimmer in the dappled sunlight. Dr. Rodriguez couldn't contain her excitement. She carefully collected the specimen, naming it 'Amazonian Aurora', hoping it would prove to be a botanical marvel.
4. As the team continued their exploration, they encountered challenges. They had to navigate treacherous terrain, fend off swarms of relentless insects, and decipher the forest's hidden messages. Their perseverance was unwavering, driven by a passion for unveiling nature's secrets.
5. In a remote clearing, they made a stunning discovery—a previously unknown orchid that emitted a sweet fragrance capable of calming the nerves. This revelation held the promise of a new treatment for anxiety and insomnia, a ground breaking development.
6. Throughout their journey, the team learned to read the rainforest's intricate signs. They observed that certain ants led them to sources of clean water, while other plants provided natural remedies for insect bites. The Amazon rainforest was both

a sanctuary and a classroom, revealing the profound interdependence of all its living inhabitants. (301 words)

Designed to engage readers with a vivid depiction of a scientific expedition in the Amazon rainforest.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- i. Share evidence from the text, in about 40 words, that demonstrates the author's use of vivid and sensory language to describe the rainforest. 2
- ii. Explain, in about 40 words, the symbolism behind the name, 'Amazonian Aurora' for the mysterious plant. 2
- iii. What qualities or motivations do you think drove the team to persist in their exploration, despite the challenges they faced in the forest? Answer in 40 words. 2
- iv. Select the option that describes the primary motivation of Dr. Amelia Rodriguez and her team's expedition in the Amazon rainforest. 1
 - a. Discovering new species and scientific knowledge
 - b. A quest for treasure and riches
 - c. Escaping from the hustle and bustle of urban life
 - d. Studying the impact of climate change in the rainforest
- v. What was the significance of the 'Amazonian Aurora' plant that the team discovered? 1
 - a. It was an edible plant used by the local communities.
 - b. It was a new species with potential medicinal properties.
 - c. It was a dangerous plant with toxic properties.
 - d. It was a common plant found throughout the rainforest.
- vi. Select the option that correctly describes the team's feelings upon discovering the new orchid. 1
 - a. Disinterest and apathy
 - b. Surprise and shock
 - c. Excitement and hope
 - d. Fear and apprehension
- vii. Read the four headlines A - D, given below and then choose the relevant correct option from a - d given next: 1
 - A. New Findings in the Amazon Hold Promise for Humans
 - B. Botanical Marvel Unearthed: 'Amazonian Aurora' Shines in the Wild
 - C. Newly Discovered Orchid Offers Breakthrough Anxiety Treatment
 - D. Hitchhiking Through the Amazon: A Bird's Eye View

Now, identify the option that displays the headline/s that DOES / DO NOT correspond with occurrences in the passage.

 - a. Both A and C
 - b. Both B and D
 - c. Only A
 - d. Only D
- viii. Complete the sentence appropriately with the relevant descriptive words. 1
Based on the information given in the excerpt, Dr. Amelia Rodriguez is described as a
- ix. In the expression, 'The Amazon rainforest was both a sanctuary and a classroom', what dual role does the author suggest the rainforest plays? 1

Read the following text.

1. In an age of digital distractions, the reading habits of young adults have come under scrutiny. A study conducted among high school seniors aimed to explore the factors that influence their reading preferences and recorded the percentage variation for ten common points related to reading habits.
2. Among those who are avid readers, the most common reason cited was a love for the escapism and adventure that books offer (55%), followed closely by the pleasure of exploring different worlds and cultures through literature (49%). Additionally, frequent readers appreciated the intellectual stimulation and the ability to improve vocabulary (44%) that reading provided, as well as the opportunity to broaden their perspectives (37%).
3. On the other hand, those who read infrequently often cited time constraints due to academic commitments (58%) as their primary reason. Infrequent readers also noted a lack of interest or motivation (49%) and the appeal of other forms of entertainment, such as social media and video games (42%). Additionally, they expressed concerns about the cost of books and access to libraries (36%).
4. Interestingly, both groups had similar levels of interest in reading for personal growth and self-improvement (41% for avid readers, 39% for infrequent readers). Similarly, both groups acknowledged the importance of supporting local libraries and promoting a culture of reading (35% for avid readers, 34% for infrequent readers).
5. However, there were also some notable differences between the two groups. Avid readers placed a higher priority on exploring classic literature and literary fiction (46%) compared to infrequent readers (23%). Conversely, infrequent readers were more likely to prioritize reading for academic purposes and exams (37%) compared to avid readers (18%).
6. Overall, the study results suggest that reading habits among young adults are influenced by various factors, including personal interests, academic pressures, and the accessibility of reading materials. (354 words)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- i. Infer two possible ways that the study, mentioned in Paragraph 1, could benefit high school seniors. (40 words) 2
- ii. How might the differences in reading preferences between avid and infrequent readers impact the publishing industry and libraries? (40 words) 2
- iii. Complete the following with a word from the passage above. (Paragraph 2) 1
Escapism: daydreaming :: delving into/ investigating :
- iv. Which of the following conclusions can be drawn from the study about the reading preferences of high school seniors? 1
 - a. Avid readers and infrequent readers both value reading for intellectual stimulation equally
 - b. Avid readers are more likely to enjoy reading classic literature, while infrequent readers prioritize academic reading
 - c. Infrequent readers cite time constraints as their least common reason for not reading
 - d. Both avid readers and infrequent readers equally support promoting a culture of reading and supporting local libraries
- v. Which option is an example of a priority for avid readers, as mentioned in 1

- Paragraph 3:
- a. Reading for personal growth and self-improvement
 - b. Prioritizing reading for academic purposes and exams
 - c. Exploring classic literature and literary fiction
 - d. Lack of interest or motivation

- vi. State TRUE or FALSE. 1
The title, 'The Reading Dilemma: Unravelling the Habits of Young Adults', is appropriate for this passage.
- vii. What do the top choices in the study for avid readers and infrequent readers suggest about their reading preferences? 1
- viii. Complete the sentence appropriately. (write only the answer) 1
The similarities in the percentage of both avid and infrequent readers who are interested in supporting local libraries and promoting a culture of reading may be due to

SECTION B : CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

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

Q. 3. Attempt ANY ONE of the two questions given, in about 50 words. 4 Marks

- A. As Pustak Kumar, the President of the school Photography Club, draft a notice for the school notice board, informing the students of classes X-XII about the theme for an upcoming inter - house photography competition, inventing other relevant details.
- B. As Namita Singh, Secretary RWA, 21 B, Westend Apartments, draft a notice informing members about a blood donation camp being organized by an NGO, Raktdaan. Mention all other necessary details.

Q. 4. Attempt ANY ONE of the two questions, in about 50 words. 4 Marks

- A. The Ministry of Health, Delhi Government is organising an exhibition on health care in Pragati Maidan. As the Health Secretary, draft an invitation to the people to visit the exhibition. Invent relevant details.
- B. Sunrise Global School, Agra is planning to organise a one-act play competition in the school auditorium. As Karuna / Karan, Cultural Secretary, you have decided to invite the noted stage artist, Nalini Sahu to grace the occasion. Draft an invitation to invite her, inventing other necessary details.

Q. 5. Attempt ANY ONE of the two questions given, in about 120-150 words. 5 Marks

- A. You are Chetan Sharma, a commerce graduate from Delhi University. You are seeking a suitable job. You came across an advertisement in, The Times of India, inviting young and dynamic fresh graduates as sales assistants in a reputed company. Apply for the said job along with your curriculum vitae, inventing relevant details.
- B. You are Meher Ansari, a resident of Nabarun Apartments, Patparganj, Delhi. Your residential area is flooded with roadside dwellers who are deprived of the basic civic amenities such as light, public toilets and bathrooms. Write a letter to the Editor of The Hindustan Times, highlighting the problems of these roadside dwellers, and also the problems posed by them to the public. Give suggestions to uplift the condition.

Q. 6.

Attempt ANY ONE of the two questions, in about 120-150 words.

5 Marks

- A. You are Sohail Khan of Class XII. 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 the article.

Clues:

- Importance of personal growth and community development
- Benefits: (for self: new skills, experiences, a sense of purpose)
(for community: positive impact)
- Ways one could get involved

- B. Imagine you are a newspaper reporter. Write a report for, The Times of India on a road accident that you witnessed in Lajpat Nagar, Delhi when a truck rammmed into a school bus. Support your ideas with the outline cues given below to draft your report.

4 killed.....20 injuredinjured hospitalised..... blocked the road police intervned situations controlled..... compensation announced.

SECTION C : LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT

- Q. 7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions from ANY ONE of the two given. 6x1=6 Marks

A. *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. (Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)*

- i. The attitude of the poet towards Aunt Jennifer is that of
 - a. hatred
 - b. love
 - c. sympathy
 - d. disgust
- ii. 'Ordeals' in the extract means
 - a. happiness
 - b. sadness
 - c. challenges
 - d. harsh experiences
- iii. 'Proud' and 'unafraid'. These two adjectives have been used for
 - a. the uncle
 - b. the males in the society
 - c. the tigers and the males in the forest
 - d. the tigers on the panel
- iv. The poetic device that has been used in, 'terrified hands' is

v. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given.

- (1) Aunt Jennifer was mastered by ordeals.
- (2) Aunt Jennifer's art outlived her.

- 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

vi. What does the poet mean by, 'still ringed with ordeals'?

- a. Still exploited and harassed
- b. Still free to open and express
- c. All the rights that a woman should have
- d. The freedom to do whatever one wants

B. *It is in the news that all these pitiful kin
Are to be bought out and mercifully gathered in
To live in villages, next to the theatre and the store,
Where they won't have to think for themselves anymore,
While greedy good-doers, beneficent beasts of prey,
Swarm over their lives enforcing benefits
That are calculated to soothe them out of their wits,
And by teaching them how to sleep they sleep all day,
Destroy their sleeping at night the ancient way. (A Roadside Stand)*

i. What is the tone of the poet in the above lines?

- (i) aggressive
- (ii) tolerant
- (iii) sarcastic
- (iv) resigned
- (v) sentimental

Choose the most appropriate option.

- a. Only (i)
- b. (ii) and (iii)
- c. (i), (iv) and (v)
- d. Only (iii)

ii. Identify the phrase from the extract, that suggests the following:

No one bothers to take 'their' consent before pushing the promise of a better life, their way.

iii. What quality of the villagers can be inferred through these lines?

- a. gullible
- b. futuristic
- c. hypocritical
- d. ambitious

iv. Complete the following analogy correctly. Do NOT repeat from used example.
greedy good doers: alliteration ::.....: oxymoron

v. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to (1) and (2) given.

- (1) The city dwellers make promises for the betterment of the villagers.
- (2) The city dwellers have ulterior motives.

- a. (1) is true but (2) is false
- b. (2) is true but (1) is false
- c. (2) is the reason for (1)
- d. Both (1) and (2) cannot be inferred from the extract

vi. Fill the blank with an appropriate word, with reference to the extract.
 '... calculated to soothe them out of their wits' implies that 'them' are being

Q.8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

4x1= 4 Marks

A. *In other words, the Tiger King is dead. The manner of his death is a matter of extraordinary interest. It can be revealed only at the end of the tale. The most fantastic aspect of his demise was that as soon as he was born, astrologers had foretold that one day the Tiger King would actually have to die. "The child will grow up to become the warrior of warriors, hero of heroes, champion of champions. But..." they bit their lips and swallowed hard. When compelled to continue, the astrologers came out with it. "This is a secret which should not be revealed at all. And yet we are forced to speak out. The child born under this star will one day have to meet its death." (The Tiger King)*

- i. Complete the sentence appropriately. The author's purpose in using foreshadowing, is to
- ii. In the given extract, what emotion were the astrologers feeling when they 'bit their lips and swallowed hard'?
 - a. Humiliation
 - b. Disbelief
 - c. Grief
 - d. Unease
- iii. Which trait are the astrologers lauding when they say, "warrior of warriors, hero of heroes, champion of champions"?
- iv. How is the expression, 'the most fantastic aspect of his demise', an example of contrast?

B. *Climate change is one of the most hotly contested environmental debates of our time. Will the West Antarctic ice sheet melt entirely? Will the Gulf Stream ocean current be disrupted? Will it be the end of the world as we know it? Maybe. Maybe not. Either way, Antarctica is a crucial element in this debate — not just because it's the only place in the world, which has never sustained a human population and therefore remains relatively 'pristine' in this respect; but more importantly, because it holds in its ice-cores half-million-year-old carbon records trapped in its layers of ice. (Journey to the End of the Earth)*

- i. How does the absence of a human population in Antarctica make it significant in the climate change debate?
- ii. Why is climate change described as a 'hotly contested' issue in the extract provided? This is so, because there
 - a. is universal agreement on the causes and implications of climate change
 - b. is a planned path ahead about how to address climate change
 - c. are differing views on the causes and implications of climate change
 - d. are minimal reports of fresh threats to climate change
- iii. The analogy of a time machine is an appropriate analogy for the role of carbon

records in the study of climate change because

- iv. Give one reason why the writing style of the extract can be called factual and informative.

Q. 9.

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

6x1=6 Marks

A. *No one can imagine how sad and monotonous life can appear to such a vagabond, who plods along the road, left to his own meditations. But one day this man had fallen into a line of thought, which really seemed to him entertaining. He had naturally been thinking of his rattraps when suddenly he was struck by the idea that the whole world about him — the whole world with its lands and seas, its cities and villages — was nothing but a big rattrap. It had never existed for any other purpose than to set baits for people. (The Rattrap)*

- i. According to the extract, which of these words best describes the man?
- Impulsive
 - Indifferent
 - Simpleminded
 - Reflective
- ii. The mood of the extract can be best described as
- careless
 - indulgent
 - amiable
 - philosophical
- iii. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.
- (1) The world offers living beings a life full of pleasure.
(2) However, only compassionate people can enjoy those pleasures.
- (2) has been caused by (1)
 - (2) is a hypothesis based on (1)
 - (1) cannot be inferred from the extract but (2) can be
 - (1) can be inferred from the extract but (2) cannot be
- iv. Replace the underlined word with its antonym from the extract. The man who thought that the world was a rattrap lived a life that was interesting.
- v. Rewrite the given sentence after replacing the underlined phrase with its synonym.
It had never existed for any other purpose than to set baits for people.
- vi. In one sentence, rationalise the given statement.
It is challenging for others to be able to understand the despair of a vagabond's life.
- B. *The Champaran episode was a turning-point in Gandhi's life. "What I did," he explained, "was a very ordinary thing. I declared that the British could not order me about in my own country." But Champaran did not begin as an act of defiance. It grew out of an attempt to alleviate the distress of large numbers of poor peasants. This was the typical Gandhi pattern — his politics were intertwined with the practical, day-to-day problems of the millions. His was not a loyalty to abstractions; it was a loyalty to living, human beings. In everything Gandhi did, moreover, he tried to mould a new free Indian who could stand on his own feet. (Indigo)*

- i. In the extract the phrase, 'loyalty to abstractions' refers to a strong commitment to
 - a. certain ideologies
 - b. selected groups
 - c. simple pleasures
 - d. rigid hierarchy
- ii. Select the correct option to fill in the blank.
The primary motive of Gandhi's actions was to
 - a. make Indians self-reliant
 - b. eradicate poverty of the peasants
 - c. unite the people of Champaran
 - d. expose the incompetence of the British
- iii. Which option best describes the primary purpose of the extract?
 - a. It shows how Gandhi's position in the Champaran struggle reflected his political views.
 - b. It highlights Gandhi's intention to use peasants to overthrow colonial power
 - c. It points out why the Champaran episode is still relevant in free modern India
 - d. It explains the differences between the political strategies of Gandhi and the British
- iv. Select a suitable word from the extract to complete the following analogy:
change: transform :: relieve:
- v. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer Gandhi's view of his own accomplishments (clue: a word).
- vi. Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation in a few words only, as per the extract.
Gandhi uses the words 'turning point' to refer to the Champaran incident because it

Q. 10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following in about 40 -50 words each.

5x2=10 Marks

- i. What were the terms of the indigo contract between the British landlords and the Indian peasants? (Indigo)
- ii. Why was Subbu considered number two at Gemini Studios? (Poets and Pancakes)
- iii. What makes human beings love life inspite of troubles and sufferings? (A Thing of Beauty)
- iv. Do you think the poet, Pablo Neruda, advocates total inactivity and death? Why/Why not? (Keeping Quiet)
- v. Why does Aunt Jennifer create animals that are so different from her own character? (Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)
- vi. How did the instructor turn Douglas into a swimmer? (Deep Water)

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

2x2=4 Marks

- i. How did the Dewan manage the situation to find the hundredth tiger when the king became extremely furious? (The Tiger King)
- ii. How would a student's learning experience be enhanced in the, 'Students on Ice' programme as compared to studying only in a classroom? Analyse any one point. (Journey to the End of the Earth)

iii. *With reference to, The Enemy, describe any two ways in which Sadao's father influenced Sadao's life. (The Enemy)*

Q.12.

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

1x5=5 Marks

A. *Beauty is an admirable blend of qualities that reward pleasure to the senses. The beauty of feelings, thoughts, and expressions is more bizarre, transcendental, and purer. A thing of beauty is a joy forever. Compose a draft of a speech to be delivered in your class, with reference to the mentioned poem. (A Thing of Beauty)*

B. *Imagine that you are the bully who threw Douglas into the pool, the episode in which he nearly lost his life and developed an intense fear of water. You are grown up now and you learn how Douglas has conquered his fear. Pen down your feelings in a letter to him. (Deep Water)*

Begin with:

Dear William

Q. 13.

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

1x5=5 Marks

A. *"that if the man were whole I could turn him over to the police..... . But since he is wounded".....*

The above statement clearly displays Dr. Sadao's commitment to his profession and compassion. Write an article in appreciation of Dr.Sadao's professional ethics and his ability to rise above prejudices. (The Enemy)

You may begin like this.

Dr Sadao proved himself to be a man with great humanitarian values.

B. *Knowing too much of your future is never a good thing. In the light of the above statement, as the Dewan, write a diary entry expressing your feelings about how the prediction about his future put the Tiger King onto a path that ultimately destroyed him. (The Tiger King)*

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