

S-1
MID-TERM EXAMINATION - 2024
SUBJECT - ENGLISH (SET 1)

TIME DURATION: 3 HOURS

M.M.: 80

General Instructions:

1. 15-minute prior reading time allotted for question-paper reading.
2. The question paper contains THREE sections - READING, GRAMMAR AND WRITING and LITERATURE.
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (20 MARKS)

Q1. Read the passage given below.

(10 Marks)

1. Yesterday I had the rare opportunity to experience the splendour of time travel. While clearing up my desk I came across an old book of fables that my grandmother read to us in the afternoons. Her fascinating voice transported us to the enchanting realm of storytelling. Neil Gaiman said, "Stories may well be lies, but they are good lies that say true things, and which can sometimes pay the rent!" From ancient myths whispered around flickering campfires to modern-day tales spun through the digital ether, storytelling transcends time and space, captivating audiences across generations and cultures, sharing valuable experiences and wisdom.
2. Storytelling is more than just escapism; it's a powerful tool for understanding ourselves and the world around us. Professor Rudolf Hicks, believes that *well-crafted stories help us to confront universal truths, struggle with complex emotions, and explore the depths of the human experience*. From tales of love and loss to chronicles of triumph and redemption, storytelling touches our hearts and expands our minds in unexpected ways.
3. Moreover, storytelling fosters empathy and connection, bridging gaps between cultures, generations, and perspectives. Why do you think the small episodes of Tenali Raman and Gopal Bhar could move beyond their territorial boundaries and enter into the small yet boundless world of young children? asks Dr. Tarun Sinha, a researcher on human behaviour. As we immerse ourselves in fictional characters' lives, we gain a deeper understanding of human existence's diverse tapestry. In a world plagued by division and discord, storytelling offers hope, reminding us of our shared humanity and the power of compassion to heal wounds and build bridges.
4. Storytelling opens doors to new worlds, offering adventure and mystery to spark our imagination. It takes us beyond reality, filling us with wonder and curiosity as we

journey with heroes or uncover hidden secrets. This art is a treasure of wonder and wisdom, ready to inspire, educate, and transform those who explore it.

5. As technology progresses, the art of storytelling undergoes a transformative evolution, adapting to new frontiers and possibilities. Through virtual reality and interactive platforms, narratives become increasingly immersive and captivating, transcending traditional boundaries. These advancements offer novel avenues for creative expression and deeper engagement with audiences. Embracing these innovations enriches the storytelling experience, inviting audiences into immersive worlds of wonder and imagination.

Answer the following questions based on the passage.

- i) Read the given line and identify the tone of the writer. Validate your response. (2)

Neil Gaiman said, "Stories may well be lies, but they are good lies that say true things, and which can sometimes pay the rent!"

- ii) Based on the reading of the passage, complete the following sentence to be a fact or an opinion. (1)

The art of storytelling shines forth as a symbol of hope, as it is a/an _____ (fact/opinion) that encouraging us to recall our shared humanity and recognize empathy's ability to heal divisions and forge bonds is a/an _____ (objective/subjective) detail.

- iii) How does the author convince the reader that storytelling is a versatile instrument for individual growth and enlightenment? (2)

- iv) The writer contends that storytelling acts as a gateway to undiscovered domains and a source of intrigue and insight. Validate. (1)

- v) Which word in paragraph 3 is similar in meaning to the underlined word in the sentence given below? (1)

The explorer was mesmerised by the vast expanse of the Arctic tundra, where the horizon seemed to stretch infinitely.

- vi) State whether the following statement is **TRUE** or **FALSE** (ref. Paragraph 4) (1)

According to the passage, storytelling is perceived merely as a realm of diversion, devoid of the capacity to evoke inspiration or effect transformative shifts in life.

- vii) Complete the following analogy with one word only. (1)

Discord:Division::Storytelling:_____

- viii) How has the digital advancements transformed the art of storytelling? (1)

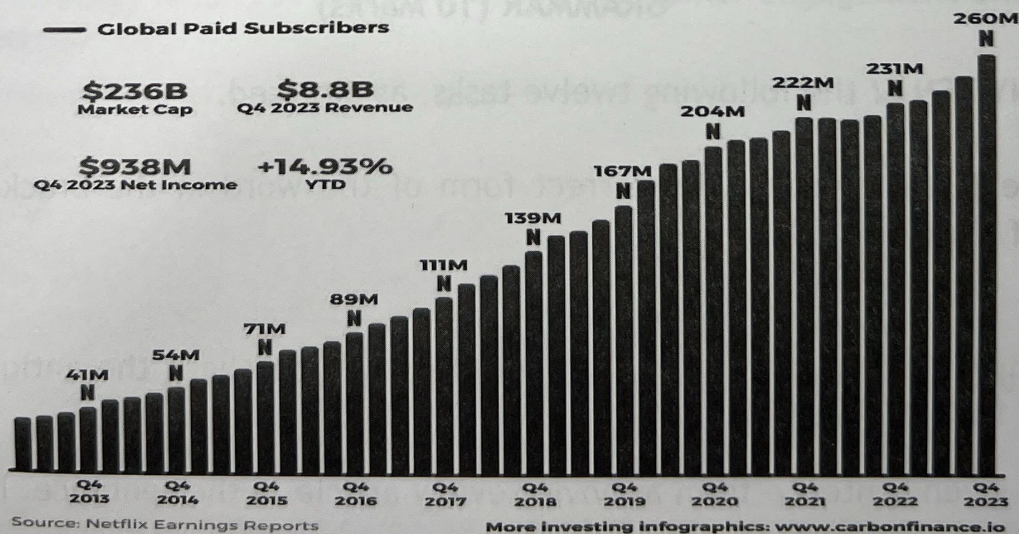
(10 Marks)

Q2. Read the passage given below.

1. The closure of cinemas and numerous entertainment facilities during the pandemic shutdown made streaming services popular. To date, Netflix has 208 million paying subscribers worldwide.
2. The main feature of Netflix is that it allows users to watch content over the internet whenever and wherever they want, which allows them to watch videos without restrictions. Netflix was the preferred streaming platform for US households during the pandemic, accounting for 34% of US households' choice of streaming media according to the survey. 46% of UK adults surveyed cited Netflix as their streaming platform of choice.
3. In terms of business strategy, Netflix's success is linked to the innovation of its business model, which was originally a traditional DVD rental sales model and then shifted to a streaming service. Netflix established a profitable model regarding paid subscriptions and in 2007 Netflix delivered one billion DVDs on the digital network. Netflix's promotional strategy is up to date, making extensive use of social media, posting extensive promotional messages, gaining a waiting audience prior to airing and building an interactive relationship with viewers, for example using social media such as Twitter and Facebook. Netflix has launched viral social media campaigns through social networking platforms, which have been instrumental in increasing audience engagement and played a big role in building strong connections with viewers. Netflix successfully used its influence on Twitter to promote success stories such as Women in Prison in the US.



NETFLIX SUBSCRIBER GROWTH



4. However, Netflix has its own problems. In an era of globalisation of streaming, Netflix's global development is limited by the cultural, historical, political and social conditions of different countries, which sometimes results in Netflix's content not being accepted, such as the monitoring of content in the Chinese market, which prevents Netflix from entering the Chinese market.

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

- i. The main feature of Netflix that contributes to its popularity is _____ (1)
- ii. The statement that-“*The closure of cinemas and numerous entertainment facilities during the pandemic shutdown made streaming services popular. To date, Netflix has 208 million paying subscribers worldwide.*” is a/an _____ (fact/opinion) because it is a/an _____ (subjective judgment/objective detail). (1)
- iii. What percentage of US households preferred Netflix as their streaming platform during the pandemic? (1)
- iv. What are the main strategies Netflix uses for promoting its content? (2)
- v. Why is Netflix’s entry into the Chinese market restricted? (1)
- vi. Find a word from paragraph 4 that can substitute the underlined word in the following sentence.
‘The security team is constantly surveilling the premises for any suspicious activity.’ (1)
- vii. Describe the shift in Netflix’s business model and its impact on the company’s success. (2)
- viii. Which successful Netflix promotional campaign is mentioned in the passage? (1)

SECTION B: GRAMMAR AND WRITING SKILLS (20 MARKS)
GRAMMAR (10 Marks)

Q3. Complete ANY TEN of the following twelve tasks, as directed. (10x1=10)

- i) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter:

Dear Sir

Despite tight finances, I _____ (manage) to purchase the antique, revealing my knack for finding valuable items.

- ii) Read the given sentence from a movie review article in the sentence. Identify the error and supply the correction.

Embarked on a new entrepreneurial venture amidst economic uncertainty requires careful planning and a resilient mindset.

Error	Correction

iii) Read the conversation given below between two sisters. Complete the sentence by filling in the blank.

Samantha: Do you remember the time when I was baking cookies?

Ruth: What did I miss?

Samantha : They were a bit too well-done. I accidentally invented charcoal biscuits.

Samantha asked Ruth_____. Ruth asked what she had missed. Samantha replied that they had been a bit too well done. She accidentally had invented charcoal biscuits.

iv) Read the dialogue between Yashika and Tina regarding the internship.

Yashika: Tina, have you thought about applying for internships yet?

Tina: Yes. I've been looking into a few options.

Yashika asked Tina if she had thought about applying for internships yet. Tina replied _____.

v) Fill in the blank with a suitable determiner to complete the sentence.

The quarterly performance report highlights significant improvements in sales figures compared to _____ previous quarter.

vi) Identify the error and supply correction for the given sentence taken from a case study.

In a recent case study conduct by Acme Corporation, the adoption of an innovative marketing strategy results in a 30% increase in customer engagement and marked growth in sales revenue.

Error	Correction

vii) Identify the error and supply the correction in the given sentence:

Several parts of Delhi and adjoining areas of Noida and Ghaziabad experience a sudden and intense dust storm yesterday evening, leading to delay in flights.

Error	Correction

viii) Fill in the blank with a modal.

In chemistry experiments, when certain chemicals are combined, they _____ create reactions that are unexpected, catching even those with extensive experience by surprise.

ix) Report the dialogue between a minister and a guard, by completing the sentence.

Minister: Could you deliver this message to the king now?

Guard: The king is resting now. You can come later.

The minister _____ to which the guard replied that the king was resting then. He told him that he could come later.

x) Identify the error and supply the correction for the opening line of a report.

As environmental challenges intensified, understanding our planet's current state is crucial for forging a sustainable future.

Error	Correction

xi) Complete the line from a song by filling the blank with a modal.

Well, send them your heart so that they know someone cares

And their lives _____ be stronger and free

As God has shown us by turning stone to bread

And so we all must lend a helping hand.

We are the world, We are the children

So let's start giving.

xii) Identify the error and supply the correction.

That approach has demonstrated significant potential for addressing an issue of climate change concern.

Error	Correction

WRITING SKILLS (10 Marks)

Q4. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below in about 100-120 words: (5)

A. You are Drisiya/Divyam. You were on your morning walk when you happened to see an injured bird on the pavement under a huge Banyan tree. You picked it up and took it to an avian veterinarian. Write a paragraph describing the situation.

OR

B. You were bedridden with viral fever for several days, causing you to miss a lot of schoolwork. A classmate generously helped you by sharing his/her notes. Write a paragraph describing the classmate and his/her thoughtful actions.

Q5. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below in 100-120 words: (5)

A. Write a short story with the given opening line and give a suitable title to your story.

I was sleeping peacefully when I heard some noise from the outside. I woke up and ran towards the balcony.....

OR

B. Write a short story with the given opening line and give a suitable title to your story.

Keeping watch at the side of the ship, George was tiring; his eyes weary from constantly searching the horizon, were they also playing tricks on him? What was that waving from the rocks?

SECTION C - LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40 MARKS)

Q6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

(5 Marks)

A) *The young boy took to music early in life. At the age of three when his mother took him to his maternal uncle's house in Benaras (now Varanasi), Bismillah was fascinated watching his uncles practise the shehnai. Soon Bismillah started accompanying his uncle, Ali Bux, to the Vishnu temple of Benaras where Bux was employed to play the shehnai. Ali Bux would play the shehnai and Bismillah would sit captivated for hours on end. Slowly, he started getting lessons in playing the instrument and would sit practising throughout the day. For years to come the temple of Balaji and Mangala Maiya and the banks of the Ganga became the young apprentice's favourite haunts where he could practise in solitude. The flowing waters of the Ganga inspired him to improvise and invent raagas that were earlier considered to be beyond the range of the shehnai.*

(The Sound of Music - Part 2)

- i. What specific activities did Bismillah engage in while at the Vishnu temple with his uncle? (1)
- ii. The flowing waters of the Ganga inspired Bismillah _____ . (1)
- iii. Explain the significance of the Balaji and Mangala Maiya temples in Bismillah's musical development. (2)
- iv. What role did solitude play in Bismillah khan's practice sessions? (1)

OR

B) *Kathmandu is vivid, mercenary, religious, with small shrines to flower-adorned deities along the narrowest and busiest streets; with fruit sellers, flute sellers, hawkers of postcards; shops selling Western cosmetics, film rolls and chocolate; or copper utensils and Nepalese antiques.*

Film songs blare out from the radios, car horns sound, bicycle bells ring, stray cows low questioningly at motorcycles, vendors shout out their wares. (Kathmandu)

- i. How does the extract illustrate the religious aspect of Kathmandu's streets? (1)
- ii. "Film songs blare out from the radios, car horns sound, bicycle bells ring, stray cows low questioningly at motorcycles, vendors shout out their wares.
What inference can you make about Kathmandu city from the statement. (1)
- iii. What effect does the writer want to create by mentioning so many things to describe Kathmandu? Answer in about 40 words. (2)
- iv. What is the meaning of the word 'vivid' as used in the above extract? (1)

Q7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. (5)

(A) "Every tinkle on the shingles
Has an echo in the heart;
And a thousand dreamy fancies
Into busy being start,
And a thousand recollections
Weave their air-threads into woof,
As I listen to the patter
Of the rain upon the roof."

- i) What emotion does the poet experience in the aforementioned extract? (1)
- ii) Explain 'And a thousand dreamy fancies, Into busy being start'. (1)
- iii) How does the poet employ the 'air-threads' to convey the intricate nature of memory and imagination? (1)
- iv) What is the effect of the 'patter' on the poet? Answer in 40 words. (2)

OR

(B) I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference.

- i) Fill in the blank with one word. (1)
According to the readers, the poet makes an _____ choice, in the given extract.
- ii) State whether the following statement is TRUE/FALSE. (1)
Robert Frost, confidently asserts that choosing the less travelled road was the decision he made and he had no regrets.
- iii) How does the extended metaphor of 'roads enhance the overall meaning of the poem? (1)
- iv) "I shall be telling this with a sigh." Comment on the significance of this phrase. What does it suggest about the poet's feelings toward the choice he made? (2)

Q8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions in about 40-50 words each. (4x3=12)

- i. Discuss how Evelyn Glennie's deafness was offset by her ability to perceive music through other parts of her body. (The Sound of Music)
- ii. Briefly describe the lady who provoked Saint Peter. How did Saint Peter react? (A Legend of the Northland)
- iii. What role does Kezia's grandmother play in her life? (The Little Girl)
- iv. Why did Einstein write a letter to Franklin Roosevelt? What did it eventually lead to? (A Truly Beautiful Mind)
- v. Explain how the poem "The Road Not Taken" serves as a metaphor for life.

Q9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions in about 40-50 words each. (2x3= 6)

- i) Why does the Guru refuse to stay with his disciple? (In The Kingdom of Fools)
- ii) According to the author, what hindered Toto from becoming a permanent member in grandfather's house? (The Adventures of Toto)
- iii) A child cannot live without his parents. How has this truth been illustrated in the story 'The Lost Child'?

Q10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 100-120 words. (1 x 6 = 6)

A. Discuss the significant influences and experiences from Abdul Kalam's childhood that shaped his character and values, as depicted in the chapter "My Childhood.". How did his family, friends, and environment contribute to his development?

OR

B. Discuss the role of technology in shaping human experiences and relationships in 'The Fun They Had.' How does Asimov's portrayal of future education comment on the potential impacts of technology on society?

Q11. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 100-120 words. (1x6=6)

A. "The greatest discovery of all time is that a person can change his future by merely changing his attitude." - Oprah Winfrey. Justify this statement with respect to Johnsy in 'The Last Leaf'.

OR

Imagine you are the stranger in the story 'The Lost Child', write a diary entry to your friend describing your experience at the fair that day.

You may begin with

Today was an extraordinary day for me, I was so moved by.....