



**HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION (2021-22)**

**SET-A**

**Subject: English Core (301)**

**Max. Marks: 40**

**Grade: XI**

**Time: 90mins**

**Name:**

**Section:**

**Roll No:**

**General Instructions:**

- The Question Paper contains *THREE* sections.
- Section A-READING has 18 questions. Attempt a total of 14 questions, as per specific instructions for each question.
- Section B-WRITING SKILLS has 12 questions. Attempt a total of 10 questions, as per specific instructions for each question.
- Section C-LITERATURE has 30 questions. Attempt 26 questions, as per specific instructions for each question.
- All questions carry equal marks.
- There is no negative marking.

**READING**

**I. Read the passage given below.**

- I. We sit in the last row, bumped about but free of stares. The bus rolls out of the dull crossroads of the city, and we are soon in open countryside, with fields of sunflowers as far as the eye can see, their heads all facing us. Where there is no water, the land reverts to desert. While still on level ground, we see in the distance the tall range of the Mount Bogda, abrupt like a shining prism laid horizontally on the desert surface. It is over 5,000 metres high, and the peaks are under permanent snow, in powerful contrast to the flat desert all around. Heaven Lake lies part of the way up this range, about 2,000 metres above sea-level, at the foot of one of the higher snow-peaks.
- II. As the bus climbs, the sky, brilliant before, grows overcast. I have brought nothing warm to wear, it is all down at the hotel in Urumqi. Rain begins to fall. The man behind me is eating overpoweringly smelly goat's cheese. The bus window leaks inhospitably but reveals a beautiful view. We have passed quickly from desert through arable land to pasture, and the ground is now green with grass, the slopes dark with pine. A few cattle drink at a clear stream flowing past moss-covered stones; it is a Constable landscape. The stream changes into a white torrent, and as we climb higher, I wish more and more that I had brought with me something warmer than the pair of shorts that have served me so well in the desert. The stream (which, we are told, rises in Heaven Lake) disappears, and we continue our slow ascent. About noon, we arrive at Heaven Lake, and look for a place to stay at the foot, which is the resort area. We get a room in a small cottage, and I am happy to note that there are thick quilts on the beds.

- III. Standing outside the cottage we survey our surroundings. Heaven Lake is long, sardine-shaped and fed by snowmelt from a stream at its head. The lake is an intense blue, surrounded on all sides by green mountain walls, dotted with distant sheep. At the head of the lake, beyond the delta of the inflowing stream, is a massive snow-capped peak which dominates the vista; it is part of a series of peaks that culminate, a little out of view, in Mount Bogda itself.
- IV. For those who live in the resort, there is a small mess-hall by the shore. We eat here sometimes, and sometimes buy food from the vendors outside, who sell kabab and naan until the last buses leave. The kababs, cooked on skewers over charcoal braziers, are particularly good; highly spiced and well-done. Horse's milk is available too from the local Kazakh herdsmen, but I decline this. I am so affected by the cold that Mr. Cao, the relaxed young man who runs the mess, lends me a spare pair of trousers, several sizes too large but more than comfortable. Once I am warm again, I feel a pre-dinner spurt of energy — dinner will be long in coming — and I ask him whether the lake is good for swimming in.
- V. "Swimming?" Mr. Cao says. "You aren't thinking of swimming, are you?"
- VI. "I thought I might," I confess. "What's the water like?" He doesn't answer me immediately, turning instead to examine some receipts with exaggerated interest. Mr. Cao, with great off-handedness, addresses the air. "People are often drowned here," he says. After a pause, he continues. "When was the last one?" This question is directed at the cook, who is preparing a tray of mantou (squat, white steamed bread rolls), and who now appears, wiping his doughy hand across his forehead. "Was it the Beijing athlete?" asks Mr. Cao.

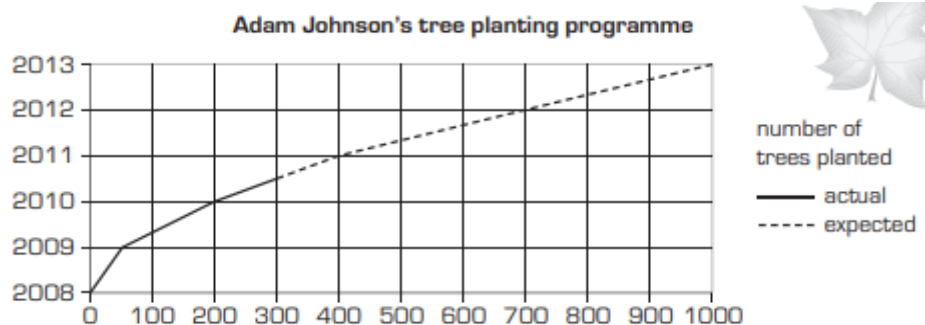
**Based on your understanding of the passage, answer any eight out of the ten questions by choosing the correct option:**

1. According to the narrator, one benefit of sitting in the last row of the bus was that
  - a. he could see the landscapes.
  - b. he could avoid the stares of people.
  - c. he could enjoy the bumps.
  - d. he could have a better view of sunflowers.
2. On reaching the destination, the narrator's first relief was that....
  - a. he had got away from the desert.
  - b. a difficult journey had come to an end.
  - c. he could watch the snow peak.
  - d. there were thick quilts on the beds.
3. The **Mount Bogda, abrupt like a shining prism** laid horizontally on the desert surface. Which option best connotes the highlighted phrase in the above line?
  - a. Mount Bogda is a shining prism.
  - b. Mount Bogda shines like a prism which is a sudden sight to behold amidst the desert land.
  - c. The tall ranges of Mount Bogda is compared to a shining prism using metaphor.
  - d. Both (b) and (c)
4. Which are the things that made the narrator uncomfortable in the bus?
  - a. desert lands without water.
  - b. Rainwater seeping through the windows of the bus.
  - c. man eating overpoweringly smelly goat's cheese.
  - d. Both (b) and (c)
5. As the bus climbs higher, the narrator observes amazing things in nature. Which option DOES NOT belong to this context?
  - a. It becomes cloudy and begins to rain.
  - b. The stream changes into a white torrent.

- c. The sky becomes so brilliant to keep himself warm.      d. Dark pines over green pastures.
6. Pick up a word from the passage that can replace the underlined word in the following sentence. "Children not allowed", said the guard projecting his brusqueness.
- a. domination      b. off-handedness  
c. Spurt of energy      d. inhospitably
7. What made the scene look like a Constable landscape?
- a. massive snow-capped peak      b. Flat desert lands  
c. Meadows, dark pines, and clear streams dotted with cattle      d. None of the above
8. In the above piece of writing, the writer makes a deliberate creative escape from his reality. Which option testimonies the above fact?
- a. For those who live in the resort, there is a small mess-hall by the shore.      b. The bus rolls out of the dull crossroads of the city, and we are soon in open countryside, with fields of sunflowers as far as the eye can see.  
c. Once I am warm again, I feel a pre-dinner spurt of energy.      d. Both (a) and (b)
9. At the head of the lake, beyond the delta of the inflowing stream, is a massive snow-capped peak which dominates the vista. Which word in the given options can rightly replace the underlined word in the quoted sentence from the passage?
- a. spectacle      b. countryside  
c. location      d. Both (a) and (c)
10. Why do you think Mr. Cao does not like the narrator to swim in the lake?
- a. Disinterested in attending to the narrator      b. Even good swimmers have drowned in the lake.  
c. There is history of people drowned in the lake      d. Both (b) and (c)

## II Read the passage given below:

- I. Adam Johnson is a gardener. He has always loved trees and says that his ambition is to plant a thousand trees within a period of five years. He asks us to imagine what it would be like if all the gardeners in the world were to work together, they could plant a rain forest.
- II. Adam has always been interested in the environment. As a child, he used to visit his grandfather, who grew vegetables, and that was what inspired him to love gardening. He grew up at a time when a number of children's television programs were encouraging young people to cultivate their gardens and recycle their rubbish. He started gardening about three years ago.
- III. To start with he planted a tree in his own garden. Then he suddenly, thought that it would be a good idea to put a few more around the neighborhood. So, he started planting them in his friend's gardens and began to look around to see if there were any local areas that would benefit from the presence of a few trees. There were, and since then he has planted trees all over the town.



- IV. Adam usually plants fruit trees, apples, pears, and plums, because these are the easiest trees to plant. When they produce their fruit, he says he can pick some for himself, and other people can also do the same.
- V. The public parks are well looked after by the local authorities and Adam does not want to interfere with their efforts. At the moment, he is working on a hospital garden, and he is always on the lookout for new places, but he no longer goes into private gardens. He has his eye on a local government compound which he would like to brighten up, but he is not sure if he will be given permission.
- VI. As well as his gardening activities, Adam also does whatever paid work he can so that he can earn money to buy more trees. He lives a simple life. He grows his own vegetables and what he cannot grow himself, he buys from his local cooperative food store. He likes this shop because it supports local farmers. At home, he uses a wood fire and puts the ash from it on the garden. He uses low-energy light bulbs and does not have a car or computer. If he needs to use the internet, he goes to the library as that is another way to support the community. The one thing he does own is an MP3 player because, after gardening, music is the love of his life.
- VII. Adam says that when it comes to the environment, we must constantly look for solutions. 'You have got to keep positive and give people answers. Let's see if we can save what we can and do what we can. My ambitions are simple, I like to care for my local community and improve the environment. We can all do something towards that. We could all plant a fruit tree or a native tree. I wish I could plant more myself. But if any person in my community wants to buy trees, I will happily plant them.'

**Based on your understanding of the passage, answer any six out of the eight questions by choosing the correct option:**

11. What does Adam Johnson want?
  - a. To plant 1200 trees within five years
  - b. To plant 1000 trees within five years
  - c. To grow fruits and vegetables on a large scale
  - d. To grow only fruit trees
12. According to Adam Johnson, a rain forest could be in existence if:
  - a. all the farmers in the world work together
  - b. all the gardeners in the world work together
  - c. all the countries in the world implement the planting
  - d. all the fields in the world are planted together
13. Gardening became a hobby of Adam Johnson due to the inspiration received from his:
  - a. father
  - b. teacher
  - c. mother
  - d. grandfather
14. Children's television programs were especially for young people so that they might:
  - a. cultivate their gardens
  - b. recycle their rubbish



## GRAMMAR

**IV Answer any five out of the six questions given.**

- 25.** Thousands of people came to the theatre but only \_\_\_\_\_ of them got tickets.  
**a.** few    **b.** less  
**c.** a few    **d.** fewer
- 26.** In the hour of need, every man, woman, and child \_\_\_\_\_ to be ready for sacrifice.  
**a.** has    **b.** have  
**c.** were     **d.** was
- 27.** Had you worked hard, you \_\_\_\_\_ have won a scholarship.  
**a.** may     **b.** might  
**c.** would     **d.** Both (b) and (c)
- 28.** Samir came to meet me after you have leaving. Identify the right option which can replace the underlined words in the sentence and make it grammatically correct.  
**a.** have left    **b.** had left  
**c.** left     **d.** Either (b) or (c)
- 29.** grateful /will/ problems/ I /as/ would/ that/ be/ soon / for/ have/ I/ described/ an /the /possible/ as /assurance/ out/ be /sorted  
Reorder the words given above to make meaningful sentence.  
**a.** I would be grateful for an assurance that the problems I have described will be sorted out as soon as possible.  
**b.** I would be grateful that the problems I have described for an assurance will be sorted out as soon as possible.  
**c.** For an assurance, I have described that the problems will be sorted out as soon as possible and would be grateful.  
**d.** None of the above.
- 30.** Neither Ram nor Rahim are present in the meeting. (Choose the option that shows the sentence grammatically correct)  
**a.** Neither Ram nor Rahim is present in the meeting.  
**b.** Neither Ram nor Rahim was present in the meeting.  
**c.** Neither Ram nor Rahim were present in the meeting.  
**d.** Either (a) or (b)

## LITERATURE

**This section has sub-sections: V, VI, VII, VIII, IX. There are a total of 30 questions in the section. Attempt any 26 questions from the sub-sections V to IX.**

**V** Read the given extract to attempt questions that follow:

I could find no words with which to respond, but I left the children's cabin determined to fight the sea with everything I had. To protect the weakened starboard side, I decided to heave to- with the undamaged port hull facing the oncoming waves, using an improvised sea anchor of heavy nylon rope and two 22 litre plastic barrels of paraffin.

That evening Mary and I sat together holding hands, as the motion of the ship brought more and more water in through the broken planks. We both felt the end was near.

- 31.** Identify the narrator of the above extract.
- |                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>a.</b> Captain of Wavewalker | <b>b.</b> Gordon Cook       |
| <b>c.</b> Captain James Cook    | <b>d.</b> Either (a) or (b) |

32. Whom could he not respond to and why?
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| a. His children's question on their survival left him speechless as he wasn't certain about saving the ship. | b. His wife's fearful question made him silent                             |
| c. He couldn't take up a decision as the captain and was unable to respond to all.                           | d. He didn't have an answer to his crewmen as the compass was not working. |
33. What is the contrast between the beginning and ending of the extract?
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| a. The narrator is in action to save the ship – The narrator sits idle holding the hands of his wife | b. Sanguine attitude of the narrator- Despondent attitude of the narrator |
| c. The narrator is determined to fight the sea – The narrator sits hopeless foreseeing death         | d. Both (b) and (c)   |
34. The **right side of the vessel** was damaged in the storm. Pick the right word from the above extract that substitutes the highlighted phrase in this sentence.
- |              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| a. port      | b. planks |
| c. starboard | d. hull   |
35. Choose the most appropriate option that can complete the sentence.  
The narrator decides to protect the ship by \_\_\_\_\_
- |                                     |                                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| a. changing the course of the ship  | b. bringing the ship to a halt |
| c. controlling the sail of the ship | d. All of the above            |

**VI Read the given extract to attempt questions that follow:**

My grandmother, like everybody's grandmother, was an old woman. She had been old and wrinkled for the twenty years that I had known her. People said that she had once been young and pretty and had even had a husband, but that was hard to believe. My grandfather's portrait hung above the mantelpiece in the drawing room. He wore big turban and loose-fitting clothes. His long, white beard covered the best part of his chest and he looked at least a hundred years old. He did not look the sort of person who would have a wife or children. He looked as if he could only have lots and lots of grandchildren. As for my grandmother being young and pretty, the thought was almost revolting. She often told us of the games she used to play as a child. That seemed quite absurd and undignified on her part and we treated it like the fables of the Prophets she used to tell us.

36. "The thought of her mother being young and pretty once was revolting" shows-
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| a. That grandmothers can't be young and pretty in their youth.    | b. The writer had been witnessing his grandmother to be old and wrinkled since long, so it was hard for him to believe that she was once young and pretty. |
| c. One does not even think about the beauty of one's grandmother. | d. The writer opposed the idea of being his grandmother to be ugly in her youth.   |
37. What, according to the writer, was quite absurd and undignified on grandmother's part –
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| a. That she used to tell a lie that she played games when she was a child. | b. That she used to play games as a child. |
| c. That playing games by girls was almost impossible.                      | d. All the above.                          |
38. Choose the most appropriate statement-
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| a. His grandfather used to be very handsome at one point of time. | b. His grandfather had a lot of grandchildren. |
|---|--|

- c. His grandfather is still alive.
- d. The writer had never seen his grandfather alive.
39. The word 'absurd' means the same as-
- a. Revolting
- b. Illogical
- c. Useless
- d. Logical
40. 'He did not look the sort of person who would have a wife or children.' What image of grandfather does Khushwant Singh portray through these words?
- a. A rude person who cannot have wife and children
- b. A person with long white beard doesn't seem to have wife and children
- c. A very old person who doesn't seem to have a phase of life with wife and children but can only have grandchildren
- d. A person in loose fitting clothes not appearing like a pleasing personality.

**VII** Read the given extract to attempt questions that follow:

Till the Goldfinch comes, with a twitching chirrup  
A suddenness, a startlement, at a branch end.  
Then sleek as a lizard, and alert and abrupt,  
She enters the thickness, and a machine starts up  
Of chitterings and a tremor of wings, and trillings-  
The whole tree trembles and thrills.  
It is the engine of her family.  
She stokes it full, then flirts out to a branch end  
Showing her barred face identity mask.

41. Pick out the option from the above extract that refers to the Laburnum tree.
  - a. engine
  - b. Identity mask
  - c. The thickness
  - d. Both (b) and (c)
42. Hughes used both sound and movement words to make the poem impactful. Choose the movement word/ words from the options given below.
  - a. whisperings
  - b. twitching
  - c. Flirts out
  - d. Both (b) and (c)
43. Pick the poetic device/ devices used in the third line.
  - a. Simile
  - b. Imagery
  - c. Alliteration
  - d. All of the above
44. What does the phrase, ‘a machine starts up’ imply?
  - a. The noise created by the tree.
  - b. Noise created by the activities of the goldfinch and her young ones.
  - c. Noise created by the sudden movement of the goldfinch.
  - d. None of the above
45. What does the last line mean?
  - a. The yellow bird stands out from the yellowness of the tree with its barred face.
  - b. The bird protects itself from its predators by changing colour
  - c. The bird wears a mask as it is the engine driver.
  - d. Either (a) or (b)

**VIII Read the given extract to attempt questions that follow:**

We were poor. We had no money. Our whole tribe was poverty stricken. Every branch of the Garoghlanian family was living in the most amazing and comical poverty in the world. Nobody could



understand where we ever got money enough to keep us with food in our bellies. Not even the old men of the family. Most important of all. Though we were famous for our honesty for something like eleven centuries, even when we had been the wealthiest family in what we liked to think was the world. We were proud first and honest next, and after that we believed in right and wrong. None of us would take advantage of anybody in the world, let alone steal.

46. Every branch of the Garoghlanian family was living in the most amazing and comical poverty in the world. Pick the option that best implies the above quoted line.
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| a. The family was in extreme poverty that made them a laughing stock in the world they lived in. | b. The family was in utter poverty but ironically their life was amazing as they fought back to cope up with their poverty. |
| c. The narrator is sarcastic about the standard of their living condition                        | d. Both (b) and (c)   |
47. Which DOES NOT include in the ethos of Garaghlanian family as narrated by Aram in the above extract?
- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| a. Wealthiest family   | b. Spirit of honesty                              |
| c. Spirit of tolerance | d. Discriminating quality between right and wrong |
48. Though we were famous for our honesty for something like eleven centuries, even when we had been the wealthiest family in what we liked to think was the world. Choose the option that best explains this statement.
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| a. The family is known for their honesty even when they have been the wealthiest in their valley they lived in, which was considered to be their whole world | b. The family considered opulent in the whole world limited to their reach in terms of their rich hereditary traits like honesty, speaking truth, and not stealing others' belongings, |
| c. The family decides the extent of the world to be within their wish and proclaims themselves to be the wealthiest family in their small world.             | d. All of the above.   |
49. Complete the sentence with the most appropriate option.  
The story, 'The summer of the beautiful white horse' by William Saroyan is \_\_\_\_\_
- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| a. action oriented  | b. of breathless adventure |
| c. a feel- good story from the perspective of a nine-year-old boy | d. of high fantasy         |
50. Choose the quote that DOES NOT resonate with the thought of the above extract.
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| a. No legacy is so rich as honesty.           | b. Honesty with poverty is better than deceitful pleasures of wealth. |
| c. Honesty and integrity are always rewarded. | d. The honest poor can sometimes forget poverty.                      |

## IX Attempt the following:

51. Choose the best option to complete this statement in respect to Khushwant Singh's stage of relationship with his grandmother.  
"The common link of friendship was snapped". This happened in the \_\_\_\_\_
- |                                      |                                       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a. First stage of their relationship | b. Second stage of their relationship |
| c. Third stage of their relationship | d. Fourth stage of their relationship |

- 52.** On the front she had drawn caricatures of Mary and me with the words: Here are some funny people". Drawing of the caricatures is an instance of .....
- how creative children are when faced with danger
  - the ability of a small girl to draw good caricatures
  - contrasting outlooks of adults and children when faced with danger.
  - expressing gratitude
- 53.** The first time the narrator realized about the silver cutlery was .....
- when she went to Mrs.Dorlings house
  - when she was living with her mom
  - when the girl at Dorling's house said about it
  - Both (a) and (c)
- 54.** Which option rightly draws the contrast between Chinese and European paintings?
- Chinese painter emphasises the physical appearance of the art while European painter reveals art with deeper forms.
  - Chinese art is based on the imagination of the painter while European painting perfectly resemble with the real objects.
  - European art is to achieve the essence of inner life and spirit, Chinese art is to create illusionistic likeness
  - Both (a) and (c)
- 55.** What was the favourite memory of Shirley Toulson?
- Her mother's memories
  - Her vacation memories with her mother
  - Her mother's fun filled beach holiday
  - Her mother's laughter
- 56.** What do the books of Confucious, and Zhuangzi teach Chinese artists?
- The master to not fear his disciples
  - The master to instruct his disciples to not to suppress their thoughts
  - The master to guide his disciples in the right direction
  - All the above
- 57.** What were the lingering questions before King Tut's mummy was taken to the CT scan?
- How did King Tut die and what was the reason for his untimely death?
  - How did King Tut die and how old was he at the time of death?
  - How did King Tut die and why was his burial made in a hurry?
  - How did the breastbone and front ribs go missing?
- 2 & 4
  - 3
  - 2
  - 1&4
- 58.** The poet's mother laughed at the photograph. What does this laugh indicate?
- Her happiness in reliving the moment captured in the photograph
  - Her mockery at the unsuitable dressing of the girls for the beach visit.
  - Her laugh indicates her sentimental longing for the past
  - Both (a) and (c)
- 59.** Choose the option that DOES NOT describe Ratna as per the narrator's description.
- Pretty girl of eleven
  - Well educated girl from a big town
  - A girl passionate in music
  - An orphan brought up by her uncle
- 60.** Which piece of literature is written by Marga Minco?
- Discovering Tut: The Saga continues
  - The Laburnum Top
  - Landscape of the Soul
  - The Address

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