

PRE BOARD EXAMINATION – I (2024-2025)

CLASS - XII ENGLISH CORE (301)

TIME ALLOWED: 3Hrs.

MAXIMUM MARKS: 80

General Instructions:

- 1) This question paper contains 3 sections:
Section: A Reading Skills, Section: B Creative Writing Skills and Section: C Literature.
- 2) Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part and thereof, in your answer sheet.
- 3) Adhere to this prescribed word limit while answering the questions

SECTION A- READING SKILLS (22 Marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully.

12

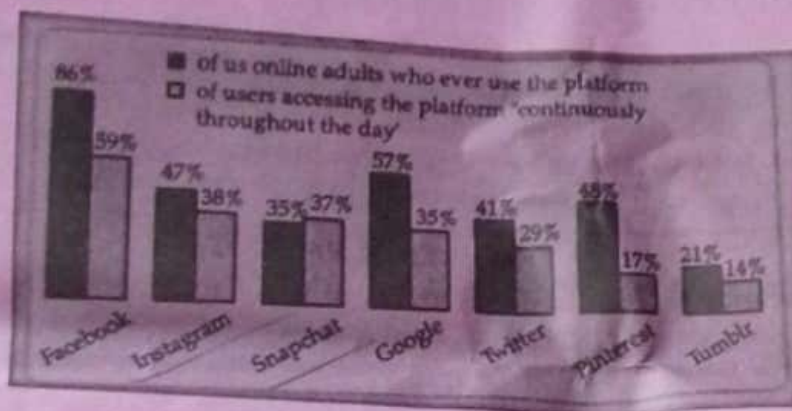
- a) In this jet age, everyone is interested in having an easy life. Thanks to the advancement in science and technology, these days life has become easier and comfortable than earlier, with a lot of domestic gadgets as well as instantaneous food recipes available in the market. (This has resulted in making people develop a mind-set of having everything immediately without waiting for even at the traffic signals!)
- b) A piano teacher described an interesting encounter she had with a young lady who came to inquire about music lessons. The young lady asked her, "How long will this course take? My father tells me that it is in fashion now to be able to play musical instruments and that I should learn one quickly. I want something that will be quick, fast and easy, like" When the amused teacher explained that it would take a lifetime of meticulous practice to learn music, her face fell and needless to say, she never came back.
- c) The single most important factor that distinguishes those of us who succeed in any venture from those of us who don't is this 'instant-coffee' attitude. Most of us want results quickly. We want to reach the top immediately and get worked up when things go wrong. Perseverance and patience are forgotten words. We get upset, frustrated, and angry when a skill or activity requires us to put in a lot of effort and time. We get dejected and want to give it up.
- d) Success, real success, and happiness come to those who have a 'bread-making' attitude. Those who are willing to knead the dough, wait for hours for it to rise, only to punch it down and knead some more, wait for another couple of hours for it to rise again, then bake it before it is ready to be eaten. Nothing is instantaneous. For every endeavour whether in the area of career, academics, music, sports, relationships, physical fitness or even in spirituality it is a long arduous journey.
- e) The major problem with these 'instant-coffee' solutions is that they are invariably short-lived. If we stubbornly refuse to give up this search for quick solutions, all we do is end up on the wrong track. We never gain anything lasting from them. However, if we just pause to analyse what we are doing, we will realize how much time we are wasting searching for such magical solutions which simply do not exist. We actually save time when we stop this futile search and accept the proven methods of treading the straight and narrow path however difficult it may seem initially.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

1. Complete the sentence by choosing an appropriate option. 1
According to the author, modern life can be compared to the jet age due to
 A. everything being fast, easy and comfortable.
 B. availability of domestic gadgets.
 C. advancement in science and technology.
 D. instantaneous food recipes
2. Comment on the writer's reference to the traffic signals in paragraph one, as a social problem for Indian society. 1
3. The author gives a reference to an anecdote between a piano teacher and a young lady who wished to learn music. List two reasons why the deal fell through. 2
 A. _____
 B. _____
4. The writer would not agree with the given statements based on paragraph three, EXCEPT _____ 1
 A. Getting worked up will help you succeed in any venture.
 B. Perseverance and patience are nevertheless prized by some.
 C. Excessive effort and time make us unruffled.
 D. We give up a little too soon on ventures.
5. For every endeavour-whether in the area of career, academics, music, sports, relationships, physical fitness or even in spirituality-it is a long arduous journey. 2
Based on your understanding of paragraph four, list one major reason in about 40 words why the author labels the journey of every endeavour in life 'arduous' List two reasons why the deal fell through.
6. Why is it fair to say that adopting a 'bread-making' attitude in life is a sure shot recipe for real success and happiness and both go hand in hand? 2
7. Complete the given sentence with an appropriate inference, with respect to the following: The writer quotes the example of the 'instant-coffee' attitude (Paragraph 3), in order to _____. 1
8. Read the following options from (i) to (vi). 1
 (i) Practical (ii) Popular (iii) Unfeasible (iv) Naïve (v) Viable (vi) empirical
 Identify the option/options that describes/describe solutions as given in paragraph 5.
 A. (ii), (v), (vi)
 B. (iv), (v), (vi)
 C. (ii), (iii), (iv)
 D. only (ii)
9. Select the most suitable title for the above passage. 1
 A. The 'Instant- coffee 'Attitude
 B. The 'Bread- making Attitude
 C. The magic of Quick Solutions
 D. The Mirage of Instant Results

2. Read the following passage carefully.

- a) Social media marketing is now the modern and innovative way of doing business specifically in service marketing, as marketers move from one strategy to another, looking for the right innovative strategy to improve their brand health. Social media capabilities are the birth of platforms such as You Tube, 'Facebook', Twitter, WhatsApp, and Pinterest. This has become the new and attractive way as the world has become a global entity and there is wide coverage of information dissemination shared through social media.
- b) The modern-day consumers, especially millennials are increasingly using online tools, for example, blogs, Facebook and You Tube to share their opinions about products and services they consume. The rise in internet accessibility and availability of smart phones has led to the new form of what is known as Electronic World of Mouth (EWOM). Social media has become the new growth strategy of any company that wishes to realise growth and have a mark in this new and upright market.



- c) The start of the century introduced new technology innovation, and social media platforms, which to name a few Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Pinterest, provide users with a variety of communication tools at their disposal. This innovation has embodied most of what we have come to define as social media since 2000, and it is not showing any signs of slowing down.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- Write about the author's intention of saying, 'marketers move from one strategy to another'. (within 40 words) 2
- Choose from the below the right answer to state the result of social media capabilities. 1
 - Invention of a new and attractive way in which the world has become a single entity.
 - Creation of a new and attractive way in which the world has become a global entity.
 - It has created a world of virtual and real identities.
 - All of the above

Which of the following statements is true in the context of the passage? 1

- The modern-day consumers especially millennials are increasingly using online tool.
- The modern-day consumers especially millennials are decreasingly using online tool.
- The modern-day consumers especially millennials are increasingly using offline tool.
- The modern-day consumers especially millennials are decreasingly using offline tool.

4. Analyse how the rise in Internet accessibility and availability of smart phones has made communication better (within 40 words) 1
5. In the given figure, the US population using Pinterest continuously throughout the day is 17% (fill the blank with the correct percentage) 1
6. Choose the most appropriate option showing the correct platform born out of social media capabilities?
 (i) You Tube (ii) Facebook (iii) Twitter (iv) EWOM
 A. i, iii & iv
 B. Only iii
 C. ii, iii & iv
 D. i, ii & iii 1
7. Explain the given acronym -EWOM and the reason leading to it. 1
8. From the given figure, compare the data for users accessing the platforms "continuously throughout the day" and name the two social media platforms showing the least difference in percentage between them. 1

SECTION B- CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 Marks)

3. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 50 words. 4
- A. Every year in the central park of the city flower show is held in the month of February. Your school received a circular from the District Collector inviting students to visit it. Write a notice informing the students about the show and advising them to go and enjoy it. You are Navtej / Navita, Head Boy/Head Girl, Sunrise Public School, Surat.
- OR
- B. You are Sukant Rai the head of Ujjawal Bhavishya Educational Institution. You are moved by the condition of the destitute children near your area. You decided to uplift their lives by raising funds and ensuring that they have a better chance in life. Draft a notice to your fellow colleagues and students, making an appeal for monetary donations or any other assistance. You can also include additional details which may be necessary for the purpose.
4. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 50 words. 4
- A. Your old friend, Suresh Upreti has invited you to join him on his 10th marriage anniversary. Unfortunately, you are not able to attend the function. Write a message expressing your inability to be present on the occasion. You are Gitika/Ganesh, 10, Pandit Nagar, Nashik.

OR

- B. You are Faiz/Falak Mazumdar living at 39, Udampur Colony, Shimla. You decide to hold a dinner party to congratulate your grandparents on their golden wedding anniversary. Draft a formal invitation to all family members to attend a grand dinner at home.

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

- A. You are a resident of Anand Colony and a member of the Resident Welfare Association. During your morning walks, you have noticed that the parks are in a dismal condition. Due to the neglect, the parks are no longer safe for residents to walk or children to play. Write a letter to the Editor suggesting ways to improve and maintain the park.

OR

- B. You are Radhika /Rahul, currently working on probation as an Assistant Manager in Romy Chain of Restaurants. You saw the following advertisement in the newspaper and wish to apply for the position advertised. Write a letter of job application along with your resume in about 120-150 words.

Rose Restaurant -A Gourmet Delight

Food And Beverage Department

- **Job Responsibilities:**
 - Over see finances of the food & Beverage department
 - Supervision
- **Preferred skills & Qualifications:**
 - Degree in hotel management
 - 5 years work experience
 - Excellent communication skills

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

- A. Recently you read in a newspaper about an incident in which a child tried to imitate the stunts shown on television and sustained serious injuries. Write an article on the hazards of unsupervised television viewing by kids and how parents should guide them in this matter. TV for overall well-being of children-entices mind-effect greater than ever-ruin eyesight-lack of concentration-bad habits-copy actor-hero worship.

OR

- B. Recently your school held a seminar on conservation of water as a part of World Water Day celebrations. As the school pupil leader of Mary Land school Gurgaon, write a report for a local daily. You are Pratham /Preeti.

SECTION C- LITERATURE (40 MARKS)

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

- Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o'er darkened ways
Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
From our dark spirits.

1. In which of the following options can the underlined words be 'despondence'?

- A. The man paced about the room showing restlessness.
- B. A chat with a close friend can take away our blues.
- C. I was in jitters, seeing the boy trapped in the trench.
- D. Being dogged is what led him to negotiate the challenges.

2. Which line from the stanza reflects the idea behind 'evil ways to deceive others'?

3. Pick the option that enumerates what 'noble natures' would include.

1. Selflessness 2. Insensitivity 3. Enthusiasm 4. Aggression 5. Meticulousness 6. Judiciousness

- A. (1), (4) and (5)
- B. (2), (3) and (6)
- C. (2), (4) and (5)
- D. (1), (3) and (6)

4. Based on the poem, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.
Statement 1: The earth without the beautiful things is a place full of despair and unpleasantness.
Statement 2: The ornate band created by human beings; ushers hope in their lives.

- A. Statement 1 is true but Statement 2 is false.
- B. Statement 1 is false but Statement 2 is true.
- C. Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 can be inferred
- D. Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 cannot be inferred

5. What is the message conveyed in these lines?

6. Is the given statement TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the given extract?
Reflection upon our own mortality and the fleeting nature of human happiness are contributing factors towards things of natural beauty.

OR

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,

1. Who is going to exploit the rural people?

- A. City dwellers
- B. politicians
- C. Government
- D. Both (b) and (c)

2. State TRUE or FALSE :

The poetic device used in the above lines is metaphor.

3. The phrase in the extract 'greedy good-doers' implies

- A. the people who work for betterment of poor
- B. politicians who are well aware of their duties
- C. selfish people who also raise false hopes
- D. Both (a) and (b)

4. 'Beast of prey' means _____

5. What does the government official do for the village rural people?

6. Does the poet appreciate the news of betterment of the rural people?

8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for Any One of the two given.

A. Sometimes I think Grand Central is growing like a tree, pushing out new corridors and staircases like roots. There's probably a long tunnel that nobody knows about feeling its way under the city right now, on its way to Times Square, and maybe another to Central Park. And maybe — because for so many people through the years Grand Central has been an exit, a way of escape — maybe that's how the tunnel I got into... But I never told my psychiatrist friend about that idea.

1. The above extract is NOT an example of _____.

- A. allegory
- B. analogy
- C. imagery
- D. metaphor

2. Charley decided not to tell his psychiatrist friend about his idea. Choose the option that reflects the reaction Charley anticipated from his friend.

- A. "That's such a lovely comparison. Why don't you become a writer, Charley?"
- B. "Oh Charley. It is so sad to see your desperation to run away! So very sad."
- C. "Maybe that's how you entered the third level. Who would have thought?"
- D. "You need help, my raving friend. You are way too invested in this crazy thought!"

3. Look at the given expressions that lists some of the ways in which the symbolism of a tree is employed. Which of the following would represent an example as used by Charley in the above extract?

Be Like a Tree
Stay grounded
Connect with your roots
Bend before you break
Turn over a new leaf
Enjoy the view
Keep growing

- A. 'Stay grounded' as the train station is underground.
- B. 'Connect with your roots' as he desires to go back to his past.
- C. 'Enjoy the view' as the station leads to all tourist sights of the city.
- D. 'Keep growing' as the station keeps renovating and expanding

4. The idiom 'feeling its way' implies _____ movement.

OR

- B. From that day onwards it was celebration time for all the tigers inhabiting Pratibandapuram. The state banned tiger hunting by anyone except the Maharaja. A proclamation was issued to the effect that if anyone dared to fling so much as a stone at a tiger, his wealth and property would be confiscated.

The Maharaja vowed he would attend to all other matters only after killing the hundred tigers. Initially the king seemed well set to realise his ambition. Not that he faced no dangers. There were times when the bullet missed its mark, the tiger leapt upon him and he fought the beast with his bare hands. Each time it was the Maharaja who won.

1. What is the tone of the author when he says, 'it was celebration time for all tigers'?
2. The Maharaja paid no heed to matters related to his kingdom. (True/False)
3. In which of the following options can the underlined words NOT be replaced with 'proclamation' ?
 - A. The politician shared his manifesto during the election meeting.
 - B. All the citizens of the kingdom had to abide by the emperor's edict.
 - C. The communiqué made by the official had a disastrous effect.
 - D. The decree of the state forbade cruelty against animals
4. On the basis of this extract, pick the option that enumerates the characteristics of the king.
 - A. Apathetic
 - B. Arrogant
 - C. Wilful
 - D. Aggressive

9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for Any One of the two given.

6

- A. They thought he would demand repayment in full of the money which they had illegally and deceitfully extorted from the share croppers. He asked only 50 percent. "There he seemed adamant," writes Reverend J. Z. Hodge, a British missionary in Champaran who observed the entire episode at close range. "Thinking probably he would not give way, the representative of the planters offered to refund to the extent of 25 per cent, and to his amazement Mr Gandhi took him at his word, thus breaking the deadlock." This settlement was adopted unanimously by the commission.

1. Gandhi had anticipated the negotiating tactics of the planter's representative. (True / False)
2. Given below are four real-life situations. Choose the option that perfectly describes a Deadlock.

SITUATION 1	SITUATION 2	SITUATION 3	SITUATION 4
Tariq is unable to manage the front-end and the backend forums at his company without any support.	Sunita cannot get a job because she has no experience and she can't have any experience because she has no job.	The bank employees started protesting against their receding annual salary and other incentives.	Harpreet was stuck between deciding whether to go to USA or the UK for higher studies

- A. Situation 1
- B. Situation 2
- C. Situation 3
- D. Situation 4

3. Based on the given context, choose the option that exemplifies a deceitful extortion, out of the examples given below.

1. The artisans demonstrated for their rights, peacefully, on the streets.
2. The head of the artisan union pretended to address all the problems faced by them.
3. The head of the artisan union came with goons and took all the assets of the poor artisans.
4. The artisans in Hafgunj decided to sell their wares directly to the government outlets.

- A. Option (1)
- B. Option (3)
- C. Option (2)
- D. Option (4)

4. Why did the deadlock break?

5. What Gandhi's policy in the Champaran crisis been as observed in the given extract?

6. 'Deadlock' means the opposite of:

- A. predicament
- B. dilemma
- C. agreement
- D. quandry

OR

B. When I saw who it was, I said, "Excuse me, but aren't you Danny Casey"? And he looked sort of surprised. And he said, "Yes, that's right. And I knew it must be him because he had the accent, you know, like when they interviewed him on the television. So I asked him for an autograph for little Derek, but neither of us had any paper or a pen. So then we just talked a bit about the clothes in Royce's window. He seemed lonely. After all, it's a long way from the west of Ireland.

1. What is the most likely reason that he was surprised ? This could be because he

- A. had not expected someone to recognise him

- B. had not expected anyone to talk to him
- C. had wanted to be alone
- D. had expected everyone to be at their home

2. Sophie told Geoff that Danny was unable to sign an autograph for her because

- A. his secretary did not allow it
- B. he didn't have paper or pen
- C. he said he'd do it later
- D. he was in a hurry to go home

3. Complete the sentence appropriately.

The given lines show that the speaker _____

4. Identify the line that suggests that Danny Casey missed his family and home.

5. How does the speaker make 'he' believe in her words?

6. Rationalise, to support the given opinion: Sophie- the speaker is a very imaginative girl.

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following questions in 40-50 words.

1. What kinds of war does, Pablo Neruda mention in his poem? Describe each type of war and its effects briefly. (Keeping Quiet)
2. In the story 'Rattrap' who is a keen observer, the ironmaster or his daughter Edla. Substantiate your answer with an example. (The Rattrap)
3. How does M. Hamel appreciate his mother tongue? (The Last Lesson)
4. Explain the significance of the title 'My Mother at Sixty Six'. (My Mother At Sixty-Six)
5. Battle of Champaran is won. Interpret the statement in your own words. (Indigo)
6. What do the symbols 'tigers, fingers and 'ring' stand for in the poem Aunt Jennifer's Tigers'? (Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

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

1. What is that thing that can happen in a million years and would be mind-boggling?(Journey To The End Of The Earth)
2. Untouchability is not only crime, it is inhuman too. Why and how did Bama decide to fight against it? (Memories Of Childhood)
3. Why did Dr Sadao did not throw the wounded man into the sea even though he was an enemy to his nation? (The Enemy)

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

- A. Imagine you are Pablo Neruda, the poet of *Keeping Quiet*. What advice might you offer to Robert Frost, the poet of *A Roadside Stand*, in the context of his conflicted emotions, as displayed in the given lines-

The requisite lift of spirit has never been found,
or so the voice of the country seems to complain.
I can't help owning the great relief it would be
To put these people at one stroke out of their pain.
Pen down your advice, in a letter to Frost. You may begin this way:
Dear Robert

I recently read your poem, "A Roadside Stand," and...
You may end this way: I hope this advice is helpful to you. Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to warmly,
Pablo Neruda

OR

3. Mukesh and the other bangle makers are unable to break out of the vicious circle of poverty due to the collusion of government agencies and the police. What are the responsibilities of these four categories of people towards the bangle makers and their children? (Lost Spring)

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

5

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

OR

Derry says "It's not what you look like, it's what you are inside." What are the qualities this sentence encourages people to have? Elaborate. (On the Face of it)