

General Instructions:

- i. This question paper contains 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.
- ii. This question paper contains THREE Sections- Section-A: READING SKILLS, Section-B: CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS and Section-C: LITERATURE.
- iii. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
- iv. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
- v. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION-A READING SKILLS (22 Marks)

(12)

1. Read the passage given below:

- i. The choices we make on a daily basis-wearing a seatbelt, lifting heavy objects correctly, or purposely staying out of any dangerous situation-can either ensure our safety or bring about potentially harmful circumstances.
- ii. You and I need to make a decision that we are going to get our lives in order. "Exercising self-control, self-discipline, and establishing boundaries and borders in our lives are some of the most important things we can do. A life without discipline is one that's filled with carelessness. We can think it's kind of exciting to live life on the edge."
- iii. We like the image of "Yeah! That's me! Living on the edge! Woo-hoo!" It's become a popular way to look at life. But if you see, even highways have lines, which provide margins for our safety while we're driving. If we go over one side, we'll go into the ditch. If we cross over the line in the middle, we could get killed. And we like those lines because they help to keep us safe.
- iv. Sometimes, we don't even realize how lines help to keep us safe. I'm not proud of this, but for the first 20 years of my life at work, I ignored my limits. I feel horrible, physically, most of the time. I used to tell myself, "I know I have limits and that I've reached them, but I'm going to ignore them and see if or how long I can get by with it." I ran to doctors, trying to make myself feel better through pills, vitamins, natural stuff, and anything I could get my hands-on. Some of the doctors would tell me, "It's just stress." That just made me mad. I thought stress meant you don't like what you do or can't handle life, and I love what I do. But I kept pushing myself travelling, doing speaking engagements, and so on-simply exhausting myself.
- v. Finally, I understood I was living an unsustainable life and needed to make some changes in my outlook and lifestyle. You and I don't have to be like everyone else or keep up with anyone else. Each of us needs to be exactly the way we are, and we don't have to apologize for it. We're not all alike, and we need to find a comfort zone in which we can enjoy our lives instead of making ourselves sick with an overload of stress and pressure.

Based on your understanding of the above passage, answer the following questions:

- i. Choose the option that best captures the Central idea of the passage from the given quotes:

1	2	3	4
It's all about quality finding a happy balance between work and friends. - Philip Green	To go beyond is as wrong as to fall short. - Confucius	Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving. - Albert Einstein	Balance is not something you find. It's something you create. - Jana Kingsford

a. Option 1

- b. Option 2
- c. Option 3
- d. Option 4

(1)

- ii. How does the author compare life boundaries to the lines on a highway? What message is conveyed through this analogy regarding safety and discipline in life? (2)
- iii. Select the option that makes the correct use of "unsustainable" as used in the passage, to fill in the blank space:
- a. In the long run, the _____ officials followed emergency procedures.
 - b. Emergency procedures were _____ by the officials.
 - c. Officials reported an _____ set of events during the emergency.
 - d. Officials admit that the emergency system is _____ in the long run. (1)
- iv. What are some examples of daily choices mentioned in the passage that can impact personal safety? How do these choices relate to the overall theme of discipline? (2)
- v. Describe one way the author suggests individuals can create a comfort zone in their lives. (1)
- vi. The author has used colloquial words such as "yeah" and "woo-hoo." Which of the following is not a colloquial word? (1)
- a. Hooked
 - b. Guy
 - c. Stuff
 - d. stress
- vii. What does the author mean when he says "to get our lives in order?" (1)
- viii. Choose the option that correctly states the two meanings of 'outlook' as used in the passage:
- 1. a person's evaluation of life
 - 2. a person's experiences in life
 - 3. a person's point of view towards life
 - 4. a person's regrets in life
 - 5. a person's general attitude to life
 - a. 1 & 4
 - b. 2 & 3
 - c. 3 & 5
 - d. 4 & 5 (1)
- ix. According to the author, what were the consequences of ignoring personal limits for the first 20 years of their work life? (2)

2. Read the passage given below:

(10)

- i. It is generally accepted that leadership development should be a part of the education system's responsibility for preparing individuals to participate in a democratic and progressive society. Many schools, colleges and universities across nations, provide their students with leadership courses, curricular programs and co-curricular programs that are designed to develop students' formal knowledge about leadership as well as opportunities and experiences to develop students as leaders and actually practice leadership. Yet, only a handful of studies have sought to understand leader development from the students' point of view, with students describing their own experiences and what they learned from them in their own words.
- ii. A 2014 descriptive study sought to understand student leadership with research through key events via the following research questions:
- Research Question 1: What key events do student leaders in college, report as significantly impacting their development as a leader?
- Research Question 2: What lessons do student leaders in college, report learning as a result of the key events that they have experienced?
- Research Question 3: Are certain key events more likely to be linked to particular lessons?
- Approximately 130 students were contacted and the 72 interested, were interviewed. Two members of the research team were present for each 15-45 minutes interview. One member served as the primary interviewer, while the second ran the audio equipment.

The results for lessons learned (Table), were varied, but there were a few that were frequently quoted.

Lessons Learned	Responses
Identity	58
Self-Identity	54
Leadership Identity	30
Professionalism	19
Balancing Riots	
Individual Competencies	15
Delegation	38
Decision Making	18
Adaptability/Flexibility	36
Resilience/Persistence/Hard Work	29
Taking Initiative	27
Accountability/Responsibility	18
Learning to Teach/Learn	
Support Systems	
Developing and Using Support Systems	36
Being a Support System	28
Working With Others	
Communication	59
Teamwork	26
Conflict	21
Diversity	32
Inspiring and Motivating Others	30
Getting The Job Done	
Task Skills	55
Environment	34

- iii. This study described the rich array of leadership lessons that students are learning through their experiences. It revealed that student leaders are learning foundational leadership skills and competencies that have positively impacted how to accomplish work. How to work with others and how to be both supported by and support other?

Based on your understanding of the above passage, answer the following questions:

- i. Does the following statement agree with the information given it in paragraph 1: (1)

The researcher believes that educational institutions have ideal resources to study the impact of leadership skills on young adults.

Select from the following:

- True - if the statement agrees with the information
- False - if the statement contradicts the information
- Not given - if there is no information on this.

- ii. Do you think the researchers of the study aimed to change the students' outlook towards the development of leadership skills directly or indirectly? Support your answer with reference to the text. (2)

- iii. Select the option that displays the most likely reason for including Research Question 3 in the 2014 study.

In order to find out if...

- learning opportunities shape students' overall personalities.

- b. leadership lessons are the result of the designed learning opportunities.
 - c. all learning opportunities cater to a specific lesson. (1)
 - d. certain lessons are common in more than one learning opportunity.
- iv. Select the option that displays the key event designed with "Balancing Roles" (Table) as the objective. (1)
- a. Students will be able to debate the issue at hand with different teams.
 - b. Students will be able to manage the responsibilities of a mentor, planner, researcher and presenter.
 - c. Students will be able to surmount minor problems and focus on the final goal.
 - d. Students will be able to explain concepts and clarify them for peers.
- v. Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option: (1)

The 2014 study attempts to understand student leadership by focusing on ____.

- a. experiences that shaped students overall personality.
- b. lessons gained by students as they grew up.
- c. relationship of key events with particular lessons.
- d. students in leadership roles.

- vi. The lessons for 'Individual Competencies' had a range of responses. Give one reason why having the least number of responses for 'Decision Making' is a matter that needs attention. (1)
- vii. Complete the sentence appropriately with one/two words:

In the context of 'Working With Others' in the Table, the lesson of 'Conflict' refers to _____. (1)

- viii. Based on the reading of the text, state a point to challenge the given statement:

When theoretical knowledge about leadership suffices, it is a waste of funds by educational organizations to organize leadership camps and programs. (2)

SECTION-B CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 Marks)

3. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the following two questions, in about 50 words: (4)

A. Maruti Public School will be conducting an online course on news reading during the winter vacations for students of Class XI and XII. In this course, students will learn to understand news reports, build the habit of reading the news regularly, and will have a chance to interact with well-known journalists. As Ritwik Sen, Editor of the school magazine, draft a notice in about 50 words for the school notice board, urging students to sign up. Mention any other relevant details required for the notice.

OR

B. While walking in a park in your neighbourhood, you found a small plastic bag containing some documents and cash. Write a notice for the park notice board, asking the owner to identify and collect it from you. You are Anamika/Anant, 9966554XXX.

4. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the following two questions, in about 50 words: (4)

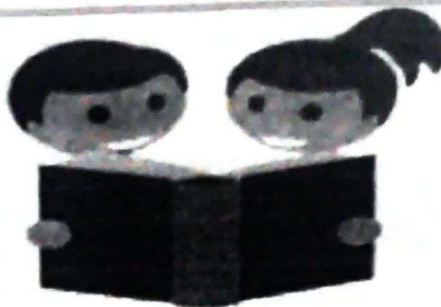
A. Send an invitation to Prof. Krishna Kumar, noted environment activist and educationist, to speak on the government initiative "EK PED MAA KE NAAM". You are Radha/Rahul, Secretary, Eco club, S. S. Public School, Jaipur. Invent all the necessary details.

OR

B. You have received an invitation to inaugurate the annual cultural fest at your alma mater, Mayur Public School, on 05th November 2024. As a renowned author, you are honored but unable to attend due to a prior engagement. Write a formal reply declining the invitation, expressing gratitude, and offering your best wishes for the event.

5. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words: (5)

- A. You are Sheena Singh, a recent graduate of New Horizon School. You came across the following advertisement about an internship in editing that you would like to apply for. Write a letter to the Books Galore expressing your interest in the position along with your resume.



Books Galore

We are a non-profit organisation that works with underprivileged children.
Our goal is not only to make reading possible, but also enjoyable!

SEEKING EDITORS

For the children's magazine
Internship for 3 months (May-July 2025) with a monthly pay

Your role:

- Edit children's entries (stories, poems, essays)
- Make sure content is free of grammatical errors
- Meet publishing deadlines for the magazine

Requirements:

- Senior Secondary Education Degree or above (Above 80% in Grade XII English Exam)
- Excellent command over the English language
- Positive attitude and willingness to learn

Send a sample of your writing and your resumé to: internhr@booksgalore.org
Deadline: 14th April, 2025

OR

- B. The newspapers today have full page advertisements promoting luxury items. With increase in consumerism, people find it difficult to resist and soon find them trapped in a world of social one-upmanship. Write a letter to the editor expressing your views on the control of this habit. You are Bhumi/Bhuvan, resident of 24, Shastri Nagar, Pune.

Use the given cues, along with your own ideas, to compose this letter:

Consequences-

- Trapped in a competitive world
- Social acceptability
- Living beyond budgets
- Mental trauma

Solutions-

- Responsible role of media
- Make informed decisions

6. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words:

(5)

- A. With the rise of social media platforms and the ease with which information can be shared online, false information can have more dire consequences. Write an article for a local daily, highlighting the problems of the growing menace

of fake news and misinformation, analyzing the issue, and providing suggestions to tackle it. You are Kavita Bannerji, from Siliguri, West Bengal.

Use the given cues, along with your own ideas, to compose this article:

1. What is fake news, and why has it become a significant concern in the age of social media?
2. Analyze the issue:
 - How does misinformation affect public opinion and behavior?
 - What challenges do individuals and society face in combatting the spread of false information?
3. Suggestions to tackle fake news:
 - What measures can social media platforms take to address the issue of fake news?
 - How can individuals critically evaluate the information they encounter online?
4. Local Perspective:
 - How does the issue of fake news affect the local community?
 - What local resources or organizations can help address this problem?

OR

- B. You are Mansa/Manzil of class XII, Smarak International School, Chandigarh. Your school has adopted a village as a social responsibility. Students are being taken to teach the children of that village on a regular basis. Inventing all the necessary details, write a report to be published in a newspaper on the various other major programs organized there during the trips throughout the year.

Use the given cues, along with your own ideas, to compose this report:

- Selected students from each standard are taken there every weekend, during school hours to impart knowledge.
- Free books and stationery are being provided for quality education.
- Children are given time to spend with each other, play games and interact.
- Apart from the educational needs, special care is devoted to hygiene and sanitation.
- Girls are being given awareness on the importance of menstrual hygiene as well.

Various talent hunts have been organized leaving everyone impressed.

SECTION-C LITERATURE (40 Marks)

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions of **ANY ONE** of the given two:

6X1=6

- A. 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?
 1. aggressive
 2. tolerant
 3. sarcastic
 4. resigned
 5. sentimental
 - a. Only 1
 - b. 2 & 3
 - c. 1, 4 & 5
 - d. Only 3

- 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?
- Gullible
 - Futuristic
 - Hypocritical
 - Ambitious
- iv. Complete the following analogy correctly:
Greedy good doers: Alliteration:: ____: Oxymoron
- v. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE:
The city dwellers make promises for the betterment of the villagers.
- vi. Fill in the blank with an appropriate word, with reference to the extract:
'...calculated to soothe them out of their wits' implies that 'them' are being ____.
- OR**

B. Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.
(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

- The tigers are called 'Aunt Jennifer's tigers', because ____.

 - She has tamed them
 - She has trained them
 - She has sheltered them
 - She has embroidered them

- What does the phrase 'a world of green' suggest?
- Complete the sentence appropriately:
The tigers are completely different from their creator because ____.
- What does the word 'chivalric' mean?
- What was Aunt mastered by?

 - Her embroidery skills
 - Her culinary skills
 - Her taming of the tigers
 - Her ordeals

- State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE:
The main character traits which suit Aunt Jennifer are powerful and bold.

8. Read the following extracts and answer the questions of ANY ONE of the given two:

4X1=4

- A.** Yes, I've taken the obvious step: I talked to a psychiatrist friend of mine, among others. I told him about the third level at Grand Central Station, and he said it was a waking dream wish fulfillment. He said I was unhappy. That made my wife kind of mad. (*The Third Level*)
- Complete the following with reference to Charley's decision to talk to a psychiatrist:
The usage of the word 'obvious' in "the obvious step" suggests that ____.
 - How can we say the psychiatrist's diagnosis of Charley's encounter as a "waking dream wish fulfillment" was insightful, in understanding the complexity of Charley's experience?

iii. Complete the following with an appropriate option:

If Charley's wife's reaction implies sensitivity to the suggestion of marital unhappiness, then, her becoming "kind of mad" can be viewed as a ____.

- a. Defensive stance
- b. Protective measure
- c. Expression of concern
- d. Assertion of privacy

iv. Which textual clue suggests that Charley didn't just consult his psychiatrist friend?

OR

B. At midnight when the town slept in peace, the Dewan and his aged wife dragged the tiger to the car and shoved it into the seat. The Dewan himself drove the car straight to the forest where the Maharaja was hunting. When they reached the forest the tiger launched its satyagraha and refused to get out of the car. The Dewan was thoroughly exhausted in his efforts to haul the beast out of the car and push it down to the ground. On the following day, the same old tiger wandered into the Maharaja's presence and stood as if in humble supplication, "Master, what do you command of me?" It was with boundless joy that the Maharaja took careful aim at the beast. The tiger fell in a crumpled heap. (*The Tiger King*)

- i. Pick the option that uses the same figure of speech as "town slept in peace":
- a. His actions really flared up my temper, so I walked out.
 - b. She is going through a roller-coaster of emotions.
 - c. My alarm clock yells at me every morning until I get out of bed.
 - d. The children were screaming and shouting in the fields.

ii. What kind of attitude did the Dewan possess?

iii. Find a word in the extract that has a similar meaning to the word - petition

iv. The whole extract is a satire on the ____.

9. Read the following extracts and answer the questions of **ANY ONE** of the given two:

6X1=6

A. I went to the pool when no one else was there. The place was quiet. The water was still, and the tiled bottom was as white and clean as a bathtub. I was timid about going in alone, so I sat on the side of the pool to wait for others. I had not been there long when in came a big bruiser of a boy, probably eighteen years old. He had thick hair on his chest. He was a beautiful physical specimen, with legs and arms that showed rippling muscles. He yelled, "Hi, Skinny! How'd you like to be ducked?" (*Deep Water*)

i. What impression do you form about the narrator?

- a. He is a beginner in swimming lessons
- b. He has made friends during his swimming lessons
- c. The big boy was well built and handsome
- d. The narrator lacks courage and confidence to enter the pool alone.

ii. Complete the given sentence with ONE word:

The description of the big boy by the narrator is one of ____.

- a. Complaint
- b. Admiration
- c. Criticism
- d. Poise

iii. Select the option that lists the probable reason for the big boy's behaviour towards the narrator:

- a. His intention to frighten the narrator
- b. His desire to give him a surprise
- c. The place was quiet and odd

- d. The narrator was skinny and alone
- iv. The figure of speech in the expression "as white and clean as a bath tub" is ____.
- v. Explain any one possible inference that can be drawn from the line, "I was timid about going in alone".
- vi. The writing style of the narrator indicates that the passage can be classified under a/an ____.

OR

B. A girl from the countryside, she hadn't gone through all the stages of worldly experience that generally precede a position of importance and sophistication that she had found herself catapulted into. She never quite recovered from the terror she felt that day. That was the end of a brief and brilliant acting career — the legal adviser, who was also a member of the Story Department, had unwittingly brought about that sad end. While every other member of the Department wore a kind of uniform — khadi dhoti with a slightly oversized and clumsily tailored white khadi shirt — the legal adviser wore pants and a tie and sometimes a coat that looked like a coat of mail. Often he looked alone and helpless.

(Poets And Pancakes)

- i. Select the option that completes the given sentence appropriately:
'Stages of worldly experience' in the given context would refer to ____.
- Good education to gain knowledge
 - Situations that require one to be street smart
 - Smaller, not so important roles in acting
 - Training in soft skills
- ii. Select a suitable word from the extract to complete the following analogy: sealed: closed:: propelled: ____.
- iii. Select the correct option to fill in the blank:
The harm done to the actress was a/an ____.
- Well-planned act
 - Unintentional act
 - Act of jealousy
 - Act of male dominance
- iv. Based on the above extract, choose the statement that is TRUE for the legal advisor:
- He disliked the actress from the countryside
 - He acted after thinking through things carefully
 - He did not get well with others in the Department
 - He was always dressed smartly
- v. Identify the textual clue (phrase) that allows us to infer that the writer is sympathetic towards the professional fate of the actor.
- vi. Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation, as per the extract:
The writer uses the word 'uniform' to refer to the outfits of the Department members because just like a uniform ____.
10. Answer **ANY FIVE** of the following six questions in 40-50 words each: 5x2=10
- Justify the statement below with reference to the poem "My Mother at Sixty Six":
"Being conscious of our mortality helps us cherish our moments with each other."
 - In the poem "Keeping Quiet," the poet calls for a moment of silence and introspection. How does this act of quietness contribute to the well-being of both individuals and society?

- c. In the story "The Rattrap", both Edla and the old crofter offer the peddler hospitality, but it is Edla's treatment that changes him. State the reason for why Edla was able to bring about a change in him?
- d. In the text 'Indigo', Gandhi agreed to a refund of 25 percent to the peasants in Champaran. Do you think this was right or wrong of Gandhi to do so?
- e. What does Umberto Eco's approach to writing and knowledge reveal about his perspective on modern interviews and mass media?
- f. Why does Jansie discourage Sophie from living in a world of fantasy?

(2x2=4)

11. Answer **ANY TWO** of the following three questions in 40-50 words each:

- a. "It is easier to measure and study the effects of climate change in Antarctica." Explain with an example from 'Journey to the end of the Earth'.
- b. Sadao's acceptance of the General's plan to assassinate Tom was counterproductive to having put him on the path of recovery. Substantiate with reason/s.
- c. How did the Tiger King meet his end? What is ironic about his fate?

(5)

12. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions in 120-150 words each:

- A. If Franz meets Saheb-e-Alam, what discussion will both have about schools? Enumerate in form of a conversation.
- B. Edla's kindness was instrumental in bringing about a change in the rattrap peddler. Do you think she would have had such success had she interacted with Sophie? How do you think Edla's behavior would have affected Sophie?

(5)

13. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions in 120-150 words each:

- A. In the story 'The Third Level', Sam wrote a letter to his friend Charley, describing life in Galesburg in the year 1894. Imagine that you time travel to the year 1894. Write a letter to a friend, describing how life in 1894 is different from what it is now and how you feel about it.

OR

- B. After seeing off the enemy soldier, Dr. Sadao must have felt relieved. He was able to uphold the oath that he had taken as a doctor. Dr. Sadao made an entry into his daily diary explaining the dilemma faced by him and how he resolved it.

Imagine yourself to be Dr. Sadao and express your thoughts.

You may begin like this :

I was able to uphold the oath that I had taken as a doctor ...

English

हिन्दी

AAP

Cute