

**ALL KERALA COMMON MODEL EXAMINATION**

**ENGLISH CORE (301)**

CLASS XII

Time allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80

**General Instructions:**

- This question paper has three sections in 12 pages with 13 questions.
- All questions are compulsory.
- Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part.
- Write the correct question number for each questions.
- Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

**SECTION A:  
READING SKILLS**

**(22 marks)**

1. Read the following passage carefully:

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*Peer pressure is an influential force that shapes the behaviour, decisions, and values of individuals, particularly during adolescence. Adolescence is a period of great emotional, psychological, and social development, and peer pressure can have both positive and negative effects. During this time, individuals are more likely to seek acceptance from their peers and conform to group norms, sometimes at the expense of their own values and well-being.*

At its core, peer pressure refers to the social influence exerted by a group of individuals on a person to conform to specific behaviours, attitudes, or beliefs. It can manifest in several forms: direct pressure, such as explicit requests or commands from friends; indirect pressure, like subtle cues or expectations; or even self-imposed pressure, where individuals feel compelled to meet perceived standards in order to fit in. Peer pressure often arises in school environments, among friends, or within social media circles, where individuals may feel the need to act in ways that align with the group's perceived ideals.

The negative aspects of peer pressure are well-documented. Adolescents may engage in risky behaviours such as smoking, drinking alcohol, or experimenting with drugs because of the pressure to fit in with a group. These behaviours can have serious, long-term consequences for physical and mental health. Peer pressure can also lead to

bullying, exclusion, or a reluctance to challenge harmful group norms, perpetuating cycles of negative behaviour.

However, peer pressure is not always harmful. In some cases, it can encourage positive behaviours. For instance, peer groups can motivate one another to excel academically, pursue extracurricular activities, or engage in community service. Positive peer pressure can foster a sense of belonging, create opportunities for personal growth, and help individuals develop resilience and self-esteem. For example, a student who is part of a sports team might feel inspired by their peers to improve their physical fitness, develop discipline, or strive for academic success to balance sports and studies.

The key to navigating peer pressure lies in the ability to make independent decisions and recognize the difference between positive and negative influences. Adolescents who are confident in their own identity and values are less likely to succumb to peer pressure. Building strong communication skills, setting personal boundaries, and seeking support from trusted adults or mentors can help young people resist negative peer influence. Educators, parents, and communities play a critical role in teaching adolescents how to recognize and cope with peer pressure. Encouraging open dialogue, fostering self-confidence, and promoting critical thinking can equip young people with the tools they need to navigate social dynamics effectively.

Peer pressure can also be intensified by the rise of social media platforms. Online environments often amplify the desire for validation and approval from others, making it harder to resist trends or behaviours that might not align with one's personal values. The pressure to post carefully curated images or follow the latest trends can sometimes overshadow the importance of authenticity and self-expression. This can lead to a sense of inadequacy, anxiety, or a distorted sense of reality, especially among young people who are still developing their sense of self.

In conclusion, while peer pressure is an inevitable part of growing up, its impact is not always negative. Adolescents can learn to manage peer pressure by developing a strong sense of self, seeking guidance when needed, and focusing on the positive aspects of group influence. By navigating peer pressure wisely, young people can use their social environments to support their growth rather than hinder it.

Answer the following questions based on the passage given above:

i. What is peer pressure?

- a) The tendency to follow societal norms
- b) The influence exerted by peers to make an individual conform to group behaviours
- c) A self-imposed expectation to achieve personal goals
- d) A desire to reject group influences

ii. Which of the following is a positive example of peer pressure?

- a) Pressuring friends to drink alcohol
- b) Encouraging a friend to study for exams
- c) Forcing a friend to skip class
- d) Making fun of a peer for being different

iii. Which group is most susceptible to peer pressure?

- a) Toddlers
- b) Elderly people
- c) Adolescents
- d) Adults

iv. How can social media contribute to peer pressure?

- a) It encourages people to be authentic
- b) It amplifies the need for validation and approval
- c) It helps people ignore trends
- d) It prevents people from following the crowd

v. What is one way to resist negative peer pressure?

- a) Ignore your personal values
- b) Conform to group expectations
- c) Seek support from trusted adults or mentors
- d) Follow the crowd to fit in

vi. Which of the following is NOT a form of peer pressure mentioned in the passage?

- a) Direct pressure
- b) Indirect pressure
- c) Self-imposed pressure
- d) Political pressure

vii. What are the two types of peer pressure discussed in the passage?

viii. What are some of the negative effects of peer pressure on adolescents?

ix. How can positive peer pressure benefit adolescents?

x. What role do educators and parents play in helping adolescents resist peer pressure?



- xi. How can social media intensify peer pressure among young people?
- xii. What is one key factor that helps adolescents navigate peer pressure successfully?

2. Read the following passage carefully:

10

In today's fast-paced world, the pressure to succeed professionally has led many people to become workaholics. A workaholic is someone who compulsively works long hours and has an overwhelming desire to achieve success in their career, often at the expense of personal relationships, health, and happiness. While the drive for success can have positive outcomes, workaholism can sometimes make or mar not only the workaholic's life but also the lives of those around them.

On the one hand, workaholics are often seen as highly dedicated and driven individuals who are committed to their work. Their perseverance and commitment may lead to career advancement, higher income, and professional recognition. Companies may value such employees for their hard work and loyalty, and workaholics often become top performers in their fields. In fact, many successful entrepreneurs, artists, and executives have been known to devote themselves completely to their work, pushing the boundaries of what is possible in their respective industries. For them, success and fulfilment come from their work.

However, the consequences of being a workaholic can be deeply damaging. As work becomes the primary focus of their lives, workaholics tend to neglect other important aspects of their well-being, such as their health, family, and personal relationships. They may experience physical and mental exhaustion, leading to burnout, stress, and a lack of emotional connection with loved ones. Chronic workaholism can result in isolation, depression, and a sense of dissatisfaction, despite professional achievements.

For family members and friends, a workaholic's behaviour can lead to emotional neglect, with the individual's absence leaving them feeling unloved or unimportant. Children may grow up feeling abandoned or overlooked, while spouses may struggle with feelings of loneliness or frustration. The imbalance between work and personal life can create a toxic environment, eroding the quality of relationships over time.

In extreme cases, workaholics may even jeopardize their own career advancement. They may become so consumed by their work that they neglect to adapt to changing circumstances or collaborate effectively with others. A workaholic's inability to delegate tasks or manage time properly can hinder team dynamics and ultimately result in missed opportunities or stagnation.

The key to striking a balance lies in recognizing the signs of workaholism and taking deliberate steps to avoid its negative consequences. While it's important to be passionate about one's career, personal well-being and relationships should not be sacrificed in the pursuit of success. Setting clear boundaries, taking regular breaks, and learning to delegate tasks are essential steps in avoiding the detrimental effects of

workaholism. Additionally, taking time for hobbies, relaxation, and spending quality time with family and friends can help to maintain a healthy work-life balance.

In conclusion, while workaholism may lead to success in certain professional spheres, it can often damage the person's health, relationships, and overall happiness. The key is to understand that success should not come at the cost of personal fulfilment. Only by finding a balance between professional ambitions and personal well-being can individuals avoid the pitfalls of workaholism and lead a more satisfying and sustainable life.

Answer the following questions based on the passage given above:

- i. What are the positive effects of being a workaholic?
- ii. How can workaholism negatively affect personal relationships?
- iii. Which of the following is NOT a consequence of workaholism mentioned in the passage?
  - a) Physical and mental exhaustion
  - b) Career advancement
  - ☒ c) Emotional connection with loved ones
  - d) Burnout and stress
- iv. What can workaholism result in, even in a successful career?
  - a) Fulfilment and happiness
  - b) Missed opportunities and stagnation
  - c) Increased family bonding
  - ☒ d) Immediate promotions
- v. What is one way to avoid the negative effects of workaholism?
  - a) Work longer hours
  - ☒ b) Set clear boundaries between work and personal life
  - c) Avoid taking breaks
  - d) Spend more time at work
- vi. Find a word in the passage that means 'overwhelming or extreme in nature'.
- vii. State whether True or False with reference to the passage given above:  
Workaholics often experience a sense of dissatisfaction despite their career achievements.
- viii. Workaholism can often lead to burnout, stress, and \_\_\_\_\_.

## SECTION B

### Creative Writing Skills (18 marks)

(4)

3. Attempt any **ONE** of the two, A or B, in about 50 words.

A. You are Nilan/Nilia, the Secretary of the school Drama Club. Draft a notice in not more than 50 words, encouraging the students of classes 9 to 12 to participate in the upcoming Inter School Drama Competition that will be organized in your school shortly. Add all necessary information, including the briefing session that will happen a fortnight before the Inter School Drama competition.

(OR)

B. You are Kamna/Kaman the Head girl/Head boy of Silicon Valley Public School. The Art department of your school is organizing an art and craft exhibition, CREATE & RECREATE 2024. Draft a notice in not more than 50 words informing the whole school about the same. Add all necessary details in the notice. The students can bring their exhibits and hand over the same to the Art teacher.

(4)

4. Attempt any **ONE** of the two, A or B, in about 50 words.

A. Write a formal invitation letter inviting Smt. Dr. Rashi Luthra, the Vice Chancellor of Central Institute for the study of foreign languages, to inaugurate the new English language laboratory of your school. Include details of the event such as date, time etc... You are Chandu/Chandana, The Principal, Good Shepherd PUBLIC School, Erkkad, Tamilnadu.

(OR)

B. You have been invited to a party celebrating your close friend's son's success in the board examination. Write an informal letter expressing your excitement and gratitude for the invitation. Create an appropriate reply denying the invitation, giving valid reasons. Invent necessary details. You are Rahul/Ruchika of Pune, Maharashtra.

(5)

5. Attempt any **ONE** of the two, A or B, in about 120 to 150 words.

A. You are Adwik/Adwika, a resident of A-222, Paradise Enclave, Pristine Nagar, Bandipur. You have seen an advertisement in The Hindustan Times for the post of PGT Economics at Prathiba Global School and wish to apply for the same. Write a job application letter with your bio data, expressing your interest in the advertised post.

(OR)

B. A Food festival was organised recently in your school. Thousands of people, including parents, teachers, students, friends and neighbours participated in the same. It has aroused a great deal of appreciation among the people of the town, simply because of the exclusive game stalls, mehendi corner and the dedication corner that gave opportunity for the children to dance and sing, during the fest. Write a letter to the



editor of a national daily sharing your views on the matter. You are Ritu/ Ritwih of Blue bells International School.

6. Attempt any **ONE** of the two, A or B, in 120- 150 words. (5)

A. You are Kamini/ Kammath of class XI. Write an article for your school magazine on the benefits of participating in sports and games.

(OR)

B. Hard work, punctuality, determination and consistency in the face of challenges, self-confidence and an invincible faith in the Supreme Power, are all tools in the hands of those who aspire to succeed in life and also maintain peace and harmony within and without. These are the key points noted down by Veda/Vedanth , who attended a workshop organised by a famous motivational speaker on the topic, 'Breathing fresh air into our lives'. As Veda/Vedanth, write a report to be submitted to your school Principal.

### SECTION C

#### Literature (40 marks)

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any **ONE** of the given TWO, A or B. (6)

But after the airport's

Security check, standing a few yards

Away, I looked again at her, wan, pale

As a late winter's Moon.

- i) Why was the mother's face pale?
- ii) Which of the following is best represented in the given extract?

- A) The transience of human existence
- B) Aging is a natural process
- C) Death is a great leveller
- D) All of the above.

iii) Choose the option that displays the poetic device as used in the last line of the extract given above.

- A) Life is not a bed of roses
- B) Life is as complicated as a roller coaster ride.
- C) Life's lighter moments lie low.
- D) Life is a boon, savour each moment.

iv) Kamala Das looked at her mother again in order to.....

v) Read the Assertion and Reason below, with reference to the extract:

Assertion: The poet is at the Cochin airport.

Reason: The poet is anxious about her mother's dwindling health condition.

Choose the best option regarding their relationship:

- A) Both the Assertion and Reason are true and the reason is the correct explanation for the assertion.
- B) Both the Assertion and Reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation for the assertion.
- C) Assertion is true, but the reason is false.
- D) Assertion is false, but the reason is true.

vi) What is meant by the expression, 'a late winter's Moon'?

OR

B. 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.

i) How do we express our allegiance to Mother Nature, in spite of all our despondency?

ii) Choose the option that explains the expression 'of the inhuman dearth of noble natures'.

A. The acute shortage of good human beings.

B. The unimaginable increase in the number of good people.

C. The uncontrollable growth of human beings

D. The unconditional support rendered by human beings.

iii) According to the poet, how can a thing of beauty bring us relief during our gloomy days and show light to our darkened ways?



iv) Read the Assertion and the Reason given below, with reference to the extract.  
Assertion: According to Keats, the expression, 'made for our searching' means the experiences of life from its different aspects.

Reason: The poet says that our life is made up of false dreams.

Choose the correct option regarding their relationship:

- A) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, and the Reason is the correct explanation for the Assertion.
- B) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, but the Reason is not the correct explanation for the Assertion.
- C) The Assertion is true, but the Reason is false.
- D) The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.

v) How is a thing of beauty beneficial in removing 'the pall from our dark spirits'.

vi) How do human beings breathe a flowery band to bind them to the Earth ?

8. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any **ONE** of the given TWO (4)  
A or B.

A. I cried aloud, shaking my head all the while until I felt the cold blades of the scissors against my neck and heard them gnaw off one of my thick braids. Then I lost my spirit. *Since the day I was taken from my mother I had suffered extreme indignities. People had stared at me. I had been tossed about in the air like a wooden puppet. And now my long hair was shingled like a coward's!* In my anguish I moaned for my mother, but no one came to comfort me. Not a soul reasoned quietly with me, as my own mother used to do; for now I was only one of many little animals driven by a herder.

i) Complete the sentence appropriately.

Sporting long hair was important because, in the narrator's community,.....

ii) Identify the figure of speech used in the expression, 'I had been tossed about in the air like a wooden puppet'.

- A synecdoche
- B enjambment
- C simile
- D metaphor

iii) Explain in your own words, the extreme indignities suffered by the narrator.

- iv) Explain the metaphor in the last sentence, 'Now I was only one of the many little animals driven by a herder'.

OR

B. Students on Ice, the programme I was working with on the Shokalskiy, aims to do exactly this by taking high school students to the end of the world and providing them with inspiring educational opportunities which will help them foster a new understanding and respect for our planet. It's been in operation for six years now, headed by Canadian Geoff Green, who got tired of carping celebrities and retired, rich, curiosity-seekers who could only 'give' back in a limited way. With Students on Ice, he offers the future generations of policy makers a life-changing experience at an age when they're ready to absorb, learn and most importantly, act.

- i) Complete the following sentence with reference to the extract.

Students on Ice is a programme which was started by Geoff Green to.....

- ii) List any one emotion that students must have felt in the Students on Ice Programme.  
iii) According to the extract, Green chose the high school students for the programme as

- A) He wanted candidates who were young, energetic and physically fit.  
B) He wanted them to have an opportunity to learn more about the planet.  
C) He wanted young minds so that he could mould them according to his own whims and fancies.  
D) He wanted to start a colony for youngsters on the Southern pole.  
iv) Why did Green favour students against the rich for the Antarctica tour?

9. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any **ONE** of the given TWO, A or B:  
(6)

A. They have lived here for more than thirty years without an identity, without permits but with ration cards that get their names on voters' lists and enable them to buy grain. Food is more important for survival than identity. "If at the end of the day we can feed our families and go to bed without an aching stomach, we would rather live here than in the fields that gave us no grain," say a group of women in tattered saris when I asked them why they left their beautiful land of green fields and rivers. Wherever they find food, they pitch their tents. (Lost Spring)

- i) The rag pickers have been living there for .....decades.  
A) Three  
B) Four  
C) Two  
D) Five

- ii) What is the use of ration cards to these people?
- iii) What do you infer from the sentence, 'Food is more important for survival than an identity'?
- iv) Complete the following suitably with reference to the extract.
- The expression, 'they pitch their tents' refer to the fact that .....
- (v) Why are the rag pickers not willing to go back to their homeland, in spite of all the hardships?
- (vi) The women in Seemapuri have adopted a .....approach towards life.
- A. Idealistic  
B. Pessimistic  
C. Realistic  
D. Optimistic.
- 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."
- i) Why did Geoff doubt Sophie's claims about having met Danny Casey?
- ii) Why was Sophie not able to get an autograph?
- iii) Rationalise to support the statement:  
Sophie, the speaker is a highly imaginative girl.
- iv) How was Sophie able to recognise Danny Casey?
- v) Why did Sophie tell her brother, about her supposed meeting with Danny Casey?
- vi) What does the extract convey in general about the habits and attitudes of teenagers like Danny Casey?
10. Answer any **FIVE** of the following questions in about 40-50 words
- i) In Poets and Pancakes, how does the Moral Rearmament Army reflect the social and political atmosphere of post-independence India, according to the author's perspective?
- ii) 'Saul Bellow, who had consented to be interviewed on several occasions, nevertheless once described interviews as being like thumbprints on his windpipe.' Explain the inference that you can draw about interviews from the phrase, 'thumbprints on the windpipe.'



iii) Comment on the significance of the 'selfish cars' in the poem 'A Roadside stand'?

iv) How does Adrienne Rich express her bitterness towards a male dominated society through her portrayal of Aunt Jennifer?

v) Why was the peddler amused at the idea of the world being a rat trap?

vi) What were the terms of the Indigo contract between the British landlords and the Indian peasants?

11. Answer any **TWO** of the three questions in about 40-50 words each. (2x2=4)

i) What is a first day cover? (The Third level)

ii) Why does Mr. Lamb keep his gate and windows always open? What do his windows without curtains signify?

iii) The story 'The Tiger King' showcases the dangers of obsession and greed. Elucidate.

12. Answer any **ONE** of the following two questions in about 120-150 words. (5)

i) In both 'The Last Lesson' by Alphonse Daudet and 'Poets and Pancakes' by Asokamitran, the theme of lost opportunities and the consequences of procrastination are explored. How do these lessons highlight the idea behind the proverbial statement, "Procrastination is the thief of time"?

OR

ii) How do Robert Frost's 'A Roadside Stand' and Pablo Neruda's 'Keeping Quiet' explore the themes of human disconnect and the consequences of modernity, and what are the implications of these themes for individual and collective well-being?

13. Answer **ONE** of the following two questions in about 120-150 words: (5)

i) How do the characters in 'On the Face of It' by Susan Hill and 'The Enemy' by Pearl S. Buck reflect themes of human connection, vulnerability, and empathy despite their differences?

OR

ii) How do 'Journey to the End of the Earth' by Tishani Doshi and 'The Tiger King' by Kalki explore themes of human impact on nature and the consequences of hubris?