

DR. M.K.K. ARYA MODEL SCHOOL

MID – TERM EXAMINATIONS (2024)

ENGLISH - XI

Time allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

- (i) This question paper has 16 questions. All questions are compulsory.**
- (ii) This question paper contains three sections.**
- (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.**

SECTION A - READING

26 Marks

1. Read the passage given below:

10

1. No student of a foreign language needs to be told that grammar is complex. By changing word sequences and by adding a range of auxiliary verbs and suffixes, we are able to communicate tiny variations in meaning. We can turn a statement into a question, state whether an action has taken place or is soon to take place, and perform many other word tricks to convey subtle differences in meaning. Nor is this complexity inherent to the English language. All languages, even those of so-called 'primitive tribes' have clever grammatical components. The Cherokee pronoun system, for example, can distinguish between 'you and I', 'several other people and I' and 'you, another person and I'. In English, all these meanings are summed up in the one, crude pronoun 'we'. Grammar is universal and plays a part in every language, no matter how widespread it is. So the question which has baffled many linguists is- who created grammar?

2. At first, it would appear that this question is impossible to answer. To find out how grammar is created, someone needs to be present at the time of a language's creation, documenting its emergence. Many historical linguists are able to trace modern complex languages back to earlier languages, but in order to answer the question of how complex languages are actually formed, the researcher needs to observe how languages are started from scratch. Amazingly, however, this is possible.

3. Some of the most recent languages evolved due to the Atlantic slave trade. At that time, slaves from a number of different ethnicities were forced to work together under coloniser's rule. Since they had no opportunity to learn each others languages, they developed a make-shift language called a pidgin. Pidgins are strings of words copied from the language of the landowner. They have little in the way of grammar, and in many cases it is difficult for a listener to deduce when an event happened, and who did what to whom. Speakers need to use circumlocution in order to make their meaning understood. Interestingly, however, all it takes for a pidgin to become a complex language is for a group of children to be exposed to it at the time when they learn their mother tongue. Slave children did not simply copy the strings of words uttered by their elders, they adapted their words to create a new, expressive language. Complex grammar systems which emerge from pidgins are termed creoles, and they are invented by children.

4. It would appear that even the most widespread languages were partly created by children. Children appear to have innate grammatical machinery in their brains, which springs to life when they are first trying to make sense of the world around them. Their minds can serve to create logical, complex structures, even when there is no grammar present for them to copy.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions:

(i) In paragraph 1, why does the writer include information about the Cherokee language?

- (a) To show how simple, traditional cultures can have complicated grammar structures.
- (b) To show how English grammar differs from Cherokee grammar.
- (c) To prove that complex grammar structures were invented by the Cherokees.
- (d) To demonstrate how difficult it is to learn the Cherokee language.

(ii) Identify a common feature of all the languages.

(iii) How can we find out who created grammar?

(iv) A researcher needs to observe how languages are started from scratch

- (a) to know about the Atlantic slave trade
- (b) to know the details about the formation of complex languages
- (c) to develop make-shift languages
- (d) to make complex languages understandable

v) Complete the following sentence appropriately-

One of the notable consequences of the Atlantic slave trade was

(vi) Which of the following can be inferred about the slaves' pidgin language?

- (a) It contained complex grammar.
- (b) It was based on many different languages.
- (c) It was difficult to understand, even among slaves.
- (d) It was created by the land-owners.

(vii) What is pidgin?

(viii) Give an argument in favour of the following statement-

Even the most widespread languages were partly created by children.

(ix) 'Speakers need to use circumlocution in order to make their meaning understood.' It can be inferred that-

- (a) they used accurate grammar to express their ideas.
- (b) they used Cherokee language to make their meaning understood
- (c) they used unnecessarily large number of words to express their ideas.
- (d) they used most commonly known languages.

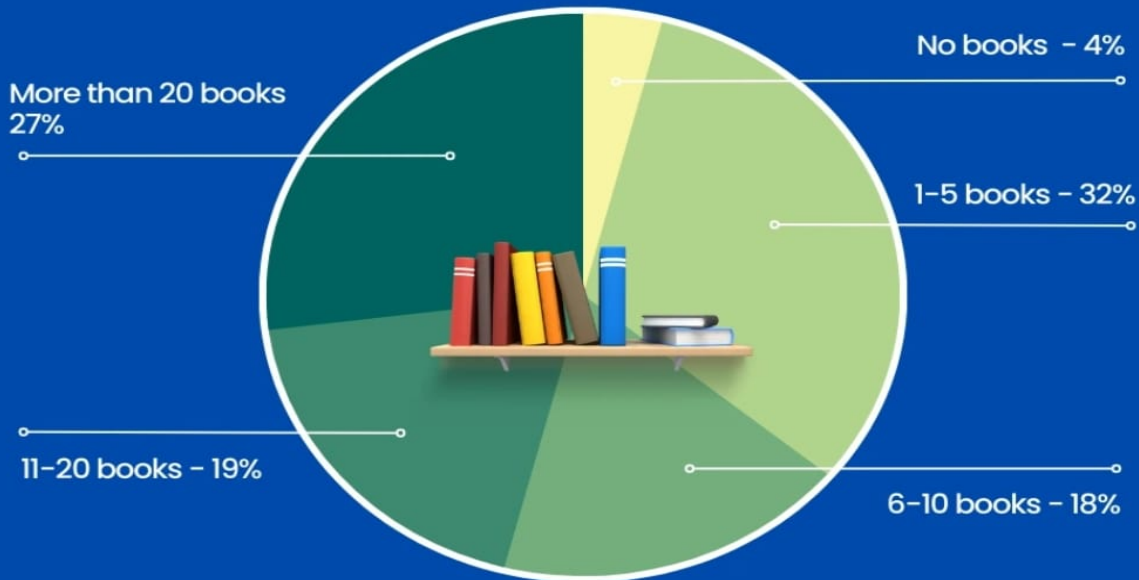
(x) Pick out the word from the passage which is similar in meaning to 'simple and temporary' (para 3)

2. Read the passage given below:

8

In a survey, people from different countries were asked how many books they read in 2022. It turns out there are many light readers, and quite a few dedicated bookworms, but how much fewer moderately committed readers. Survey says, according to the latest book reading statistics, 27% said they read over 20 books in 2022, when 32% said they read one to five books. Just 18% said they read 6 to 10 books, & 19% read 11 to 20 books in 2022.

How many books did you read in 2022?



SOURCE: THGM book-readers survey - December 2022

2. Predictions that the end of books was nigh have proven to be premature. If books are to fade into obscurity one day, that day is not yet on the horizon. In fact, the data shows that people plan to read even more in 2023 than they did in 2022.

3. Survey says according to the latest books reading statistics, 64% of readers plan to read more books in 2023 than they did in 2022. Just 3% plan to read fewer books. These results are fairly similar across regions. One Kenyan reader summed up the mood of the survey, "I enjoyed all the reading this year .I'm looking forward to reading more.

What one format did you read the most in 2022?

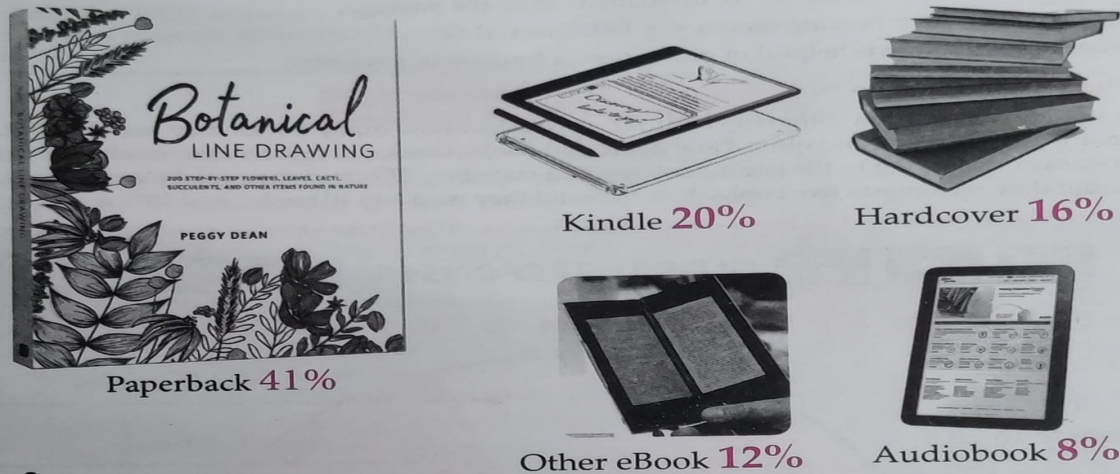


Fig. 2

4. The demise of books has been predicted - and disputed-for over a decade. Yet, people are still reading them. Survey says: 57% of people read paper (print) books most-41% paperback and 16% hardcover. 32% of readers chose eBooks-20% Kindle and 12% other eBooks. Another 8% listened to audiobooks and 3% choose "other" (which might include comic books, braille or some other format).

5. That is a strong vote of confidence in paper around the world, but with some equally strong regional differences. Americans are less interested in paper and somewhat more interested in all other formats. Striking is the 29%, of American readers who love their Kindles. Canadians show the exact opposite inclination with 67% reading mostly paper, including 53% paperbacks, and just 23% opting for eBooks.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions:

(i) Which of the following Statements can be substantiated about the readers in 2022 from the survey?

- (a) More than one-fourth of readers read more than 20 books.
- (b) More than one-fourth of readers read 6-10 books.
- (c) A high percentage of readers did not read any book.
- (d) Less than one-fourth of readers read 1-5 books.

(ii) What do you understand by the term 'dedicated bookworms'?

(iii) Identify the 'moderately-committed readers' in 2022 from the following-

- (a) People who read more than 20 books.
- (b) People who read 11-20 books.
- (c) People who read 1-5 books.
- (d) People who did not read any book

(iv) Why would it be premature to say that the books are to fade into obscurity soon?

(v) What are the key findings of the survey as assessed from the Fig.1?

(vi) Which of the following is incorrect as per the passage?

- (a) Paperback books are still preferred by the readers.
- (b) Audiobooks are loved by less than 10% of readers.
- (c) Kindle is more popular than hardcover books.
- (d) Other eBooks are more popular than Kindle.

(vii) Complete the following sentence-

The demise of books has been predicted and disputed for over a decade because of.....

(viii) State True or False-

The survey is limited to only Americans and Canadian readers.

3. Read the passage given below:

1. People tend to amass possessions, sometimes without being aware of doing so. They can have a delightful surprise when they find something useful which they did not know they owned. Those who never have to change houses become indiscriminate collectors of what can only be described as clutters, they leave unwanted objects in drawers, cupboards and

attics for years in the belief that they may one day need them. Old people also accumulate belongings for two other reasons, lack clutter. They leave unwanted of physical and mental energy, and sentiment. Things owned for a long time are full of associations with the past, perhaps with the relatives who are dead, and so they gradually acquire a sentimental value.

2. Some things are collected deliberately in an attempt to avoid wastage. Among these are string and brown paper, kept by thrifty people when a parcel has been opened. Collecting small items can be mania. A lady cuts out from newspaper sketches of model clothes that she would like to buy if she had money. As she is not rich, the chances are that she will never be able to afford such purchases. It is a harmless habit, but it litters up her desk.

3. Collecting as a serious hobby is quite different and has many advantages. It provides relaxation for leisure hours, as just looking at one's treasure is always a joy. One doesn't have to go out for amusement as the collection is housed at home. Whatever it consists of-stamps, records, first editions of books, china-there is always something to do in connection with it, from finding the right place for the latest addition to verifying facts in reference books. This hobby educates one not only in the chosen subject, but also in general matters which have some bearing on it.

4. There are other benefits also. One gets to meet like-minded collectors to get advice, compare notes, exchange articles, to show off one's latest find. So one's circle of friends grows. Soon the hobby leads to travelling, perhaps a meeting in another town, possibly a trip abroad in search of a rare specimen, for collectors are not confined to one country. Over the years one may well become an authority on one's hobby and will probably be asked to give informal talks to little gatherings and then, if successful, to larger audiences.

(a) On the basis of your understanding of the above passage make notes on it using headings and subheadings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary-minimum four) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it. (5)

(b) Write a summary of the passage in about 50 words. (3)

SECTION B: GRAMMAR AND CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS 23 Marks

4. Answer the following questions as directed. (4)

(i) Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given line, from a newspaper.

The Delhi government's revenue department (start) an exercise to make all land records easily accessible to the general public.

(a) starts (b) has started (c) had started (d) was started

(ii) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the given line appeared in a newspaper:

More than 500 farmhouses (build) illegally on Aravali land in this region.

(a) has built (b) were built. (c) were building (d) had built

(iii) Complete the following sentence using an appropriate Noun Clause:

I am pleased to hear that

(iv) Complete the following sentence using an appropriate adjective clause:

This is the painting.....

5. Transform the following sentences as per the instructions. (3)

- (i) The teacher praised the student for his diligence. (Change into Compound Sentence)
- (ii) Besides being a good dancer, Dhvani is a great painter. (Change into Complex Sentence)
- (iii) Monitoring cameras/ locations/ a decline/ Installation/ of/ in/ fatal accidents /different /at /led to. (Arrange into a meaningful sentence)

6. You are the General Manager, Coal India Ltd., New Delhi. Write an advertisement to be published in a newspaper for suitable accommodation on rent to be used as a guest- house for the company. OR (3)

ABC Public School, Karnal, requires P.G. teachers in English, Maths and Chemistry. Draft an advertisement for an English Daily in about 50 words.

7. Draft a poster in not more than 50 words to be issued by the Delhi Police cautioning people not to touch any unclaimed object. OR (3)

You are a fitness trainer in a health club. Design a poster in not more than 50 words, to emphasize the importance of exercise in maintaining mental and physical fitness. You are Prem/Priya.

8. You are Aastha/Anil, studying in class XI-B. You have been asked by your Principal to speak in the morning assembly on 'The Importance of English'. Draft the speech in 120-150 words. OR (5)

You being a head boy/ head girl of your school, have been asked to deliver a short speech on the subject of road safety for school children in not more than 120-150 words.

9. "Social media is being used to create disaffection in society." Write a debate in 120-150 words either for or against the motion. OR (5)

"Gyms and fitness centres have reduced the importance of exercise in the park." Write a debate in 120-150 words either for or against the motion.

SECTION C – LITERATURE

31 Marks

10. Read the extracts given and answer the questions that follow. (ANY ONE). (3)

A. She'd laugh at the snapshot, "See Betty

And Dolly," she'd say, and look how they

dressed us for the beach

(i) Who laughed at the snapshot?

(a)The poet (b) The poet's cousins (c) The poet's mother (d) The poet's mother's cousins

(ii) Complete the following sentence:

The snapshot was taken on.....

(iii) Describe the mood of the poet in the above stanza.

OR

She enters the thickness, and a machine starts up

(i) What happens to the tree with the sitting of the mother goldfinch bird on it?

(ii) Identify the figure of speech that is used to describe the movement of the bird:

(a) Metaphor (b) Oxymoron (c) Simile (d) Antithesis

(iii) Complete the following sentence: 'And a machine starts up' means that

11. Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given. (3)

A. The world's most famous mummy gilded head first into a CT scanner brought here to probe the lingering medical mysteries of this little understood young ruler who died more than 3,300 years ago. All afternoon the usual line of tourists from around the world had descended into the cramped, rock-cut tomb some 26 feet underground to pay their respects. (Discovering Tut: The Saga Continues)

(i) How can we assess that the ruler whose mummy was put into a CT scan was still popular among people?

(ii) Who has been referred to as 'the younger ruler' in the passage?

(iii) Where was the mummy being CT scanned ?

(a) In a hospital (b) In a laboratory (c) In a rock-cut tomb (d) In an archaeological institute

OR

B. 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 very near. But Wavewalker rode out the storm and by the morning of January 6, with the wind easing, I tried to get a reading on the sextant. Back in the chartroom, I worked on wind speeds, changes of course, drift and current in an effort to calculate our position. The best I could determine was that we were somewhere in 150,000 kilometres of ocean looking for a 65 kilometre-wide island. (We're Not Afraid to Die... If We Can All be Together)

(i) What did the narrator come to know about the whereabouts of the ship?

(ii) What was the mood of the narrator and his wife?

(a) Anxious and sad

(c) Nostalgic and sad. (d) Anxious and nostalgic

iii) State whether the following sentence is TRUE or FALSE:

The crewmen of the ship had refused to co-ordinate the narrator and his wife, therefore they were upset.

12. Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.

A. After my first visit in vain to Mrs Dorling's house I decided to try a second time. Now a girl of about fifteen opened the door to me. I asked her if her mother was at home. 'No' she said, 'my mother's doing an errand. "No matter, I said, 'I'll wait for her. Followed the girl along the passage. An old-fashioned iron Hanukkah candle-holder hung next to a mirror. (The Address)

(i) Why was the narrator's first meeting at Mrs. Dorling's house considered vain ?

(ii) Why did the girl say, "my mother's doing an errand?"

- (a) Her mother did not want to meet the narrator.
- (b) She wanted the narrator to meet her mother.
- (c) She wanted the narrator to get her things back.
- (d) Her mother was eager to meet the narrator.

(iii) What was the significance of the old-fashioned iron Hanukkah candle- holder for the narrator?

- (a) She did not like it because it was old-fashioned.
- (b) It was very expensive.
- (c) It was a gift to Mrs. Dorling from her mother.
- (d) It belonged to her mother.

(iv) Complete the following sentence:

The narrator was ready to wait for Mrs. Dorling because

OR

B. 'Mrs. Pearson : I might. Who d'you think?

Doris [Staring at her]: Mum-what's the matter with you?

Mrs. Pearson: Don't be silly.

Doris: [Indignantly] It's not me that's being silly and I must say it's a bit much when I've been working hard all day and you can't even bother to get my tea ready. Did you hear what I said about my yellow silk?

Mrs. Pearson: No. Don't you like it now? I never did.

Doris [Indignantly]: Of course I like it. And I'm going to wear it tonight. So I want it ironed. Mrs. Pearson: Want it ironed? What d'you think it's going to do-iron itself?" (Mother's Day)

(i) Identify the tone of Mrs. Pearson in the above passage:

- (a) Cool and incisive
- (b) Flattering and apologetic
- (c) Brave and strong
- (d) Taunting and angry

(ii) Why did Doris react 'indignantly' towards her mother Mrs. Pearson?

(iii) Choose the words that describe Doris personality, on the basis of the passage.

- I. Spoilt II. Independent III. Bad tempered IV. Kind
- (a) I and II (b) I and III (c) II and IV (d) II and III

(iv) Complete the following sentence:

Mrs. Pearson was behaving in a strange manner because she had

13. Answer ANY TWO of the following questions (one from prose and one from poetry) in 40-50 words: (3*2 = 6)

- (i) Do you think that Grandmother was a patient and uncomplaining person? Give any two instances from the text to prove your point.
- (ii) Justify the title of the story 'We're Not Afraid to Die, if We Can All Be Together'.
- (iii) Why do you think the poet uses the phrase 'reck'd or unreck'd' in the poem "The Voice of the Rain?"
- (iv) What can we learn from the goldfinch in the poem 'The Laburnum Top'?

14. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 40-50 words. (3*1=3)

- (i) How can we substantiate that Mourad had compassion for animals from the story 'The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse'?
- (ii) Do you think that Mrs. Pearson was responsible for her miserable condition in her own house? Give reasons in support of your answer.

15. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 120-150 words. (1*6 = 6)

- (i) Analyse the deep attachment between the author and his grandmother and the changes that took place in their relationship with the passage of time. **OR**
- (ii) Explain the statement, "King Tut is one of the first mummies to be scanned - in death as in life."

16. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 120-150 words. (1*6 = 6)

- (i) The story 'The Address' reveals the sordid side of the war as it is about human sufferings after a war. Comment. **OR**
- (ii) What do you think is the main theme of the play 'Mother's Day'? How has it been worked out?