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No. of printed pages : 8

103

403 (IIB)

2025

ENGLISH

Time : 3 hours]

[Max. Marks : 80

- Note :** (i) This question paper is divided into **three** sections – A, B and C.
(ii) **All** questions are **compulsory**. Marks are indicated against each question.
(iii) Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.
(iv) Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

Section - A (Reading)

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow-

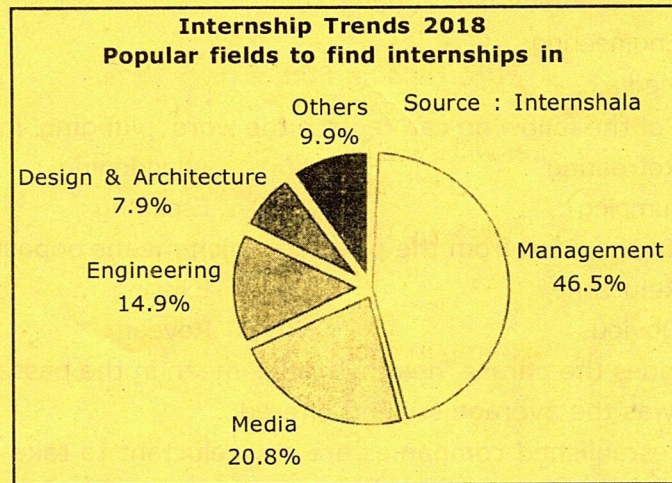
- (A) "Who doesn't know how to cook rice? Cooking rice hardly takes time" said my father. So, I challenged myself. I switched from news to YouTube and typed, "How to cook rice?" I took one and a half cups of rice. Since I didn't have access to a rice cooker, I put the rice in a big pot. Firstly, the rice has to be washed to get rid of dust and starch. I thought I won't be able to drain the rice and that it will fall out of the pot. I observed the chef as I swirled the rice around and used my dexterous hand to drain it, not once, not twice, but three times. I looked down at the sink and saw less than 50 grains that made their way out of the pot. Suffice to say, I was up to the mark.
- (B) The video stated that the key to perfect rice is equal amounts of rice and water. I have heard the professionals don't need to measure everything; they just know what the right amount is. But as this was my first time in the kitchen, I decided to experiment by not measuring the water needed for boiling the rice. I wanted the rice to be firm when bitten, just like pasta. I don't enjoy the texture of mushy rice. It has to have with chutzpah; it has to resist my biting power just for a bit before disintegrating.
- (C) After what seemed like 10 minutes, all the water disappeared. I went in to give it a good stir. To my surprise, some of the rice got stuck to the pot. I tried to scrape it off but to no avail. At the same time, there was a burning smell coming from it. I quickly turned the stove off. "What have you done to the kitchen?" My mother shouted while coming towards the kitchen. I managed to ward her off.
- (D) Finally, when the time came to taste my creation! It wasn't bad at all. The rice had the desired consistency. Sure, a little more salt would've been better, but I just added that while eating. The experience was fairly rewarding and memorable. It taught me a new sense of respect for those who cook food on a regular basis at home or are engaged in gourmet creations professionally.

- (a) "I switched from news to YouTube....." Pick the option in which the meaning of 'switched' is NOT the same as it is in the passage. 1
- (i) He switched on the radio to listen to the news while having dinner.
 - (ii) "Forget these diet supplements and switch to yoga, if you want a true sense of well-being."
 - (iii) Mom switched to reading fiction recently because she was bored with cook-books.
 - (iv) The company will switch the trucks to other routes to bring down city pollution.
- (b) Which word in the passage means extreme self-confidence or audacity? 1
- (i) Dexterous (ii) Gourmet
 - (iii) Chutzpah (iv) Suffice
- (c) Which was the first step in cooking rice mentioned in the passage? 1
- (i) Wash the rice
 - (ii) drain the rice
 - (iii) stir the rice
 - (iv) add water to the rice
- (d) Pick the option that correctly lists the final feelings of the writer with reference to the cooking experience. 1
- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. frustrating | 2. amusing | 3. satisfying |
| 4. disillusioning | 5. exacting | 6. enlightening |
- (i) 1 and 4 (ii) 2 and 5
 - (iii) 3 and 6 (iv) 1 and 3
- (e) What did the father intend when he stated, "Who doesn't know how to cook rice?" 1
- (f) Which word in the passage means showing or having skill? 1
- (g) The author felt he was up to the mark, do you feel the same? Why? 2
- (h) Which action of the author shows that he was overconfident? 2
- (i) The author states that cooking rice was a rewarding experience. State any experience when you felt the same. 2

2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow –

- (A) Over the last five years, more companies have been actively looking for internship profiles, according to a 2018-19 survey by an online internship and training platform. This survey reveals that India had 80% more internship applications with 2.2 million applications received in 2018 compared to 1.27 million in the year before. The trend was partly due to more industries looking to have fresh minds and ideas on existing projects for better productivity. What was originally seen as a western concept, getting an internship before plunging into the job market, is fast gaining momentum at Indian workplaces.
- (B) According to the survey data, India's National Capital Region has been the top provider of internships, with a total of 35% internship opportunities, followed by Mumbai and Bengaluru at 20% and 15%, respectively. This includes opportunities in startups, MNCs and even government entities. The survey also revealed popular

fields to find internships in the following figure. There has been growing awareness among the students about the intern profiles sought by hiring companies that often look for people with real-time experience in management than B-School masters.



- (C) The stipend has been an important factor influencing the choice of internships. The survey data reveals that the average stipend offered to interns was recorded as Rs. 7000, while the maximum stipend went up to Rs. 5,000. According to statistics, a greater number of people considered virtual internships than in-office internships. Virtual internships got three times more applications than in-office, since a large chunk of students were the ones already enrolled in various courses, or preferred working from home.
- (D) Internship portals have sprung up in the last three to four years and many of them already report healthy traffic per month. Reports suggest that an average, an internship portal company has around 200,000-plus students and some 8,000 companies registered on it. It gets around two lakh visits online every month. The Managing Director of a leading executive search firm says that though these web platforms are working as an effective bridge between the industry and students, most established companies are still reluctant to take too many interns on board for obvious reasons.
- (a) Select the correct inference with reference to the following: 1
- Over the last five years, more companies have been actively looking for intern profiles.
- (i) The past five years have seen active applications by interns to several companies.
 - (ii) The activity for intern profiling by the companies has reached a gradual downside over the past five years.
 - (iii) There were lesser companies searching for intern profiles earlier, as compared to those in the recent five years.
 - (iv) Several companies have initiated intern profiling five times a year in the recent past.

- (b) According to survey data, which has been the most popular field to provide maximum internship opportunities. 1
- (i) Design & Architecture
- (ii) Management
- (iii) Engineering
- (iv) Media
- (c) Which of the following can replace the word 'plunging' in the passage? 1
- (i) Retreating (ii) Abandoning
- (iii) Jumping (iv) Escaping
- (d) Pick out the word from the passage which means opposite to 'conceal'. 1
- (i) Reluctant (ii) Existing
- (iii) Obvious (iv) Reveal
- (e) What does the phrase 'healthy traffic' mean in the passage? 1
- (f) What was the average stipend offered. 1
- (g) "Most established companies are still reluctant to take too many interns on board for obvious reasons. What do you feel are the 'obvious reasons'?" 2
- (h) Why did virtual internships get more applications than in-office? 2

Section - B [Creative Writing Skills]

3. You are Prakher/Mansi, the student Editor of your school magazine 'The Buds.' Write a notice in not more than 50 words to be placed on your school notice board, inviting short stories, articles, poems, etc. from students of all classes for the school magazine. Give all the necessary details. 4

OR

Imagine yourself to be a member of a Blood Bank Society. You have been asked by the President of the society to organise a blood donation camp. Prepare a notice urging the people to come in large numbers for this noble cause mention the relevant details of the camp. Do not exceed 50 words.

4. You are Anshu/Peehu living at 27, Raj Nagar Colony, Haldwani, Nainital. 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. Do not exceed 50 words. 4

OR

You are Akshat/Namrata of 251, Jawahar Colony, Mohkempur Dehradun. You have come out successful in the class XII examination scoring 92% marks. You have decided to celebrate your brilliant success with your friends. Draft an informal invitation. Do not exceed 50 words.

5. You are Kamal/Anita of 37, Race Course, Dehradun. You come across the following classified advertisement in the newspaper. Write a letter, in about 120-150 words, applying for the position of a computer teacher at Holy Angels Senior Secondary School, Dehradun. Mention additional skills and interests. Apply with your detailed resume. 5

SITUATION VACANT

WANTED a qualified computer teacher for Holy Angels Senior Secondary School, Dehradun. Applicant must be post graduate in computer science with minimum 3 years of work experience. Mention additional skills and interests. Apply to the Principal, Holy Angels Senior Secondary School, Dehradun.

OR

You are Narendra/Renu of Rudrapur. Write a letter in about 120–150 words to the editor of 'The Times of India' about the misuse and poor maintenance of public works in your city.

6. You recently visited a hill station with your parents. It was an adventurous and joyful experience. Write an article for the school magazine sharing your experience. (120-150 words). 5

OR

You are Davendra/Anuradha. The World Book Fair which lasted for a month in your city was the hot topic of all book lovers. Write a report on it for publication in a newspaper in 120-150 words.

Section - C [LITERATURE TEXT BOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT]

7. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

..... yes, in spite of all,
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
From our dark spirits. Such the sun, the moon
Trees old, and young sprouting a shady boon
For simple sheep;

- (a) The word 'boon' means - 1
(i) Curse (ii) Hindrance
(iii) Blessing (iv) Misfortune
- (b) 'Pall' in the given stanza is: 1
(i) a verb (ii) a noun
(iii) a preposition (iv) an interjection
- (c) Pick out the rhyming words in the given stanza. 1
- (d) What does 'the shape of beauty' do? 1
- (e) State whether the given statement is True or False. 1
Beauty in any shape drives away
the sadness from our life.
- (f) The poet celebrates the beauty of a 'tree as ' 1

OR

If we were not so single-minded
 about keeping our lives moving
 and for once could do nothing,
 Perhaps a huge silence
 might interrupt this sadness
 of never understanding ourselves
 and of threatening ourselves with death

- (a) In which activity does the poet not approve to be single-minded? 1
 - (i) In studying (ii) In playing
 - (iii) In keeping our lives moving (iv) None of the above
- (b) What will huge silence do in our lives according to the poet? 1
 - (i) It will stop pollution (ii) It will revive our lost wealth
 - (iii) It will kill our sadness (iv) All of the above
- (c) A word from the stanza which has the similar meaning as 'to stop the progress of something for a short while' is _____. 1
- (d) State whether the given statement is True or False. 1
 The poet emphasises the need of introspection through silence.
- (e) Give an antonym of 'huge.' 1
- (f) What does the poet want us to do? 1

8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow-

I did not open my mouth to answer. Then the steps were quickened and the voices became excited. The sounds come nearer and nearer. Women and girls entered the room. I held my breath and watched them open closet doors and peep behind large trunks. Someone threw up the curtains, and the room was filled with sudden light. What caused them to stop and look under the bed I do not know. I remember being dragged out, though I resisted by kicking and scratching wildly. In spite of myself, I was carried downstairs and tied fast in a chair.

- (a) Select the appropriate option: 1
 The sounds came nearer and nearer
 - (i) describes the increase in volume
 - (ii) adds suspense and anxiety to readers
 - (iii) reflects the thought of the speaker
 - (iv) is a factual narrative
- (b) Complete the following sentence: 1
 'In spite of myself' suggests that the speaker was _____
- (c) What do you infer from the first line of the extract? 1
 - (i) It was her first day in school.
 - (ii) She did not want to get caught.
 - (iii) She was unprepared for the lesson.
 - (iv) She preferred to be by herself.
- (d) State whether the statement given below is True or False: 1
 The speaker hoodwinked the people looking for her.

OR

Human civilisations have been around for a paltry 12,000 years-barely a few seconds on the geological clock. In that short amount of time, we've managed to create quite a ruckus, etching our dominance over nature with our villages, towns, cities, megacities. The rapid increase of human populations has left us battling with other species for limited resources, and the unmitigated burning of fossil fuels has now created a blanket of carbon dioxide around the world, which is slowly but surely increasing the average global temperature.

- (a) According to the view expressed by the author in the above extract, increase in global temperature is due to: 1
- (i) Megacities
 - (ii) Rapid decrease in human population
 - (iii) Burning of fossil fuels
 - (iv) Limited resources
- (b) Choose the synonym of 'barely'. 1
- (i) Hardly
 - (ii) Clearly
 - (iii) Frequently
 - (iv) Willingly
- (c) What is the name of the lesson from which the above lines have been extracted? 1
- (d) According to the author, the relation between human population and resources is 1

9. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow-

The stranger must have seemed incredulous, for the old man got up and went to the window, took down a leather pouch which hung on a nail in the very window frame and picked out three wrinkled ten-kronor bills. These he held up before the eyes of his guest, nodding knowingly, and then stuffed them back into the pouch.

- (a) What did the old man show to the stranger? 1
- (i) Gold coins
 - (ii) Ten-kronor notes
 - (iii) Almonds and other nuts
 - (iv) Porridge
- (b) The stranger in the above lines is 1
- (c) Where is the stranger? 1
- (d) Did the stranger respect the confidence reposed in him by the old man? 1
- (e) What did the old man do after going to the window? 1
- (i) He peeped out
 - (ii) Took down a leather pouch
 - (iii) Closed the window
 - (iv) Called the stranger
- (f) Find a word from the extract which means 'unbelieving'. 1

OR

It seemed a long way down. Those nine feet were more like ninety, and before I touched bottom, my lungs were ready to burst. But when, my feet hit bottom I summoned all my strength and made what I thought was a great spring upwards. I imagined I would bob to the surface like a cork. Instead, I came up slowly. I opened my eyes and saw nothing but water-water that had a dirty yellow tinge to it.

- (a) Explain the reason of the narrator's experience in the lines above. 1
- (b) What happened before he touched the bottom? 1
 - (i) His lungs were ready to burst
 - (ii) He was playing with waves
 - (iii) Fish came across him
 - (iv) None of the above
- (c) Why did he panic under water? 1
 - (i) He saw nothing around, except water
 - (ii) He couldn't find a rope
 - (iii) He couldn't shout loud enough
 - (iv) None of the above
- (d) What did the narrator imagine? 1
- (e) The word 'seem' means 1
- (f) Give a synonym of 'instead.' 1

10. Answer **ANY FIVE** of the following questions, in about **40-50** words each. 2×5=10

- (a) Why are the young trees described as 'sprinting'?
- (b) How is a thing of beauty a joy forever?
- (c) What does the title 'Lost Spring' convey?
- (d) Why was Edla happy to see the gift left by the peddler?
- (e) How was the Champaran episode a turning point in Gandhi's life?
- (f) How can you say that Sophie's dream and disappointments are all in her mind?

11. Answer **ANY TWO** of the following questions, in about **40-50** words. 2×2=4

- (a) What was Bama's reaction to the way the people of her community were treated?
- (b) Why is Antarctica and its understanding important for the survival of the world?
- (c) Why did Charley suspect that Sam had gone to Galesburg?

12. Answer the following question, in about **120-150** words. 5

How does the metaphor of the rat trap serve to highlight the human predicament?

OR

Give a brief description of the poem 'My Mother at Sixty-Six.'

13. Answer the following question in about **120-150** words. 5

What was the Maharaja's mission? How did he resolve to overcome the obstacles in the fulfilment of his mission?

OR

"There are moments in life when we have to make hard choices between our roles as private individuals and as citizens with a sense of national loyalty." Discuss with reference to the story 'The Enemy.'
