

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN, BHOPAL REGION
CLASS XII ENGLISH CORE (CODE: 301)
PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION 2025-26

SET -2

Time Allowed: 3 Hrs

Maximum Marks: 80

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. This paper is divided into THREE SECTIONS: SECTION A: READING SKILLS (22 Marks), SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS (18 Marks), SECTION C: LITERATURE (40 Marks)
2. All questions are compulsory.
3. Marks are indicated against each question.

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (22 Marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully:

(12 Marks)

Behavioural scientists have spent a lot of time studying what makes us happy. We know happiness can predict health and longevity, and happiness scales can be used to measure social progress and the success of public policies. But happiness isn't something that just happens to you.

Happiness often comes from within. Learn how to tame negative thoughts and approach every day with optimism. Don't try to stop negative thoughts. Telling yourself "I have to stop thinking about this," only makes you think about it more. Treat yourself like a friend. When you are feeling negative about yourself, ask yourself what advice would you give a friend who was down on herself. Now try to apply that advice to you. Socratic questioning is the process of challenging and changing irrational thoughts. Studies show that this method can reduce depression symptoms. The goal is to get you from a negative mind-set to a more positive one.

Optimism is part genetic, part learned. Optimism doesn't mean ignoring the reality of a dire situation. After a job loss, for instance, many people may feel defeated and think, "I'll never recover from this." An optimist would acknowledge the challenge in a more hopeful way, saying, "This is going to be difficult, but it's a chance to rethink my life goals and find work that truly makes me happy."

Generosity makes people happier. Several studies have found that people who behaved generously were happier compared to people who made selfish decisions. In fact, just thinking about being generous and kind triggers a happiness reaction in our brains.

Behaviours and habits we engage in do matter from gratitude to kindness to mindfulness and that they can lead to an enduring happiness boost. It is important to choose activities that fit our personality and interests. Activities fit us better when they feel natural, enjoyable, and aligned with our values, rather than driven by guilt or other people's expectations. Choose activities that are virtuous and meaningful, rather than obsessing about feeling good all the time. Hedonism won't necessarily make you happy, even if you feel good in the moment. If we pursue pleasure, it shouldn't be at the expense of living a meaningful life. We also need to pursue a purpose, and practice forgiveness, gratitude, and generosity those give us a sense of competence, autonomy, and connection, which are core human needs. People who invest more effort into their new habits see greater improvements in their well-being. "People can create for themselves a steady inflow of engaging, satisfying, connecting, and uplifting positive experiences, thereby increasing the likelihood that they remain in the upper range of their happiness potentials," Sheldon and Lyubomirsky wrote.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below:

Q1. Statement I: Happiness is something that happens to you

Statement II: Happiness often comes from within

Choose the correct option:

[1 Mark]

- A. Both statements are true
- B. Statement I is true and Statement II is false
- C. Statement I is false and Statement II is true
- D. Both statements are true

Q2. Mention two ways by which one can tame negative thoughts, as given in the passage. [2 Marks]

Q3. Socratic Questioning [1 Mark]

- (i) Reduces depression symptoms
- (ii) Gives a positive mindset
- (iii) Makes one generous
- (iv) Challenges irrational thoughts

Choose the correct combination:

- A. 1, 2 & 3
- B. 2 & 4
- C. 1, 2, 3 & 4
- D. 1, 2 & 4

Q4. Hedonism refers to: [1 Mark]

- A. The belief that you are not successful
- B. The belief that pleasure is the most important thing in life
- C. The belief that it is not wrong to achieve happiness through unfair means
- D. The belief that happiness is a temporary emotion

Q5. The passage emphasizes: [1 Mark]

- (i) The need for developing activities that fit oneself
- (ii) The need to be optimistic
- (iii) The need to create positive experiences for oneself
- (iv) The need to do surveys on happiness scales

Choose the correct combination:

- A. 1 & 2
- B. Only 1
- C. 1, 2, 3 & 4
- D. 1, 2 & 3

Q6. The core human needs according to the passage are: [1 Mark]

- A. Competence, autonomy, and connection
- B. Generosity and optimism
- C. Forgiveness, gratitude and generosity
- D. Kindness, happiness and positive experiences

Q7. How would an optimist deal with a difficult situation? [2 Marks]

Q8. What does Sheldon and Lyubomirsky opine about happiness? [2 Marks]

Q9. Assertion (A): It is important to choose activities that fit our personality and interests.

Reason (R): Our activities make us obsessed about feeling good all the time. [1 Mark]

Choose the correct option:

- A. (A) is true and (R) is the correct explanation of it
B. (A) is true but (R) is not the correct explanation of it
C. (A) is false but (R) is true
D. Both (A) and (R) are false

2. Read the following passage carefully:

(10 Marks)

1. NEP 2020 lays particular emphasis on the development of the creative potential of each child. The rich heritage of ancient and eternal Indian knowledge and thought has been a guiding light for this policy.

The 10+2 structure in school education is modified with a new pedagogical and curricular restructuring of 5+3+3+4 system covering ages of 3-18 years.

- Foundational stage 3-8 years (Balavatika 1, 2 & 3 / class 1 / class 2)
 - Preparatory stage 8-11 years (classes 3, 4 & 5)
 - Middle stage 11-14 years (classes 6, 7 & 8)
 - Secondary stage 14-18 years (classes 9, 10, 11 & 12)
2. The policy gives highest priority in achieving universal Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN). PANCHAKOSHA Vikas (Five-fold development) is a keystone in the Indian tradition of the imagination of the development of human beings. The child is a whole being with Pancha koshas or five sheaths- Annamaya kosha (physical layer), Pranayama kosha (life force energy layer), Manomaya kosha (mind layer), Vijñanamaya kosha (intellectual layer) and Ananda maya kosha (inner self).
3. NEP 2020 aims to overcome the social status hierarchy associated with vocational education and requires integration of vocational education programmes into mainstream education in all education institutions in a phased manner. Towards this, secondary schools will also collaborate with ITIs, polytechnics, local industry, etc. Skill labs will also be set up and created in the schools in a hub and spoke model which will allow other schools to use the facility.
4. The Samagra Shiksha, an integral scheme for School Education as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education; Special emphasis given on Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs).
5. The medium of instruction until at least Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond, will be the home language/mother tongue/local language/regional language. Board Exams on up to two occasions during any given school year, one main examination and one for improvement, if desired; setting up of a new National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) are important highlights. (Created for Academic Usage / 363 words)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:

I. Complete the following suitably.

[1]

As per NEP Early Childhood Care and Education starts with classes

II. What would the classes 6, 7 and 8 be classified as?

[1]

- A. Foundational stage
B. Preparatory stage
C. Middle stage
D. Secondary stage

III. Give two measures to promote vocational education in secondary schools as envisaged by NEP 2020. [2]

IV. The display chart includes words 'curtailing' and 'restructuring.'

[1]

Classify the following sentences as 'curtailing' or 'restructuring':

Sentence 1: Primary classes from 1-5 is changed the label splitting to Foundational stage (classes 1 & 2 along with Balvatika) and Preparatory stage (classes 3, 4, 5) as per NEP 2020.

Sentence 2: Subsidy to buy bicycles to commute to school stopped dropout rates of students in villages.

V. Read the following: [1]

Vasu, in class 8 has five English periods and four Arts periods in a week. His seniors last year had 6 English periods and 3 Arts periods.

Unni, his Hindi teacher came on transfer to his school as he became surplus in the school he was working.

Ritu, his friend in the senior class comes in wheel chair to the class but attends class and participates in activities with classmates. All this together reflect which major focus area of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**?

- A. Stress on rote learning and fixed subject boundaries
- B. Inclusive and equitable education with flexibility in learning
- C. Focus only on academic performance and examinations
- D. Separation of differently-abled learners from regular classrooms

VI. Which group has been given emphasis by the scheme Samagra Shiksha to ensure equitable quality education at all levels of school education? [1]

VII. Explain the two important landmarks in examination and assessment that NEP 2020 proposes. [2]

VIII. PANCHAKOSHA Vikas consists of [1]

- A. Foundational Literacy and Numeracy & Development of physical/life force energy/mind/intellectual layers.
- B. Multilingualism and Early learning in mother tongue.
- C. Curricular Integration of Essential Subjects and skills.
- D. Development of physical/life force energy/mind/intellectual layers and inner self.

SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS (18 Marks)

Que.3 Attempt any one of the two, in 50 words. [4]

- A. You are Srinivas/Srinidhi of D.P. Public School, Nagpur. As Student Editor of your school magazine, draft notice in not more than 50 words for your school notice board inviting article sketches from students of all classes.

OR

- B. You are the Secretary of the Cultural Club of Springdale Public School, Delhi. The club is organizing an Inter-School Debate Competition for students of classes XI and XII. Draft a notice in not more than 50 words inviting interested students to register their names. Include all necessary details.

Que.4 Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in 120-150 words. [4]

- A. The literary club of your school is putting up the play 'Waiting for Godot'. As secretary of the club, draft an invitation inviting the famous writer Sudeesh Gupta to be the guest of honour at the function. Write the invitation in not more than 50 words. You are Govind/Gauri.

OR

- B. You are Prof. N. Dutta, a famous historian from Kurukshetra University. You have the honour of being invited as the chief guest at a public function. However, due to sudden illness you are unable to attend the same. Draft a suitable reply in about 50 words.

Que.5. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in 120-150 words. [5]

- (A) You are Pranab Chauhan, residing at 13-A, Gol Bazaar, Jaisalmer. Write a letter to the editor of The Nation Today, highlighting the need to assess sports talent at a young age by sports teachers and coaches to ensure that

talent does not go unrecognised. Emphasise the importance of grooming young sportspersons to create a larger pool of talented athletes for the future. Draft the letter using your own ideas as well as the clues given.

- Spotting natural abilities during formative years.
- Building foundational skills early for long-term success.
- Instilling discipline, teamwork, and sportsmanship from a young age.
- Creating a larger pool of skilled athletes for the future.
- Building a strong sports culture and national pride.

(B) You are Arjun Singhania of 14, New Town, Delhi. You have seen an advertisement in The Times of India dated April 10, 20XX for the post of Sous Chef in a reputed 5-Star Hotel. Apply for the job with complete bio-data. Write in 125-150 words.

Que 6. Write an article in 200 words on 'The Role of Youth in National Development' to be published in your school magazine. You are Mumtaz/Mohd. Azam of XII Std., Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan, Delhi. [5]

OR

You are Karan/ Kirti of L.M. Memorial Public School, Dwarka. 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. Write a report, for your school magazine, on the various other programmes organized there in 120 150 words.

SECTION C: LITERATURE (40 Marks)

Que.7. Attempt ONE extract out of two given below

(6×1=6 Marks):

*(A) Fishermen in the cold sea
would not harm whales
and the man gathering salt
would look at his hurt hands.
Those who prepare green wars,
wars with gas, wars with fire,
victory with no survivors,
would put on clean clothes
and walk about with their brothers
in the shade, doing nothing. (Keeping Quiet)*

I. What is the significance of the phrase "green wars, wars with gas, wars with fire" in context of the poem? [1]

II. Complete the following sentence with the correct option. [1]

The poet's suggestion that men "walk about with their brothers in the shade" implies a call for -----
(peaceful coexistence/temporary truce/active engagement/environmental awareness) [1]

III. How does the image of the salt-gatherer looking at his hurt hands enhance the message of the poem? [1]

IV. Complete the sentence by filling in the blank with a suitable phrase. [1]

The poet appeals for a moment of stillness in which humans become----- of their destructive actions and reconnect with humanity. [1]

V. What can be inferred about the poet's outlook towards human conflict and war from the extract? [1]

- a) He believes wars are inevitable but necessary.
- (b) He condemns violent actions and promotes peaceful reflection.
- (c) He suggests scientific innovation as a solution to war
- (d) He prefers silence as a form of protest against injustice.

VI. All of the following are true for the extract EXCEPT [1]

- (a) The stanza criticises environmental destruction and warfare.
- (b) The poet glorifies the victories achieved through violent conflict.

- (c) There is a call for self-awareness and brotherhood among people.
 (d) The stanza uses symbolic language to highlight global concerns.

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.
 (A Thing of Beauty)*

- I. What does the expression "wreathing a flowery band" symbolise in the stanza? [1]
- II. Complete the following sentence appropriately. [1]
 The poet refers to the "inhuman dearth of noble natures" to highlight a world where -----
 [people lack goodness and kindness/beauty is found in abundance/life is easy and content/nature is hostile]
- III. How does the phrase "moves away the pall" contribute to the overall tone of the stanza? [1]
- IV. Complete the following suitably. [1]
 Beauty, according to the poet, helps us endure life's hardships by -----
- V. Which of the following best reflects the mood of the poet? [1]
 (a) Optimistic in the face of despair
 (b) Bitter and angry about life
 (c) Passive and indifferent
 (d) Detached and critical of nature
- VI. All of the following are suggested by the extract EXCEPT [1]
 (a) Nature's beauty helps uplift human spirits.
 (c) Humans are indifferent to natural beauty.
 (b) Life is full of negativity and suffering
 (d) Beauty helps us endure life's difficulties.

Que. 8 Attempt ONE extract out of two given below

(4×1=4 Marks):

(A) 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 Maharajas 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. What does the tiger's refusal to leave the car symbolise in this passage?
- II. What might the Dewan be feeling after struggling to push the tiger out of the car? Select the most appropriate option.
 (a) "This is easier than I thought."
 (b) "I am completely exhausted and frustrated."
 (c) "The tiger will leave on its own soon."
 (d) "I don't care about the tiger anymore."

III. Fill in the blank with a suitable word based on the context of the extract:

The tiger's act of refusing to get out of the car was a form of ----- to its fate.

IV. How would the tone of the passage change if the Maharaja had been angry instead of feeling 'boundless joy' when he saw the tiger?

OR

(B) The man ceased his mutterings, and then a third bell was tapped. Every one picked up his knife and fork and began eating. I began crying instead, for by this time I was afraid to venture anything more. But this eating by formula was not the hardest trial in that first day. Late in the morning, my friend Judewin gave me a terrible warning. Judewin knew a few words of English; and she had overheard the paleface woman talk about cutting our long, heavy hair. Our mothers had taught us that only unskilled warriors who were captured had their hair shingled by the enemy. Among our people, short hair was worn by mourners and shingled hair by cowards!

(Memories of Childhood: The Cutting of my Long Hair)

I. What does the narrator's crying instead of eating suggest about their feelings at that moment?

II. Complete the sentence suitably:

Judewin warned the narrator about the paleface woman's intention to-----

III. What is the significance of long hair among the narrator's people as suggested in the extract?

IV. Complete the following with the correct option based on the context in the extract:

The phrase "only unskilled warriors who were captured had their hair shingled by the enemy" means

- (a) cutting hair was a sign of honour
- (b) short hair was a sign of mourning
- (c) shingled hair showed cowardice
- (d) long hair was unimportant

Que. 9. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the given two. [1 x 6 = 6]

(A) Unaware of what his name represents, he roams the streets with his friends, an army of barefoot boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon. Over the months, I have come to recognise each of them. "Why aren't you wearing chappals?" I ask one. "My mother did not bring them down from the shelf," he answers simply. "Even if she did, he will throw them off," adds another who is wearing shoes that do not match. When I comment on it, he shuffles his feet and says nothing. "I want shoes," says a third boy who has never owned a pair all his life. Travelling across the country I have seen children walking barefoot, in cities, on village roads. It is not lack of money but a tradition to stay barefoot, is one explanation. **(Lost Spring)**

I What is the writer's purpose in allowing the boys to speak for themselves via dialogue, as opposed to only a writer's commentary? [1]

II What are the reasons behind children not wearing footwear as presented in the extract [1]

III. Explain any one possible inference that can be drawn from the line, "an army of barefoot boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon". [1]

IV. Fill in the blank with a correct option from those given in the brackets, based on the information in the extract. [1]

The boy with mismatched shoes shuffled his feet and said nothing, responding to the narrator's comment----- (angrily/shyly/confidently).

v. Based on the context provided in the extract, select the most likely comment that the writer would have made, based on the boy's reaction to the mismatched shoes. [1]

- (a) "Why are your shoes mismatched? That's not a good look."
- (b) "Don't worry about your shoes, you can wear a matching pair later."
- (c) "I like your shoes. What matters is that they protect your feet."
- (d) "Have you chosen to mismatch your shoes?"

VI. Complete the following suitably.

[1]

When the boy says, "I want shoes," his statement stems from his longing for dignity and his awareness that

OR

(B) Umberto Eco: Aah, now that is more difficult to explain. I have some philosophical interests and I pursue them through my academic work and my novels. Even my books for children are about non-violence and peace.... you see, the same bunch of ethical, philosophical interests.

And then I have a secret. Did you know what will happen if you eliminate the empty spaces from the universe, eliminate the empty spaces in all the atoms? The universe will become as big as my fist.

(The Interview)

I. Which of the following best reflect Umberto Eco's approach to writing and philosophy as presented in the extract? [1]

- 1. He separates his fiction from his academic work.
- 2. He integrates ethical ideas across all forms of his writing.
- 3. He avoids heavy themes in children's literature.
- 4. He maintains a consistent set of interests.
- 5. He relies only on scientific theories in his work.

Select the most suitable option:

- (a) 1 and 5
- (b) 2 and 4
- (c) 3,4 and 5
- (d) 1,2 and 3

II. Fill in the blank with a correct option from those given in the brackets, based on the information in the extract. [1]

Umberto Eco describes his interests in writing and philosophy as------(disconnected/overlapping/unclear).

III. Complete the following suitably.

[1]

When Umberto Eco says, "the universe will become as big as my fist," he intends to highlight the idea that space is largely made up of emptiness and that -----

IV. What does the following line from the extract showcase? [1]

"The same bunch of ethical, philosophical interests."

- (a) separation
- (b) interconnectedness
- (c) isolation
- (d) division

V. What common theme runs through all of Umberto Eco's writings, including his children's books? [1]

VI. What according to Umberto Eco will happen if all the empty spaces are eliminated from the universe? [1]

Que.10 Answer ANY FIVE questions out of six in 40-50 words each

(5×2=10 Marks):

- i) Franz thought, "Will they make them sing in German, even the pigeons?" What does this show about the attitude of the Prussians towards the French? (The Last Lesson)
- ii) How did Douglas overcome his fear of water? What lesson can we learn from his determination? (Deep Water)
- iii) Why did the peddler decline the invitation of the ironmaster but accept that of Edla Willmansson? (The Rattrap)
- iv) "Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool find even the ivory needle hard to pull." What does this suggest about Aunt Jennifer's life? (Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)
- v) How does the poet use the roadside stand as a symbol of rural poverty and exploitation? (A Roadside Stand)
- vi) What were Subbu's qualities that made him an important member of the Gemini Studios? (Poets and Pancakes)

Que.11 Answer ANY TWO questions out of three in 40-50 words each (2×2=4 Marks):

- i) What twin obligations does Mr. Lamb talk about? How does he justify his attitude towards life? **(On the Face of It)**
- ii) How did Dr. Sadao ensure that the American soldier escaped safely? What risk did he take? **(The Enemy)**
- iii) Why does the Tiger King decide to get married? How does his marriage help him in his mission? **(The Tiger King)**

Que.12. Answer ANY ONE question in 120-150 words (1×5=5 Marks):

A: Gandhi's struggle in Indigo was a turning point in the history of the peasants of Champaran. How did his intervention change the course of their lives? Analyze Gandhi's strategy and its impact on the sharecroppers and the British landlords. **(Indigo)**

OR

B: "The Rattrap" is a story about the redemptive power of love, kindness, and compassion. How did Edla Willmansson's treatment transform the peddler from a thief into an honest man? Discuss the role of human dignity and respect in bringing about this change.

Que.13 Answer ANY ONE question in 120-150 words (1×5=5 Marks):

A: Dr. Sadao in "The Enemy" faces a moral dilemma between his duty as a patriotic citizen and his responsibility as a doctor. Analyze the various conflicts he experiences and how he resolves them. What universal human values does the story highlight?

OR

B: Derry and Mr. Lamb both suffer from physical disabilities but have contrasting attitudes towards life. Compare and contrast their perspectives. How does Mr. Lamb help Derry change his outlook on life? What is the central message of the play? **(On the Face of It)**

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