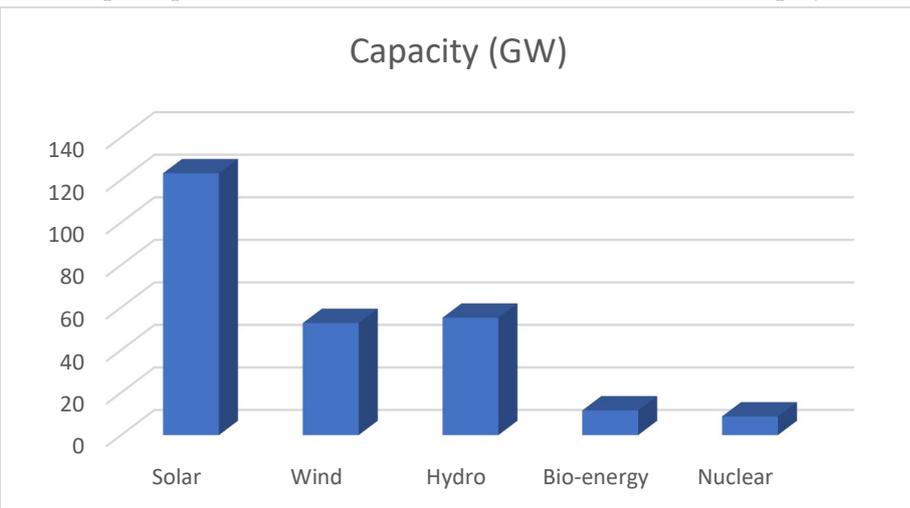


KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN TINSUKIA REGION		
PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION 2025-26		
ENGLISH CORE-Code No. 301		
CLASS-XII-(2025-26)		
Q.P. Code: -QP12ENG01PB25		
Time allowed: 3 Hrs.	Maximum Marks: 80	
General Instructions		
Read the following instructions very carefully and follow them:		
i. All questions are compulsory.		
ii. This question paper contains three sections:		
Section A: Reading Skills,		
Section B: Creative Writing Skills		
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)		
1.	<p>As the digital revolution reshapes India’s classrooms, a pressing question arises: Is online education truly empowering students, or silently exhausting them? Once a topic of parenting blogs, the debate on screen time is now a mainstream concern. The pandemic pushed millions into virtual learning, ensuring continuity but also triggering a new issue: digital fatigue. When schools shut in 2020, technology was hailed as a saviour. Virtual lessons initially seemed revolutionary, but cracks soon appeared. Complaints of eye strain, declining attention, and emotional burnout became common among both students and teachers. According to psychologist Dr Radhika Mehta, “It’s not just the number of hours online, but the quality of screen time that matters.” Interactive sessions may energise learners, while passive video watching drains them. Digital fatigue, caused by prolonged screen exposure, shows up as headaches, blurred vision, sleep problems, anxiety, and poor focus. A 2024 survey found that nearly 68% of students between 10 and 18 experienced such symptoms after five or more hours of daily online learning. Teachers, too, report exhaustion. “Even though I love teaching,” said Smita Rao, a Bengaluru math teacher, “staring at tiles on a screen for hours is draining.” Yet, online education cannot be judged only by its drawbacks. For many, especially in rural areas, it has opened doors to access, flexibility, and personalised learning. Students can progress at their own pace and build crucial skills like time management and digital literacy. Experts agree that the solution lies not in reducing screen time but in improving how it is used. Approaches such as experiential learning, blended learning, mindful technology habits, and gamification can make virtual lessons healthier and more engaging. For instance, activity-based projects or screen-free tasks like journaling can extend learning beyond devices. Parents and schools share responsibility in this balance. One parent, Anita Verma from Lucknow, noted that when her family introduced breaks, outdoor play, and screen-free evenings, her son became calmer and more focused. Schools, meanwhile, must design tech-integrated curricula that prioritise creativity and well-being. As India embraces a hybrid future, the key question is no longer “How much screen time is too much?” but “How meaningful is the screen time students are getting?” The challenge ahead is to humanise technology, transforming screens from barriers into windows of curiosity, creativity, and connection.</p>	
Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.		
1	Which textual evidence shows that online learning led to health-related problems among students?	1

2	Complete the following with a suitable reason. The writer refers to technology as a “saviour” in 2020 in order to convey that _____.	1
3	The phrase “ <i>interactive sessions may energise learners, while passive video watching drains them</i> ” implies that A. all screen time has the same effect B. active engagement creates better learning outcomes C. online learning is always tiring D. video watching improves attention span	1
4	What type of statement is made in the words “ <i>staring at tiles on a screen for hours is draining</i> ”? A. fact B. opinion C. Prediction D. Caution	1
5	Based on her observation, how did Anita Verma’s son benefit when breaks and outdoor play were introduced? (Any one benefit)	1
6	Which one of the following statements best explains the phrase “ <i>hybrid future</i> ” as used in the passage? A) A world completely dependent on digital learning B) A future combining online and offline learning C) A time when schools shut permanently D) A situation where learning depends only on parents	1
7	How can schools balance use of technology to prevent exhaustion among students?	2
8	What do the survey findings of 2024 reveal about the intensity of digital fatigue among students? (Answer in about 40 words)	2
9	Why does the author claim that the question “ <i>How meaningful is the screen time?</i> ” is more important than “ <i>How much screen time?</i> ”? (Answer in about 40 words)	2
10	Complete the following with the most suitable option. The main idea of the text is _____. A. the health hazards of screen time in students and teachers B. the role of online education in balancing benefits and drawbacks C. the complaints of teachers and parents about digital tools D. the need to reduce all online classes in schools	1
2.	India’s installed renewable energy (RE) capacity has touched 250 gigawatts (GW), which is half of its targeted 500 GW capacity by 2030. This achievement marks a historic milestone in non-fossil installed capacity and reflects over a decade of consistent growth under the Prime Minister. According to the Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy, the achievement across solar, wind, hydro, bio-energy and nuclear power strengthens the country’s path towards 500 GW and positions India as a global leader in clean energy. Of the total 250 GW, India has added 123.13 GW of solar power, 52.68 GW of wind, 55.22 GW of hydro, 11.6 GW of bio-energy, and 8.78 GW of nuclear power. Experts, however, stress that achieving the 2030 target will require not just capacity expansion but also improved energy storage, grid integration, and solutions for the intermittency of renewable energy. A consulting report has estimated that India will require investments of \$200–250 billion by 2030 to bridge the gap between its present capacity and the target of 500 GW. Additionally, scaling up storage infrastructure by eight times will demand \$250–300 billion by FY30. The report also highlights major opportunities in green fuels such as bioethanol, Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF), methanol, Compressed Biogas (CBG) and green hydrogen. Government initiatives like blending mandates and obligations are expected to attract \$90–100 billion investment in green hydrogen alone. Another policy step supporting this transition is the reduction of GST on renewable energy devices from	

	<p>12% to 5%. This is expected to cut project costs, accelerate capacity addition, and eventually lower tariffs for consumers by reducing financing costs.</p> <p>India's peak power demand touched 250 GW in 2024 and is projected to reach 334 GW by 2029–30, especially during summer months. To meet future demand, the Central Electricity Authority estimates the country will require 777 GW of installed power capacity by 2030, of which 62–64% will come from renewable sources and around 36–38% from thermal energy. Experts believe that India's energy transition must be viewed not only in terms of total power generation mix but also in the incremental addition of renewable sources to meet growing economic needs.</p>													
	<p style="text-align: center;">Capacity (GW)</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Capacity (GW) Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Source</th> <th>Capacity (GW)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Solar</td> <td>135</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wind</td> <td>65</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hydro</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bio-energy</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nuclear</td> <td>15</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Source	Capacity (GW)	Solar	135	Wind	65	Hydro	60	Bio-energy	20	Nuclear	15	
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Solar	135													
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1	According to the passage and the chart, which renewable energy source contributes the most to India's installed capacity?	1												
2	<p>Complete the following:</p> <p>Achieving India's 2030 renewable energy target will require not only capacity expansion but also _____.</p>	1												
3	<p>Based on the chart, which renewable energy source contributes the least?</p> <p>A. Solar B. Wind C. Bio-energy D. Nuclear</p>	1												
4	Find the word from the passage which means "the variability or irregularity in energy production".	1												
5	<p>Which of the following best reflects the main idea of the passage?</p> <p>A. India's peak power demand and projections B. India's renewable energy growth, targets, and related policies C. Investments required for energy storage infrastructure D. Opportunities in green fuels only</p>	1												
6	The chart highlights the distribution of installed renewable energy capacity. How can policymakers use this information to plan future investments? (Answer in about 20 words)	1												
7	How will the reduction of GST on renewable energy devices from 12% to 5% impact projects and consumers? (Answer in about 40 words)	2												
8	According to experts, why is incremental addition of renewable sources important? (Answer in about 40 words)	2												
<p>SECTION B CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 marks)</p>														

All the names and addresses used in the questions are fictitious. Resemblance, if any, is purely coincidental.

3.	<p>Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words</p> <p>A. You are Priya/Pranav, Head of the Music Club, Rosewood Public School, Delhi. Your school is organising a “Young Voices Talent Hunt”, a singing competition for classes IX–XII. Draft a notice in about 50 words for the school notice board, giving details of the event and inviting entries. Include all necessary details. Put your notice in a box.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>B. You are Aditi/Ajay, Secretary of the Resident Welfare Association, Green Valley Apartments. The RWA is organising a Free Health Check-up Camp for all residents in collaboration with City Hospital. Draft a notice in about 50 words, informing the residents and requesting them to participate. Mention all necessary details. Put your notice in a box.</p>	4
4.	<p>Attempt any one of the two, (a) or (B), in about 50 words.</p> <p>A. You are Ritika Sharma, the Secretary of the Literary Club of Sunrise Public School, Bhopal. Your school is organising a Book Fair and Literary Meet. Draft a formal invitation in about 50 words, inviting Mr. Anil Joshi, a noted author, to inaugurate the event and interact with the students.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>B. You are Rahul Mehra, residing at 23, Green Park, Delhi. You have been invited to attend the Silver Jubilee Celebration of St. Xavier’s College, your alma mater. Write a formal reply in about 50 words, accepting the invitation and expressing your joy at being remembered.</p>	4
5.	<p>Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in 120-150 words.</p> <p>A. You are Sneha Verma, residing at 12, Ridge Road, Pune. You read in a newspaper that the rapid rise of AI and automation in India is threatening traditional jobs and skill development among young people, which could affect the employability of the next generation. Write a letter to the editor of The Indian Express highlighting the issue. Suggest measures to prepare students for the AI-driven future. (120–150 words)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automation and AI replacing routine jobs, affecting youth employment. • Importance of teaching digital literacy, coding, and soft skills from school. • Role of government, schools, and industries in reskilling programs. • Need for entrepreneurship and creative problem-solving to secure the future workforce. <p>B. You are Raghav Khanna, residing at 45, Lotus Street, Hyderabad. You saw an advertisement in The Hindu for the post of Data Analyst at Future Tech Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad. Write a formal application expressing your interest in the position. Include your bio-data with educational qualifications, skills, and relevant experience. (120–150 words)</p> <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>WANTED – DATA ANALYST</u></p> <p><u>FutureTech Solutions Pvt. Ltd.</u>, Hyderabad, a reputed and fast-growing IT firm, invites applications for the post of Data Analyst.</p> <p>Eligibility Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduate/Postgraduate in Statistics/Mathematics/Computer Science from a recognised university. • Proficiency in MS Excel, SQL, Python, and data visualization tools. • Strong analytical, research, and problem-solving skills. • Prior experience through projects/internships will be an added advantage. <p>Remuneration: Commensurate with qualifications and experience.</p> <p>Interested candidates may send their detailed application with bio-data and a recent passport-size photograph within 10 days to:</p> <p>The HR Manager <u>FutureTech Solutions Pvt. Ltd.</u> Plot No. 21, Cyber Towers, HITEC City, Hyderabad – 500081 Email: careers@futuretech.in</p> </div>	5
6.	<p>Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in 120-150 words</p> <p>A. A. India has witnessed a growing interest in <i>sustainable living</i> with people adopting eco-friendly habits such as waste segregation, recycling, and use of renewable energy. You are Ritika Sharma. Write an article for the monthly magazine edition of <i>The Green Future</i> discussing the importance of sustainable living in today’s world. Write the article using your own ideas as well as the cues given.</p>	5

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental benefits • Health and lifestyle changes • Role of youth and communities • Long-term impact on future generations <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>B. The <i>Annual Science and Innovation Fair</i> was recently held in Brighton Public School, Pune, showcasing students’ creativity and problem-solving skills. As the student reporter Arjun Mehta, write a report for the school magazine describing the event. Write the report using your own ideas as well as the cues given.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisation and objectives • Student projects and models • Participation and enthusiasm • Outcome and overall response 	
	SECTION C LITERATURE (40 marks)	
7.	Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B)	
A	<p><i>What I want should not be confused with total inactivity. Life is what it is about; I want no truck with death. 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.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Keeping Quite)</i></p>	
I.	What distinction does the poet draw between “total inactivity” and the stillness he recommends?	1
II.	<p>The phrase “I want no truck with death” implies that the poet—</p> <p>a) rejects the idea of glorifying silence as death b) prefers permanent inactivity over reflection c) advocates detachment from life and society d) equates life with complete emptiness</p>	1
III.	Why does the poet call human beings “single-minded” in their pursuit of keeping life moving?	1
IV.	The poet believes that a “huge silence” could act as a _____, enabling humans to confront their inner selves.	1
V	<p>The underlying emotion conveyed in the extract is—</p> <p>a) despair and resignation b) contemplative hope c) nostalgia for the past d) playful detachment</p>	1
VI.	All of the following are true for the extract EXCEPT—	1

	<p>a) The poet differentiates silence from lifelessness. b) The tone reflects a meditative outlook on life. c) The poet suggests that reflection can prevent self-destruction. d) The imagery used is celebratory and humorous in nature.</p>	
	OR	
B.	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(A Roadside Stand)</i></p>	
I	What is the primary criticism the poet makes about the “pitiful kin” in the first three lines?	1
II	Complete the sentence: The phrase “won’t have to think for themselves anymore” suggests that the people are being made _____ by external authorities.	1
III	Explain the phrase “ <i>beneficent beasts of prey</i> ” and discuss how it reflects the poet’s view of the so-called “helpers.”	1
IV	Fill in the blank: The poet implies that externally imposed “benefits” _____ the natural way of life, making people passive and disconnected from tradition.	1
V	Which of the following best describes the tone of the extract? a) Satirical and critical b) Joyful and celebratory c) Melancholic and nostalgic d) Neutral and descriptive	1
VI	All of the following are true about the extract EXCEPT— a) The poet critiques the artificial control of lives under the guise of “helping.” b) The extract celebrates urbanization and modernization. c) Irony is used to highlight the conflict between imposed order and natural life. d) The imagery emphasizes the loss of autonomy caused by enforced benefits.	1
8.	Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B).	
A.	<p><i>"We discussed our fate some moments, and when Judewin said, 'We have to submit, because they are strong,' I rebelled. 'No, I will not submit! I will struggle first!' I answered. I watched my chance, and when no one noticed, I disappeared. I crept up the stairs as quietly as I could in my squeaking shoes, — my moccasins had been exchanged for shoes. Along the hall I passed, without knowing whither I was going. Turning aside to an open door, I found a large room with three white beds in it. The windows were covered with dark green curtains, which made the room very dim. Thankful that no one was there, I directed my steps toward the corner farthest from the door. On my hands and knees I crawled under the bed, and huddled myself in the dark corner."</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Memories of Childhood)</i></p>	

I	What does the narrator’s refusal to submit reveal about her personality and approach to challenges?	
II	Explain why the narrator chooses to crawl under the bed rather than hide elsewhere. How does this action reflect her state of mind?	
III	How does the author’s description of the room and the dark corner create a sense of suspense?	
IV	The narrator’s change from moccasins to shoes suggests more than a mere change in footwear. Select the most appropriate interpretation: a) The narrator is trying to adapt to a foreign environment while remaining cautious. b) The narrator intends to make deliberate noise to distract others. c) The narrator is careless about comfort and practicality. d) The narrator is seeking attention through their movement.	
	OR	
B	<i>"Climate change is one of the most hotly contested environmental debates of our time. Will the West Antarctic ice sheet melt entirely? Will the Gulf Stream ocean current be disrupted? Will it be the end of the world as we know it? Maybe. Maybe not. Either way, Antarctica is a crucial element in this debate — not just because it’s the only place in the world which has never sustained a human population and therefore remains relatively ‘pristine’ in this respect; but more importantly, because it holds in its ice-cores half-million-year-old carbon records trapped in its layers of ice. If we want to study and examine the Earth’s past, present and future, Antarctica is the place to go."</i> <p style="text-align: right;">(Journey to the end of the Earth)</p>	
I	Why is Antarctica described as “crucial” in the study of climate change? Explain in your own words.	
II	Complete the sentence: The “half-million-year-old carbon records” are significant because they allow scientists to _____.	
III	The rhetorical questions in the extract (e.g., “Will the West Antarctic ice sheet melt entirely?”) serve to: A. confuse the reader B. highlight uncertainty and emphasize the urgency of climate change C. provide exact scientific predictions D. describe Antarctica’s geography	
IV	The phrase ‘relatively pristine’ suggests that Antarctica is largely _____. Explain why this aspect is important for scientific research.	
9.	Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B)	
A	<i>“This went on until July. But I was still not satisfied. I was not sure that all the terror had left. So I went to Lake Wentworth in New Hampshire, dived off a dock at Triggs Island, and swam two miles across the lake to Stamp Act Island. I swam the crawl, breast stroke, side stroke, and back stroke. Only once did the terror return. When I was in the middle of the lake, I put my face under and saw nothing but bottomless water. The old sensation returned in miniature. I laughed and said, ‘Well, Mr Terror; what do you think you can do to me?’ It fled and I swam on.”</i> <p style="text-align: right;">(Deep Water)</p>	
I	Which of the following best reflects the narrator’s attitude toward fear in this extract? 1. Brave and determined 2. Confused and hesitant 3. Mocking and confident 4. Passive and fearful Options: A. 1 and 2 B. 2 and 4 C. 1 and 3 D. 3 and 4	1
II	Fill in the blank using words from the extract:	1

	The narrator dived off the dock at Triggs Island and swam two miles across the lake to _____.	
III	How did the narrator react when the old sensation of fear returned in miniature? A. He panicked and returned to the dock B. He stopped swimming and sat on a rock C. He laughed and challenged his fear D. He called for help	1
IV	Why the narrator continue to practise swimming across the lake despite his fear?	1
V	Justify that the narrator’s sense of accomplishment was linked to confronting his fear, based on the extract.	1
VI	Complete the following suitably using your own words: When the narrator says, “Well, Mr Terror, what do you think you can do to me?” it shows that _____.	1
	OR	
B	<i>“The Encounter wasn’t a known commodity among the Gemini literati. I wanted to get an idea of the periodical before I spent a considerable sum in postage sending a manuscript to England. In those days, the British Council Library had an entrance with no long winded signboards and notices to make you feel you were sneaking into a forbidden area. And there were copies of The Encounter lying about in various degrees of freshness, almost untouched by readers. When I read the editor’s name, I heard a bell ringing in my shrunken heart. It was the poet who had visited the Gemini Studios — I felt like I had found a long lost brother and I sang as I sealed the envelope and wrote out his address.”</i> <p style="text-align: right;">(Poets and Pancakes)</p>	
I	Fill in the blank using words or phrases from the extract (maximum 7 words): The narrator wanted to get an idea of the periodical before sending his manuscript to England because _____.	1
II	Which of the following best captures the narrator’s feelings on seeing the editor’s name? 1. He felt sudden excitement 2. He felt a deep emotional connection 3. He was indifferent 4. He was hesitant 5. Select the most suitable option: A. 1 and 3 B. 2 and 4 C. 1 and 2 D. 3 and 4	1
III	The description of the British Council Library entrance highlights the theme of _____ (as suggested by the minimal signage at the library). A. secrecy and mystery B. openness and friendliness C. fear of authority D. indifference to readers	1
IV	Copy the sentence from the extract that shows the narrator’s emotional excitement on recognizing the editor’s name. (Use quotation marks exactly as in the extract)	1
V	Explain in one sentence (10–12 words), using evidence from the extract, why the copies of The Encounter	1

	were almost untouched by readers.	
VI	What does the expression “I felt like I had found a long lost brother” reveal about the narrator’s state of mind?	1
10.	Answer any five of the following six questions in 40-50 words each:	0
I	The villagers’ behaviour during the lesson reflects a certain attitude toward education and language. Discuss how M. Hamel’s lesson becomes more than just a language lesson for the villagers. (The Last Lesson)	2
II	The chapter depicts the struggles of children trapped in poverty and exploitation. Discuss how Ghosh uses real-life incidents to help the reader understand the impact of socio-economic deprivation. (Lost Spring)	2
III	The peddler compares life to a rattrap, expressing a cynical view of the world. Explain why he feels trapped by society and how the story challenges his outlook. (The Rattrap)	2
IV	Despite their suffering, the peasants resist the planters’ tyranny. Discuss how the story portrays their courage and the human spirit against exploitation. (Indigo)	2
V	According to Keats, beauty has a lasting effect on human happiness. Explain how the poet conveys the idea that experiences of beauty provide continuous solace and joy. (A Thing of Beauty)	2
VI	The poet describes Aunt Jennifer’s hands as “terrified” yet skilled. Discuss how this imagery conveys her struggles and the limitations imposed on her by society. (Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers)	2
11.	Answer any two of the following three questions in 40-50 words each:	
I	How does the story demonstrate the universal importance of compassion and humanity in times of crisis? (The Enemy)	
II	Explain how the story conveys themes of acceptance, understanding, and emotional healing through their relationship. (On the Face of It)	
III	How does the story depict the hardships faced by the marginalized community, and what does it teach about human dignity? (We Too Are Human Beings)	
12.	Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.	
A	Compare how ‘The Rattrap’ and ‘On the Face of It’ depict human relationships and the transformative power of kindness. How do acts of empathy influence the characters’ perspectives and behaviour?	
	OR	
B	The rural-urban divide causes immense anguish to the poet. How does the poet express this in the poem, <i>A Roadside Stand</i> ?	
13.	Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.	
A	Justify how the king’s obsession with killing tigers reveals his arrogance and misuse of power, and explain the role of irony in his downfall.	
	OR	
B	Even the tiniest of life forms can have a huge impact on Earth’s ecosystem.’ How does the lesson, <i>Journey to the End of the Earth</i> convey this message? What values can students derive from this idea in terms of their role in environmental protection?	