

**KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN, TINSUKIA REGION**  
**PRE BOARD EXAMINATION 2024-25**  
**SUBJECT: ENGLISH CORE (301)**  
**CLASS: XII**

**Time Allotted: 3 Hours**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

- i. The Question paper contains THREE sections- Section A: READING SKILLS, Section B: CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS and Section C: LITERATURE*
- ii. Attempt all the questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.*
- iii. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.*
- iv. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

**SECTION A (Reading Skills)**

**22 marks**

**1. Read the passage carefully:**

**(12 marks)**

1. Covid and malaria affect the rich and poor alike and so make headlines. Many readers may not have heard of kala azar, a disease mainly prevalent in some of the poorest parts of India such as northern Bihar and Bengal. Spread by sand flies, kala azar blackens the skin-hence its name. It does not kill directly but weakens the immunological system so much that the patient becomes a victim of other infections that abound in poor regions. Untreated, it leads to death in 95% of cases.
2. The good news is that cases of kala azar have crashed 98.7%, from 44,533 in 2007 to just 834 in 2022. Hopefully. It will be eradicated in a few years. Because kala azar is little known in urban metros, the news has not made big headlines. But for those in some of the poorest parts of India, where there are so many ways to die, there will be one less. India has already eradicated smallpox, polio, and guinea worm. Kala azar could be the fourth disease to be eradicated.
3. The main way of controlling the sand flies that spread the disease is indoor spraying of houses with synthetic pyrethroid, which has replaced DDT as the main way of combating mosquitoes and sand flies. Mud houses are highly prone to sand fly infestation so building brick houses under the PM Awas Yojana - intended mainly for improved housing-has the incidental advantage of reducing kala azar too. For those already infected, accurate diagnosis is vital since it is often mistaken for malaria and the wrong medicine may be administered.
4. Awareness and consumer education is vital, without which prevention will not work. Practitioners speak of resistance from households, especially in tribal areas, to indoor spraying of insecticide since it leaves a bad smell. Awareness and education are needed to convince people that temporarily enduring a foul smell is better than risking blackening of the skin followed by death.
5. The worst-affected areas are also among those with the weakest administration, notably north Bihar. Eliminating the disease should not be difficult because the ways of doing it are well established. But it requires systematic planning and implementation, coordination between different agencies, updating of technological improvements, good logistics, and good monitoring and supervision. Good equipment is needed to spray the insecticide uniformly and comprehensively and this is not always available. States that are poorly administered are, almost

by definition, poor in public health management too. That is why the elimination of Kala azar has taken so long.

6. When India became independent in 1947, the population was an estimated 330 million of whom as many as 75 million per year went down with malaria. The Malaria Eradication Programme, based largely on indoor spraying of DDT, reduced cases to just 1,00,000 by 1964, and eradication seemed round the corner. But then mosquitoes became DDT-tolerant, and DDT became discredited as an insecticide because it was also an environmental hazard. Other insecticides were used but did not have the same effect, and systematic indoor spraying withered away.
7. By the 1970s, malaria had returned in a big way. The caseload shot up to a peak of 6.4 million. It diminished gradually after that. India had 1.1 million cases in 2014, but that came down dramatically to just 1.6 lakh in 2021. The government's target date for malaria eradication is now 2030, and that seems feasible. But past experience shows that diseases can bounce back with a vengeance. Eternal vigilance is the price of eradication.
8. Let us cross our fingers and hope that kala azar is eradicated within the next two years, and malaria by 2030. Even if we succeed, do not cheer too loudly as other countries eradicated these diseases long before us. India has been a laggard in combating infectious diseases. For a country that aspires to be a world leader, its performance so far has been an embarrassment. (652 words)

**Answer the following questions, based on the given passage:**

- i. India has already eradicated \_\_\_\_\_ (1)
  - A. Small pox
  - B. Polio
  - C. Guinea worm
  - D. All of these
- ii. The government's target date for malaria eradication is- (1)
  - A. 2050
  - B. 2030
  - C. 2035
  - D. 2045
- iii. What spreads Kala azar? What are its effects? (1)
- iv. What is important for those already infected by kala azar? (1)
  - A. Brick houses
  - B. Mud houses
  - C. Accurate diagnosis
  - D. Good administration.
- v. What has replaced DDT and why? (2)
- vi. In about 40 words mention ways to prevent kala azar. (1)
- vii. State **TRUE/FALSE:** (1)

*If kala azar is eradicated within the next two years, India will be one of the first few countries to accomplish that goal in a short span of time.*
- viii. Complete the sentence appropriately. (1)

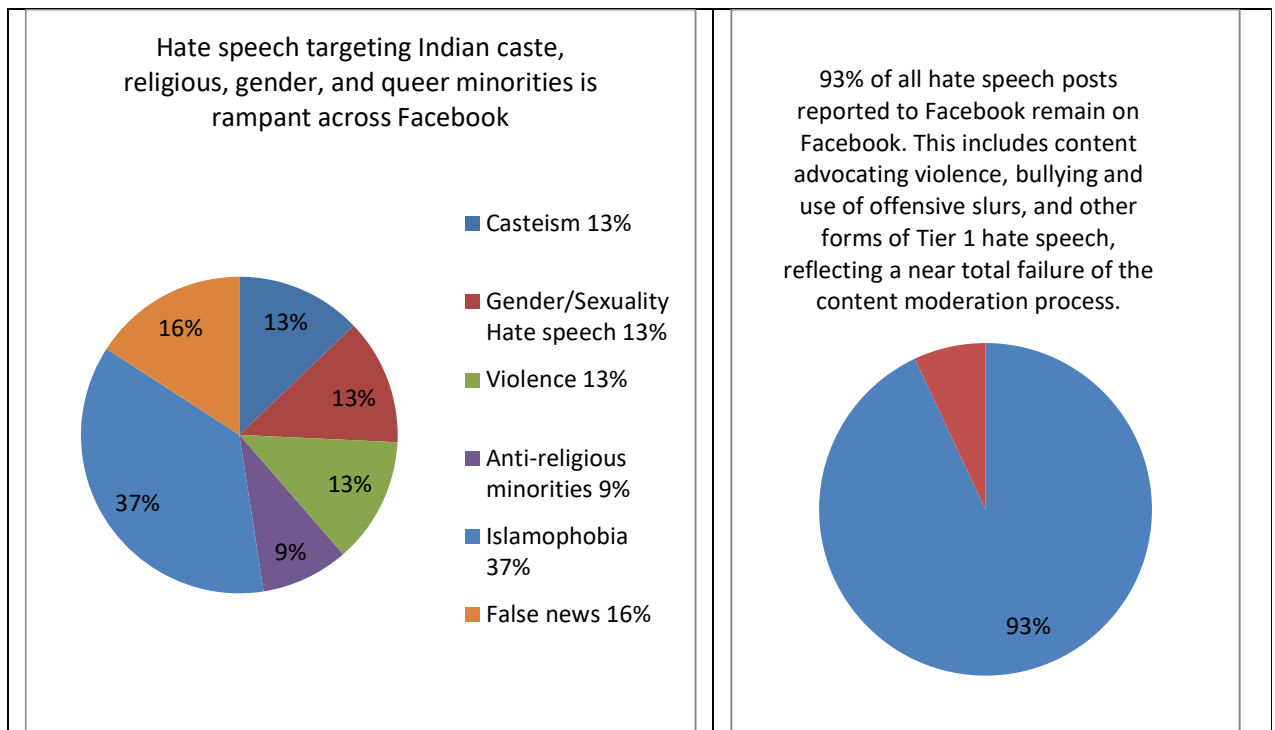
*The worst affected areas are those with the weakest \_\_\_\_\_.*
- ix. Find a word that means **the same as** (1)

- a) Elimination (Para 7)
- b) Desire (Para 8)

**2. Read the passage given below:  
marks)**

**(10**

1. India has rapidly outpaced the United States as the largest global market for Facebook and it's growing faster each day. The powerful influence that social media platforms like Facebook have had on everything from elections to civil society is unlike anything seen before in human history. This report, released in 2019 from Equality Lab's presents a crucial analysis and summary of one of the most grave forms of this influence found throughout the Facebook India platform- Hate Speech and Disinformation.
2. The particularly alarming pitfalls and failures of Facebook India's content moderation policies and their implementation are examined; and numerous disturbing examples of real hate speech and calls to violence against minorities are presented. With an estimated 350million+Indian caste, religious, gender, and queer minorities currently at risk from this hate speech in India, this report provides timely and expert analysis and solutions. Informed partly by actual affected users, the insight and answers in the report provide a road map for stakeholders from multiple vantage points to help counteract a looming human rights disaster. The authors warn that without urgent Intervention, such hate speech is likely to be weaponized as a trigger for large-scale communal violence in India.
3. Procedures for reporting these activities to Facebook are opaque, increasing people's vulnerability and safety concerns for the persons affected.



4. Most hate speech violations on Facebook India are Islamophobic. 6% of Islamophobic posts were specially anti- Rohingya, with calls of violence similar to content that led to the Rohingya genocide in Myanmar.
5. While hate speech almost completely remains online or is reinstated by moderators on Facebook, an increasing number of minority user accounts are being banned or removed entirely.
6. Content moderation of hate speech in India is complex, requiring relevant context and collaborative expertise from civil society and advocates. Facebook cannot solve this problem in a vacuum. Transparency, accountability, and resource allocation are the keystone required for an effective and durable solution to the exponential expansion of hate speech enabled by social media platforms like Facebook. The result will be a safer and more welcoming platform for users in a growing market. (234 words)s

**Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions:**

- a) Most of the hate speech violations on Facebook India are about: (1)
  - i Casteism
  - ii Violence
  - iii Anti-religious minorities
  - iv Islamophobic
- b) What does the report release in 2019 from Equality Lab present? (2)
- c) Who is at risk from the hate speech in India? (1)
  - i. Indian caste
  - ii. Gender
  - iii. Queer minorities
  - iv. All of them
- d) How has India outpaced the United States? (2)
- e) According to the author, what is likely to be weaponized as a trigger for large-scale communal violence in India? (1)
- f) Which of the following statements is **NOT TRUE**, according to the passage? (1)
  - i India has rapidly outpaced China as the largest global market for Facebook.
  - Ii Content moderation of hate speech in India is complex.
  - Iii An increasing number of minority user accounts are being banned or removed entirely.
  - Iv Most hate speech violations on Facebook India are Islamophobic.
- g) **Fill in the blank.** \_\_\_\_\_% of the hate speech is about Casteism. (1)
- h) Which of the following is an effective and durable solution to the exponential expansion of hate speech enabled by social media platforms like Facebook? (1)
  - i Transparency
  - ii Accountability

- iii Resource allocation
- iv All of these

**SECTION B: Creative Writing Skills**

**18 marks**

**3. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 50 words.**

(4 marks)

A. You are Biraj/Bithika, President of the School Book Club of Ahalyabai Senior Secondary School, Nainital. Draft a notice informing the students of X and XII about the 'Book Bank' program initiated by the Club and urging them to donate their used books and study materials after the completion of their Board Examinations to the club to be used by needy students.

OR

B. You are Pankaj Kumar, the President of All Assam Cyclist Association. You have planned to organise a cycle rally to create awareness about climate change. Draft a notice informing the members of your association and encouraging them for participation in large scale. Add necessary details.

**4. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 50 words.**

(4 marks)

A. You are Bidit/Bidisha, the President of Literary Club of RRB Memorial School, Guwahati. On the occasion of International Women's Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March, you have decided to organize a workshop on 'Women Empowerment'. Draft an invitation to invite Smt. Medha Baruah, a notable journalist and writer as the Chief Speaker for the workshop.

OR

B. Draft a suitable reply either by accepting or declining the invitation of Mrs. and Mr. Dheeraj Garg to their son's wedding reception to be held at their own residence.

**5. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 120-150 words.**

(5 marks)

A. You are Kaina/Karan of Sector-21, Rajgarh. You find it disturbing that despite the ban on single use plastic, its use is rampant in society. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily expressing your concern about the apathy of the people towards environmental degradation. Also share your views in promoting a sustainable environment.

OR

B. You are Shilpa/Sameer living in Hyderabad. You have completed your studies and are looking for a job. While browsing through The Hindustan Times you have come across an advertisement for recruitment of Computer Engineer trainees by Sarthak Software. Write a job application in response to this advertisement along with your bio-data. Invent all the necessary details.

**6. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 120-150 words.**

(5 marks)

A. You are Sameer/Smita of Class XII. Having a fair skin complexion is an obsession in our society. Demand for fair brides in matrimonial columns and sale of fairness creams are evident enough. Write an article for your school magazine, sharing your views on 'Beautiful minds are better than a fair complexion'. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this article.

- The West people are likely to be tanned
- Fair complexion, only skin deep
- Complexion doesn't matter if one has beautiful mind
- Attitude towards life
- Behavior of society towards dark complexion people, etc.

OR

B. You are Javed/ Janvi, staff reporter of The Morning Daily newspaper. The Generosity Foundation, an NGO organized a 3 day free Health Camp for the senior citizens of your locality. Prepare a newspaper report taking help of the following clues:

Inauguration by Shri B.L Singha, a former football player and Coach—services include free eye check up, free blood pressure check, lungs check up, ECG Check, dental screening, weight loss advice and physiotherapy--- the camp was a success- around 150 senior citizens were benefitted.

### SECTION-C

LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT

40 marks

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

1x6=6 marks

A. *I looked again at her, wan pale  
as a late winter's moon and felt that old  
familiar ache, my childhood's fear,  
but all I said was, see you soon, Amma  
and all I did was smile and smile and smile*

- a) The lines capture the poet's \_\_\_\_\_
- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| i. Happiness | ii. Fear    |
| iii. Dismay  | iv. Anxiety |

Choose the correct option:

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| i. only I    | ii. I & IV   |
| iii. II & IV | iv. Only III |

- b) The poetic device used in the second line is \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Identify the phrase from the stanza that suggests the following:  
*She was overwhelmed with emotion and could not speak much.*
- d) The description of the mother as 'wan, pale/as a late winter's moon' creates a vivid image of:
- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| i. Vulnerability |  |
| ii. Sensitivity  |  |

- iii. Frailty
  - iv. Mortality
- e) On the basis of the stanza, study the two statements, I and II given below:
- I. The poet accepts the reality of her mother's declining health and old age.
  - II. She is nostalgic about her childhood days spent with her mother.
- i) I is true, but II is false
  - ii) Both I and II are true
  - iii) Both I and II are false
  - iv) II is the reason for I
- f) What childhood fear is the poet referring to?

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*

- a) In the above lines, the speaker is suggesting that we \_\_\_\_\_.
- i. Fight evils which plague the earth with our own strength
  - ii. Reconnect with the earth by stepping into its uncharted territory
  - iii. Create a string of flowers from the earth and bind it to our bodies
  - iv. Bask in the natural beauty of the earth and be tethered to its joyous strength
- b) Which line evokes the optimistic tone of the extract?
- i. A flowery band to bind us to the earth
  - ii. Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
  - iii. Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways
  - iv. Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
- c) Select the option that uses the same literary device as the line given below from the extract.
- Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,*
- i. Sing to me, Autumn, with the rustle of your leaves.
  - ii. Tyger Tyger, burning bright, in the forests of the night.
  - iii. Her beauty hangs upon the cheek of night, Like a rich jewel.
  - iv. All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players.
- d) Why are our spirits referred as dark?
- i. because of dark clouds
  - ii. because of spirits around
  - iii. because of shady trees
  - iv. because of sadness and disappointments
- e) What removes the pall from our dark spirits?

f) What makes human beings suffer in this earth?

8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given extracts.

1x4=4 marks

A. But I've never again found the corridor that leads to the third level at Grand Central Station, although I've tried often enough. Louisa was pretty worried when I told her all this, and didn't want me to look for the third level anymore, and after a while I stopped; I went back to my stamps. But now we're both looking, every weekend because now we have proof that the third level is still there.

a) Charley was not able to go to Galesburg because

- i. he had less old money
- ii. the third level had vanished
- iii. the clerk did not sell him the tickets
- iv. he dropped his plan

b) Why didn't Louisa want Charley to look for the third level anymore?

c) "I went back to my stamps." What does it mean?

- i. that Charley returned to his hobby of collecting stamps
- ii. That Charley returned old money in the bank
- iii. That Charley did not continue with his hobby
- iv. None of these

d) What proof does the speaker refer to regarding the existence of the third level?

OR

B. 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 of 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, shorthair was worn by mourners, and shingled hair by cowards! 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.

a) What was the terrible warning about that Judewin imparted?

b) Why was Zitkala-Sa so averse of having her hair cut?

- i. Because she believed that the mourners get their hair shingled
- ii. Because she believed short hair was worn by the cowards
- iii. Because she believed that only the warriors get their hair shingled
- iv. All of these

c) What did the narrator do to protect herself from the disgrace?

d) Zitkala Sa's "No, I will not submit! I will struggle first!" reflects her:



- i. receptive and submissive attitude.
- ii. rebellious and turbulent attitude.
- iii. provocative and goading attitude.
- iv. infuriating and pacifying attitude

9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given extracts.

**1x6=6 marks**

A. Food is more important for survival than an 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", says a group of women in tattered saris when I ask them why they left their beautiful land of green fields and rivers. Wherever they find food, they pitch their tents and that becomes their transit homes. Children grow up in them, becoming partners in survival. And survival in Seemapuri means rag-picking. Through the years, it has acquired the proportions of a fine art. Garbage to them is gold. It is their daily bread, a roof over their heads, even if it is a leaking roof. But for a child it is even more.

*(Lost Spring – Stories of Stolen Childhood)*

i. Complete the sentence with ONE word:

**The phrase 'transit homes' refer to the dwellings that are \_\_\_\_\_ .**

- ii. Identify the figure of speech used in the sentence "Garbage to them is gold".
- iii. What does 'acquired the proportions of a fine art' mean?

- a) Rag-picking has regained its lost status.
- b) A segment of ragpickers is skilled in fine arts.
- c) Rag-picking has attained the position of a skill.
- d) Only a few people are experts in rag-picking.

iv. Identify the line from the text that bears evidence to the fact that:

*"Extreme poverty forces the children of Seemapuri to lead such a miserable life."*

**v. And survival in Seemapuri means rag-picking.**

Which of the following assumptions can you make from the above sentence?

- a) Rag-picking is the only easily available job option in Seemapuri.
- b) People from places like Dhaka come to Seemapuri to collect garbage.
- c) People in Seemapuri enjoy rag-picking as a way of earning their livelihood.
- d) No one in Seemapuri is interested in learning skills other than collecting garbage.

vi. Why is garbage equivalent to gold for the people of Seemapuri?

- a) because they can find food only through rag-picking
- b) because they can become wealthy only through rag-picking
- c) because rag-picking helps them earn money for their basic needs
- d) because rag-picking helps them use garbage to build their houses

OR

B. The chief make-up man made the chief actors and actresses ugly, his senior assistant the 'second' hero and heroine, the junior assistant, the main comedian, and so forth. The players who played the crowd were the responsibility of the office boy. (Even the make-up department

of the Gemini Studios had an 'office boy'!) On the days when there was a crowd-shooting, you could see him mixing his paint in a giant vessel and slapping it on the crowd players. The idea was to close every pore on the surface of the face in the process of applying make-up. He wasn't exactly a "boy"; he was in his early forties, having entered the studios years ago in the hope of becoming a star actor or a top screen writer, director or lyrics writer. He was a bit of a poet.

- i. **The task assigned to the make-up artists according to their profile shows a strict hierarchy.** (State True or False)
- ii. Choose the options that best demonstrate the relevant facts about the office boy.
  1. The office boy was given a small area in a room with French windows on two of its sides.
  2. The office boy helped in making the remaining crowd look ugly at times of crowd shooting.
  3. The office boy was a boy in his early forties.
  4. The office boy joined the studio with the dream of becoming an actor or screen-writer, director or lyricist.
  5. The office boy's prime responsibility was to cut out newspaper clippings a wide variety of subjects and store them in files.
  - a) Options 1,4 and 5
  - b) Options 2,4 and 5
  - c) Options 1,3 and 4
  - d) Options 2,3 and 4
- iii. What was the role of the office boy on the days when there was a crowd-shooting?
- iv. With what intention did the office boy enter the studio?
  1. To become a poet
  2. To become a star actor
  3. To become a top screen writer
  4. To become a director
  5. To become a lyricist
  - a) All except option (5)
  - b) All except option (3)
  - c) All except option (1)
  - d) None of these
- v. Why did the actors look ugly?
- vi. What does 'slapping it on crowd players' indicate?
  - a) Disappointment
  - b) Anger
  - c) Frustration
  - d) All of these

**10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions in 40-50 words each: 5x2=10 marks**

- i. Why do you think the title "The Last Lesson" by Alphonse Daudet is appropriate?
- ii. Gandhi makes it clear that money and finance are secondary aspect of the struggle in Champaran. Comment on Gandhiji's primary aspect of the struggle in Champaran.
- iii. What are the 'ordeals' Aunt Jennifer is surrounded by?
- iv. 'Umberto Eco's written output is staggeringly large and wide-ranging.' Give explanation.
- v. 'Sophie is caught between the world she lives in and the world she wants to live in.' Justify the statement with reference to the story 'Going Places'.
- vi. What life lesson did Douglas learn in the process of overcoming his fear?

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions in 40-50 words each: 2x2=4 marks

- i. Mention any two unforeseen hurdles the tiger king encountered in the fulfilment of his mission. How did he overcome them?
- ii. What common link the readers may find between Derry and Mr Lamb from the play 'On the Face of it'?
- iii. Why is Antarctica a crucial element in all the debates on climate change?

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 1x5=5 marks

A. 'Although the helplessly low individuals work tirelessly yet their lives have indicated no advancement.' Elaborate the statement with reference to Robert Frost's A Roadside Stand and Anees Jung's 'The Lost Spring-Stories of Stolen Childhood'. Also share your views that you think might help in uplifting the lives of these people.

OR

B. *A mistaken identity led to the discovery of a new one for the rattrap peddler.* What was Edla Wilmanson's role in transforming the peddler's way of life?

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 1x5=5 marks

A. After reading the story 'The Enemy' you are moved by the message that it conveys "Humanism transcends all man made prejudices and barriers". You have decided to share your feelings with your closest friend Dorian/Darcy through a letter who is presently living in a different city. Write the letter as Ben/Brian.

OR

B. How would you describe the behaviour of the Maharaja's minions towards him? Do you find them truly sincere towards the Tiger King or are they driven by political motives?