

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN, JABALPUR REGION

PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION 2025-26

ENGLISH CORE (301)

CLASS XII

Time allowed: 3 HRS.

Maximum marks: 80

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

- (i) This question paper has 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.
- (ii) This question paper contains three sections Section A : **Reading Skills**, Section B : **Creative Writing Skills** and 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.

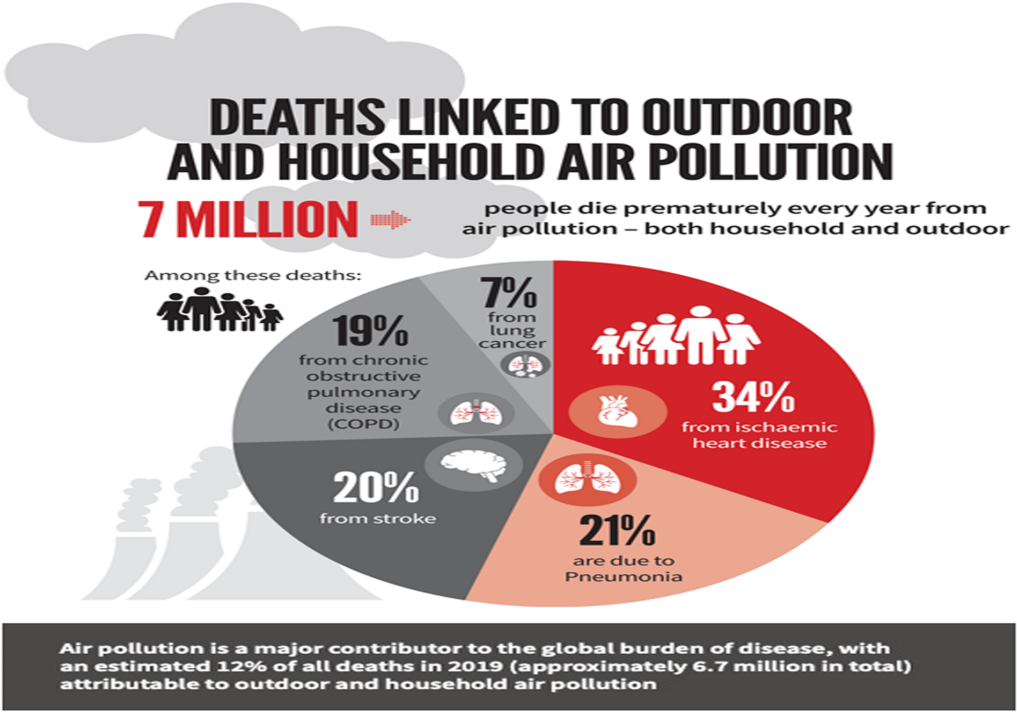
SECTION A

Reading Skills

1	Read the following passage carefully:	12
	<p>In a quiet corner of a bustling city lived Mr. Sharma, a retired postmaster known to few outside his narrow lane. He had lived in the same small house for over forty years, his life marked by routine and simplicity. Every morning, he would walk to the nearby park, feed the stray dogs, and read the newspaper under the old banyan tree. He never owned a car, never dined in fancy restaurants, and had no interest in technology. To the outside world, he was unremarkable.</p> <p>But to the children in the neighbourhood, he was a storyteller, a friend, and a quiet mentor. Every evening, five or six children would gather around him. He told them stories—not just of kings and queens, but of honesty, gratitude, and kindness. He never raised his voice, never demanded respect, yet everyone listened when he spoke.</p> <p>Once, a young boy asked him, “Uncle, why don’t you go on holidays like other retired people?” Mr. Sharma smiled and said, “Because I already travel every day—in stories, in memories, and in the smiles of those I help.”</p> <p>Years later, after Mr. Sharma passed away quietly in his sleep, there was no news article, no obituary in the paper. But on the day of his funeral, dozens of grown-up children returned to the lane where they had once sat cross-legged at his feet. Each came with a story of how Mr. Sharma had changed their lives—a lesson remembered, a gentle word offered at the right time, a moment of kindness never forgotten.</p>	

	<p>One of them, now a teacher, told the gathering, “He lived without noise, but left behind an echo.”</p> <p>Mr. Sharma’s life reminds us that not all great lives are lived on grand stages. Some are lived in quiet lanes, under banyan trees, through small acts of goodness that ripple through time. In a world that often measures success in wealth or fame, he showed that the true measure of a life lies in the number of hearts it touches.</p> <p>Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:</p>	
	(i) What does the author imply by saying “He lived without noise, but left behind an echo”?	2
	<p>(ii) What does Mr. Sharma mean when he says, “I already travel every day”?</p> <p>(A) He reads travel books. (B) He takes the bus every day. (C) He finds joy in everyday experiences. (D) He dislikes travelling.</p>	1
	(iii) In what ways did Mr. Sharma impact the lives of the children in his neighbourhood?	1
	<p>(iv) What does the word <i>mentor</i> mean in the context of the passage?</p> <p>(A) Entertainer (B) Financial supporter (C) Advisor or guide (D) Strict instructor</p>	1
	(v) How does the passage challenge conventional definitions of success?	2
	<p>(vi) What is the tone of the passage?</p> <p>a) Humorous b) Reflective c) Critical d) Sarcastic</p>	1
	(vii) The phrase “ripple through time” suggests that Mr. Sharma’s actions had a _____ impact.	1
	<p>(viii) How did people react when Mr. Sharma passed away?</p> <p>(A) He was featured in newspapers. (B) A large crowd gathered to pay tribute. (C) He was forgotten quickly. (D) Only his family attended.</p>	1

	<p>(ix) What lesson can be drawn from Mr. Sharma's life?</p> <p>(A) Retired people should rest. (B) Material wealth ensures legacy. (C) Small acts of kindness build lasting impact. (D) Fame is necessary for remembrance.</p>	1
	<p>(x) What made Mr. Sharma's life "unremarkable" to the outside world?</p>	1
2.	Read the following passage carefully:	10
	<p>Case Study: The Health Impact of Air Pollution in India A recent assessment by Indian Institute of Technology – Delhi (IIT-Delhi) in collaboration with Climate Trends analysed data across 641 districts to estimate how reducing air pollution by up to 30 % would influence the incidence of major diseases in India.</p> <p>The study finds that a substantial reduction in particulate matter (PM2.5) and other pollutants could lead to meaningful decreases in cardiovascular disease, diabetes, anaemia, low birth weight, and respiratory illnesses.</p> <p>Key findings include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India is currently exposed to air-pollution levels far exceeding the safe limit recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO). • Toxic air is estimated to reduce the average Indian life-expectancy by about 3.5 years; in the highly polluted Delhi-NCR region it may be as much as 8 years. • The IIT-Delhi assessment quantifies co-benefits: a 30 % reduction in pollution could lower the prevalence of heart disease, lower birth weights, anaemia among women and children, and chronic respiratory problems. <p>Implications and lessons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public health linkage: The study clearly links environmental quality and non-communicable diseases, stressing that cleaner air is more than a comfort—it is fundamental to health. • Policy urgency: Achieving a 30 % reduction in pollution requires strong measures: reducing emissions from vehicles, industry, biomass burning, and ensuring better monitoring and enforcement. • Equity and geography: While the average loss of life-years is high, some regions (especially northern India) bear a far greater burden than others. This calls for region-specific strategies. • Systems approach: To translate these findings into action, it is essential to align health policy, environmental regulation, urban planning and public awareness. • Education connection: For students, this case highlights how a factual study integrates environmental science, biology/health, geography and public policy into an "inter-disciplinary" real-world problem. 	

	<p>In summary, the IIT-Delhi study offers a compelling factual case for understanding the interplay of air pollution and health outcomes in India. It invites students to examine not just the statistical findings but also the wider policy, social and economic dimensions of the issue.</p> <p>Pie Chart: Distribution of Key Health Impact Areas</p>  <p>DEATHS LINKED TO OUTDOOR AND HOUSEHOLD AIR POLLUTION</p> <p>7 MILLION people die prematurely every year from air pollution – both household and outdoor</p> <p>Among these deaths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 34% from ischaemic heart disease 21% are due to Pneumonia 20% from stroke 19% from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) 7% from lung cancer <p>Air pollution is a major contributor to the global burden of disease, with an estimated 12% of all deaths in 2019 (approximately 6.7 million in total) attributable to outdoor and household air pollution</p> <p>Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:</p>	
	<p>(i) What can be inferred about the link between education and environmental awareness from the passage?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Schools play no role in pollution control b) Educating students fosters environmental responsibility and informed citizenship c) Environmental studies are irrelevant to daily life d) Students cannot contribute to pollution solutions 	1
	<p>(ii) Why does the study suggest region-specific strategies for reducing pollution?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Because all regions have equal pollution levels b) Because certain areas face more severe exposure c) To avoid national policies d) To focus only on cities 	1
	<p>(iii) Cleaner air leads to lower rates of _____ diseases, such as heart disease and diabetes.</p>	1
	<p>(iv) For each of the following, choose the correct option:</p>	1

	<p>Assertion (A): Cleaner air contributes only to environmental improvement, not to health outcomes.</p> <p>Reason (R): Health and air quality are unrelated issues.</p> <p>A – Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, and R is the correct explanation of A. B – Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A. C – A is true, but R is false. D – A is false, but R is true.</p>	
	(v) The term “co-benefits” in the study refers to both _____ and _____ gains achieved by reducing air pollution.	1
	<p>(vi) According to the case, which sector needs to be prioritised for pollution reduction?</p> <p>a) Textile manufacturing b) Agriculture and waste burning c) Automobile and energy sectors d) Banking and finance</p>	1
	(vii) How does air pollution affect life expectancy in India?	2
	(viii) Discuss how the study demonstrates an inter-disciplinary approach.	2
Section – B Creative Writing Skills		
3.	Attempt any one of the two, (a) or (b) in about 50 words.	4
a.	You are the Secretary of the Science and Technology Club of your school, Springdale Senior Secondary School, New Delhi. Your school is organizing a “Buildathon 2025”, a creative model-building and innovation competition for students to showcase their engineering, design, and problem-solving skills. Write a notice in about 50 words informing students about the event, inviting entries, and giving necessary details such as date, venue, and contact information.	
	OR	
b.	Your society recently held a successful <i>Fitness Week</i> . The Residents’ Welfare Association now plans to extend the initiative by conducting a Yoga Camp in collaboration with Patanjali Yog Samiti. As Secretary, Lakeview Heights Society, draft a notice in about 50 words informing residents about the event, giving relevant details and inviting participation.	
4.	Attempt any one of the two, (a) or (b), in about 50 words.	4
a.	Your school, PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya, Vallabh Nagar, is organizing a Children’s Fair on the occasion of Children’s Day. As the Cultural Secretary,	

	draft a formal invitation to parents inviting them to attend and encourage their children's participation. Mention necessary details.	
	OR	
b.	You are Riya Mehta, a student of Class XII, Springdale Public School, Delhi. You have received an invitation from your friend to attend the Children's Fair being organized in her school. Write a reply expressing your inability to attend due to your upcoming pre-board examinations.	
5.	Attempt any one of the two, (a) or (b), in about 120-150 words.	5
a.	<p>You are Ritika Sharma, a commerce graduate with a diploma in Computer Applications. You have come across the following advertisement in <i>The Times of India</i> dated 20th October 2025. You are interested in the post advertised. Write a letter of application along with a bio-data, applying for the post of Computer Operator in the bank.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">STAR BANK OF INDIA, Lucknow</p> <p>WANTED: COMPUTER OPERATOR Star Bank of India, a reputed private sector bank, invites applications for the post of Computer Operator for its Lucknow branch. Eligibility: Graduate in any discipline with sound computer knowledge (MS Office, Tally, Internet Operations). Experience: 1–2 years in a banking/finance environment preferred. Salary: As per industry norms. Apply within 10 days with complete bio-data to: The Manager (HR), Star Bank of India, M.G. Road, Lucknow – 226001.</p> </div>	
	OR	
b.	<p>You are Riya Mehta, a student of Class 12 at Sunrise Public School, Pune. You strongly feel that today's education system focuses more on rote learning and examination scores rather than creativity and innovation. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily, expressing your views on the importance of promoting creativity and innovative thinking among students.</p> <p>Value Points / Key Ideas to Include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Problem/Issue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overemphasis on exams, marks, and memorization • Limited scope for experimentation and original thinking • Creativity often ignored in mainstream education 2. Importance of Creativity & Innovation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builds critical thinking and problem-solving skills • Encourages curiosity, confidence, and independent learning • Helps in adapting to future technologies and job trends 3. Suggestions/Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include project-based and practical learning • Introduce innovation labs and maker spaces in schools • Encourage arts, coding, research projects, and design thinking • Teachers should appreciate new ideas, not just correct answers 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize inter-school creativity competitions and exhibitions 	
6.	Attempt any one of the two, (a) or (b), in about 120-150 words.	5
a.	<p>You are Aarav Gupta, a student of Class 12 at Delhi Public School, Ahmedabad. You have observed that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming our world, influencing education, healthcare, business, and everyday life. However, it also poses several ethical and employment-related challenges. Write an article for your school magazine on the topic: "Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities and Challenges."</p> <p>Value Points:</p> <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases efficiency and accuracy Used in education, healthcare, finance, transport, and security Enhances research and innovation Reduces human error <p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Job loss due to automation Data privacy and ethical concerns Overdependence on machines Risk of misuse in surveillance and warfare 	
OR		
b.	<p>You are Riya Sharma, a student of <i>Tagore Public School, Jaipur</i>. Your school's Science Club organized a Science Exhibition on the theme "<i>Innovation for a Sustainable Future</i>."</p> <p>Using the verbal inputs given below, write a report for your school magazine in 120–150 words.</p> <p>Verbal Inputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Date: 15th October 2025 Venue: School Auditorium Chief Guest: Dr. Kavita Mehta, Chief Scientist, ISRO Over 50 exhibits from classes IX–XII Topics: Renewable energy, robotics, AI, water purification Enthusiastic participation, great response from visitors Best project: "Smart Irrigation System" Principal's closing remarks and vote of thanks 	
Section – C Literature		
7.	Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (a) or (b):	6
a.	<p><i>What I want should not be confused with total inactivity.</i></p> <p><i>Life is what it is about;</i></p> <p><i>I want no truck with death.</i></p>	

	<p><i>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;">(Keeping Quiet)</p>	
	<p>(i) What does the poet mean by “<i>total inactivity</i>”?</p> <p>a) Complete rest b) Death c) Laziness d) Sleep</p>	1
	<p>(ii) Complete the sentence by filling the blank with a suitable word or phrase.</p> <p>According to the poet, life is meant to be lived, not spent in _____.</p>	1
	<p>(iii) The phrase “<i>keeping our lives moving</i>” suggests human beings are —</p> <p>a) Lazy b) Busy and restless c) Peaceful d) Joyful</p>	1
	<p>(iv) The phrase “<i>I want no truck with death</i>” is an example of —</p> <p>a) Personification b) Metaphor c) Symbolism d) Hyperbole</p>	1
	<p>(v) Suppose people actually practised the poet’s advice today. What positive changes might occur in society or the environment?</p>	1
	<p>(vi) The poet’s tone in this stanza is _____ and philosophical. (humorous / reflective / angry / sarcastic)</p>	1
	OR	
b.	<p><i>A roadside stand that too pathetically pled, It would not be fair to say for a dole of bread, But for some of the money, the cash, whose flow supports The flower of cities from sinking and withering faint.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(A Roadside Stand)</p>	
	<p>(i) The poet’s use of “<i>the flower of cities</i>” suggests that —</p> <p>a) Cities bloom with natural beauty b) Cities flourish due to wealth and power c) Cities are lifeless and dull d) Flowers grow abundantly in cities</p>	1
	<p>(ii) The expression “<i>the flower of cities</i>” is an example of —</p> <p>a) Metaphor</p>	1

	b) Simile c) Hyperbole d) Irony	
	(iii) Complete the following with the correct option. The villagers want not alms but _____. (equality and fair trade / free gifts / sympathy / land)	1
	(iv) What contrast is suggested between the <i>stand</i> and the <i>flower of cities</i> ?	1
	(v) The overall tone of the stanza is best described as — a) Mocking and humorous b) Bitter and angry c) Sympathetic and critical d) Cold and detached	1
	(vi) What social injustice is highlighted through this extract?	1
8.	Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (a) or (b):	4
a.	<i>From that day onwards it was celebration time for all the tigers inhabiting Pratibandapuram. The State banned tiger hunting by anyone except the Maharaja. A proclamation was issued to the effect that if anyone dared to fling so much as a stone at a tiger, all his wealth and property would be confiscated. The Maharaja vowed he would attend to all other matters only after killing the hundred tigers. Initially the king seemed well set to realise his ambition.</i> (The Tiger King)	
	(i) Why is the line “celebration time for all the tigers” ironic?	1
	(ii) What does the proclamation show about the Maharaja’s rule? a) Democratic b) Religious c) Dictatorial and self-centred d) Scientific	1
	(iii) Complete the following with the correct option. The exaggerated law about flinging a stone at a tiger is an instance of _____. (symbolism / hyperbole / imagery / oxymoron)	1
	(iv) How does the Maharaja’s behaviour mirror modern-day leadership flaws?	1
	OR	
b.	<i>When she came in the first time, she saw him summon his small strength to be prepared for some fearful thing. “Don’t be afraid,” she begged him softly.</i>	

	<p><i>"How come... you speak English..." he gasped.</i> <i>"I was a long time in America," she replied.</i> <i>She saw that he wanted to reply to that but he could not, and so she knelt and fed him gently from the porcelain spoon. He ate unwillingly, but still he ate.</i> <i>"Now you will soon be strong," she said, not liking him and yet moved to comfort him.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(The Enemy)</p>	
	(i) What does the phrase <i>"summon his small strength"</i> reveal about the soldier's condition?	1
	(ii) How did Hana feel while helping the soldier? a) Indifferent b) Fearful and disgusted, yet compassionate c) Proud and confident d) Angry and rude	1
	(iii) Complete the following with the correct option. The author's main theme in this scene is the victory of _____ over war. (courage / humanity / loyalty / justice)	1
	(iv) Why did the soldier eat "unwillingly"?	1
9.	Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (a) or (b):	6
a.	<p><i>The experience had a deep meaning for me, as only those who have known stark terror and conquered it can appreciate. In death there is peace. There is terror only in the fear of death, as Roosevelt knew when he said, "All we have to fear is fear itself." Because I had experienced both the sensation of dying and the terror that fear of it can produce, the will to live somehow grew in intensity.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Deep Water)</p>	
	(i) The passage best represents which qualities of human nature? (1) Courage and resilience (2) Curiosity and humour (3) Fear and surrender (4) Self-awareness and strength Select the most suitable options. (a) 2 and 3 (b) 1 and 4 (c) 1 and 3 (d) 2 and 4	1

	(ii) The deeper message of the passage is that— (a) Death is more powerful than life. (b) Facing fear leads to inner strength. (c) Fear cannot be controlled by humans. (d) Fear makes life meaningful.	1
	(iii) The speaker implies that fear magnifies suffering, while _____ brings clarity and calm. (courage, peace, death)	1
	(iv) How does the speaker's experience connect with Roosevelt's statement, "All we have to fear is fear itself"?	1
	(v) What does the phrase "stark terror" suggest about the intensity of the speaker's experience?	1
	(vi) The speaker describes the experience as 'deeply meaningful' because _____.	1
	OR	
b.	<i>Early in the Champaran action, Charles Freer Andrews, the English pacifist who had become a devoted follower of the Mahatma, came to bid Gandhi farewell before going on a tour of duty to the Fiji Islands. Gandhi's lawyer friends thought it would be a good idea for Andrews to stay in Champaran and help them. Andrews was willing if Gandhi agreed. But Gandhi was vehemently opposed. He said, "You think that in this unequal fight it would be helpful if we have an Englishman on our side. This shows the weakness of your heart. The cause is just and you must rely upon yourselves to win the battle."</i> (Indigo)	
	(i) Who was Charles Freer Andrews? a) A British lawyer b) A Christian missionary and follower of Gandhi c) A British administrator d) A farmer in Champaran	1
	(ii) Gandhi's attitude toward Andrews' offer of help shows that he valued: 1) Self-sufficiency 2) British sympathy 3) Independence of spirit 4) Avoidance of moral shortcuts Select the most suitable options. (a) 2 and 3 (b) 1,3 and 4 (c) 1,2 and 3 (d) 2 and 4	1
	(iii) Gandhi believed that accepting Andrews' help would reflect _____ (moral strength / moral weakness / self-reliance) in his followers.	1

	(iv) What did Gandhi mean when he said, "This shows the weakness of your heart"?	1
	(v) What universal message does this episode convey beyond the context of the freedom struggle?	1
	(vi) Gandhi considered the Champaran movement an "unequal fight" because _____.	1
10.	Answer any five of the following six questions in 40-50 words each:	5X2=10
i	How does the story justify the saying "Kindness can change a person's life"? (The Rattrap)	2
ii	What does Eco mean by "interstices" and how does he use them? (The Interview)	2
iii	What message does Alphonse Daudet convey through "The Last Lesson"?	2
iv	What contrast does Adrienne Rich establish between Aunt Jennifer and the tigers? (Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)	2
v	What does the expression "I smiled and smiled and smiled" suggest? (My Mother at Sixty-Six)	2
vi	How is "Lost Spring" both a social and a human story?	2
11.	Answer any two of the following three questions in 40-50 words each:	2X2=4
i.	What emotions does the journey evoke in the explorers, according to the lesson? (Journey to The End of The Earth)	
ii.	How is conflict between duty and morality portrayed in the story? (The Enemy)	
iii.	How does the Tiger King's obsession affect his relationships with others?	
12.	Answer any one of the following two questions in about 120-150 words:	1X5=5
i.	How do <i>Going Places</i> by A R Barton and <i>Lost Spring</i> by Anees Jung portray children's ambitions, and what do they reveal about human desire and limitations?	

	OR	
ii.	What does the visit of the English poet to Gemini Studios reveal about cultural differences and the ignorance of the film people? (Poets and Pancakes)	
13.	Answer any one of the following two questions in about 120-150 words:	1X5=5
i.	How do 'On the Face of It' and 'Memories of Childhood' explore the theme of overcoming fear or challenges?	
	OR	
ii.	How does Charley's discovery of the third level reflect his desire to escape the pressures of modern life? (The Third Level)	