

केन्द्रीय विद्यालय संगठन, बेंगलूरु संभाग

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN, BENGALURU REGION

प्रथम प्री-बोर्ड परीक्षा (2025-26)

FIRST PRE BOARD EXAMINATION (2025-26)

CLASS: XII

MAX MARKS:80

SUBJECT: English Core (301)

TIME :3 HRS

General Instructions:

- 1.This question paper has 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. This question paper contains three sections- section A: Reading Skills, Section B: Creative Writing Skills and Section C: Literature
3. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part, write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
4. Separate instructions are given with each question slash part, wherever necessary.
5. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

Section A- Reading – 22 marks

1.Read the passage and answer the following questions:

(12 marks)

The rapid evolution of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become one of the most significant and transformative forces of the 21st century, reshaping not only our technology but also our societies, economies, and ethical frameworks. AI's integration into daily life, from personalized recommendations and autonomous vehicles to medical diagnostics and financial analysis, is accelerating at an unprecedented pace. This swift adoption, however, is not without its complexities, raising profound questions about data privacy, algorithmic bias, and the very nature of human employment.

A primary concern revolves around **algorithmic bias**. AI systems are trained on vast datasets, and if these datasets contain inherent biases—whether conscious or unconscious- from historical human decisions, the AI will learn and perpetuate these biases. For example, AI-powered hiring tools may inadvertently discriminate against certain demographic groups if the data they were trained on reflects historical hiring patterns that favoured one group over another. This is not merely a technical issue; it is a critical societal one that demands rigorous oversight and a multidisciplinary approach to ensure fairness and equity in the digital age.

Another major ethical challenge is **data privacy**. As AI models require colossal amounts of data to function effectively, the collection and utilization of personal information have become a central part of their development. This raises concerns about surveillance, consent, and the potential for misuse of

sensitive data. The development of privacy-preserving techniques, such as federated learning, offers a glimmer of hope by allowing AI models to be trained on decentralized data without a central authority having access to individual-level information. However, the legal and ethical frameworks surrounding data ownership and privacy have yet to catch up with the technological capabilities, creating a significant regulatory gap.

The impact of AI on the **future of work** is perhaps the most widely debated topic. While some economists predict mass job displacement as AI automates routine tasks, others argue for a more nuanced outcome. They suggest that AI will not replace human workers wholesale but will instead transform job roles, creating new opportunities that require different skill sets, such as AI-system management, data analysis, and creative problem-solving. This shift, however, necessitates a fundamental rethinking of education and workforce training to prepare individuals for the jobs of tomorrow. It calls for an emphasis on skills that AI cannot easily replicate: critical thinking, emotional intelligence, and creativity.

In conclusion, while AI presents incredible opportunities for innovation and societal advancement, its future trajectory is inextricably linked to our ability to navigate its ethical and social implications. Addressing algorithmic bias, safeguarding data privacy, and proactively managing the transition in the workforce are not just optional considerations but fundamental prerequisites for building a future where AI serves as a tool for progress rather than a source of new inequality.

(i) Which technique helps in protecting privacy while training AI models? (1 mark)

(ii) What happens if AI systems are trained on biased datasets? (1 mark)

(iii) Assertion (A): The integration of AI will not lead to mass job displacement but will create new job opportunities.

Reason (R): AI can perform tasks that require critical thinking and emotional intelligence, replacing most human roles. (1 mark)

- a) Both A and 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) Both A and R are false.

(iv) Name one skill that AI cannot easily replicate, as mentioned in the passage. (1 mark)

(v) According to the passage, what is a primary concern regarding AI systems that are trained on historical human decisions? (1 mark)

- a) The data will be too old to be relevant for modern applications.
- b) The AI will be unable to provide personalized recommendations.
- c) The systems will be unable to process new information effectively.
- d) The AI will learn and perpetuate existing biases found in the data.

(vi) Based on the passage, what is a key ethical challenge related to data privacy in the context of AI development? (1 mark)

- a) The legal and ethical frameworks for data ownership have outpaced technology.
- b) The collection and potential misuse of personal information is a central part of AI development.

- c) The difficulty in training AI models without using any data.
- d) AI models are being trained exclusively on public, non-personal data.

(vii) Why is federated learning considered an ethical advancement in AI? (1 mark)

- a) It removes all biases from data
- b) It decentralizes training, reducing privacy risks
- c) It ensures equal job opportunities
- d) It guarantees transparency in algorithms

(viii) According to the passage, how do some economists view the impact of AI on employment? (1 mark)

- a) They argue that AI will completely replace human workers, leading to job obsolescence.
- b) They believe AI will transform job roles and create new opportunities that require different skills.
- c) They assert that AI will have no significant impact on the future of work.
- d) They believe it will create a permanent state of unemployment for most of the population.

(ix) The passage suggests that a key strategy to prepare for the 'jobs of tomorrow' is to focus on skills that AI cannot easily replicate. Which of the following is listed as one of these skills? (1 mark)

- a) A Data collection
- b) B. Emotional intelligence
- c) C. Algorithmic design
- d) D. Financial analysis

(x) Which of the following is a major ethical concern related to AI as discussed in the passage? (1 mark)

- a) High cost of AI systems
- b) Algorithmic bias and data privacy
- c) Limited internet access
- d) Lack of entertainment value

(xi) Analyze the role of historical data in perpetuating algorithmic bias. (2 marks)

2. Read the passage and answer the following questions:

10 marks

India is rapidly moving towards clean and sustainable energy sources to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels and combat climate change. According to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), as of 2024, renewable energy contributes nearly 43% of the total installed electricity capacity in the country. Solar power has emerged as the leader, followed by wind, small hydro, and biomass.

The government has set an ambitious target of achieving 500 GW of renewable capacity by 2030, of which 280 GW is expected from solar alone. Large-scale solar parks in states like Rajasthan and Gujarat, and offshore wind projects along the coasts of Tamil Nadu and Gujarat, are key drivers of this transition.

However, the shift is not without challenges. High initial investment costs, land acquisition issues, and the intermittency of renewable sources remain barriers. For instance, solar and wind power generation depends heavily on weather conditions, making it difficult to provide uninterrupted supply without efficient storage systems.

Despite these hurdles, renewable energy offers immense benefits. It reduces greenhouse gas emissions, lowers reliance on imported coal, and creates millions of green jobs. Experts argue that with better policies, investment in battery storage, and public-private partnerships, India can become a global leader in the clean energy sector.

Installed Renewable Energy Capacity (2024)	
Source	Capacity (GW)
Solar	82
Wind	44
Small Hydro	5
Biomass	10

(i) India's renewable energy strategy emphasizes solar parks in specific regions. Which of the following best explains why Rajasthan and Gujarat are ideal for such development? (1 mark)

- a. They have high population density
- b. They receive abundant sunlight and have vast land availability
- c. They are coastal states with high rainfall
- d. They have the highest coal reserves

(ii) Based on the installed capacities in 2024, which source contributes the least to India's renewable energy mix? (1 mark)

- a. Biomass
- b. Wind
- c. Small Hydro
- d. Solar

(iii) Read the given statements and choose the best option: (1 mark)

Assertion (A): India aims to achieve 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030.

Reason (R): Renewable energy sources are consistent and unaffected by external factors.

- a. Both A and 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

- (iv) Why might public-private partnerships be crucial in overcoming the challenges of renewable energy adoption? (1 mark)
- (v) India’s renewable energy sector is currently dominated by biomass power generation. (1 mark)
- (vi) Explain how weather conditions impact the reliability of solar and wind energy. Suggest one technological solution mentioned in the passage to address this issue. (2 marks)
- (vii) If India successfully meets its 2030 renewable energy target, what long-term environmental benefit is most likely? (1 mark)
- (viii) What does the term “intermittency” imply in the context of renewable energy? (1 mark)
- (ix) Which of the following best reflects the broader vision behind India’s renewable energy push?
- To reduce electricity bills
 - To compete with fossil fuel industries
 - To become a global leader in clean energy and create green jobs
 - To increase coal exports

Section B - Writing 18 marks

Q3. Attempt ANY ONE of the two in about 50 words. (4 marks)

(A) You are the Ansh/ Anshika, Head Boy/Head Girl of your school. The canteen will remain closed for a week due to renovation. Draft a notice in informing the students about the same.

OR

(B) Your school is organising a free vaccination drive for students of classes XI–XII. Draft a notice informing them about the date, venue, and timings.

Q4. Attempt ANY ONE of the two in about 50 words. (4 marks)

(A) You are Aditya/Ananya of 15, Gandhi Road, Kochi. You have recently moved into a new flat. Draft an informal invitation to your best friend to come over for a small get-together.

OR

(B) You are Sameer/Samira, an educationist, Reva University, Bengaluru. You have been invited as the Chief Guest to an Education Fair by Mount Carmel College, Bengaluru. Draft a formal letter of reply accepting the invitation.

Q 5. Attempt ANY ONE of the two in 120-150 words: (5 marks)

(A) You are Meera Kapoor, living at 22, Ashok Vihar, Delhi. You recently saw an advertisement in The Times of India for the post of Content Writer (Intern) at Edu World Pvt. Ltd. Write a job application along with your bio-data. (Cues- Graduate/ Post Graduate in English, skills, etc.)

OR

(B) You are Rohan/Ritika, a student of Class XII. During your daily commute, you have noticed reckless driving by auto drivers near your school, putting students' lives at risk. Write a letter to the Editor of a local daily expressing your concern and suggesting solutions.

Cues:
Description of the Problem - Concern about reckless auto driving near the school.
Impact on Students and Public Safety
Suggested Solutions
Appeal to the Editor and Authorities

Q6. Attempt ANY ONE of the two:

(5 marks)

(A) You are Priya/Pranav. Write an article on the topic "The Growing Menace of Plastic Pollution" to be published in a local daily. Highlight the harmful effects of plastic on the environment and suggest measures to overcome this problem.

Cues:
Non-biodegradable waste accumulation
Threat to marine life
Soil and water contamination
Health hazards from microplastics
Promote eco-friendly alternatives

OR

(B) You are Amay/ Amaira, a staff reporter for City Herald. Write a report in 120-150 words about a traffic awareness rally conducted by students of different schools in your city to promote road safety.

Cues:
Date and venue of rally
Participating schools and turnout
Slogans and placards displayed
Guest speakers and messages
Impact on public awareness

Section C- Literature - 40 marks

Q.7. Attempt ANY ONE from the given below:

(A) Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow:

(6 marks)

*"A thing of beauty is a joy forever,
Its loveliness increases, it will never*

Pass into nothingness... ”

(i) Which quality of beauty is highlighted here? (1 mark)

(A) Short-lived pleasure

(B) Eternal joy

(C) Momentary attraction

(D) Physical charm

(ii) How does the idea of beauty in the poem contrast with the worldly possessions? (1 mark)

(iii) Identify the figure of speech in “A thing of beauty is a joy forever”? (1 mark)

(iv) Assertion–Reason:

Assertion (A): Beauty gives eternal delight.

Reason (R): Beautiful things perish with time.

Options:

(A) A is true, R is false

(B) Both A and R are true

(C) Both A and R are false

(D) A is false, R is true (1 mark)

(v) Write the message conveyed in the poem? (1 mark)

(vi) Give one word for: “Something that does not end”. (1 mark)

OR

(B) “The polished traffic passed with a mind ahead,

Or if ever aside a moment, then out of sorts...”

(i) Who are referred to as the “polished traffic”? (1 mark)

(A) Rural poor

(B) Urban rich

(C) Bureaucrats

(D) Politicians

(ii) Why are the travellers “out of sorts” when they look at the stand? (1 mark)

(iii) Identify and explain the figure of speech used in the expression “polished traffic”. (1 mark)

(iv) Assertion–Reason: (1 mark)

Assertion (A): The poor villagers built roadside stands to earn a living.

Reason (R): They wanted to attract city dwellers to buy their goods.

Options:

(A) Both A and R are true, and R explains A

(B) Both A and R are true, but R does not explain A

(C) A is true, R is false

(D) A is false, R is true

(v) What does the roadside stand symbolise?

(vi) Give one word for “refined and sophisticated.”

Q8. Attempt ANY ONE from the given below:

(A) Read the extract and write the answers to the questions that follow: (Any one) (4 marks)

“Dr. Sadao was not inclined to be sentimental. He knew perfectly well the reason why the General was willing to keep him in Japan, despite his American connections. The General was being treated for a condition that would require surgery. Dr. Sadao was the most skilled surgeon in Japan, trained in America, and the General trusted no one else. But Sadao was troubled. As a Japanese, his first loyalty was to his country. Yet as a doctor, his duty was to save lives, even of the enemy. This conflict weighed heavily on his mind.”

(i) Why did the General keep Dr. Sadao in Japan despite his American connections? (1 mark)

(A) He was loyal to the emperor

(B) He was the most skilled surgeon

(C) He was a close friend of the General

(D) He refused to go abroad

(ii) ‘Dr. Sadao was not inclined to be sentimental.’ What do you infer from this statement? (1 mark)

(iii) Assertion–Reason (1 mark)

Assertion (A): Dr. Sadao was troubled after saving the enemy soldier.

Reason (R): His professional duty as a doctor conflicted with his national loyalty as a Japanese.

Choose the correct option:

(A) Both A and 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.

(iv) What quality of Sadao is revealed when he thinks about saving lives despite nationality? (1 mark)

OR

(B) “Antarctica is a crucial element in understanding Earth’s past, present and future. It holds in its ice cores half-million-year-old carbon records trapped in its layers of ice. This helps us study the history of climate change. Antarctica is also the place where the simple mid-oceanic belt made it possible to understand the concept of continental drift, which eventually gave rise to the theory of plate tectonics. Its isolation makes it the perfect place to study the effect of human interference on the environment.”

Questions

(4×1=4 marks)

(i) What do Antarctica’s ice cores reveal?

(1 mark)

- (A) Ancient fossils
(B) Half-million-year-old carbon records
(C) Minerals and metals
(D) Remains of early humans

(ii) Why is Antarctica considered an ideal place to study the impact of human activity on the environment?

(1 mark)

(iii) Assertion–Reason

(1 mark)

Assertion (A): Antarctica is a significant region for scientific research.

Reason (R): Its isolation and preserved history make it valuable for studying climate change.

Choose the correct option:

(1 mark)

- (A) Both A and 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.

(iv) Find a word from the passage which means separation or remoteness.

(1 mark)

Q9. Read the extract and write the answers to the questions that follow: (Any one) (6 marks)

(A) “The make-up department of the Gemini Studios was in a building that looked like a godown. There was a big mirror, and around it, large bulbs of various colours. The department was run by a gang of boys, all of them local Tamilians, with the exception of the outlying half-a-dozen who came from Andhra, a lone Bengali, and an Anglo-Burmese. They all claimed some connection with literature, because at that time anyone who had anything to do with English became part of the literary set. The make-up room looked more like a hair-cutting salon than anything else.”

(i) Where was the make-up department of the Gemini Studios located? (1 mark)

- (A) In a theatre hall
- (B) In a building like a godown
- (C) In the office cabin
- (D) In a film set

(ii) What surrounded the big mirror in the make-up room? (1 mark)

(iii) Complete the following sentence appropriately: (1 mark)

The make-up department of the Gemini Studios was a good example of national integration_____

(iv) Assertion–Reason (1 mark)

Assertion (A): Many in the make-up department claimed a link with literature.

Reason (R): Anyone associated with English was considered part of the literary set.

Choose the correct option:

- (A) Both A and 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.

(v) What does the comparison of the make-up room to a hair-cutting salon suggest? (1 marks)

(vi) Find a word from the passage which means *warehouse*. (1 mark)

OR

(B) "The sharecropping arrangement was such that the peasants of Champaran were compelled by the British planters to grow indigo on fifteen per cent of the land and surrender the entire indigo harvest as rent. This long-term contract was signed by many poor peasants, who were illiterate and helpless. Later, when synthetic indigo was developed in Germany, the British no longer found it profitable to force the peasants to grow indigo. They demanded compensation from the peasants for releasing them from the contract. Many peasants signed the agreement under pressure, but others resisted and engaged Gandhi's help." (6 × 1 = 6 marks)

(i) Based on the exploitative sharecropping system described, what does the requirement to grow indigo on 15% of the land reveal about the British planters' control over Champaran peasants? (1 mark)

- (A) They allowed peasants to choose crops freely
- (B) They prioritized food security for locals
- (C) They imposed unfair agricultural contracts
- (D) They encouraged sustainable farming practices

- (ii) Why were the peasants unable to protest against the contract initially? (1 mark)
- (iii) What motivated British landlords to shift from natural to synthetic indigo cultivation in Champaran? (1 mark)
- (iv) Assertion–Reason (1 mark)
- Assertion (A): The British planters insisted on compensation from the peasants.
- Reason (R): They no longer found indigo cultivation profitable after the invention of synthetic indigo.
- Choose the correct option:
- (A) Both A and 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.
- (v) Give one quality of Gandhi ji highlighted in this passage. (1 mark)
- (vi) Find a word from the passage which means forced or obliged. (1 mark)

Q10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions in 40-50 words each. (5x2=10 marks)

- (i) How does Saheb’s loss of identity after taking up a tea-stall job reflect the irony of his situation? (Lost Spring)
- (ii) What does Douglas’s experience reveal about the importance of determination in overcoming fears? (Deep Water)
- (iii) ‘The peddler’s transformation at Edla’s home highlights the power of trust and compassion.’ Elucidate. (The Rattrap)
- (iv) ‘My Mother at Sixty-six’ captures the universal fear of losing a loved one. How does the poet cope with it?
- (v) “Keeping quiet” acts as a solution to modern conflicts and environmental crises. Justify. (Keeping Quiet)
- (vi) ‘Subbu’s character embodies both creativity and servitude in the film industry.’ How does Asokamitran highlight this in ‘Poets and Pancakes’?

Q11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions in 40-50 words each. (2x2=4 marks)

- (i) Charley’s desire to find the third level reflect modern man’s struggle to escape reality. Comment. (The Third Level)

(ii) In what way does the journey to Antarctica challenge the notion of human superiority over nature? (The journey to the end of the earth)

(iii) Do you agree that compassion is more powerful than prejudice in times of crisis? Justify with reference to the story 'The Enemy.'

Q12. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 120-150 words. (5 marks)

Adrienne Rich's poem portrays gender inequality through the imagery of embroidery and tigers. How does the poet use symbolism to comment on women's suppressed identity and their desire for self-expression? (Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

OR

Robert Frost criticises urban apathy towards the poor villagers. How does the poem reflect the growing rural-urban divide, and what values must society cultivate to ensure inclusivity and equality? (A Roadside Stand)

Q13. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 120-150 words. (5 marks)

The story is a satire on the abuse of power and man's arrogance against nature. Evaluate how the Tiger King's attempts to defy fate ultimately highlight the futility of human pride. How is this message relevant in today's world of ecological crisis? (The Tiger King)

OR

Whether it is Zitkala-Sa resisting cultural domination, or Derry seeking friendship- these two characters reflect the universal human desire for respect and freedom. Discuss how their experiences inspire us to create an inclusive world free from discrimination and fear.

*****The End*****