

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN, CHENNAI REGION
PRE-BOARD II EXAM (2025-26)

CLASS-XII

TIME:3 HOURS

SUBJECT-ENGLISH CORE (Code-301)

M.M.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

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. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTIONA-READING SKILLS (22MARKS)

1	Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow:	12
	Their back stories tell you just how many boundaries and ceilings they each had to breach to get to the pinnacle of white-ball cricket. Shafali Verma disguised herself as a boy to play cricket in the rough-neck country of Rohtak, Haryana. Amanjot Kaur, a carpenter's daughter, first batted with a willow hand-crafted by her father from leftover wood. Deepti Sharma had to hone her skills alone at dawn in the shadow of the Taj Mahal, but now has her street named after her. Jemimah Rodrigues, a pastor's daughter, found her path in life when she watched Sachin Tendulkar from her Bandra balcony as an 11-year-old. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur, while on tour, makes video calls back to her family in Moga, Punjab, to hear the hymns from the local gurudwara. Together, with other teammates who each possess an enchanting life-story, they scripted a symphony of success like no other. To say that India's historic win in the 2025 Women's Cricket World Cup sparked a wave of elation nationwide would be both true and an understatement. It was the culmination of a hard 51-year journey of heartbreaks and near-misses, since the time the Indian women's team was formed in 1974. Many are likening it to Kapil's Devils pulling off the World Cup victory in 1983. The parallels are all there: long, frustrating decades, even longer odds. Then a euphoric moment of triumph that seems to change everything, not just cricket. With this women's team, that feeling is sharper. The 52-run victory over South Africa is so much more than a sporting milestone. In a country still grappling with gender inequality, what it signals is a whole new era of empowerment. The sense of occasion was infectious. The 40,000 screaming supporters jam-packed into DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai were just the tip of the iceberg. Combined TV and digital viewership, already 60 million halfway through the tournament, peaked at 190 million for the final. The team didn't let them down. Here were young women looking destiny in the	

	eye, not blinking, and plucking it out of the sky. Like Amanjot who dived after a fumble for the catch that swung the match. Or Shafali, still sporting the ‘boy cut’ her father gave her as a young girl, who smashed 87 off 78 balls, with seven fours and two sixes, and returned to bowl seven overs, taking two wickets with her ‘golden arm’. Or wicket-keeper Richa Ghosh, whose whirlwind 34 off 24 balls was scored despite a hairline fracture. The veterans shone too. Smriti Mandhana, the 29-year-old star southpaw, averaged over 54 in the tournament, ensuring fightable totals for her team. Harmanpreet, now 36 and in the national side since 2009, has seen the heartbreak of the 2017 final when India lost by a whisker. But here she was, captaining with rare calmness, even pulling off a magical catch to give India the victory. 481 Words: Taken from India Today	
I	Complete the sentence: India’s historic win in the 2025 Women’s Cricket World Cup is significant because it symbolizes _____.	1
II	What unique challenge did Shafali Verma face in her early cricketing days? a) She had to coach herself b) She disguised herself as a boy to play cricket c) She moved to another city to train d) She only played with borrowed equipment.	1
III	How did Amanjot Kaur begin her cricket journey? a) Her father built her cricket gear from leftover wood b) She attended a prestigious cricket academy c) She was inspired by her sister d) She played in school tournaments only.	1
IV	How does the passage connect the women's cricket victory to broader social change in India?	2
V	How do the personal journeys of players like Shafali Verma, Amanjot Kaur, and Jemimah Rodrigues reflect the idea that success in sports often emerges from resilience and defying limitations?	2
VI	Pick out the option which has the correct usage of the idiom "tip of the iceberg". (a) I bought a tip of the iceberg dress that fits me perfectly. (b) She gave me a tip of the iceberg answer that was only one word long. (c) The few visible problems were just the tip of the iceberg in the failing project. (d) He finished the exam quickly because the questions were tip of the iceberg and short.	1
VII	Write whether the following statement is True or False: The team’s victory in the 2025 Women’s Cricket World Cup was narrowly won by 10 runs.	1
VIII	Find a word from the last paragraph that means the same as "a very narrow margin".	1

IX	Which of the following factors contributed to the historic win in 2025 Women's Cricket World Cup? (a) Smrithi Mandana's batting average and Harmanpreet's captaincy (b) The advantage of the pitch which favoured spin bowling (c) Prioritizing dot-ball pressure only in middle overs (d) Gender equality practiced in India.	1																					
X	Apart from her playing skills, what one quality of Captain Harmanpreet Kaur contributed to India's victory in the 2025 Women's Cricket World Cup final?	1																					
2	Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow:	10																					
	The fourth quadrennial tiger census by India's Ministry of Environment revealed a remarkable 74% rise in tiger numbers from 2010 to 2018, reaching 2,967 individuals, with India now hosting 75% of the global tiger population. This surge stems from robust conservation efforts like Project Tiger, enhanced camera-trapping technology covering 83% of tigers over age one, and stricter anti-poaching measures. However, challenges persist, including habitat loss and human-wildlife conflict, underscoring the need for sustained monitoring across five key regions: Shivalik Hills & Gangetic Plains, Central India & Eastern Ghats, Western Ghats, North-East Hills & Brahmaputra Plains, and Sunderbans. The table below details region-wise tiger estimates from the 2018 census, highlighting disparities that demand targeted interventions. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Region</th><th>2018 Estimate (Low-High Range)</th><th>% of National Total</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Central India & Eastern Ghats</td><td>1,358–1,706</td><td>51%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Western Ghats</td><td>686–862</td><td>26%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Shivalik Hills & Gangetic Plains</td><td>264–293</td><td>10%</td></tr> <tr> <td>North-East Hills & Brahmaputra</td><td>83–116</td><td>4%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Sunderbans</td><td>79–90</td><td>3%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Others</td><td>95–274</td><td>6%</td></tr> </tbody> </table> Analysis reveals Central India dominates with over half the tigers, benefiting from vast protected reserves like Kanha and Tadoba, while Sunderbans shows stability despite dense mangroves aiding camouflage. Western Ghats' high numbers reflect successful reintroductions, but North-East's low count signals poaching threats. The 14% margin of error from elusive tiger behavior emphasizes camera traps' role, yet a 33% jump since 2014 proves policy efficacy. For educators, this data illustrates biodiversity trends, urging competency-based questions on inference and evaluation. Sustained growth hinges on expanding corridors to curb fragmentation, as unchecked urbanization could reverse gains by 2030.	Region	2018 Estimate (Low-High Range)	% of National Total	Central India & Eastern Ghats	1,358–1,706	51%	Western Ghats	686–862	26%	Shivalik Hills & Gangetic Plains	264–293	10%	North-East Hills & Brahmaputra	83–116	4%	Sunderbans	79–90	3%	Others	95–274	6%	
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I	The region contributing the highest percentage to India's tiger population in the 2018 census is _____	1																					
II	Why has India's tiger population surged by 74% from 2010 to 2018?	1																					

III	The areas with the large protected reserves enable tigers to thrive despite a national margin of error from their _____(elusive/beautiful) behaviour, highlighting the value of camera-trapping technology.	1
IV	What does the 51% tiger share in Central India imply about reserve effectiveness?	1
V	Using the table data, interpret why Western Ghats (26%) shows high tiger numbers despite not leading nationally. (Answer in 30-40 words).	2
VI	On the basis of the given passage and table, select the option that best infers the reason for Sunderbans' stable 3% tiger share despite low numbers. A) Vast reserves like Kanha B) Unique mangrove habitat aiding camouflage C) High poaching threats D) Camera-trapping failure	1
VII	Which of the following factors contribute to India's tiger population surge as discussed in the passage? 1. Declining habitat availability 2. Robust conservation efforts like Project Tiger 3. Enhanced camera-trapping technology 4. Rising human-wildlife conflicts 5. Reduced anti-poaching measures (a) 1, 2 and 4 (b) 2, 3 and 5 (c) 1, 3 and 5 (d) 2, 4 and 5	1
VIII	What role does anti-poaching play in India's tiger conservation efforts as mentioned in the passage?	2
	SECTION B – (CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS) - 18 Marks	
3	Attempt ANY ONE of the two (A) or (B), in about 50 words.	1X4=4

A	As the School Captain of Greenleaf Public School, Pune, write a notice in about 50 words informing the members of Student council, Prefects, Monitors of a Leadership Training Camp being organised by the school. Invent necessary details. OR	
B	You are Vimal/Vimala, the Secretary, Cultural club of Rosary Public School, Mumbai. Your school is organising the Foundation Day of the school on 15th December 2025. You are required to call a meeting of the office bearers of the school to plan arrangements for the event. Draft a notice for the same. (Word limit: 50 words)	
4	Attempt ANY ONE of the two (A) or (B), in about 50 words.	1X4=4
A	You are Shreyas/ Shreyasi, the Sports captain of Kamaraj Public School, Virudhunagar. Your school is holding an Inter-School Pickleball Championship from 26th December to 31st December, 2025. Write a formal invitation to the renowned tennis player, Shri Mahesh Bhupathi to inaugurate the Championship at your school grounds. Provide all necessary details. OR	
B	You are Neeraja of 21, Shakti Vihar, Delhi. Your friend Vanisha has invited you for a party to celebrate her good board results and admission to a prestigious college. Draft a reply accepting the invitation.	
5	Attempt ANY ONE of the two (A) or (B), in about 120-150 words	1X5=5

A	Child Labour remains a pressing issue in India, despite numerous legal frameworks and initiatives to combat it. As a concerned citizen, write a letter to the editor a national daily highlighting the social- economic, cultural and political factors that contribute to this issue. Explore the roles of both government and society in eradicating this problem. You may use some of the given clues along with your own ideas to draft the letter. You are John/ Jhonsy, of 16, Victoria Street, Kolkata. • Economic conditions and inadequate access to education. • Exploitation by industries. • Cultural norms and traditions. • Impact on child development: physical, emotional and psychological • Solutions: at the level of government and society. OR B You are Anshu/ Anshul Chouhan of Block, B/II, Geet Apartments, Udaipur. Write a job application along with your Bio- data, in response to the following advertisement that you came across in a newspaper. Arcade Architects Requires ○ Creative and detail - oriented Junior Architect to assist in designing ○ Residential and commercial buildings. ○ Candidates must have a Bachelor's degree in Architecture. ○ 1-3 years experience. ○ Proficiency in CAD software• ○ Experience in project designing, drafting and side supervision. ○ Apply within 15 days to the HR Manager, Arcade Architecture,Jaipur.	
6	Attempt ANY ONE of the two (A) or (B), in about 120-150 words.	1X5=5

A	Artificial Intelligence has increasingly become an integral part of our daily lives, influencing various sectors such as healthcare, education, entertainment and business. While AI offers significant benefits in terms of efficiency and innovation, it also raises ethical and societal concerns. Write an article on the role of AI in modern life examinations both its advantages and potential risks. You may use the given cues along with your ideas. You are Anaya/Aman.	5
	- AI in everyday tasks- communication, transportation and household management - Impact on education, employment and health care - Privacy concerns- data collection, surveillance - Ethics and decision- making	
B	OR You are the Cultural Captain of ABC Public School, Chennai. Your school provided accommodation from 28th to 1st November 2025 for 350 participants who came from different parts of the country to take part in a National Sports Event organised in Chennai. Write a report highlighting the preparations made by your school to ensure the safe stay and transportation of the participants to the venue. Write the report in about 120 to 150 words for publication in the school magazine. Support your Ideas with the cues given below:	5
	Preparations for Safe Stay: Room arrangements, hygiene, medical facilities, security, food/water Transportation: Buses/shuttles to venue, timings, safety measures	
	SECTION – C (LITERATURE)	40
7	Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two - (A) or (B)	6x1=6
	Now we will count to twelve And we will all keep still. For once on the face of the Earth Let's not speak in any language Let's stop for one second And not move our arms so much. (Keeping Quiet)	

I	Which of the following themes is NOT represented in the given extract? (A) Universal Peace through silence (B) Peace through war (C) Foregoing weapons (D) Introspection	1
II	Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract. Assertion : The poet urges humanity to remain silent and still to promote unity and peace. Reason : The poet suggests that by stopping all movement and speech, people can reflect on their differences and resolve conflicts. Choose the correct option regarding their relationship. (A) Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion. (B) Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion. (C) The assertion is true, but the reason is false. (D) The assertion is false, but the reason is true.	1
III	Complete the following suitably. The poet asks us to stop for one second because the moment of quietness will meditate and _____.	1
IV	Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank. The poet asks the readers to ‘count till twelve’ in the extract. This symbolizes the way to _____ (calm/ excite) our minds and focus on the present moment.	1
V	What is the poet’s primary intention behind using the imagery. “Let’s stop for one second, and not move our arms so much”? (A) To emphasize the importance of physical stillness (B) To highlight the need for collective introspection (C) To showcase the beauty of nature (D) To critique modern society’s obsession with productivity	1
VI	What is the significance of “on the face of the Earth” in the extract?	1

B	OR Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen. Bright topaz denizens of a world of green. They do not fear the men beneath the tree; They pace in sleek chivalric certainty. Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool Find even the ivory needle hard to pull. The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand. (Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)	
I	What is the tone of the poet in the given lines? (A) Sarcastic and tolerant (B) Sympathetic (C) Ironic (D) critical	1
II	Select the phrase that suggests the following: The tigers are fearless, graceful and beautiful.	1
III	Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank. Qualities of Aunt Jennifer that can be inferred from the given lines are meek and _____ (brave/timid).	1
IV	Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract. Assertion : Aunt Jennifer's tigers symbolize confidence and freedom, in contrast to her own life, which is weighed down by struggles. Reason : The tigers prance fearlessly, while Aunt Jennifer's fingers struggle to pull the needle due to the burden of her marriage, represented by Uncle's heavy wedding band. Choose the correct option regarding their relationship: (A) Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion. (B) Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion. (C) The assertion is true, but the reason is false. (D) The assertion is false, but the reason is true.	1
V	What do Aunt Jennifer's tigers not fear?	1
VI	Complete the following suitably. 'Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand' implies that Aunt Jennifer was _____.	1
8	Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given Option -(A) or (B)	1X4=4

A	They saw when they came toward him that indeed it was so. The sand on one side of him had already a stain of red soaking through. "He is wounded," Sadao exclaimed. He made haste to the man, who lay motionless, his face in the sand. An old cap stuck to his head soaked with sea water. He was in wet rags of garments. Sadao stopped, Hana at his side, and turned the man's head. They saw the face. 'A white man!' Hana whispered. Yes, it was a white man. The wet cap fell away and there was his wet yellow hair, long, as though for many weeks it had not been cut, and upon his young and tortured face was a rough yellow beard. He was unconscious and knew nothing that they did for him. (The Enemy)	
I	Complete the sentence appropriately. The white man's face is described as 'tortured' because apparently ____.	1
II	In the given extract, which option best suits the theme of the story? (A) Honesty is the best policy. (B) Punctuality is the thief of time. (C) No one succeeds without effort (D) The greatness of humanity is not in being human but in being humane.	1
III	What is the tone in the given extract?	1
IV	The author's description of the stranger uses the word 'yellow'. What does this show about the stranger?	1
	OR	
B	When I heard this, I didn't want to laugh any more, and I felt terribly sad. How could they believe that it was disgusting if one of us held that package in his hands, even though the Vadai had been wrapped first in a banana leaf, and then parcelled in paper? I felt so provoked and angry that I wanted to touch those wretched Vadais myself straight away. Why should we have to fetch and carry for these people. I wondered. Such an important elder of ours goes meekly to the shops to fetch snacks and hands over reverently, bowing and shrinking, to this fellow who just sits there and stuffs them into his mouth. The thought of it infuriated me. (Memories of Childhood)	
1	'I felt terribly sad'. The speaker felt sad because she witnessed an act of _____. A. Sympathy and bias B. Discrimination and prejudice C. Care and concern. D. Humour and fun.	1

II	The elder handing snacks reverently, bowing and shrinking to the fellow indicates that the ‘fellow’ was 1. condescending. 2. unassuming. 3. submissive. 4. disdainful. 5. aggressive 6. domineering. A) 2, 3 and 6 B) 1, 4 and 5 C) 1, 4 and 6 D) 2, 3 and 4	1
III	Pick an idiom that DOES NOT describe how the author felt about this incident. A) at the end of one’s tether B) be in a black mood C) up in arms. D) throw up one’s hands	1
IV	The given extract DOES NOT talk about A) author’s realisation of her misconception. B) elders being ill-treated in her society. C) the haughtiness of the ‘fellow’. D) how the author was enraged.	1
9	Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given Option (A) or (B)	-1X6=6
A	While every other member of the Department wore a kind of uniform — khadi dhoti with a slightly oversized and clumsily tailored white khadi shirt — the legal adviser wore pants and a tie and sometimes a coat that looked like a coat of mail. Often he looked alone and helpless — a man of cold logic in a crowd of dreamers — a neutral man in an assembly of Gandhiites and khadiites. Like so many of those who were close to The Boss, he was allowed to produce a film and though a lot of raw stock and pancake were used on it, not much came of the film. Then one day The Boss closed down the Story Department and this was perhaps the only instance in all human history where a lawyer lost his job because the poets were asked to go home.	
I	The legal advisor stood out among the others of the Story Department because of his _____ (Western/Indian) attire.	1

II	The other members of the Story Department wore a 'kind of uniform' because A. They were influenced by Gandhi's ideals. B. They also participated in the freedom movement. C. It was a comfortable attire for the summer months. D. the studio bosses insisted on it.	1
III	Which of the following statements is true about the legal advisor. A. He had an interest in film making. B. He was a down-to-earth and practical person. C. He was on friendly terms with everyone at Gemini studios. D. He didn't have a herd mentality.	1
IV	Why were the members of the Story Department called 'a crowd of dreamers'?	1
V	Choose the correct option to complete the following sentence. The lawyer lost his job because _____ A. The boss was unhappy that the film he had produced did not do well. B. The Story Department of which he was a part was discontinued.	1
VI	The word 'pancake' has been used in the extract in the same context, as which of the following sentences: A. She flipped the pancake perfectly, golden brown and ready to eat. B. After the storm the tent was pancaked under the weight of the fallen tree. C. She applied a thick layer of pancake on her face for the stage performance. D. The cyclist pancakes on to the pavement after losing his balance.	1
B	OR When I presented my first Doctoral dissertation in Italy, one of the Professors said, "Scholars learn a lot a certain subject, then they make a lot of false hypotheses, then they correct them and at the end, they put the conclusions. You, on the contrary, told the story of your research. Even including your trials and errors." At the same time, he recognized I was right and went on publish my dissertation as a book, which meant he appreciated it. At that point, at the age of 22, I understood scholarly books should be written the way I had done-by telling the story of the research. This is why my essays always have a narrative aspect. And this is why my essays always have a narrative aspect. And this is why I started writing narratives (novels) so late-at the age of 50, more or less.	
I	What sets Umberto Eco apart from other scholars was that he wrote his research papers in a _____ (statistical/descriptive) manner.	1

II	Choose the correct option from the words given in the brackets. What did the Professor appreciate about Eco's dissertation? A. He had paid great attention to accuracy. B. He had made interesting hypotheses. C. He had arrived late at the right conclusions. D. He had presented his research like a story.	1
III	According to the Professor, What was the general pattern of dissertations submitted by scholars?	1
IV	The word "dissertation" as used in the extract does not mean: A. Thesis B. discourse C. treatise D. synopsis	1
V	Choose the correct option to answer the following question: What realisation did Umberto Eco come to at the age of 22? A. Scholars should avoid false hypotheses. B. Scholars could be successful as novelists. C. Scholars should have a narrative aspect in their work. D. Scholars could never be successful as novelists.	1
VI	What prepared Umberto Eco to become a novelist so late in life?	1
10	Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions in about 40 – 50 words:	5X2=10
I	What contrast do you notice between the colours of the bangles and the atmosphere of the place where these bangles are made? (Lost Spring)	2
II	Discuss two emotions of the mother-daughter relationship that come across in the phrase 'smile and smile'. (My mother at 66)	2
III	Identify instances from the lesson 'Going Places' to show that Sophie's dreams and disappointments are all in her mind.	2
IV	Though money holds the same value everywhere, the poet draws a distinction between city money and country money. How? (A Roadside Stand)	2
V	What does the contrasting imagery of the church clock and the Prussian trumpets represent, in 'The Last Lesson'?	2

VI	Gandhi made it clear that money and finance were secondary aspects of the Champaran struggle. Comment on the aspect that you think was most important for Gandhi. (Indigo)	2
11	Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions in about 40 – 50 words each	2X2=4
I	How is the ending of the story 'The Third Level' ironic?	2
II	How is the Derry we meet at the beginning different from the Derry we meet at the end? (On the Face of It)	2
III	Why did Sadao's father use to tell him of the islands on the opposite side of their house? (The Enemy)	2
12	Answer ANY ONE of the following two in about 120 – 150 words	1x 5=5
A	The peasants in "Indigo" and villagers in "The Last Lesson" both face cultural/economic oppression. Analyze Gandhi's and M. Hamel's responses, highlighting non-violent resistance as a common theme.	5
B	Compare the portrayal of poverty and human struggle in "A Roadside Stand" and "The Rattrap." How do the poet and the author highlight social neglect, isolation, and the search for dignity?	5
13	Answer ANY ONE of the following two in about 120 – 150 words	1x5=5
A	How does the author use her journey to Antarctica in " Journey to the End of the Earth " to raise awareness about climate change and environmental preservation? Explain with examples from the text how the 'Students on Ice' program helps inspire future environmental stewardship.	5
B	Analyse how Susan Hill uses the contrasting characters of Mr. Lamb and Derry to challenge societal prejudices about disability and appearance. (On the Face of It)	5