QUESTION PAPER (2025-26)
ENGLISH CORE (Code No. 301)
PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION
CLASS-XII

Time allowed: 3 Hrs **Maximum Marks: 80**

General Instructions:
1. This Question Paper contains THREE sections-
   i. SECTION A: READING SKILLS 22 marks
   ii. SECTION B: CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS 18 marks
   iii. SECTION C: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT 40 marks
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part

SECTION A: READING SKILLS

1. Read the following text. **12 marks**

1. The ethics of cinema in India is a multifaceted issue that has sparked significant debate among filmmakers, critics, and audiences alike. Cinema, as a powerful medium of storytelling and cultural expression, holds a mirror to society but it also wields the power to shape values and norms. This duality makes the ethical considerations in Indian cinema particularly complex.
2. One of the foremost ethical concerns in Indian cinema is the portrayal of gender roles and the representation of women. Historically, Indian films have often perpetuated stereotypes, portraying women in subservient roles or as mere objects of desire. This has gradually begun to change with more progressive filmmakers depicting women in diverse and empowered roles. However, the industry still grapples with balancing commercial success and responsible storytelling.
3. Another significant issue is the depiction of violence and its potential impact on viewers. Mainstream Bollywood frequently showcases and sometimes glorifies violence, raising questions about the social responsibility of filmmakers. Critics argue that excessive violence can desensitise audiences and perpetuate a culture of aggression, while proponents claim that cinema merely reflects societal reality.
4. The portrayal of minorities and marginalised communities also raises ethical questions. Films often resort to caricatures and stereotypes, reinforcing prejudices and discrimination. Filmmakers must portray these communities with authenticity and respect, balancing creative freedom with sensitivity to social impact.
5. Censorship in Indian cinema is contentious. The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) imposes cuts and bans on films deemed offensive or politically sensitive. Proponents argue censorship maintains public morality and social harmony, while opponents see it as an infringement on artistic freedom. This tension is a persistent ethical dilemma.
6. Additionally, issues of plagiarism and intellectual property rights are prevalent. Instances of filmmakers lifting contents from foreign films without proper acknowledgement have marred the industry's reputation. Upholding originality and respecting intellectual property rights is crucial for ethical integrity.
7. In conclusion, the ethics of cinema in India encompass gender representation, violence, portrayal, minority depiction, censorship, and intellectual property rights. Filmmakers must navigate these challenges responsibly. As cinema evolves, ongoing dialogue about ethical practices is imperative to ensure it entertains, educates, and uplifts society, balancing artistic expression with ethical responsibility.

Answer the following questions based on the given passage.

i) How does the depiction of violence in mainstream Bollywood films raise ethical questions?

1 mark

ii) What is one of the major ethical concerns related to the portrayal of minorities and marginalised communities in Indian cinema? 1 mark

iii) Read and complete the following sentence suitably. 1 mark

The expression 'Censorship in Indian cinema is contentious' indicates that censorship is an issue of debate among people.

The debate indicates that ……

A. Some people find the cuts to be morally correct and others find it against freedom.
B. Some people question if the cuts are morally upright and others question if it allows for freedom.

iv) Compete the following sentence with an appropriate word. 1 mark

"Cinema, as a powerful medium of storytelling and cultural expression, holds a mirror to society but it also wields the power to ……."

v) According to the passage, what is one of the foremost ethical concerns in Indian cinema? 1 mark

a) representation of animals b) portrayal of gender roles
c) use of special effects d) depiction of historical events

vi) How do filmmakers address the ethical concerns related to the portrayal of minorities and marginalised communities? Provide an example from the passage. 1 mark

vii) Complete the analogy with ONE word from the paragraph. 1 mark

Violence: glorified : : Women : …….

a) Entertainment b) desire c) subservient d) object

viii) On the basis of paragraph 6, what can be said about plagiarism? 1 mark

a) It calls for further recommendations for the similar films
b) It calls for mentioning the film from which the content has been taken
c) It is an illegal claim by foreign film producers
d) None of the above

ix) Explain the ethical concerns associated with the portrayal of gender roles in Indian cinema using examples from the passage. 2 marks

x) What are the opposing views regarding censorship in Indian cinema and how does it impact artistic freedom? Explain briefly. 2 marks

Q2. Read the following text. 10 marks

1. The Nile River, stretching approximately 6,650 kilometers (4,130 miles), is the longest river in the world and a vital lifeline for several African countries. Originating from two major tributaries, the White Nile and the Blue Nile, the river traverses eleven countries, including Uganda, Sudan, and Egypt, before emptying into the Mediterranean Sea.

2. The White Nile, considered the primary stream, begins at Lake Victoria, while the Blue Nile originates at Lake Tana in Ethiopia. The two tributaries meet in Khartoum, Sudan's capital, forming the mighty Nile that Flows Northwards through the Sahara Desert to Egypt. The river's basin encompasses an area of about 3.4 million square kilometers (1.3 million square miles), supporting the livelihoods of over 300 million people.

3. Egypt, famously known as the 'Gift of the Nile,' heavily relies on the river for its water needs. The Nile provides about 95% of Egypt's freshwater supply, crucial for agriculture, drinking water, and industry. The fertile Nile Delta, where the river fans out into multiple branches, is a significant agriculture hub, producing over 60% of Egypt's food supply. Major crops include cotton, wheat, and rice, cultivated through irrigation systems that have sustained Egyptian civilization for millennia.

4. Hydroelectric power is another critical aspect of the Nile's utility. The Aswan High Dam, completed in 1970, created Lake Nasser, one of the world's largest artificial lakes, and generates approximately 2.1 gigawatts of electricity, supplying energy to millions of Egyptians.
5. The Nile's role extends beyond practical uses to cultural and historical significance. It has been the cradle of ancient civilizations, contributing to the development of iconic sites such as the Pyramids of Giza and the Valley of the Kings.
6. In conclusion, the Nile River is not only a geographical marvel but also an indispensable resource for millions of people. Its contribution to agriculture, water supply, and energy underscores its enduring importance in the region.

Answer the following questions based on the above passage.

i) Complete the following sentence appropriately. 1 mark
The Nile provides about ……. of Egypt's freshwater supply crucial for agriculture, drinking water and industry.
ii) Fill in the blanks with the correct information from the figures provided in the passage.
The Aswan High Dam, completed in 1970, created Lake Nasser, one of the world's largest artificial lakes, and generates approximately …… gigawatts of electricity, supplying energy to millions of Egyptians. 1 mark

a) 22.1 b) 2.1
c) 21 d) 0.21

iii) State whether True or False. 1 mark
Saltwater supply can be counted under the 'Gift of the Nile.'
iv) What percentage of Egypt's food supply is produced in the Nile Delta? 1 mark

a) 75% b) 60%
c) 82% d) 55%

v) How many countries does the Nile River traverse? 1 mark
vi) What is the primary source of freshwater for Egypt? 1 mark

a) Mediterranean Sea b) Red Sea
c) Nile River d) Lake Victoria

vii) What are the two major tributaries of the Nile River and where do they originate? 2 marks
viii) How does the Aswan High Dam benefit Egypt? Provide two ways. 2 marks

SECTION B: CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

Q3. Attempt ANY ONE out of the given two, in about 50 words. 4 marks

A. Indraprastha Society, Lodhi Garden, New Delhi is planning to visit the flood affected families of Greater Noida and set up relief aid team. Draft a notice in about 50 words inviting residents to volunteer for these visits. You are Prerna / Robin, President, Residential Welfare Association.

OR

B. To raise money for charity, your school is hosting a fete. The only people who can set up stalls are school students. Create a NOTICE for the school notice board advertising the stall sale in your capacity as Sharon Public School's head boy or head girl. Invent all necessary details.

Q4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4 marks

A. St. Mary School, Mussoorie is celebrating "World Disability Day" on 3rd December 2025. The Minister of Social Welfare, Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami has consented to be the Chief

Guest. Draft an invitation for the event to be sent to parents and other guests in about 50 words.

OR

B. As a social activist, you have been invited to take part in the discussion concerning the tobacco habits initiated by your friend who is the manager of Tobacco Association. Write an acceptance reply in not more than 50 words.

Q5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5 marks

A. You are Anushka / Rezwan from 42-S, Chittaranjan Park, Bengaluru. You have read an advertisement in "The Times of India" for the post of Assistant Librarian given by Mount Carmel Academy, Bengaluru. Write an application to apply for the post. Also, give your detailed bio-data separately.

Mount Carmel Academy Library, Bengaluru invites applications from well qualified and experienced person for the post of Assistant Librarian.

Eligibility Criteria

- Master degree in Library Science with at least 50%
- Minimum two years of work experience in a leading academic Institute or University
- Language proficiency in English and Hindi

OR

B. As a resident of 17 Meadow, Indirapuram, write a letter to the Editor of a local daily regarding the long power cuts that your colony has to face every day and the resultant problems being faced by the residents. You can use the following clues.

Clues –

*long power cuts	*disrupts working hours
*electrical appliances cannot be used	*disrupts study hours
*suffering due to heat and humidity	*harmful for health (heat stroke)

Q6. Attempt ANY ONE out of the given two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5 marks

A. It is claimed that the world of sports is a minefield of life. Everything we encounter or learn here is a lifelong learning opportunity. Write an ARTICLE on "More Lessons are Learnt on the Sports Field than in the Classroom." You are Suzanne / Suraj Singh. You can use the following clues:

- Cooperation, teamwork, leadership
- Tolerance and understanding
- No caste and religious prejudice
- Healthy life

OR

B. You are Anisha Gupta, a student of Class XII Commerce and a member of the school magazine editorial board. Write a comprehensive report detailing the activities undertaken by students as part of the celebrations on Yoga Day. Include descriptions of the events, participation details, and the overall impact of these activities on the school community. You may organise your report by following – Who-What-When-Where-Why-How

SECTION C: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT

Q7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given. **6 marks**

A.

"When Aunt is dead,
her terrified hands will lie.
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.
The tigers in the panel that she made
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid."
(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

i) Why are the tigers fearless and proud? 1 mark

i) Which of the following cannot be inferred from the given extract? 1 mark

A) Aunt Jennifer's tigers will keep her alive in everyone's memory.
B) Aunt Jennifer feels oppressed and constricted in her marriage.
C) Even in death, Aunt Jennifer cannot escape patriarchal subjugation.
D) Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance as a lasting symbol of her desires.

iii) Complete the sentence appropriately.

The theme associated with the extract is …… 1 mark

iv) Select the correct option from those given in bracket to fill in the blank. 1 mark

The phrase "ringed with ordeals" suggests that Aunt Jennifer is ……..
(miserable/disgruntled) in her marriage.

iv) Who are the men sitting beneath the tree? 1 mark

v) Read the assertion and the Reason below, with reference to the given extract.

Assertion: The Aunt is not going to be free from the male dominance even after her death.
Reason: The tigers will be a living reminder of the Aunt's suppression. 1 mark

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.

vi) Will Aunt Jennifer ever be able to escape the oppressive society? 1 mark

OR

B.

Perhaps the Earth can teach us
as when everything seems dead
and later proves to be alive.
Now I'll count up to twelve
and you keep quiet and I will go. (Keeping Quiet)

i) Identify the phrase from the extract that suggests the following. 1 mark
The poet thinks that he has said what he intended to say.

ii) Which poetic device has been used in the first line of the extract? 1 mark
a) alliteration b) personification
c) metaphor d) paradox

iii) Complete the sentence appropriately 1 mark
The poet wants to convey the message that …….

iv) Select the correct option from those given in bracket to fill in the blank. 1 mark
The poet uses a conversational style and personal pronouns 'you', 'we' and 'I' because ……(he tries to reach out to the reader only/he wants all of humanity to be quiet and introspective) 1 mark

v) Read the assertion and the Reason below, with reference to the give extract.
Assertion: The poet gives an example of Earth to state that we can grow out of silence or inactivity. 1 mark
Reason: The Earth example is related to the birth of a tree.
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.
c) The Assertion is true, but the Reason is false.
d) The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.

vi) State whether the given statement is True or False with reference to the extract.
The Earth can teach us that there is no life under apparent stillness. 1 mark

Q8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 4 marks

A. "Now, I don't know why this should have happened to me. I'm just an ordinary guy named Charley, thirty-one years old and I was wearing a tan gabardine suit and a straw hat with a fancy band; I passed a dozen men who looked just like me. And I wasn't trying to escape from anything; I just wanted to get home to Louisa, my wife."

i) Complete the sentence appropriately. 1 mark

The given lines show that the narrator, Charley ……

ii) According to the psychiatrist, what was the narrator trying to escape from? 1 mark

iii) When did 'this' incident take place? 1 mark

A) While he was going to visit his father
B) While he was going to work
C) While he was going to his psychiatrist friend
D) While he was returning late from work

iv) What does the word 'this' in the given extract refers to? 1 mark

OR

B. **MR LAMB** Like a bomb only blew up my leg. There's worse things can happen. You can burn yourself away inside.
DERRY After I'd come home, one person said, "He's have been better off stopping in there. In the hospital. He'd he better off with others like himself." She thinks blind people only ought to be with other blind people and idiot boys with idiot boys.
MR LAMB And people with no legs altogether?
DERRY That's right

MR LAMB What kind of a world, would that be?

i) Complete the sentence suitably. 1 mark
The attitude shown by 'she' in the extract is…….

ii) What do the given lines tell about the relationship between Mr Lamb and Derry? 1 mark

iii) Select the option that best describes the stranger's belief regarding people like Derry. 1 mark
a) that no one would love him and he would be alone forever.
b) that he would not live for long and so should stay at home
c) that there should be a place where all people like him could stay together
d) that he should stop being a burden

iv) What does 'you can burn yourself away inside' mean? 1 mark

Q9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given. **6 marks**

A. Listening to them, I see two distinct worlds – one of the family, caught in a web of poverty, burdened by the stigma of caste in which they are born in; the other a vicious circle of the sahukars, the middlemen, the policemen, the keepers of the law, the bureaucrats and the politicians. Together they have imposed the baggage on the child that he cannot put down. Before he is aware, he accepts it as naturally as his father. To do anything else would mean to dare. And daring is not part of his growing up. When I sense a flash of it in Mukesh I am cheered. "I want to be a motor mechanic," he repeats. He will go to a garage and learn. But the garage is a long way from his home. "I will walk," he insists. "Do you also dream of flying a plane?" He is suddenly silent. "No," he says, staring at the ground. (Lost Spring)

i) Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that children in Firozabad are bound to accept their family tradition. 1 mark

ii) Select the correct option from those given in bracket to fill in the blank. 1 mark
Firozabad is divided into two ……. worlds of those who are exploited and those who exploit. (varied/distinct)

iii) Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation. 1 mark

"When I sense a flash of it in Mukesh…"
The writer finds ……..

iv) What do the given lines in the extract tell us about Mukesh? 1 mark

v) Select the correct option to fill in the blank. 1 mark
The role of the Sahukars is …….
a) To establish the bangle industry
b) To lend money at low rate of interest
c) To share the burden of the working class
d) To lend money at a higher rate of interest

vi) Based on the extract, choose the statement that is True. 1 mark
a) Parents encourage their children to dare.
b) The politicians and middlemen are helpful towards the people of Firozabad.
c) Parents encourage their children to get an education.
d) Some people like Mukesh, dares to dream of a different future.

OR

B. His success in films overshadowed and dwarfed his literary achievements – or so his critics felt. He composed several truly original 'story poems' in folk refrain and diction and also wrote a sprawling novel Thillana Mohanambal with dozens of very deftly etched characters. He quite successfully recreated the mood and manner of the Devadasis of the early 20th century. He was an amazing actor – he never aspired to the lead roles – but whatever

subsidiary role he played in any of the films, he performed better than the supposed main players. He had a genuine love for anyone he came across and his house was a permanent residence for dozens of near and far relations and acquaintances. (Poets and Pancakes)

i) What inference can be drawn from the line 'dozens of very deftly etched characters' regarding Subbu's ability as a writer? 1 mark

ii) Select the correct option from those given in bracket to fill in the blank. The phrase 'near and far' suggests ……(everybody/close relatives) 1 mark

iii) Complete the following sentence. 1 mark
According to the extract, Subbu was,……

iv) Why does the narrator say that Subbu never aspire to be a lead actor though he was an amazing actor? 1 mark

v) Which of these statements is not True about Subbu? 1 mark
   a) His literary achievements stole the limelight from his films.
   b) He was a gifted poet and writer and his literary works were noteworthy.
   c) He was selfless in nature and was empathetic towards others.
   d) He never harkened after lead roles and performed minor roles in films.

vi) The writer talks about Subbu's literary genius in a ……tone. 1 mark
   a) proud b) sarcastic c) gleeful d) critical

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

i) Why did the stranger not tell the ironmaster that he was not Nils Olof? (The Rattrap)
ii) Why can't the poet bear the childish longing of the poor people? (A Roadside stand)
iii) "I am Rajkumar Shukla. I am from Champaran, and I want you to come to my district!" How did Rajkumar Shukla establish that he was a resolute man? (Indigo)
iv) What is evident about the writing style of Asokamitran in 'Poets and Pancakes'? What effect does it have on the readers?
v) 'Some shape of beauty moves away the pall from our dark spirits.' What image does Keats use to describe the beautiful bounty of the Earth that brightens our dark spirit? (A Thing of Beauty)
vi) "It is his karam, his destiny." What is Mukesh's family's attitude towards their situation? (Lost Spring)

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

i. It's all relative "Beauty and the Beast." What does Mr. Lamb mean by this statement? (On the face of it)
ii. Why did the landlord's man ask Bama's brother on which street he lived? What was the significance? (We Too are Human beings-Memories of Childhood)
iii. What are Geoff Green's reasons for including high school students in the Students on Ice expedition?

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

i. The term "feminism" refers to a group of movements and philosophies that support women's rights and work to give them equal chances in all fields. With reference to Aunt Jennifer's Tigers, highlight the poet's views on feminism.

OR

ii. We need not let traumatic experiences or our fears define us. If we are determined, we can rise above them.
In view of the above lines, write down what you have learnt from the chapter "Deep Water."

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

i. "With great power comes great responsibility"
In light of the above line, comment on how the narrator of 'The Tiger King' criticizes the conceit of those in power through satire and dramatic irony.

OR

ii. Dr Sadao was stuck between a rock and a hard place.

You have read the chapter, 'The Enemy' and have been asked to give a short speech on the chapter. Draft your speech, to be presented in class in 120-150 words.

(Stuck between a rock and a hard place: an idiom that represents the two equally bad alternatives you are forced to choose from, to be caught in a dilemma)

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