

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN, DELHI REGION
PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION II- 2025-26

Class: XII**Subject: English Core****M. M.: 80****Time: 03 Hrs.****General Instructions:**

Read the following instructions very carefully and 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 Textbook and Supplementary Reading Text

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 (22 Marks)

Q. 1. Read the passage given below:

In an era when violence frequently makes headlines, Gandhi's legacy reminds us that lasting revolutions are won not on battlefields but in the realm of ideas. His philosophy not only changed the course of India's independence movement but also provided the world with a model of resistance based on patience, tolerance, and moral courage. When Gandhi launched his nonviolent struggle, the British found themselves powerless. Accustomed to crushing violent revolts with force, they lost the moral ground. So baffled was one officer that he reportedly wired London: "Kindly advise how to kill a tiger nonviolently." Gandhi had moved the fight from battlefield to the moral realm, where the empire had no weapon.

By 1947, India had gained its independence, but Gandhi's contribution was far greater than just the political freedom of one country. He proved to the world that peace can be a more powerful force than war.

Gandhi believed violence was the lowest use of human potential, while peace was the highest. Peace creates stability, freedom, and growth, whereas violence only breeds fear, suppresses creativity, and closes the door to progress.

Austrian psychologist Alfred Adler once wrote that human beings alone possess the ability to "turn a minus into a plus". Gandhi's life embodied this truth. He showed that setbacks, when met with patience, tolerance and determination, could be turned into opportunities. Nonviolence, therefore, was not a passive retreat but an active use of human potential through discipline and restraint.

"Where there is tolerance, peace prevails; where there is intolerance, war and chaos follow." Gandhi's principles remain just as relevant within families as they are between nations. Without tolerance, peace remains just an imaginable dream.

"Peaceful revolution is the outcome of peaceful thinking," Maulana Wahiduddin Khan wrote. According to him, Gandhi's struggle was rooted in patience and forbearance. He believed that Gandhi had shown the world how truth could triumph without bloodshed.

For Maulana, peace was not just desirable but intrinsic to human nature. "Man was born in peace. Man must die in peace. Peace is man's birthright — God's greatest blessing to humanity," he said. In this sense, Gandhi's legacy extended beyond India's freedom movement. It was a universal call for humanity to rediscover its natural state of harmony.

Gandhi's philosophy has since inspired many movements, from the American civil rights movement led by Martin Luther King Jr. to Nelson Mandela's courageous fight against apartheid in South Africa. Gandhi's enduring legacy of nonviolence, truth, and compassion continues to remind the world that peace, tolerance, and moral courage remain the strongest and most transformative forces for lasting social, political, and human change.

(The writer is Chairperson, Centre for Peace and Spirituality International)

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer the following questions:

- i. In the context of the passage, what does the term 'lasting revolutions' mean? 1M
 - a) Sudden political changes achieved through violence and frantic protest
 - b) Temporary uprisings that fail to create stability and disrupt peace
 - c) Revolutions that continue for a long time and bring permanent change
 - d) Rebellions motivated by personal ambition and greed for power
- ii. Why did the Britishers lose moral ground? 1M
- iii. According to the passage, violence is considered the lowest use of human potential because..... 1M
 - a) it creates immediate results and fear
 - b) it requires less effort than peaceful methods
 - c) it is only effective against weak opponents
 - d) it is regressive and induces fear in people
- iv. Which of the following is NOT an example of passive retreat? 1M
 - a) actively organizing a campaign to address corruption
 - b) ignoring unfair treatment at work without protest
 - c) staying silent and look on while injustice happens
 - d) avoiding responsibility to escape a difficult situation
- v. State TRUE or FALSE: 1M
The most essential requirement for peace is intolerance.
- vi. In the line 'peace was not just desirable but intrinsic to human nature,' what is the difference between 'desirable' and 'intrinsic'? 1M
 - a) 'Desirable' means necessary for survival, while 'intrinsic' means optional.
 - b) 'Desirable' means valued, while 'intrinsic' means inherent in human nature.
 - c) 'Desirable' means imposed by society, while 'intrinsic' means enforced by rules.
 - d) 'Desirable' and 'intrinsic' mean the same in the context of the given passage.

- vii. In what way do Maulana Wahiduddin Khan and Gandhi share a similar perspective? 1M
- viii. The passage(prohibits/ promotes/ derides) peace and forbearance. 1M
- ix. Comment on the international impact of Gandhian ideology as discussed in the passage. 2M
- x. How do you think is the philosophy of leaders like Gandhi and Maulana still relevant in the modern times? 2M

Q. 2. Read the passage given below:

India's transportation sector is undergoing a major transformation with the rise of electric vehicles (EVs). Growing environmental awareness, fluctuating fuel prices, and supportive government policies are prompting consumers to switch to electric mobility. The move is also aligned with India's commitment to reducing carbon emissions under the Paris Agreement.

The government launched the **FAME II (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles)** scheme to encourage EV manufacturing and infrastructure development. It provides incentives to both consumers and producers. Several states like Delhi, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu have framed their own EV policies, offering subsidies, road tax exemptions, and registration fee waivers.

The automobile industry has responded positively. Major manufacturers are introducing cost-effective models with improved battery technology. Two-wheelers dominate the EV market, as they are more affordable and convenient for short-distance urban travel. Four-wheelers and electric buses are also gradually gaining popularity, especially in metropolitan cities.

However, challenges remain. High initial costs, limited charging infrastructure, and lack of consumer awareness in rural areas hinder large-scale adoption. Yet, with rising fuel prices and technological improvements, the shift toward EVs appears inevitable. The table below shows the **growth trend in EV registration** in India over the last five years:

Year	Two-Wheelers (in lakhs)	Four-Wheelers (in lakhs)	Public Transport EVs (in thousands)	Total EVs Registered (in lakhs)
2020	1.2	0.3	8	1.5
2021	2.0	0.5	10	2.6
2022	3.6	0.9	15	4.6
2023	5.2	1.4	22	6.8
2024	6.5	2.0	28	8.7

The steady rise in EV registrations reflects India's growing commitment to sustainable mobility. With continued policy support and public participation, electric vehicles are likely to dominate Indian roads in the very near future.

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer the following questions:

- i. According to the passage, which of the following is **NOT** one of the reasons why Electric Vehicles are gaining popularity? 1M
 - a) volatility of fuel price
 - b) environmental sensitivity
 - c) government policies
 - d) excellent mileage
- ii. The table in the passage best highlights the fact that: 1M
 - a) There has been a steady rise in the cost of Electrical Vehicles.
 - b) The total number of four wheelers registered in India in 2022 was 9 lakhs.
 - c) In 2024, there was an increase of 6,000 public transport EVs compared to the previous year.
- iii. The word "**subsidy**" as used in the passage means — 1M
 - a) a fine imposed by the government for using old equipment
 - b) financial assistance given by the government
 - c) tax collected by the government on agricultural products
 - d) a loan that must be repaid with interest
- iv. Analyse the given statements and choose the right option that follows: 1M
Assertion (A): The Government of India launched the FAME II scheme to promote the adoption and manufacturing of electric vehicles.
Reason (R): The scheme aims to reduce the use of renewable energy sources in transportation.
 - 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. 'It provides incentives to both consumers and producers.' Who do the 'consumers' and 'producers' stand for in the given context? 1M
- vi. Pick out the line from the passage which implies that environmental concern is an international phenomenon. 1M
- vii. Why is the complete switch to EVs still a challenging proposition? 2M
- viii. What do you understand by the term 'sustainable mobility'? 2M

SECTION B- Creative Writing Skills (18 Marks)

Q. 3. Answer **any one** of the following questions in about 50 words. (1X4=4M)

- a) You are Ananya / Arjun, Cultural Secretary of Saraswati Vidya Vihar, Sikkim. Your school is organizing an Inter-House Eco-Innovation Challenge to promote sustainable living among students. Participants are expected to present innovative models or ideas on reducing carbon footprint in daily life. Draft a notice for the school notice board inviting participants to register for the event, giving all necessary details.

OR

- b) You are Riya / Rohan, President of the Science Club, Vidya Vihar, Lucknow. Your school is organizing a Tech Carnival 2025 to showcase student-made gadgets and AI-based tools. Draft a notice inviting students to participate. Mention all relevant details such as the date, venue, registration procedure and last date for submission of entries.

Q. 4. Answer **any one** of the following questions in about 50 words. (1X4=4M)

- a) Your school, Springdale Public School, Jaipur, is organizing a first-of-its-kind event – 'Lit-A-Thon 2025: The 24-Hour Reading Marathon' — where students, teachers, and parents will participate in a continuous chain of reading sessions to promote the joy of books and literature. As the Secretary of the Literary Club, draft a formal invitation inviting renowned author Ms. Anuja Chauhan to inaugurate the event.

OR

- b) You are Dr. Arjun Malhotra, Nutritionist at Apollo Wellness Centre, Delhi. You have received an invitation from Noble Public school, Chandigarh, to conduct a health awareness session on 'Smart Eating for a Smart Generation' as part of their Youth Health Conclave 2025. Write a formal reply expressing your inability to accept the invitation.

Q. 5. Answer **any one** of the following questions in 120- 150 words. (1X5=5M)

- a) You are Priyam / Priyanshi, a resident of C-23, Shastri Nagar, Chennai. You are concerned about the loss of creativity and original thinking among students due to over-reliance on AI applications like ChatGPT, Gemini, Grok, etc. Write a letter to the Editor of The Times of India, Pune edition, highlighting the issue and suggesting ways to encourage independent thinking and creativity among young learners. You may use the following cues:

- Rising popularity of AI tools
- Loss of original thought
- Dependence on AI for homework
- On-the-spot creative tasks
- Encourage brainstorming
- Acknowledge/recognize originality

OR

- b) You are Priya Sharma, residing at D-34, Green Park, Manipur. Read the advertisement given below and write a letter of application in response to it.

WANTED — WELLNESS COORDINATOR

Rising International School, Manipur, invites applications from dynamic and qualified candidates for the post of Wellness Coordinator. The applicant should be a Postgraduate in Psychology with a Diploma in Counselling and Guidance. The role involves conducting wellness sessions, providing emotional support to students, and organizing mental health programmes. Apply with complete biodata to The Principal, within 10 days.

- Q. 6. Answer **any one** of the following questions in 120- 150 words. (1X5=5M)
- a) Over the past few years, India has witnessed a remarkable rise in start-ups, particularly in technology, e-commerce, and health sectors. As Riya / Rohan, a student of Class XII at Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 1, Indore, write an article for your school magazine on the topic: 'Rising Start-ups in India: Risks and Opportunities'. Use the given cues:

Opportunities: opportunities for young entrepreneurs, boosting the economy, promotes creativity, originality, employment
Risks: financial instability, high competition, possibility of failure.

OR

- b) Global Public School, Ahmedabad, recently organized a seminar on 'Food Waste and Creative Upcycling' for Classes XI and XII. Experts from environmental and culinary organizations highlighted the impact of food waste on the environment and demonstrated creative ways to reuse leftover food. Students participated in interactive workshops, quizzes, and a mini food-upcycling contest. As Sooraj/ Sujatha, Staff Reporter, Hindustan Times, write a report for your newspaper. Use the following cues:

date, venue, purpose of the seminar, key points discussed, activities conducted, and students' responses.

SECTION C- Literature Textbook and Supplementary Reading Text (40 Marks)

- Q. 7. Answer **any one** of the following questions. (6x1=6M)

A. Rich with a sprinkling of musk rose blooms;
And such too is the grandeur of the dooms
We have imagined for the mighty dead;
All lovely tales we have heard or read;
An endless fountain of immortal drink,
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.

(A Thing of Beauty)

- i. The phrase 'the grandeur of the dooms' refers to —
- the frightening punishments faced by evil people in hell.
 - the glorious end imagined for great heroes and martyrs.
 - the everyday struggles of ordinary men and women.
 - the destruction caused on earth by natural calamities.
- ii. Keats compares beauty to an '*endless fountain of immortal drink*' to show that true beauty is not _____ (transient/ eternal) like worldly pleasures.

- iii. Pick the option that pairs the TRUE statements based on the extract, from the list below:
1. Bushes adorned with fragrant flowers rejuvenate the human soul.
 2. Immortality by mankind is attained on drinking the nectar of joy.
 3. Stories of noble deeds contribute to the everlasting influence of beauty.
 4. Keats portrays beauty as a source of delight and spiritual nourishment.
- a) 1 and 4
 - b) 1, 2 and 4
 - c) 3 and 4
 - d) 1, 3 and 4
- iv. Which phrase in the extract uses the same literary device as 'virtual reality'?
- v. Pick the line that highlights the profound impact of art and literature on mankind.
- vi. 'Nature's abundance' has been portrayed through

OR

- B. 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. Which of the following sentences best describes the mood of Aunt Jennifer?
 - a) She is overburdened with household chores.
 - b) She is waiting expectantly for her husband.
 - c) She is in a state of anxiety, fear and worry.
 - d) She is excited and thrilled to embroider tigers.
- ii. (Marital discord/ Conjugal harmony) has contributed to the 'weight' of the wedding band.
- iii. Complete the following analogy correctly:
massive weight of Uncle's wedding band: :: finger's fluttering:
Alliteration
- iv. State TRUE or FALSE:
Aunt Jennifer has no liberty or free will of her own.
- v. Which of the following is implied by the above extract?
 1. Female subjugation
 2. Patriarchal oppression
 3. Expression through Art
 4. Spirit of rebellion
 - a) 1, 2, and 3
 - b) 2, 3, and 4
 - c) 1, 3, and 4
 - d) 1, 2 and 4
- vi. What does the phrase 'sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand' reveal about the societal expectations from women?

Q. 8. Answer **any one** of the following questions.

(4x1=4M)

- (The Third Level)

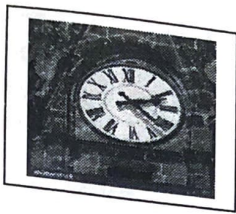
- OR

- (The Enemy)

- (6x1=6M)

- (The Last Lesson)

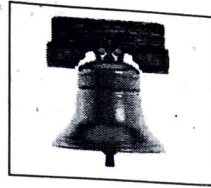
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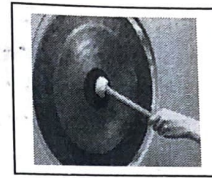
a)



b)



c)



d)

- ii. 'M. Hamel stood **on his chair** to speak to the class as the class ended.'
TRUE or FALSE?
- iii. Why did M. Hamel look 'so tall' to Franz?
- iv. How does the author use specific sensory details to enhance the narrative?
- v. Which of the following sentences best conveys the meaning of 'drill' as used in the extract?
- The cadets practiced the morning drill in the courtyard.
 - I need a power drill to fix the shelves in the kitchen.
 - The teacher gave the students a drill on multiplication tables.
 - Geologists drill the rock to extract a core sample.
- vi. What does M. Hamel's inability to continue speaking reveal about his feelings?

OR

- B. What is an English poet doing in a film studio which makes Tamil films for the simplest sort of people? People whose lives least afforded them the possibility of cultivating a taste for English poetry? The poet looked pretty baffled too, for he too must have felt the sheer incongruity of his talk about the thrills and travails of an English poet. His visit remained an unexplained mystery.

(Poets and Pancakes)

- i. What is the tone that the writer uses in the extract?
- Humorous
 - Satirical
 - Formal
 - Ironic
 - Sentimental
- 1, 4 and 5
 - 1, 2 and 4
 - 3, 4 and 5
 - 2, 4 and 5
- ii. 'Gemini Studios made movies for the masses.' Which line in the extract justifies this statement?
- iii. Which word in the passage means 'difficult work'?
- iv. Which of the following is an example of 'incongruity' as used in the passage?
- A dog barking at a total stranger
 - A horse grazing in a green meadow
 - A penguin walking in the desert
 - A sunflower facing the blazing sun
- v. Suggest one possibility for cultivating a taste for English poetry.
- vi. Why did the English poet look baffled?

Q. 10. Answer **any five** of the following questions in 40-50 words each. (5X2=10M)

- How does Kamala Das make use of literary devices to reinforce the single line of thought that occupies her mind? (My Mother at Sixty Six)
- Why did Umberto Eco, unlike Roland Barthes, not feel the need to write novels? (The Interview)
- How did the common, ordinary people support Gandhi in the Champaran movement? (Indigo)
- How does the story 'The Rattrap' illustrate the saying, 'To err is human, to forgive divine'?
- Death is the ultimate stillness. Why then does Pablo Neruda not associate 'Keeping Quiet' with death?
- 'Saheb is no longer his own master!' Comment on the irony behind this remark of Anees Jung. (The Lost Spring)

Q. 11. Answer **any two** of the following questions in 40-50 words each. (2X2=4M)

- How did Zitkala-Sa and Bama differ in their ways of rebelling against discrimination? (Memories of childhood)
- Tiger King's choice of marriage serves as a satire on the institution of marriage. Justify.
- How does one lose all earthly sense of perspective and time in Antarctica? (Journey to the end of the earth)

Q. 12. Answer **any one** of the following questions in 120-150 words. (1X5= 5M)

- Imagine you are William Douglas (from 'Deep Water'). Write a letter to Sophie (from 'Going Places') advising her that dreams alone are not enough — determination, planning, and perseverance are essential to success. Use your own experience of attaining your goal, of learning to swim and overcoming fear of water to illustrate your point.

You may begin as:

Dear Sophie

I came to know about your dreams of opening a boutique.....

OR

- Imagine a conversation between Anees Jung ('The Lost Spring') and Robert Frost ('The Roadside Stand') on social issues. Construct a dialogue reflecting their perspectives, focusing on the indifference of society and the unfulfilled promises of those in power towards the poor.

You may begin like this:

Robert Frost: "I am heartbroken at the way the rich turn a blind eye towards the poor, hapless roadside stand people....."

Anees Jung: "The situation at Seemapuri and Firozabad is much the same. The plight of the poor never improves....."

Q. 13. Answer **any one** of the following questions in 120-150 words. (1X5= 5M)

- Write a diary entry in which Derry reflects on the deep influence Mr. Lamb had on his life and worldview. Show how he intends to honor Mr. Lamb's legacy by visiting his garden and interacting with people, "keeping alive the lessons he has learned". You may begin like this:

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Dear Diary

"Mr. Lamb is no more, but his guidance will never be forgotten. I have changed as a person..."

OR

- ii. 'Prejudices often shape human behavior and judgments.' Analyze how the characters in the story 'The Enemy'—including Dr Sadao, the General, the servants, the American landlady— all reflect this tendency. How do their biases influence their actions and decisions? Support your answer with examples from the text. How can one overcome such notions?

में विना
पूछे गए
माध्यम
व वितान
र्य है।
हमशः

खंड -
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