**PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION (2025-26)** **SET-4**

**ENGLISH CORE-Code No. 301**

**CLASS-XII**

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

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
iii. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question.
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)

**1. Read the following passage.** **12 Marks**

1.Behavioural scientists have spent a lot of time studying what makes us happy. We know happiness can predict health and longevity, and happiness scales can be used to measure social progress and the success of public policies. But happiness isn't something that just happens to you.

2. Happiness often comes from within. Learn how to tame negative thoughts and approach every day with optimism. Don't try to stop negative thoughts. Telling yourself "I have to stop thinking about this," only makes you think about it more. Treat yourself like a friend. When you are feeling negative about yourself, ask yourself what advice would you give a friend who was down on herself. Now try to apply that advice to you. Socratic questioning is the process of challenging and changing irrational thoughts. Studies show that this method can reduce depression symptoms. The goal is to get you from a negative mind-set to a more positive one.

3. Optimism is part genetic, part learned. Optimism doesn't mean ignoring the reality of a dire situation. After a job loss, for instance, many people may feel defeated and think, "I'll never recover from this." An optimist would acknowledge the challenge in a more hopeful way, saying, "This is going to be difficult, but it's a chance to rethink my life goals and find work that truly makes me happy."

4. Generosity makes people happier. Several studies have found that people who behaved generously were happier compared to people who made selfish decisions. In fact, just thinking about being generous and kind triggers a happiness reaction in our brains.

5. Behaviours and habits we engage in do matter—from gratitude to kindness to mindfulness—and that they can lead to an enduring happiness boost. It is important to choose activities that fit our personality and interests. Activities fit us better when they feel natural, enjoyable, and aligned with our values, rather than driven by guilt or other people's expectations. Choose activities that are virtuous and meaningful, rather than obsessing about feeling good all the time. Hedonism won't necessarily make you happy, even if you feel good in the moment. If we pursue pleasure, it shouldn't be at the expense of living a meaningful life. We also need to pursue a purpose, and practice forgiveness, gratitude, and generosity—those give us a sense of competence, autonomy, and connection, which are core human needs. People who invest more effort into their new habits see greater improvements in their well-being. "People can create for themselves a steady inflow of engaging, satisfying, connecting, and uplifting positive experiences, thereby increasing the likelihood that they remain in the upper range of their happiness potentials," Sheldon and Lyubomirsky.

**Answer the following questions based on the passage above.**

i. Statement I: Happiness is something that happens to you. **1**

Statement II: Happiness often comes from within.

(a) Both statements are false.

(b) Statement I is false and Statement II is true.

(c) Statement I is true and Statement II is false.

(d) Both statements are true.

ii. Mention two ways by which one can tame negative thoughts, as given in the passage.

(a) _____ (b)_____ **2**

iii. Socratic Questioning- **1**

(1) Reduces depression symptoms

(2) Gives a positive mindset

(3) Makes one generous

(4) Challenges irrational thoughts

A. 1,2 & 3 B. 2&4 C. 1,2,3&4 D. 1,2& 4

iv. Hedonism refers to- **1**

(a)The belief that you are not successful

(b)The belief that pleasure is the most important thing in life

(c) The belief that it is not wrong to achieve happiness through unfair means

(d) The belief that happiness is a temporary emotion

v. The passage emphasizes- **1**

(a) The need for developing activities that fit oneself

(b)The need to be optimistic

(c) The need to create positive experiences for oneself

(d)The need to do surveys on happiness scales

A. 1&2 B. Only 1 C. 1,2,3&4 D. 1,2 &3

vi. The core human needs according to the passage are: **1**

(a) Competence, autonomy, and connection

(b) Generosity and optimism

(c) Forgiveness, gratitude and generosity

(d) Kindness, happiness and positive experiences

vii. How would an optimist deal with a difficult situation? **2**

viii. What does Sheldon and Lyubomirsky opine about happiness? **1**

ix. Assertion (A): It is important to choose activities that fit our personality and interests. **1**

Reason (R): Our activities make us obsessed about feeling good all the time.

(a)(A) is true and (R) is the correct explanation of it.

(b) (A) is true but (R) is not the correct explanation of it.

(c)(A) is false but (R) is true.

(d) Both (A) and (R) are false.

x. After a job loss many people feel defeated. A man with a positive mind would---------- **1**

**2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.** **10 Marks**

1. AI-driven tools have made significant strides in analysing speech, text, and facial expressions to identify early signs of mental health disorders. Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques enable extracting valuable insights from written or spoken words. For example, sentiment analysis can identify nuanced changes in an individual's emotional condition by examining social media posts, chat logs, or written diaries.

2. Moreover, voice analysis can detect alterations in speech patterns, encompassing variations in pitch, tone, and rhythm, which might potentially serve as indicators of anxiety, depression, or other mental health conditions. Facial expression analysis, often coupled with computer vision, can provide insights into an individual's emotional state. AI systems can detect micro-expressions and subtle changes in facial features that may indicate underlying psychological conditions.

3. This technology benefits remote mental health monitoring through video consultations or mobile apps. The current trend in this domain involves advancing AI algorithms capable of discerning and comprehending these subtle indicators with notable precision. As AI systems continue to improve, they hold the potential to provide early warning signs of mental health disorders, allowing for timely intervention and support. Table below highlights specific AI tools used in current mental healthcare.

AI tools used in current mental healthcare

| AI tools | Chatbot-based therapy |
|---|---|
| **1.Woebot** | -chatbot that provides CBT-based therapy for depression and anxiety. It has been shown to be effective in reducing symptoms of depression and anxiety in clinical trials. |
| **2.Wysa** | -chatbot that provides therapy support for a variety of mental health conditions, including depression, anxiety, stress, and loneliness. It uses a combination of CBT, mindfulness, and positive psychology to help users improve their mental health. |
| **3.Talkspace** | - online therapy platform connecting patients with licensed therapists through video, text, and audio messaging. It uses AI to match patients with therapists best suited to their needs. |
| **4.BetterHelp** | -online therapy platform that connects patients with licensed therapists. It uses AI to match patients with therapists but offers a broader range of therapeutic approaches, including cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) and psychodynamic therapy. |

**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:**

**i.** Complete the following suitably. **1**

_____techniques enable extracting valuable insights from written or spoken words.

**ii.** Suppose you are offered undesirable food by a host and you were dumbfounded. How would AI driven tools read your feelings? **1**

(a) voice analysis

(b)facial expression analysis

(c)written or spoken words

(d)social media posts, chat logs

**iii.** How does technology benefit remote mental health monitoring? Give two modes. **2**

**iv)** Paragraph 3 contains words- 'precision' and 'potential' **1**

Classify the following sentences as: - 'precision' and 'potential.'

Sentence1: AI systems can warn the signs of depression.

Sentence 2: AI algorithms are capable of telling the effect of sleeping hours on the person correctly.

**v)** Name an online therapy that is best suited to the patients' needs from the AI tool chart. **1**

**vi)** List two cognitive behavioral therapies found effective in reducing depression and anxiety from the AI tool chart given. **1**

**vii)** How do AI systems read facial expressions to link with the person's mind? **2**

**viii)** Which of the AI tools in the chart uses CBT as well as psychodynamic therapy. **1**

(a)Woebot (b)Wysa (c) Talkspace (d) BetterHelp

**SECTION B CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 marks)**

**3. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words. 1x4=4**

A. You are the Secretary of Vishvas Flats Welfare Association, Delhi-51. **Write a notice** to be circulated to the members of the Association, requesting them to attend a meeting to discuss about the security measures of the flats and appointment of new security guards. (Word limit 50words).

**OR**

B. You are Babita/ Biman the Secretary of the History Club of your school. **Draft a notice** in not more than 50 words informing the students of class IX and X about a proposed excursion to historical places of your city.

**4. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words. 1x4=4**

A. You are Suman/Sonu the Head Girl/Boy of New Field School. Your school has decided to celebrate "The Grand Parent's Day" in school. **Draft a formal invitation** to be sent to the grand parents of students of your school giving details of the programme.

**OR**

B. You are Dr. Shailesh Gupta, an eminent educationist. You have been invited to preside over an Inter Zonal Declamation Competition by Neha, the President of English Literary Club of Government Model Sr. Sec. School Sector 19, Chandigarh. **Write a reply for refusal** of the invitation.

**5. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in 120-150 words**. **1x5=5**

A. You are Gargi/Gagan of 22, H-Block, Janakpuri, Delhi. You feel sad to notice that people litter the roads with utter disregard for sanitation and cleanliness. As a responsible citizen, **write a letter to the editor** of a national daily highlighting the need for educational institutions to instill civic responsibility among school children. (120-150 words) You may use the following cues along with your own ideas to compose this letter.

| |
|---|
| cleanliness drive ……spreading awareness campaigns ……. eco club activities in schools ……volunteer for cleanup ……workshops……seminars |

**OR**

B. Aarohi/Aryan of Hillside Road, Goa, sees the following advertisement in "The City News" and decides to apply for the post of a Marketing Executive. **Write a job application** along with the biodata in 120-150 words to the Personnel Manager, India Book House, Mall Road, Goa. **1x5=5**

| |
|---|
| *INDIA BOOK HOUSE Requires Marketing Executive*<br>*Qualification:*<br>*Graduate in Marketing and Sales*<br>*Experience 3-5 years*<br>*Fluency in English and Local language*<br>*Knowledge of basic computer skills*<br>*Job requirement:*<br>*Setting targets and timelines*<br>*Supervising sales* |

**6. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in 120-150 words.** **1x5=5**

A. You are Vaibhavi/Vaibhav, a student of Class XII. Whenever you are stressed, you listen to music and get relaxed. You strongly believe that music de-stresses you and refreshes your body and mind. Based on your experience, **write an article** on Music as Therapy for a health magazine highlighting the healing power of music. Use the following cues along with your own ideas to compose this article:

| |
|---|
| *music establishes connection with self _music helps in self-expression _comforts body, mind & soul _improves one's mood* |

**OR**

B. Cultural Society Brightland Public School, Lucknow organised an adult literacy camp in its neighbourhood. **Write a report** in 120 – 150 words on the camp for your school newsletter. You are Sumati/Shivam, the Secretary of the society. Use the following clues: **1x5=5**

- no. of volunteers
- hours spent in teaching
- location of the class
- chairs, blackboards
- no. of people attending the camp
- benefits

## SECTION C LITERATURE (40 marks)

**7. Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B).** **1x6=6**

A) 'but after the airport's
security check, standing a few yards
away, I looked again at her, wan, pale
as a late winter's moon and felt that
old familiar ache, my childhood's fear,
but all I said was, see you soon, Amma,
all I did was smile and smile and
smile……'

(My Mother at Sixty-six)

**i.** What is the speaker's emotional state when looking at her mother? **1**

(a) Confused and disoriented (b) Nostalgic and longing

(c) Empathetic and understanding (d) Fearful and apprehensive

**ii.** Complete the following analogy correctly: **1**

She sang like a bird-Simile All I did was smile and smile and smile- _____

**iii.** Read the following statement and choose the correct option: **1**

(I)The poet had gone through the security check. (II) She did not want to look at her mother.

(a) (I) is true, but (II) is false.

(b) (I) is false, but (II) is true.

(c) Both (I) and (II) are true.

(d) Both (I) and (II) are false.

**iv.** What childhood fear is the poet referring to? **1**

**v.** Which of the following rhyme schemes has been employed by the poet in the above stanza? **1**

(a) abababb (b) free verse (c) abc abc (d) aabbaa

**vi**. 'Pale as a winter's moon' suggests that her face……. **1**

**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 themes is best represented in the given extracts? **1**

(a) The maturity of adulthood

(b) The glory of femininity

(c) Victim of male domination

(d) The superficial beauty

**ii.** State whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE with reference to the extract **1**

Aunt Jennifer is nervous and traumatised because of the constraints of her marriage. (True/False)

**iii.** Complete the following sentence appropriately: **1**

The fingers fluttering through her wool symbolise ……..

**iv.** The use of the words 'massive weight' creates a powerful image of …… **1**

**v.** Complete the sentence appropriately. **1**

The feeling evoked in the reader towards Aunt Jennifer is …….

**vi.** What does the Uncle's character reflect in the poem? **1**

(a) male chauvinism and patriarchy

(b) a man's physical strength

(c) male ego

(d) a male's view of the world

**8. Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B). 1X4=4**

(A) "The next day, infection flared in the Maharaja's right hand. In four days, it developed into a suppurating sore which spread all over the arm. Three famous surgeons were brought in from Madras. After holding a consultation, they decided to operate. The operation took place. The three surgeons who performed it came out of the theatre and announced, "The operation was successful. The Maharaja is dead." In this manner the hundredth tiger took its final revenge upon the Tiger King." (The Tiger King)

**i.** What caused the initial health issue faced by the Maharaja in the extract? **1**

**ii.** What was the outcome of the surgical operation performed on the Maharaja? **1**

(a) The Maharaja fully recovered from the infection.

(b) The operation was successful, but the Maharaja died.

(c) The operation failed, and the infection worsened

(d) The surgeons refused to operate due to the severity of the sore.

**iii.** What does the phrase "the hundredth tiger took its final revenge" suggest about the Maharaja's death? **1**

(a) The Maharaja was directly killed by a tiger during a hunt.

(b) The Maharaja's obsession with killing tigers symbolically led to his victory.

(c) The hundredth tiger was responsible for infecting the Maharaja's hand.

(d) The surgeons conspired against the Maharaja to avenge the tigers.

**iv.** Choose the correct figure of speech used in the statement "the operation was successful but the Maharaja is dead"? (Irony/Metaphor) **1**

**OR**

(B) "If I am able, are you?" Sadao asked. "No," Hana said, "But if you can do it alone..." Sadao hesitated again. "The strange thing is," he said, "that if the man were whole, I could turn him over to the police without difficulty. I care nothing for him. He is my enemy. All Americans are my enemy. And he is only a common fellow. You see how foolish his face is. But since he is wounded…" (The Enemy)

**i.** What is the "strange thing" Sadao refers to? **1**

(a) Hana's fear of the enemy

(b) His inability to turn in an injured soldier

(c)The soldier's foolish face

(d) His deep concern for an American

**ii.** Complete the sentence appropriately. **1**

Sadao's claim that "he is my enemy" but also expressing hesitation to hand him over, reflects an inner conflict between _____ and _____.

**iii.** How does the wounded condition of the American soldier affect Sadao's perception of him? **1**

**iv.** With reference to Sadao's declaration, "All Americans are my enemies", read the statements given below and choose the option that correctly evaluates Sadao's belief: **1**

Statement 1: Sadao's declaration reflects the nationalistic conditioning prevalent during wartime.

Statement 2: Sadao genuinely hates all Americans and shows no empathy throughout the story. Choose the correct option:

(a) Statement 1 is true but Statement 2 is false.

(b) Statement 1 is false but Statement 2 is true.

(c) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are true.

(d) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are false.

**9. Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B). 1x6=6**

(A) The world had, of course, never been very kind to him, so it gave him unwonted joy to think ill of it in this way. It became a cherished pastime for him during many dreary ploddings to think of people he knew who had let themselves be caught in the world's rattrap, and of others who were still circling around the bait. One dark evening, as he trudged along the road, he caught sight of a little gray cottage by the roadside and knocked on the door to ask shelter for the night." (The Rattrap)

**i**. What does the line reveal about the peddler's outlook towards the world? **1**

(a) He believed in the kindness of strangers.

(b) He was optimistic despite hardships.

(c) He found satisfaction in criticizing the world.

(d) He thought the world was a fair place.

**ii.** What does the phrase "unwonted joy" imply about the peddler's mindset? **1**

(a) He was joyful but also ashamed of his thoughts.

(b) He was forced to think negatively about the world.

(c) He did not want to enjoy criticizing the world, but he couldn't help it.

(d) He was eager to change his attitude.

**iii.** The "gray cottage by the roadside" symbolically represent the joyful attitude of the peddler. (True/False) **1**

**iv.** Do you agree with the peddler's view that the world is like a rattrap? Why or why not? **1**

**v.** Choose the most relevant idea about the central theme of the story. **1**

(a) The kindness of strangers

(b)The deceptive nature of material temptations

(c) The importance of education

(d) The joy of companionship

**vi.** Choose the figure of speech used in 'the world's rattrap' (Simile/Metaphor) **1**

**OR**

(B) "I wish he was an Englishman," someone said on the bus. "Ireland will win the world cup." Little Derek told his mother when Sophie brought him home. Her father was gone to pub to celebrate. "What is this you have been telling", Jansie said, next week. "About what" your Geoff told our Frank you met Danney Casey." This was not an inquisition, just Jansie being nosey. But Sophie was startled "Oh that". Jansie frowned, sensing she was covering. "Yes that–well yes I did". "You never did?" Jansie exclaimed. Sophie glared at the ground. Damn that Geoff, this was a Geoff thing, not a Jansie thing. It was meant to be something special just between them. Something secret. It was not a Jansie thing at all. (Going Places)

**i.** "Ireland will win the World cup." Who is the speaker? **1**

**ii.** This was a Geoff thing, not a Jansie thing, because - **1**

(a) Jansie was trustworthy.

(b)She lived in the world of reality.

(c) Her personality was different from Geoff.

(d) Jansie was nosey about things.

Choose the most appropriate combination:

(a) a &b (b) a&d (c) c&d (d)a&d

**iii.** 'something special just between them' was meant to be- **1**

(a) A secret

(b)something suspicious

(c)a prank

(d) None of the above

**iv.** Sophie is obsessed about- **1**

(a)Geoff her elder brother

(b) Her Dad who loves to watch football matches.

(c) Her friend Jansie who wants her to be happy

(d) The prodigy Danny Casey

**v.** Who represents the realistic/practical side of the life in the above extract? **1**

**vi.** This chapter critically explores the clash between adolescent dreams and the realities of a working-class family, particularly through the character of Sophie. (Ture/False) **1**

**10. Answer any five of the following six questions in 40-50 words each. 5x2=10**

**i)** 'The attitude of the villagers was completely changed that day'' Elaborate with reference to the lesson. (The Last Lesson)

**ii)** How did the swimming instructor build a swimmer out of Douglas? (Deep Water)

**iii)** In what context do you conclude that Subbu was tailor-made for films? (Poets and Pancakes)

**iv)** Why do the people who run the roadside stand wait for the squealing of car brakes so eagerly? What is their plea/request? (A Roadside Stand)

**v)** Gandhi's selfless devotion and charisma won over the lawyers' confidence and ensured their wholehearted participation in the Champaran struggle. Explain. (Indigo)

**vi)** What are the views of writers like V.S. Naipaul and Lewis Carroll on interviews? (The Interview)

**11. Answer any two of the following three questions in 40 -50 words each. 2x2=4**

**i)** How did Tishani Doshi feel about visiting Antarctica? (Journey to the End of the Earth)

**ii)** How does Zitkala-Sa's experience with the loss of her long hair symbolize her struggle with cultural assimilation? (Memories of Childhood)

**iii)** Why did Derry return to Mr. Lamb's garden despite opposition? (On the Face of It)

**12. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 1x5=5**

A) As Anees Jung, write a diary entry reflecting on the harsh living conditions of the bangle makers you observed while visiting Mukesh's home in Firozabad, highlighting their struggles.

You may begin like this-
Date, Day, Time
Place: Today, Mukesh took me through Firozabad's……..

**OR**

B) Imagine you are Pablo Neruda of 'Keeping Quiet. You advise Robert Frost (A Roadside Stand) in the context of his conflict and pain at the plight of the road side stand owners. Pen down your advice in a letter to Robert Frost. You may begin like this-

Dear Robert Frost,

You seem very pained at the plight of the roadside stand owners, and I would like to advise you....

**13. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 1X5=5**

A) Both Charley in The Third Level and Dr. Sadao in The Enemy are faced with difficult choices in their lives. Compare how these characters deal with their internal conflicts and what their decisions reveal about human nature.

**OR**

B) 'The boy drank the milk of an English cow, was brought up by an English nanny, tutored in English.' (The Tiger king).

You realize that western influence on Indian culture is deep rooted since the days of the Tiger King. Write an article using textual references on the pros and cons of western influence on Indian society. You may begin like this-

Indian's exposure to English language and western influence …….