

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN CHANDIGARH REGION**PRE-BOARD-II 2025-26**

Class: XII
Subject: English Core

Max. Marks: 80
Duration: 3 hrs

General Instructions:

- (i) This question paper has three sections – Section A: Reading Skills, Section B: Creative Writing Skills and Section C: Literature and total 13 questions. All the questions are compulsory.
- (ii) Attempt all the questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
- (iii) Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

	SECTION A – READING SKILLS	(22 M)
1.	Read the following passage carefully: (1) Five enterprises received approval and grants for prototype development of sustainable educational toys. (2) The government authorities, educational institutions and Ed Tech start-ups are planning to introduce state-of-the-art, made in India educational toys that not only throw light on Indian values and civilizations, but also help in developing children’s critical thinking, and decision-making skills. (3) One such enterprise is working on different types of projects that can teach children how electromagnets and magnetic fields work. These projects can resolve a lot of issues in many schools in tier 2 and 3 cities, that don’t have proper infrastructure. Another is working on an excavation site to teach children about ancient Indian civilizations. It has implanted a few artifacts at the site, which the children will have to find so that they are able to learn how to preserve and label artifacts. Another start-up has proposed to create miniaturized labs for schools in tier 2 and 3 cities where children can learn concepts of Physics. “We will ensure that these prototypes are developed within a year and then the production can be scaled up.” says the senior manager of the project talking about the importance of indigenously built educational toys. (4) Playtime is vital for the cognitive development of children, and toys are an essential component that helps enhance specific cognitive abilities and skill sets. “Well-designed toys ignite students’ curiosity, increase focus and can be very beneficial in helping them master a skill and enhance understanding. These can be in the form of visuals, auditory aids, kinesthetic, or a mixture of all three.” says HOD, of Early Childhood Education. (5) Toys offer an engaging avenue to teach mathematical, verbal, problem-solving skills. “Toys that engage students in experiential learning enhance their special awareness and fine motor skills. Those designed for two or more players help students develop better social skills as they learn to negotiate, settle differences, etc. with their peers.” (6) Experiential gadgets and toys enable students to learn faster and retain lessons longer. A child’s interest is piqued when he is taught in a contextual framework as opposed to rote learning. The Indian education system has been witnessing several innovations with the development of toys and gadgets that can be used and felt in person or through VR platforms across subjects, be it Science, Technology, Math or Engineering.	12
	Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:	
	(i) By tier 2 and tier 3 cities, the author refers to: (A) Metro cities (B) Cities with huge population (C) Underdeveloped cities (D) Cities with less population	1
	(ii) Complete the sentence with evidence from the text. The made- in-India educational toys serve dual purpose of _____.	1
	(iii) The author’s point of view that can be inferred from the above passage is that (A) educational toys are the booming business.	1

	(B) educational toys are meant to entertain children. (C) educational toys will replace teachers. (D) educational toys will make education more pragmatic. (iv) Complete the following sentence appropriately: Educational toys enhance the personality of children by _____. (v) Read the five headlines (A) – (E), given below: (A) Sustainable Educational Toys are Developmentally Appropriate. (B) Sustainable Educational Toys Promote Free Play. (C) Sustainable Educational Toys – Free and Widespread. (D) Sustainable Educational Toys – Experiential Learning. (E) Sustainable Educational Toys – Hinder Interaction with People. Identify the option that displays the headline(s) that DOES/ DO NOT correspond with what the passage highlights. (A) Only (E) (B) (A) and (B) (C) (C) and (E) (C) Only (D) (vi) What evidences do you gather from the passage to state that educational system is revolutionized by educational toys? (vii) Explain, how education at the grassroots level is benefitted by these projects. (viii) As opposed to learning by heart, experiential toys: (A) Ignite interest (B) Challenge the teachers (C) Replace textbooks (D) Confuse learners (ix) Playing is usually considered a distraction. Is it justified on the part of the narrator to assert that playing is an important aspect of education? (x) Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph 4. piqued: awakened :: _____ : analytical	1								
		1								
		2								
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2.	Read the following passage carefully: (1) This report presents findings from the Youth Aspirations in India Survey in which 5,764 youth between the ages of 15 and 30 were asked about their employment, education and skilling aspirations. (2) Indian youth valued higher education. 50 percent of respondents aspire to attain a post-graduate degree, 24 percent a PhD, and 21 percent a bachelor’s degree. Only 2 percent of respondents hope to attain a college or vocational diploma as their highest form of education. (3) Respondents have a strong preference for attaining higher education degrees. At the same time, there is an awareness of changing skills requirements and an interest in augmenting their skills. 76 percent of youth report being very interested in pursuing a skill development programme. 70 percent of youth report identified more employment opportunities as the main motivation for wanting to pursue skills development training. (4) A study related to their job preference reveals their strong desire for job security and opportunities for career advancement. It is evident from the following data- <table><tr><th>Percentage</th><th>Preference</th></tr><tr><td>49</td><td>Public Sector</td></tr><tr><td>23</td><td>Private Sector</td></tr><tr><td>17</td><td>Entrepreneurship</td></tr></table> (5) In the context of technological adoption and digitization, jobs and tasks, along with the competencies required to execute them, are changing. 86 percent of youth feel very or moderately up to date with changes in skills requirements. Yet, 39 percent of youth feel very prepared or prepared for their ideal job, while 16 percent of youth feel either not prepared or very unprepared for their ideal job. (6) Female respondents’ education and employment aspirations match, if not exceed, those of male respondents. Yet, female respondents face discriminatory biases in hiring, have less paid work experience than their male counterparts, and face greater barriers in pursuing skills development opportunities. 60 percent of female respondents, for example report having no paid work experience, compared to 54 percent of male respondents. In addition, 15 percent of female	Percentage	Preference	49	Public Sector	23	Private Sector	17	Entrepreneurship	10
Percentage	Preference									
49	Public Sector									
23	Private Sector									
17	Entrepreneurship									

	respondents report personal biases such as marital status, gender, age or family background as a main barrier to employment compared to 9 percent of male respondents. While more female respondents report being very interested in participating in a skills development programme, only 19 percent have enrolled in a programme, compared to 26 percent of male respondents. Answer the following questions, based on the given passage above: (i) As per the survey, Indian youth is broadly focused on (A) skill development and entrepreneurship. (B) private sector jobs and technology. (C) higher education and career opportunities. (D) vocational diploma and public sector jobs. (ii) With reference to Paragraph 3, what is the latest trend among Indian youth in preparing themselves for the job market? (iii) With reference to the table, state one reason for entrepreneurship being the last preference among Indian youth. (iv) Cite two evidences from the text to show that gender bias is still a hindrance in the progress of women in society. (v) Complete the following sentence suitably. The driving force for the Indian youth to join a skill development programme is _____. (vi) Paragraph 5 uses words ‘competencies’ and ‘adoption’. Classify the following sentences which talks about ‘competency’ and which talks about ‘adoption’. Sentence 1: Ria embraced new technology to gain global market for her paintings. Sentence 2: Ria displays her artistic skill through her paintings. (vii) Cite two evidences from the text to show that Indian youth is adapting itself to the needs of the job market. (viii) Choose the correct option: The main road blocks to employment opportunities for females are (a) lack of interest (b) marriage (c) lack of opportunities (d) over qualification (e) family background (A) (a) and (b) (B) (c) and (d) (C) (b), (c) and (e) (D) (d) and (e)	1 1 1 2 1 1 2 1
3.	SECTION B – CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS Attempt any one of the two, (a) or (b), in about 50 words: (a) Your school is organizing a road safety awareness workshop for students of Class IX -XII. As the head boy of your school, draft a notice informing the students about the workshop. Include other necessary details. You are Ashna/Ashish. Put your notice in a box. OR (b) You are Renuka/Rahul Bhatia, President of J.M. Colony, Manesar, Residents Welfare Association. You are planning to organize a free eye care camp in collaboration with a reputed eye hospital for the senior citizens of your locality. Draft a notice informing the residents about the camp. Include all necessary details. Put your notice in a box.	(18 M) 4
4.	Attempt any one of the two, (a) or (b), in about 50 words: (a) Draft an invitation card on behalf of the Principal of J.B. Bhatia Public School for the launch of ‘Yoga for Life’ programme in the school. Mention a compelling highlight of the programme along with other necessary details. OR (b) You are Mrs. Sonali Gupta, a nutritionist. You are invited by the Principal of Radiant Public School, Jammu to address the students on ‘Forming Healthy Food Habits’. Write a formal letter of reply accepting the invitation. Attempt any one of the two, (a) or (b), in 120-150 words:	4 5

5. S(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 of a national daily highlighting the socio-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 cues given to draft the letter. You are Julia/ John of 14, Old Street, New Town.

- 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 Shanti/Satwik from 375/P-1, Rasulpur, Himmatnagar. You came across the following advertisement for the post of a dance teacher in a reputed public school. Write an application for the position advertised along with your bio-data.

Sunshine Public School

Requires qualified and experienced

Dance Teacher

Responsibilities

- Teach students from classes 6 -10
- Choreograph performances for school events and competitions

Qualification

- Degree in Performing Arts
- Skilled in both classical and contemporary forms of dance
- Good communicator, student friendly, creative and innovative

Experience: Min. 2 years in similar field

Contact: The Director, Sunshine Public School, 14 A, Himmatnagar

Attempt **any one** of the two, (a) or (b) in 120-150 words:

(a) Write an article on the commercialization of festivals, analyzing the reasons for commercialization and its impact on the younger generation. You may use some of the given cues given. You are Vinita /Vinay Yadav of XII.

- Impact of globalization on celebration of festivals.
- Sanctity and essence of festivals.
- Role of media in commercialising festivals
- Suggest ways in which individuals and communities can work together to preserve tradition and culture in the celebration of festivals.

OR

6.

5

	(b) Write a comprehensive report detailing the activities undertaken by students as part of the International Women's Day celebrations. You are Aarushi/ Aarav, a Class XII student and a member of the school magazine editorial board. Include description of the events, participation details and overall impact of these activities on the school community. You may organize your report by using the following cues. Who – What – When – Where – Why – How.	
7.	SECTION C – LITERATURE Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (a) or (b): (a) 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. 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. (i) Complete the following suitably: The massive weight of 'wedding band' symbolises _____. (ii) By the phrase 'fingers fluttering', the poet portrays Aunt Jennifer in a constant state of _____. (nervousness/happiness) (iii) Read the assertion and reason below, with reference to the given extract. Assertion: Aunt Jennifer lives a life full of agony and pain. Reason: She is a victim of male dominated society. (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. (iv) Complete the following suitably: "The tigers in the panel will go on prancing....." The above line refers to the _____ of art. (v) The expressions 'terrified hands' and 'ordeals' used in the above extract highlight the _____ of women in marriage. (vi) Choose the correct option: 'Tigers in the panel' symbolise (A) Aunt Jennifer's interest in wildlife. (B) Tigers in the green forest. (C) Aunt Jennifer's deep desire for freedom. (D) Tigers that are yellow in colour OR (b) Therefore, on every morrow are we wreathing A flowery band to bind us to the earth, Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth Of noble natures, of the gloomy days, Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all, Some shape of beauty moves away the pall From our dark spirits. (i) Select the phrase that suggests the following:	(40 M) 1X6=6 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

	In difficult times, beauty comes to our aid, in some form or the other, to make us overcome these difficulties.	1
	(ii)What does the imagery of ‘flowery band’ not represent in the given extract?	
	(A) Connections to life	1
	(B) A thing of beauty	
	(C) Imprisonment	
	(D) Earthly ties	
	(iii)Complete the following suitably: In the line, ‘moves away the pall from our dark spirits’, the phrase ‘the pall’ refers to _____ .	1
	(iv) The poet’s use of the phrase ‘inhuman dearth’ illustrates the _____ (scarcity/plenitude) of noble human qualities.	1
	(v) Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract: Assertion: The poet values beauty as it overcomes despondence and gloom. Reason: Beauty, despite the world’s hardships, provides comfort and lifts our spirit. Choose the correct option.	1
	(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) State in one sentence, what advice would you give to those facing dark times.	1
8.	Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (a) or (b): (a)The rapid increase of human population has left us battling with other species for limited resources, and the unmitigated burning of the fossil fuels has now created a blanket of carbon dioxide around the world, which is slowly but surely increasing the average global temperature. Climate change is one of the most hotly contested environmental debates of our time. Will the West Antarctic ice sheet melt entirely? Will the Gulf stream ocean current be disrupted? Will it be the end of the world as we know it? (i)List one way in which the increasing human population is affecting other species. (ii)Choose the correct option that best reflects the tone of the writer in the last line of the extract. (A) Happy and excited (B) Encouraging and optimistic (C) Anxious and concerned (D) Spiteful and bitter (iii) Choose the correct option: ‘unmitigated burning of fossil fuels’ reflects the _____ (avaricious/furious) streak in man’s nature. (iv)In the above extract, what message is the author giving to mankind?	1X4=4
	OR (b)Mr Lamb: I’m not fond of curtains. Shutting things out, shutting things in. I like the light and the darkness, and the windows open, to hear the wind. Derry: Yes. I like that. When it’s raining, I like to hear it on the roof. Mr Lamb: So you’re not lost, are you? Not altogether? You do hear things. You listen. (i)What facets of Mr Lamb’s nature are brought out in the above lines? 1.Openness 2.Appreciative 3.Recluse 4.Hostility 5.Positivity 6. Shyness 7.Cautious Choose the correct option:	1

	(A) 1,2,5 (C)3,5,6	(B) 2,4,7 (D)1,3,7	
	(ii) "So you're not lost, are you?" What Mr Lamb is saying to Derry in this line is that: (A) he has followed his mother's instructions carefully. (B) he has the ability to hear the sounds around him. (C) he has the ability to reflect on and appreciate nature. (D) he has come to the right place.		1
	(iii) Choose the correct option to complete the following statement. Derry's feelings in this extract move from: (A) bitterness → reluctance → friendliness (B) shyness → reluctance → disappointment (C) curiosity → nostalgia → disappointment (D) curiosity → openness → eloquence		1
	(iv) When he says, "I like the light and the darkness", the message that Mr. Lamb is conveying to Derry is _____.		1
9.	Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (a) or (b): (a) My Last French Lesson! Why, I hardly knew how to write! I should never learn anymore! I must stop there, then! Oh, how sorry I was for not learning my lessons, for seeking birds' eggs or going sliding on the Saar! My books, that had seemed such a nuisance a while ago, so heavy to carry, my grammar and my history of the saints, were old friends now that I couldn't give up and M. Hamel, too; the idea that he was going away, that I should never see him again made me forget all about his ruler and how cranky he was. Poor man! It was in honour of this last lesson that he had put on his fine Sunday clothes, and now I understood why the old men of the village were sitting there in the back of the room. It was because they were sorry, too, that they had not gone to school more. It was their way of thanking our master for his forty years of faithful service and of showing their respect for the country that was theirs no more. (i) Choose the correct option: What is the tone of the speaker in the expression 'I hardly knew how to write how sorry I was for not learning my lessons'? (A) Confused (B) Regretful (C) Surprised (D) Ecstatic (ii) Choose the correct option: The speaker refers to 'seeking birds' eggs' and 'sliding on the Saar' as (A) part of his routine (B) his compulsion (C) source of distraction from learning (D) fun time with friends (iii) What is reflected through the shift in the speaker's perception of his books through his expression of calling them his 'old friends' rather than considering them as 'nuisance'? (iv) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank: 'It was because they were sorry too....' They were sorry for _____ (not following the government order/ not learning their language) (v) What is inferred from the expression 'the country that was theirs no more'? (vi) What does M. Hamel's ruler reflect about his image? OR (b) Umberto Eco: Aah, now that is more difficult to explain. I have some philosophical interests and I pursue them through my academic work and my novels. Even my books for children are about non-violence and peace... you see, the same bunch of ethical, philosophical interests. And then I have a secret. Did you know what will happen if you eliminate the empty spaces in all the atoms? The universe will become as big as my fist. (i) What does Umberto's statement on his philosophical interests reveal about him? (ii) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank: His academic work and children's books both reveal _____ (similar/experimental) interests. (iii) Select the textual option that is closest to indicating how his philosophical interests are		1X6=6

	represented. (A) Aah, now that is more difficult to explain. (B) I have a secret. (C) I pursue them through my academic work and my novels. (D) The universe will become as big as my fist. (iv) What does the following line from the extract showcase? “The same bunch of ethical, philosophical interests”. (A) Separation (B) Interconnectedness (C) Isolation (D) Division (v) “I work in empty spaces.” Choose the option that most accurately captures Eco’s idea of empty spaces. (A) Management of time (B) Integration of work (C) Management of space (D) Tasks of a writer (vi) What does Umberto Eco mean when he says that if all the empty spaces are eliminated, the Universe will become as big as his fist?	1 1 1 1
10.	Answer any five of the following six questions in 40-50 words each: (i) How do the expressions ‘polished traffic’ and a stand that ‘pathetically pled’ depict the contrasting worlds that co-exist in the poem ‘A Roadside Stand’? (ii) How was there a great deal of national integration in the make-up department of Gemini Studios? (iii) How does Sophie plan to get the kind of money she wanted for her boutique? (iv) Explain the sentence “an army of barefoot boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon”. (v) It is said that ‘Face is the mirror of one’s emotions.’ Why did the poet ‘smile and smile’? (vi) Explain the metaphor of ‘The Rattrap’ as explained by the peddler.	5X2=10
11.	Answer any two of the following three questions in 40-50 words each: (i) What is so ironical about Sam reaching the third level? (ii) What did the hunters decide to do when they realized that the tiger was not dead? Why? (iii) How can you say ‘Students on Ice Programme’ was a step towards the future?	2x2=4
12.	Answer any one of the following two questions, (a) or (b) in 120-150 words: (a) In ‘Indigo’, Gandhi as the sole representative of peasants fought against the injustice to share-croppers and saved them from the exploitation of the British. On the other hand, bangle makers in Firozabad in ‘Lost Spring’ felt “There is no leader among them, no one who could help them see things differently” and they were caught in the vicious circle. With reference to the two texts, analyse the importance of a leader and how Gandhi emerged as an ideal leader. OR (b) ‘Nature is the best companion as well as a teacher to man.’ In the light of above quote, analyse the themes of ‘A Thing of Beauty’ and ‘Keeping Quiet’.	1X5=5
13.	Answer any one of the following two questions, (a) or (b) in 120-150 words: (a) The element of dilemma, between humanity and patriotism elevates the character of Dr. Sadao in “The Enemy”. Support your answer with evidence from the text. OR (b) ‘Memories of Childhood’ deals with autobiographical episodes of Zitkala Sa and Bama. They both come from marginalized communities, and look back on their childhood to reflect on their relationships with mainstream culture. Elaborate.	1X5=5

END OF THE PAPER