

Name of the student _____

Roll Number _____

Pre Board Assessment– January 2024-25

Class: 12

Subject: ENGLISH (Core)

Time: 3 Hours

Max. Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. This question paper is divided into four sections: A, B, C and D
2. All the sections are compulsory.
3. Attempt all the parts of a question together.
4. Before beginning to answer a question, its Serial Number must be written.
5. Stick to the word limit wherever prescribed.

SECTION: A (Reading Skills)

15 marks

1. Attempt any one from (A) and (B) given below:

(A) Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

10x1 = 10

There is an enemy beneath our feet- an enemy more deadly because of its complete impartiality. He recognizes no national boundaries, no political parties. The enemy is the earth itself. When an earthquake comes, the whole world trembles. An earthquake strikes without warning. When it does, its power is immense. If it strikes a modern city, the damage it causes is as great as if it has struck a primitive village. Gas mains burst, explosions are caused and fires are started. Underground railways are wrecked. Whole buildings collapse. Dams burst. Bridges fall. Gaping crevices appear in busy streets. If the quake strikes at sea, huge tidal waves sweep inland. If it strikes in a mountain region, avalanches roar down into the valley.

In 1968, an earthquake struck Alaska. As this is a relatively unpopulated part of the world, only a few people were killed. But it is likely that this was one of the most powerful quakes ever to have hit the world. Geologists estimate that during the tremors, the whole of the state moved above 80 feet farther west into the Pacific Ocean. But first- just what is an earthquake? And what causes it? In the early history of the earth, when it was cooling down, the rocks deep in the earth's crust created huge 'islands' which floated on the softer and hotter rocks below rather like wood floats on water. Slowly, these 'islands' drifted apart to make the land masses we know

today as continents. But even now, these 'islands' are not stable and are still drifting very, very slowly. It is these imperceptible movements which create stresses in the rock, many miles below the surface. Every so often, one of these stresses will break the rock- and on the surface, the deep underground movement is felt as an earthquake.

It is believed that there are other contributory causes to earthquakes. One could be the position of the sun and moon in the sky. At certain times, the gravitational pull of these combine to exert a stronger-than-normal influence on the earth. At these times, it is possible that great stress is placed on the deep rocks and earthquake become more likely. Another factor is the wobbling of the earth as it spins on its axis. This wobbling is caused by the change in position of the earth in relation to the stars.

Based on the understanding of the passage, answer the questions that follow:

10x1 = 10

(i) How was the earth in the beginning?

(A) Very hot

(B) Very cold

(C) Very hard

(D) very soft

(ii) Give the noun form of the word 'contributory'.

(A) contribute

(B) contributable

(C) contributive

(D) contribution

(iii) What word in the passage means 'unable to be seen or felt'?

(A) Impartiality

(B) Imperceptible

(C) Avalanches

(D) Tremors

(iv) The earthquake causes more damage in.....

(A) Villages

(B) modern cities

(C) Forests

(D) same in all areas

(v) Which word does 'drift' not correspond to?

(A) float

(B) move away

(C) settle

(D) glide

(vi) Why has the Earth been called an enemy?

(vii) How does an earthquake strike?

(viii) What happens when an earthquake strikes?

(ix) What effect does an earthquake show in mountain regions?

(x) Which country faced an immense earthquake in 1968?

OR

(B) Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow;

(1) About one in five of all the people in the world follow the teachings of the Buddha, who lived about 2600 years ago. (He was born in 563 BC) "The Buddha" is a title, not a name. It means 'the Enlightened one who knows'. The Buddha's real name was Siddhartha. He was the son of a Sakya king in Northern India. He and his family were all Hindus and belonged to the Gautama clan.

(2) Gautama Siddhartha was brought up in luxury. He lived in his father's palace and saw nothing of the outside world until he was a young man. Then, one day, accompanied by his charioteer Channa, Prince Siddhartha went round the city. On his way, he saw some sights that he had never seen before. First, he saw a man who was very old and was bent with age. Then he saw a man who was suffering from a terrible disease, possibly leprosy. And then he saw a dead man who was being taken to the cremation ground. These sights made the prince very sad.

(3) Now, a complete change came in Gautama Siddhartha's life. He was filled with a longing to find the cause and cure of human sufferings. He wanted to find the true meaning of life and help his fellow men. Although he was married and had a baby son, he left his home in search of truth. He was then only 28.

(4) First of all, Gautama went to the Hindu priests. He wanted to know from them the cause of human sufferings. But the priests could not give him any satisfactory answers. Now Gautama tried to live the life of an ascetic. For six years he tortured himself so that he could become indifferent to any kind of pain.

(5) He was reduced to a mere skeleton. But eventually he realized that all this was foolish and useless. Now he sat in deep meditation under a tree near Gaya (in Bihar). Here at last he attained enlightenment and found the answers to his questions. He was then 35 years old.

Based on the understanding of the passage, answer the questions that follow: 10x1 = 10 marks

(i) When was Buddha born?

(a) 563 A.D.

(c) 653 B.C.

(b) 563 B.C.

(d) None of the above

(ii) Which clan did Buddha belong to?

(a) Gautama

(c) Kuru

(b) Pandavas

(d) None of them

(iii) Buddha's father was the ruler in.....

(a) Southern India

(b) Eastern India

(c) Western India

(d) Northern India

(iv) Where did Gautama first go to seek answers to human suffering?

(a) Hindu priests

(b) Greek priests

(c) Both (a) and (b)

(d) None of them

(v) Where did Buddha sit under a tree in deep meditation?

(a) Haryana

(b) Himachal

(c) Bihar

(d) Tamil Nadu

(vi) How many people in the world follow the teachings of the Buddha?

(vii) What does Buddha literally mean?

(viii) Name prince Siddhartha's charioteer.

(ix) What did Gautama decide at the age of 28?

(x) What did prince Siddhartha not know as a young man?

2. Read the following passage carefully and make notes on it using headings and sub-headings.

5

Supply an appropriate title also.

Skipping breakfast, especially among primary and secondary school children, affects mental performance in the classroom, thus lending weight to the old adage that a healthy breakfast gets you off to a good start for the day. New research shows that eating breakfast benefits the memory. It provides essential nutrients and energy that contribute to the overall diet quality and adequacy. Children who skip breakfast do not make up for nutrients and energy deficits later in the day and they tend to perform more poorly in tests of cognition than those who eat their breakfast. A study undertaken by doctors at the University of Wales in the U.K. found that a higher blood glucose level after eating breakfast is one of the key reasons for the improvement in mental performance. It particularly affects the speed of recalling new information, but does not influence other aspects such as intelligence test results or mental tasks related to conditioning or developed skills. Eating breakfast was found to improve performance on retention of new information like recall of stories and word lists. This aspect of memory is called 'declarative memory' in which information can be consciously recalled and declared verbally, says the study whose finding have been presented in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

3. Attempt any two from each sub- part:

A. Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of verbs given in the brackets:

2x1=2

(i) My younger brother to Shimla last month. (go) *went*

(ii) It since morning. (rain)

(iii) Choose the correct option: **People** the rising sun. (worship)

(a) Worships (b) Worship (c) worshipping (d) are Worshipped

2x1=2

B. Change the narration of the following sentences:

(i) George said to his brother, "Do you like chocolate?"

(ii) She said, "Open the door."

(iii) Choose the correct option : **He said, "I like swimming."**

(a) He said that he liked swimming. (b) He said that he had liked swimming.

(c) He liked to swim.

(d) He told that he would have liked swimming.

C. Fill in the blank with suitable articles wherever necessary

2x1=2

(i) He is doctor.

(ii) water of this well is very tasty.

(iii) Choose the correct option: **The box was made ofwood.**

(a) a (b) an (c) the (d) x

2x1=2

D. Change the voice of the following sentences:

(i) She gave me a flower.

(ii) They will have won the race.

(iii) Choose the correct option: **The boy killed the spider.**

(a) The spider is killed by the boy. (b) The spider was killed by the boy.

(c) The spider was killed.

(d) The boy had killed the spider.

E. Fill in the blanks with suitable Modals given in the brackets:

2x1=2

(i) You ... wash your hands before cooking (will, must, should)

(ii)that I were a king. (would, might, shall)

(iii) Choose the correct option: **He said that hepass.**

(a) will (b) would (c) may (d) can

SECTION: C Creative Writing Skills

(15 marks)

4. Attempt any one from (A), (B) and (C) given below:

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(A) Fireworks and crackers are known to create pollution during festivals. As an environmentalist design a poster to create awareness of their ill effects. (word limit 50 words)

OR

(B) A multinational company wants to sell its five computers. Draft an advertisement in the 'For Sale' column of a newspaper stating the condition of the computers. You are manager of the company. (word limit 50 words)

OR

(C) You are Sridhar, the head boy of Bhavan Vidyalaya School. Your school is organising a career counselling workshop on 10 January 2025 for students in classes 11 and 12. Draft a notice in about 50 words inviting students to participate by submitting their names to their class teachers. The deadline for registration is 30 December 2024.

5. Attempt any one from (A) and (B) given below:

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(A) You are Tara of 15, Nehru Park, Hisar. Write a letter to your friend who just met with an accident informing him about his speedy recovery in a consoling tone.

OR

(B) You are Rohtash Kumar, a student of class XII of GSSS, Rohtak. There is a marriage in your family because of which you will not be able to attend school for 4 days. Write an application to your principal asking for leave for the same.

6. Attempt any one from (A) and (B) given below:

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(A) What kind of information do newspapers provide to their readers? Describe in 120 – 150 words.

OR

(B) A local river near your village has been affected with sewage water and waste. Write a report in 150-200 words on the environmental concerns and the measures being taken to protect it. You are the Sohan / Sohana.

SECTION: D Literature

40 marks

7. Attempt any one of the two extracts (A) and (B) given below:

(A) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

5

.....and looked out at young
Trees sprinting, merry children spilling
Out of their home, but after the airport's
Security check, standing a few yards away,
I looked again at her wan, pale

(i) Name the poem from which the above lines have been taken.

- (a) Aunt Jennifer's Tigers (b) A Roadside Stand
(c) My Mother at Sixty- Six (d) Keeping Quiet

(ii) What is wan and pale in the stanza?

- (a) Mother's hands (b) Mother's fingers
(c) Mother's face (d) Mother's saree

(iii) What did the poetess look at again?

- (a) Her car (b) Her mother
(c) Her saree (d) Her face in the mirror

(iv) What are the trees doing?

- (a) Sprinting (b) Spilling
(c) Sleeping (d) Singing

(v) Who is the poet of the poem?

- (a) Pablo Neruda (b) Kamala Das
(c) John Keats (d) Robert Frost

OR

(B) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

Fishermen in the cold sea
Would not harm Whales
And the man gathering salt
Would look at his hurt hands

(i) Who has written the poem?

- (a) Kamala Das (b) Stephen Spender
(c) Pablo Neruda (d) Adrienne Rich

(ii) What would the fishermen do?

- (a) Would not catch the fish (b) Would not harm himself
(c) Would not harm the whales (d) Would not go to the sea

(iii) What would the man gathering salt do?

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (a) Would catch the fish | (b) Would look at his hands |
| (c) Would catch the fishermen | (d) Would look at his legs |

(iv) Who would look at his hurt hands?

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| (a) Fishermen | (b) Salt gatherers |
| (c) Watermen | (d) Salt eaters |

(v) Name the poem from which the above stanza has been taken.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| (a) A Thing of Beauty | (b) Keeping Quiet |
| (c) A Roadside Stand | (d) My Mother at Sixty- Six |

8. Attempt any ✓ one of the two extracts (A) and (B) given below:

5

(A) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

But the jump made no difference. The water was still around me. I looked for ropes, ladders, water wings. Nothing but water. A mass of yellow water held me. Stark terror took an even deeper hold on me, like a great charge of electricity. I shook and trembled with fright. My arms wouldn't move. My legs wouldn't move. I tried to call for help, to call for mother. Nothing happened.

(i) What is the name of the lesson the above lines have been taken from?

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|-----------------|---------------------|
| (a) Lost Spring | (b) The Last Lesson |
| (c) Deep Water | (d) The Rattrap |

(ii) Who is the writer of the chapter?

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| (a) Alphonse Daudet | (b) Anees Jung |
| (c) William Douglas | (d) Selma Lagerlof |

(iii) What ✓ was there around the author when he was looking for something?

- | | |
|-----------------|------------|
| (a) Water | (b) Ropes |
| (c) Water wings | (d) Ladder |

(iv) The author was helpless because his.....

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| (a) Arms wouldn't move | (b) Legs wouldn't move |
| (c) <u>✓</u> Both (a) and (b) | (d) None of the above |

(v) The colour of the water in the pond was.....

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| (a) Blue | (b) Black | (c) Yellow | (d) Green |
|----------|-----------|------------|-----------|

OR

(B) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

Since its invention a little over 130 years ago, the interview has become a commonplace in

journalism. Today, almost everybody who is literate will have read an interview at some point in their lives, while from the other point of view, several thousand celebrities have been interviewed over the years, some of them repeatedly. So, it is hardly surprising that opinions about the interview- of its functions, methods and merits- vary considerably. Some might make quite extravagant claims for it as being, in its highest form, a source of truth, and, in its practice, an art.

- (i) Which field is the chapter interview related to?
- (a) Judiciary. (b) Fiction.
(c) Journalism. (d) Publicity.
- (ii) When was the interview, as a genre, invented?
- (a) In antiquity (b) About 130 years ago
(c) In the 21st century. (d) Merely 50 years ago
- (iii) In what respect do the opinions about the interview vary?
- (a) Functions (b) Methods
(c) Merits (d) All of the above
- (iv) Which sort of interview is being talked about in the chapter?
- (a) Printed in newspapers / magazines (b) Video-taped
(c) Broadcast on radio (d) Audio- taped
- (v) What has become a commonplace in journalism?
- (a) Acting (b) Dancing
(c) Interview (d) Singing

9. Answer any four questions in about 30-40 words:

- (i) Subbu is described as a many-sided genius. List four of his special abilities?

2x4 = 8

OR

(Poets and Pancakes)

In 'The Interview,' Umberto Eco came up with the concept of 'interstices'. What does this tell us about his personality?

- (ii) "All we have to fear is fear itself". When did Douglas learn this lesson? (Deep Water)
- (iii) Who do you think was at fault- the ironmaster or the paddler? Give two reasons.
(The Rattrap)
- (iv) What was unique and distinctive about Eco's academic writing style? (The Interview)

(v) Why did Sophie long for her brother's affection?

(Going Places)

2x 3 =6

10. Answer any two questions in about 40-50 words

- (a) What does the poet himself feel about the Roadside Stand? Describe. (A Roadside Stand)
(b) How does Keats show his unhappiness with his fellow human beings? (A Thing of Beauty)
(c) How does Aunt Jeniffer express her bitterness and anger against the male domination? (Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

3x2=6

11. Answer any three questions in about 30-40 words.

(a) What did the high-ranking British officer wish to do? Was his wish fulfilled?

(The Tiger King)

(b) What was Gondwana like? How did it change. (Journey to the End of the Earth)

(c) What physical impairment is Mr. Lamb suffering from? (On the Face of it)

(d) What is common between Zitkala-Sa and Bama? (Memories of Childhood)

12. Answer any one of the following questions in about 120-150 words:

5

(a) Examine the role of the villagers in the last lesson. What does their presence and reaction reveal about the community's values and concerns? (The Last Lesson)

OR

(b) How did Gandhiji's refusal to leave Champaran impact the movement, and what does this tell us about the power of nonviolent resistance. (Indigo)

13. Answer any one of the following in about 120-150 words:

5

Why did the narrator turn towards the ticket window? Why did he run back from there?

(The Third Level)

OR

How is Hana's perspective about the white man different from Yumi's perspective?

(The Enemy)