



COMMON PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION 2022-23

Subject: ENGLISH CORE (301)



Date:

Class: XII

General Instructions:

1. 15-minute prior reading time allotted for Q-paper reading.
2. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, WRITING and LITERATURE. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.
3. Write the correct question number in your answer sheet to indicate the option/s being attempted.

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (20 Marks)

I Read the passage given below.

1. Behind the two front seats in the cabin, there was a flat bench where one of us could sleep. But, to be honest, that wasn't a resting place that called out to me, because above it was hung a washing line. And lying on that bunk staring at the truckers' clothes rendered threadbare by enthusiastic scrubbing at countless village wells wasn't exactly a sight to put oneself to sleep.
 2. The truckers had taken the route through Madhya Pradesh along the AB road, or the Agra-Bombay Road. This was in 1998, and I think my bones were seriously rearranged during that journey, thanks to the jars and thuds.
 3. It was 1 a.m. on the third night when we stopped for a cup of tea at a desolate place on the road between Gwalior and Agra. We jumped out of the cabin and headed towards the solitary tea stall by the side of the road. Its dim, zero-watt bulb shone like a beacon beckoning weary travellers. There were a few patrons sitting on the charpois by the stall, all bundled in heavy shawls. Their various modes of transport were parked beside the tea stall: one battered old Mahindra Jeep, one Rajdoot motorcycle with colourful tassels on the handlebars and one handsome, healthy horse.
 4. It struck me then that we had stopped in the middle of the night in the heart of the Chambal valley, the notorious dacoit belt of India. The owner of the tea stall had a moustache generously peppered with gray and a magnificent pot belly. As his patrons drove, rode and galloped off, I saw him looking after them with a gaze that was filled with nostalgia.
 5. The suspension of the truck, which had been battered by the pothole-riddled roads, finally gave up after a particularly bad stretch of road near Agra, and we spent a whole day at a roadside mechanic's shop while it was getting repaired. I still think of that truck quite fondly. It was an old type 1613 that had passed its prime a long time ago, but was carrying on resiliently. Many of its surfaces wore wielding marks like battle scars.
 6. But the old girl still had spirit. It handled steep inclines without baulking and on the occasional rare smooth stretch, its exhaust had an almost musical purr to it as it cruised along. In fact, sleeping on top, on a balmy night, it would practically have a lullaby-like effect. But at every pothole we hit, the truck would creak and groan. Honestly, I was quite surprised that we'd almost made it to Agra before some part of the truck gave way.
- (444 words)

Excerpt adapted and edited: Hot Tea Across India by Rishad Saam Mehta

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the given questions.

(1x10=10)

i. The condition of the garments on the washing line reveals all of the following EXCEPT:

- A. The truckers stopped at innumerable villages.
- B. The garments were far from new.
- C. The truckers cleaned the garments rigourously.
- D. The garments acted as a welcome curtain in the cabin.

ii. The writer is being _____ in describing the condition of his bones, in paragraph 2.

- A. hyperbolic
- B. sarcastic
- C. dramatic
- D. ironic

iii. The writer's use of the word, 'patrons', instead of 'customers' in the line, "There were a few patrons sitting on the charpois...", tells the reader that these were _____ customers.

- A. invited
- B. local
- C. rich
- D. regular

iv. Explain the writer's intent in comparing the light of a dim zero-watt bulb to that of a beacon.

v. Deduce a feature about a patron, based on the writer's description of any one of the modes of transport.

vi. What does the writer wish to communicate about the tea-stall owner, with reference to the given line:

"...a gaze that was filled with nostalgia."

vii. Based on the writer's description, the moustache of the tea-stall owner was.....

- A. generously peppered
- B. black and gray
- C. peppered with black
- D. white and gray

viii. Give one reason why the writer alludes to 'battle scars', in his reference to the truck.

[Clue: explain the simile] (Paragraph 5)

ix. Complete the sentence appropriately.

The fact that the truck 'handled steep inclines without baulking' is worth a mention because ____

x. Select the option that displays the most appropriate category under which the given text may be categorized.

- A. Biography
- B. Memoir
- C. Essay
- D. Personal Log

II. Read the passage given below.

1. Much research has already been conducted on how nature-based tourism (NBT) operators in Antarctica and other locations play an increasingly important role in providing interpretation services and in mitigating negative environmental tourist impacts. However, despite widespread arguments that Antarctic tourism has the potential to enhance tourists' understanding of Antarctica and augment support of environmental conservation, industry-wide assumptions about these effects remain largely untested.

2. The present study attempts to evaluate the performance of NBT operators in Antarctica against the outcomes that it declares to produce. The operators chosen for the analysis included four Antarctica tour operators that

provide ship-based cruises and one operator that provides expeditionary sea kayaking trips to the Antarctic Peninsula.

3. Prior to undertaking the study, the questionnaire was pilot tested on two Antarctic cruises during the 2001-2002 season. For the current study, three six-page, primarily multiple-choice questionnaires were used to investigate three outcome variables and the results were tabulated. (Table 1).

Table 1			
Variable	Pre-Antarctic Trip	Post-Antarctic Trip	After 3 Months
Knowledge of Antarctic	59.7	74.1	72.6
Environmental Behaviours	60.5	70.8	63.7
Attitudes towards management of Antarctica	88.7	88.0	90.1

4. Post-visitation respondents were asked their opinion on statements pertaining to visitor guidelines and their behaviours. 84% agreed that they were satisfied with the behaviour of their fellow visitors toward wildlife. Conversely, 16% of them disagreed. 88% disagreed with the acceptability of taking a small stone as a souvenir from an Antarctic beach. 96% of them agreed that the guidelines learned on their Antarctic trip were useful for future trips into the natural world. Finally, 62% of these respondents agreed that other Antarctic visitors often approach wildlife too closely.

5. The overall results from several questionnaires and surveys of the study, suggest that Antarctica tour operators have an opportunity to improve their outreach programmes so as to provide immediate and straightforward opportunities for tourists to alter and further develop their Antarctic ambassadorship behaviour. (286words)Source:https://www.researchgate.net/publication/231800152_Antarctic_tourists_Ambassadors_or_consumers (Adapted)

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the given questions.

(1x10=10)

i. Rectify the following statement with reference to information in paragraph 1:

The positive contribution of NBT operators in lessening negative environmental tourist impacts in Antarctica faces widespread arguments.

ii. Which industry does the writer refer to, in the phrase, ‘industry-wide assumptions’?

iii. Fill the blank with the appropriate option.

The given study wishes to _____ the performance of NBT.

A. challenge

B. contest

C. publicize

D. assess

iv. Select the option that best describes the two statements given below.

(1) The study questionnaire was pilot-tested.

(2) The 2001-2002 season had two Antarctic cruises.

- A. Both (1) and (2) are true and (2) is the correct explanation of (1).
 B. Both (1) and (2) are true, but (2) is not the correct explanation of (1).
 C. (1) is true, but (2) is false.
 D. Both (1) and (2) are false.
- v. Select the option that displays the most likely question design, used in the current study.

(1)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)
1.State an opinion	1.State an opinion	1. Choose an option	1. Choose the correct option.
2. Reflect on what worked best	2. Reflect on what worked best	2. Reflect on what worked best	2. Choose the correct option.
3.Choose the correct option	3. How many.....?	3. Choose an option	3. Choose the correct option.
4.Choose the correct option	4. Did you.....?	4. Did you.....?	4. Choose the correct option.
5.Choose the correct option	5. Explain.....	5. Explain	5. Choose the correct option.
6.Choose the correct option	6. Describe.....	6. Describe	6. Choose the correct option.

- A. Option (i)
 B. Option (ii)
 C. Option (iii)
 D. Option (iv)

vi. Substantiate the following, with reference to Table 1.

The Antarctica NBT operations have the potential to educate tourists about Antarctica.

vii. Summarize what Table 1 reveals about the environmental behavioural intentions of the tourists. (Any one)

viii. Select the option that best describes the two statements given below.

- (1) Less than 30% respondents do not agree with the behaviour of their fellow visitors regarding their approach to wildlife.
 (2) Around 60% respondents stated that other visitors/tourists approached wildlife closely.

- A. Both (1) and (2) can be deduced from the given information.
 B. Both (1) and (2) have the response to the same question.
 C. Both (1) and (2) are explicitly stated in the text.
 D. Both (1) and (2) are false.

ix. Select the option that DOES NOT display the quality of an Antarctic Ambassador tourist.

- A. Has a passion for and knowledge of Antarctica.
 B. Is committed to defending and advancing Antarctic values.
 C. Is involved in sincere promotion of Antarctic tours.
 D. Has sustained acceptance of the rules for environmental behaviours.

x. After which line, in the text would the given information be appropriately placed?

The mean age of all final study subjects was 51.4. Only 7.4% had previously participated in an Antarctic tour.

- A. However, despite widespread... (paragraph 1)
 B. The operators chosen for ... (paragraph 2)
 C. Prior to the undertaking... (paragraph 3)
 D. For the current study... (paragraph 3)

SECTION B–CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (20 Marks)

III. All the names and addresses used in the questions are fictitious. Resemblance, if any, is purely coincidental.

1. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.

5x1=5

A You are Ms. Maithreyi, the President, R.W.A. Royal Tulip Apartments, Mansa. Write a notice in about 50 words, to inform the residents about a vaccine awareness camp organized by the neighbourhood health centre. Include relevant details and urge the residents to support this initiative.

OR

B As a part of ‘A World for All’ programme to nurture inclusion among young adults, your school has decided to invite students of Classes XI and XII to contribute time to ‘Precious’, a school for special children. You are Asmi, the Co Curricular Captain. Write a notice in about 50 words, calling the students for a meeting to inform about the arrangements of the programme. Include all relevant details.

2. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.

5x1=5

A You are Jason from Darjeeling, West Bengal. You and your group of college friends, together called HUMANE, are organising a charity event in the neighbourhood, involving the donation of woollens to the needy. You are doing this in collaboration with an NGO, with the local MLA as the Guest of Honour. Draft an invitation, as the Coordinator, HUMANE, in not more than 50 words, inviting all the residents of your neighbourhood and surrounding areas, urging them to participate generously.

OR

B You are Soma Wangkhem, Personal Assistant to the Municipal Commissioner, Chandrapur. On behalf of the Municipal Commissioner, draft a reply in about 50 words, accepting the invitation as the Guest of Honour, to inaugurate the Braille section of The Reader’s Café City Library.

3. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.

5x1=5

A You are Shanti Lal, a senior executive of *Second Chance*, a geriatric*-care organization providing the services of caregivers, to old-age homes. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily in about 120 to 150 words, highlighting the importance of caregivers. Share your suggestions on why caregiving ought to be promoted, in current times, as a career choice. Also, mention the need for an increase in training institutes, to impart the much-needed guidance to support this venture.

*geriatric – relating to old people

OR

B You are Naveen, a final year architecture student. You come across an available position for an assistant landscape consultant in a firm called *MS Architects*. Write a letter to Ms. Lakshmi Vitthal, the Director of *MS Architects* applying for the post.

4. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.

5x1=5

A We often find that twenty four hours in a day is less to get all our works completed. We wish for an extra hour to complete our tasks. Though time is not in our hands, time management is. You can opt for either one of the two things- take the work to the next day or improve your time management skills. Understanding the significance of time optimisation skills and the need to support student community with some valuable tips, you decide to write an article for your school magazine. As Samyan, write the article in about 120-150 words.

OR

B *MS Architects*, as a part of their annual voluntary programme, donated land meant for a shopping mall, to a local orphanage and landscaped an outdoor green space on it, in collaboration with college interns. The landscaping included animal topiaries, reading huts and pond amongst other features and was inaugurated by Ms. Seerat Alva, a child activist and environmentalist. There were special programmes organised as a part of this 3-hour inauguration event. As a special correspondent for a national daily, write a report in about 120-150 words, covering the details of the inauguration ceremony, commenting on the humanitarian gesture of the company.

SECTION C–LITERATURE (40 Marks)

IV Read the given extracts to attempt the questions with reference to context.

1. Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.

1x6=6

1.A For once on the face of the Earth

let's not speak in any language,
let's stop for one second,
and not move our arms so much.
It would be an exotic moment
without rush, without engines,
we would all be together
in a sudden strangeness.

(Keeping Quiet)

i. Complete the following with the appropriate option.

The tone of the poet, in the lines of the extract, is one of _____.

- A. reprimand
- B. caution
- C. suggestion
- D. fear

ii. Identify the words that suggest that 'silence', as mentioned in the lines, has not been felt by anyone earlier.

iii. What is the poet's most likely purpose in using the phrase, 'on the face of the Earth'?

- A. To address all the humans of Earth.
- B. To highlight the problems faced by Earth.
- C. To share the urgency needed to face Earth's problems.
- D. To draw attention to the future status of Earth.

iv. Complete the following appropriately.

The poet refers to the 'exotic moment' as a 'sudden strangeness' because:

- a) sudden - _____
- b) strangeness - _____

v. What does the poet feel about the pace of humans, according to the given extract?

- A. misunderstood
- B. misdirected
- C. hectic
- D. systematic

vi. Summarize briefly, how the extract counters the given quote.

If you can speak, you can influence. If you influence, you can change lives – Rob Brown

OR

1.B 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. Select the option that DOES NOT refer to an ordeal.

- A. an extensive and long surgical procedure
- B. a harrowing court case for victims
- C. crossing a road with a traffic-jam
- D. a claustrophobic, trapped in an elevator

ii. The poet implies that Aunt Jennifer's suffering is for an eternity. Support this interpretation with reference to the lines from the extract.

iii. Complete the following with the most appropriate option.

The given lines of the extract present the speaker's _____.

- A. narration
- B. observation
- C. perspective
- D. inclination

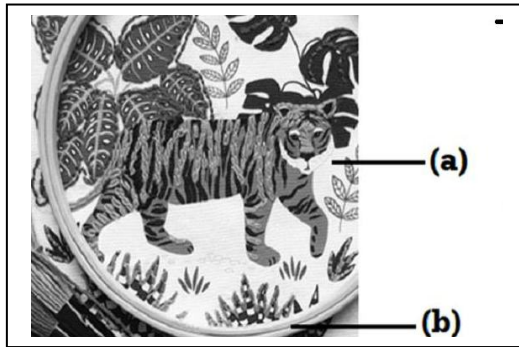
iv. State the most likely reason, the poet uses the word 'prancing', as opposed to 'stalking' or 'prowling' in 'Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid'.

v. Select the appropriate option.

The poet has used the phrase, 'mastered by', to hint at aunt's

- A. contemplation
- B. resignation
- C. subjugation
- D. reflection

vi. Identify the 'panel' in the given image. Select from options labelled a-c.



2. Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.

1x4=4

2.A Well, who doesn't? Everybody I know wants to escape, but they don't wander down into any third level at Grand Central Station. But that's the reason, he said, and my friends all agreed. Everything points to it, they claimed. My stamp collecting, for example; that's a 'temporary refuge from reality.' Well, maybe, but my grandfather didn't need any refuge from reality; things were pretty nice and peaceful in his day, from all I hear, and he started my collection. It's a nice collection too, blocks of four of practically every U.S. issue, first-day covers, and so on. President Roosevelt collected stamps too, you know.

(The Third Level)

i. What does the line, "Everybody I know wants to escape" tell the reader?

ii. The writer uses colloquialism in describing the times of Charley's grandfather – 'pretty nice'. How does this add value to the writing?

- A. Reiterates the main point of the character.
- B. Presents an authentic form of the character's expression.
- C. Draws attention to the character's uneasiness
- D. Shares a convincing argument by the character.

iii. Identify the tone of the extract.

- A. explanatory
- B. descriptive
- C. accusatory
- D. defensive

iv. Complete the sentence with an appropriate reason.

Charley continued his grandfather's stamp-collecting hobby because _____.

OR

2.B It's like walking into a giant ping-pong ball devoid of any human markers — no trees, billboards, buildings. You lose all earthly sense of perspective and time here. The visual scale ranges from the microscopic to the mighty: midges and mites to blue whales and icebergs as big as countries (the largest recorded was the size of Belgium). Days go on and on and on in surreal 24-hour austral summer light, and a ubiquitous silence, interrupted only by the occasional avalanche or calving ice sheet, consecrates the place.

(Journey to the End of the Earth)

i. The writer draws a similarity between Antarctica and a giant ping pong ball, based on the _____.

- A. transparency of the surface
- B. colour white
- C. ability to reflect the sunlight
- D. rotund physical features

ii. State, in one word, what the author might be feeling, based on the given sentence.

You lose all earthly sense of perspective and time here.

iii. Select the book title that speaks of time as mentioned in the extract.

- A. The Time machine, by H.G. Wells
- B. No Time Like Show Time, by Michael Hoeye
- C. When Time Stood Still, by K.S. Adkins
- D. The Golden Hour, by T. Greenwood

iv. The author describes the 'visual scale' by referring to it as 'from the microscopic to the mighty'. What is the most likely purpose of the author in placing a size reference on one end of the description of the scale and a strength reference on the other?

3. Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.

1x6=6

3.A Gandhi explained that the amount of the refund was less important than the fact that the landlords had been obliged to surrender part of the money and, with it, part of their prestige. Therefore, as far as the peasants were concerned, the planters had behaved as lords above the law. Now the peasants saw that he had rights and defenders. He learned courage.

(Indigo)

i. For the Assertion (A) and Reason (R) below, choose the correct alternative.

(A): The peasants were grateful to Gandhi who turned out to be their saviour.

(R): The peasants got back their estates after a prolonged struggle.

- 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.

ii. Give one reason why the writer refers to peasants as 'he'.

iii. What does the line, 'landlords had been obliged to surrender part of the money' indicate about the situation in context?

- A. Legal constraint
- B. Internal strife
- C. Moral dilemma
- D. Political motivation

iv. Complete the analogy appropriately, with a word from the extract.

prestige: dishonour :: _____: cold-feet

v. In the line 'Now the peasants saw that he had rights and defenders', what is 'defenders' referring to?

- A. finances
- B. understanding

- C. victory
- D. assistance

vi. What does the use of simile, in the extract, help the reader understand?

OR

3.B Yet despite the drawbacks of the interview, it is a supremely serviceable medium of communication. “These days, more than at any other time, our most vivid impressions of our contemporaries are through interviews,” Denis Brian has written. “Almost everything of moment reaches us through one man asking questions of another. Because of this, the interviewer holds a position of unprecedented power and influence.”

(The Interview)

i. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to (1) and (2) given below.

(1): We rarely come to know of people by the interviews they give.

(2): The interviewer forces the person sitting opposite, to bare his/her soul.

- A. (1) is true but (2) is false
- B. (1) is false but (2) is true and (2) cannot be inferred from the extract.
- C. Both (1) and (2) are true.
- D. Both (1) and (2) cannot be inferred from the extract.

ii. Provide a counterview for the following, based on the evidence in the extract.

Interviews are a flawless medium of gaining an insight into someone.

iii. Fill in the blank with an appropriate option, with reference to the information given in the extract.

The writer refers to an interview as a supremely successful medium of communication because it successfully _____.

- A. unmask the façade of most people
- B. makes people better themselves
- C. highlights the flaws of the interviewer
- D. gives the media the chatter it needs

iv. Denis Brian makes an observation. Select the option that displays the trait this reveals about him.

- A. judgemental
- B. sarcastic
- C. insightful
- D. knowledgeable

v. Explain what the writer means by the underlined phrase, in the given context.

Almost everything of moment reaches us through one man...

vi. Select the option that substitutes the underlined word in the given phrase.

...a position of unprecedented power...

- A. unrealised
- B. unparalleled
- C. unacceptable
- D. unacquainted

V Answer ANY FIVE of the following in about 40-50 words each.

2x5=10

i. Hamel comes across as an ideal teacher, despite his short-comings. Infer any two qualities that endear him to his pupils and the readers, alike.

ii. Anees Jung says that Mukesh’s dream “looms like a mirage...”. Why does she describe his dream as a mirage?

iii. Comment on the significance of including the crofter episode in *The Rattrap*.

iv. In the context of the given sentence, infer, with a rationale, how the readers might have felt about Umberto Eco. (Any two feelings)

Umberto Eco acquired the equivalent of intellectual superstardom with the publication of The Name of the Rose.

v. ‘... all I did was smile and smile and smile..’ Support the opinion that the smiles of Kamala Das were self-comforting.

vi. Evaluate the statement that Jansie is so critical about Sophie.

VI Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 40-50 words each.

2x2=4

i. The writer refers to Antarctica as ‘the End of the Earth’. Bring out the inherent literal and figurative intent of this reference.

ii. How do we know that Dr. Sadao was conscientious as well as loyal?

iii. What do we get to know about the story’s setting, via Kalki’s, *The Tiger King*. (Any two)

VII Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words each.

5x1=5

i. How do Robert Frost and Anees Jung vary in their presentation and insight, of the deprived and the poor, in ‘The Lost Spring’ and ‘A Roadside Stand’, respectively? Whose approach strikes a chord with you? Why?

OR

ii. You are a film journalist who has interviewed Ashokamitran of Poets and Pancakes. Write the three significant questions you had asked. Also, state Ashokamitran’s responses to those questions. Your questions should be extrapolations from the textual content of Poets and Pancakes.

You may begin like this:

Journalist: My first question to you, sir, is about...

Ashokamitran: Well...

VIII Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words each.

5x1=5

i. You are Jennifer Bentley, the coordinator for the ‘Know the Antarctic’ programme. You disagree with Geoff Greene’s belief that visits to Antarctica are advantageous only for the youngsters. You have the opportunity to express your thoughts before the Antarctica Tourism Board. Write this address, supporting the ‘Students on Ice’ programme and also share the merit in promoting tourism for the celebrities and the retired.

You may begin like this:

Greetings, dear members of the Board.

Thank you for allowing me an opportunity to ...

OR

ii. Respond, based on your reading of *The Third Level*.

- Jack Finney wrote it as the character’s first-person narrative. Elaborate on what could have been the most likely reasons. (Any two)

- How would it have impacted the reader, if Louisa had been the narrator, instead of Charley?
