



COMMON PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION 2022-23

Subject: ENGLISH CORE (301)

CLASS - XII



Date:

General Instructions:

1. 15-minute prior reading time allotted for Q-paper reading.
2. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part. 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:
10

1x10 =

1. Scientists have developed a gel that helps brains recover from traumatic injuries. It has the potential to treat head injuries suffered in combat, car accidents, falls, or gunshot wounds. Developed by Dr. Ning Zhang at Clemson University in South Carolina, the gel is injected in liquid form at the site of injury and stimulates the growth of stem cells there.
2. Brain injuries are particularly hard to repair, since injured tissues swell up and can cause additional damage to the cells. So far, treatments have tried to limit this secondary damage by lowering the temperature or relieving the pressure at the site of injury. However, these techniques are often not very effective.
3. Brain injuries are particularly hard to repair, since injured tissues swell up and can cause additional damage to the cells. So far, treatments have tried to limit this secondary damage by lowering the temperature or relieving the pressure at the site of injury. However, these techniques are often not very effective.
4. Dr. Zhang's gel, however, can be loaded with different chemicals to stimulate various biological processes at the site of injury. In previous research done on rats, she was able to use the gel to help re-establish full blood supply at the site of brain injury. This could help create a better environment for donor cells.
5. In a follow-up study, Dr. Zhang loaded the gel with immature stem cells, as well as the chemicals they needed to develop into full-fledged adult brain cells. When rats with severe brain injuries were treated with this mixture for eight weeks, they showed signs of significant recovery.
6. The new gel could treat patients at varying stages following injury, and is expected to be ready for testing in humans in about three years.

Adapted- <http://www.popsci.com/scitech/article/2009-09/squirt-stem-cell-gel-heals-brain-injuries>

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below:

- i. According to the passage, what most likely prevents doctors from being able to transplant donor brain cells into the wound to repair the damaged tissue after an injury?
 - A. High temperature in the brain caused by the injury.
 - B. Pressure around the brain due to swelling caused by the injury.
 - C. Inflammation and scarring present at the injury site.
 - D. The cells cannot grow and stimulate repair at the injury site.
- ii. What kind of brain injuries can the gel mentioned in the passage cure?
- iii. Why, according to the author, brain injuries are hard to mend?
- iv. What most likely prompted Dr. Zhang's research?
 - A. The failure of donor cells being transplanted into the injury site led Dr. Zhang to research the success of stem cells combined with chemicals to replace the brain cells needed.
 - B. Dr. Zhang was saddened by the many losses she had seen in relation to brain injuries.
 - C. Dr. Zhang wants to be famous for discovering a treatment to help brain injury patients survive and recover.
 - D. Dr. Zhang noticed that lowering the temperature and relieving pressure to the injury site were unsuccessful, so she decided to come up with a replacement therapy.
- v. Complete the given sentence:
Dr. Zhang's earlier research on rats could
- vi. Which of the following statements is/are true in context of the passage?
 - A. The new gel would be ready for testing in humans in the next five years.
 - B. The gel developed for curing brain injuries is injected in gaseous form at the site of injury and stimulates the growth of stem cells there.
 - C. The gunshot wounds are the worst injuries that a brain could experience and could not be cured by anyone.
 - D. Dr. Ning Zhang at Clemson University in South Carolina has developed a gel which could help brain recover from injuries.
- vii. Which of the following statements is/are false in context of the study performed by Dr. Ning Zhang?
 1. She applied the gel on rats to help reestablish full blood supply at the site of brain injury.
 2. Dr. Zhang loaded the gel with immature stem cells, as well as the chemicals they needed to develop into full-fledged adult brain cells.
 3. When rats with minor brain injuries were treated with the mixture produced by her, for eight weeks, they showed signs of significant recovery.
 - A. Only 1
 - B. Only 3
 - C. Both 1 and 3
 - D. Only 2
- viii. How many weeks were the lab rats tested with the gel?

ix. As it is used in the passage (para 5), *immature* most likely means:

- A. unintelligent
- B. not yet developed
- C. fully developed
- D. suppressed

x. The word that is most nearly the opposite in meaning of the word given in capital.

TRAUMATIC

- A. Painful
- B. Outrageous
- C. Minor
- D. Ridiculous

II Read the passage given below.
1x10=10

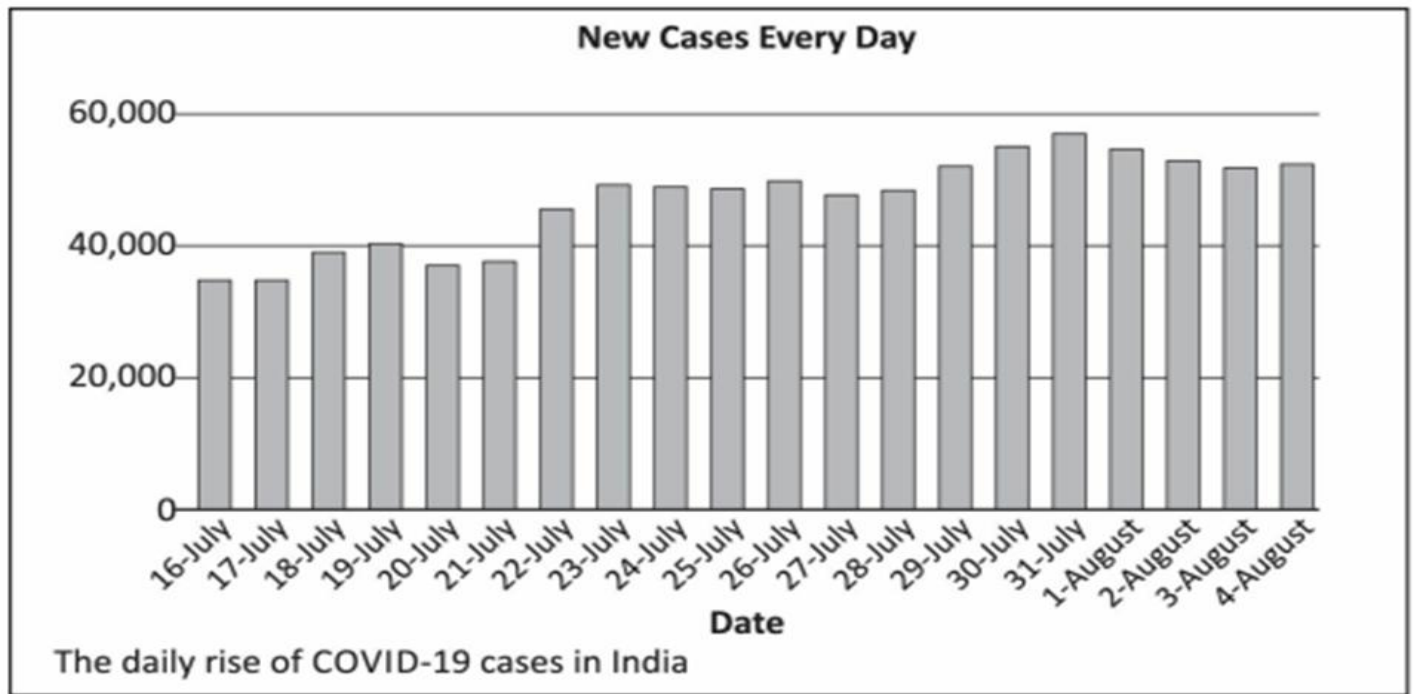
1. With novel Coronavirus spreading rapidly all over the country, there are only three states right now, Meghalaya, Sikkim and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, that have less than 1,000 people infected with the disease. Lakshadweep, of course, still hasn't reported even a single case till now, the only region in India entirely free of the epidemic.

2. Otherwise, even the relatively smaller states now have significantly large spread of the disease. Goa, for example, has seen more than 7,000 of its people infected by the virus till now. Tripura has over 5,500 cases, while Manipur has more than 3,000, and Nagaland a little less than 2,500. Puducherry has more than 4,000 cases, while even Daman and Diu has over 1,300 people infected.

3. And in each of these states, the numbers are rising at a fast pace, at a rate higher than the national level. The infections had initially reached these states in the first and second week of May, when the lockdown was relaxed for the first time to enable people stuck in different parts of the country to return to their native places.

4. After a period of very slow growth, the number of cases has begun to rise rapidly in the last one month. In Goa, for example, the total number of infected people has nearly doubled in the last 15 days. Same has happened in Puducherry, as well.

5. Tuesday was one of those rare occasions when the number of active cases in the country, those who are yet to recover from the disease, went down compared to the previous day. That is because the number of recoveries, combined with the number of deaths, exceeded the new cases that were detected on Tuesday.



6. With over 52,500 new cases detected in the country, the total number of infections crossed 19 lakh, out of which 12.82 lakh people have recovered from the disease. The number of dead is now close to 40,000.

8. The number of recoveries on Tuesday was the highest-ever for a single day. More than 51,700 people were declared to have been recovered. Three days earlier, the number of recoveries had crossed 50,000 for the first time, but in the next two days the number had fallen to much lower levels.

Adapted- <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/india-covid-19-numbers-tracker-august-5-6540182/>

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below:

- i. _____ is the only region in India which is entirely free of the epidemic.
- ii. How are these three states – Meghalaya, Sikkim and Andaman and Nicobar Islands – different from the rest of India?
- iii. What is common among Goa, Tripura, Manipur, Nagaland, Puducherry and Daman and Diu?
 - A. the numbers are rising at a fast pace at rates lower than the national level
 - B. the numbers are falling at a fast pace at rates equal than the national level
 - C. the numbers are rising at a fast pace at rates higher than the national level
 - D. none of these
- iv. Which dates in the graph shows the lowest of the detected cases in a day?
 - A. July 27 and 28

- B. July 16 and 17
 - C. July 20 and 21
 - D. August 3 and 4
- v. More than 51,700 people were declared to have been recovered on _____.
 A. Wednesday
 B. Sunday
 C. Tuesday
 D. Monday
- vi. According to the passage, of the 19 lakh infected cases, how many have recovered?
- vii. Which date in the graph shows the highest jump of detected cases in a day?
- viii. Complete the sentence appropriately:
 For the first time, the number of recoveries had crossed three days earlier than Tuesday.
- ix. Which word in the passage (para 1) means the same as "quickly"?
- x. Which word in the passage is most similar in meaning to "indigenous"?
 A. rapidly
 B. significantly
 C. native
 D. rare

SECTION B – CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (20 marks)

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

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

5

A On the occasion of National Science and Technology Day, the school has decided to organise a Science Fair. Vikram, the secretary of the Science Society, wants to call a meeting of the office bearers of the society to discuss the arrangements for the fair. Write a notice in not more than 50 words.

OR

B You are Abhinav /Abita. You have planned a 2-week course to be arranged to help the children of your group in Housing Society at Kanpur to acquire the communication skills. Prepare a notice in about 50 words for the society's notice board, stating the objectives of the course, giving necessary details of the course and requesting the children of the Society to join the course.

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

5

A Your friend, Joseph John, has invited you to attend the wedding of his sister, Joanna. You find that you have an important paper of pre-board examination on the day of the wedding. Thus, you cannot attend the event. Write a formal reply to the invitation expressing your regret. You are Praveen/Parvathy, M-114, Fort Road, Chennai.

OR

B Your grandparents have completed 50 years of their wedded life. Send an informal invitation to your uncle, residing at Mysore to join you in the Golden Jubilee celebrations of their marriage at your residence.

**3. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below:
5**

A The youth of the country are very vigilant these days and feel concerned about the problems being faced by the people. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily urging him to highlight the role of the youth in eradicating the problems of poverty, unemployment and corruption. You are Azim/Asmita, 15, Rajaji Road, Bengaluru.

OR

B You are looking for the job of a Marketing Executive. You have come across the following advertisement:

Write an

BABY FASHION GARMENTS

A company in the business of manufacturing & marketing children's garments **requires**
MARKETING EXECUTIVES

The candidates should have a graduation with pleasing personality. Fluency in English is must. Candidates with experience in marketing will be given preference. Attractive salary and other perks. Applications must reach to the Managing Director, Baby Fashion Garments, Industrial Area, III, Ludhiana before March 30 20XX.

application with complete biodata for the above-mentioned job. You are Nupur/Nikhil, Phase-II, Mohali.

**4. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below:
5**

A Children tend to become tensed and nervous before the board exams. This affects their health and performance in the examination. Good counselling is, therefore, needed to help them overcome exam fear. Write an article in 120-150 words on the 'Need for Counselling Before Board Exams.' You are Gourav/Gouri.

OR

B An NGO, 'Health for All, organized a free health check-up camp in a slum at Anand Nagar, Ambala. You are Ruchika/Raunak, and you visited the camp. Write a report in 120-150 words covering arrangements such as registration, check-up, tests carried out, etc.

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

It would be an exotic moment
without rush, without engines,

we would all be together
in a sudden strangeness

- i. What kind of moment would it be when everyone is silent?
 - A Terrible
 - B Painful
 - C Unusual
 - D Unforgettable
- ii. 'sudden strangeness', is one of the following poetic devices:
 - A Simile
 - B Personification
 - C Alliteration
 - D Repetition
- iii. Why does the poet wish to be without 'rush or engines'?
 - A One would get time to self-introspect one's own activities
 - B One would think of others activities
 - C Calmness in one's life
 - D Strangeness in one's life
- iv. What will happen if there is no rush or running of engines?
- v. Why would it be called an exotic moment?
- vi. How would we feel at that moment?

OR

I. B

No, in country money, the country scale of gain,
The requisite lift of spirit has never been found,
Or so the voice of the country seems to complain,
I can't help owning the great relief it would be
To put these people at one stroke out of their pain.
And then next day as I come back into the sane,
I wonder how I should like you to come to me
And offer to put me gently out of my pain.

- i. The 'country money' contextually here refers to:
 - A Money kept aside for the rural development.
 - B Wealth accumulated by the whole country.
 - C Meagre income earned by the countryside people.
 - D Riches collected by the ancestral farmers over time.
- ii. "I can't help owning the great relief it would be
To put these people at one stroke out of their pain."
The poet here means that:
 - A He wants to kill the impoverished people.
 - B He feels that death is better than living such a miserable life.
 - C He wants to eliminate poverty from the society.
 - D He states that it is important that these people become rich.
- iii. Choose the correct option with respect to the two statements given below.
Statement 1: The poet is agitated and depressed.

Statement 2: The poet realizes the futility of his thought about giving up.

A Statement 1 can be inferred but Statement 2 cannot be inferred.

B Statement 1 cannot be inferred but Statement 2 can be inferred.

C Statement 1 and Statement 2 can be inferred.

D Statement 1 and Statement 2 cannot be inferred.

iv. How the poet finds himself helpless?

v. Why was the poet wondered?

vi. Name the poem and the poet.

2 Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given:

1x4=4

2. A

Sometimes I think Grand Central is growing like a tree, pushing out new corridors and staircases like roots. There's probably a long tunnel that nobody knows about feeling its way under the city right now, on its way to Times Square, and maybe another to Central Park. And maybe — because for so many people through the years Grand Central has been an exit, a way of escape — maybe that's how the tunnel I got into... But I never told

my psychiatrist friend about that idea.

i. The above extract is NOT an example of _____.

A Allegory

B Analogy

C Imagery

D Metaphor

ii. Charley decided not to tell his psychiatrist friend about his idea. Choose the option that reflects the reaction Charley anticipated from his friend.

A "That's such a lovely comparison. Why don't you become a writer, Charley?"

B "Oh Charley. It is so sad to see your desperation to run away! So very sad."

C "May be that's how you entered the third level. Who would have thought?!"

D "You need help, my raving friend. You are way too invested in this crazy thought!"

iii. Why did he think that Grand Central was growing like a tree?

iv. The figure of speech used in 'pushing out new corridors and staircases like roots' is

.....

OR

2 B

When I heard this, I didn't want to laugh any more, and I felt terribly sad. How could they believe that it was disgusting if one of us held that package in his hands, even though the *vadai* had been wrapped first in a banana leaf, and then parcelled in paper? I felt so provoked and angry that I wanted to touch those wretched *vadais* myself straightaway. Why should we have to fetch and carry for these people, I wondered. Such an important elder of ours goes meekly to the shops to fetch snacks and hands them over reverently, bowing and shrinking, to this fellow who just sits there and stuffs them into his mouth. The thought of it infuriated me.

i. The elder handing snacks reverently, bowing and shrinking to the fellow indicates that the 'fellow' was:

1. condescending.
2. unassuming.
3. submissive.
4. disdainful.
5. aggressive
6. domineering.

A 2, 3 and 6

B 1, 4 and 5

C 1, 4 and 6

D 2, 3 and 4

ii. Based on the given context, choose the option that illustrates when a person can be provoked, out of the examples given below:

1. The employees organised a peaceful protest outside the firm.	2. The manager ill-treated one of the employees and wrongfully terminated him.
3. The employees wrote a letter of complaint against the manager.	4. The director of the firm scheduled a meeting for reconciliation.

A Option 1

B Option 2

C Option 3

D Option 4

iii. The given extract DOES NOT talk about:

A Author's realisation of her misconception.

B Elders being ill-treated in her society.

C The haughtiness of the 'fellow'.

D How the author was enraged.

iv. The speaker of the above lines is

3 Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.

1x6=6

3. A

Maybe I give the impression of doing many things. But in the end, I am convinced I am always doing the same thing... And then I have a secret. Did you know what will happen if you eliminate the empty spaces from the universe, eliminate the empty spaces in all the atoms? The universe will become as big as my fist. Similarly, we have a lot of empty spaces in our lives. I call them interstices. Say you are coming over to my place. You are in an elevator and while you are coming up, I am waiting for you. This is an interstice, an empty space. I work in empty spaces.

i. Read the questions given below. Imagine they were interjections raised by the interviewer based on the above extract. Choose the option that correctly describes the given questions.

(i) If you are "always doing the same thing", isn't your work lacking in originality?

(ii) Could you elaborate on these larger ethical, philosophical interests that inform your work?

(iii) All writing happens in empty spaces. In fact, why don't I tell you all about my experiences?

A (i) is not relevant; (ii) is not appropriate; and (iii) is unnecessary

B (i) is appropriate; (ii) is repetitive; and (iii) is useful information

C (i) is inappropriate; (ii) is relevant; and (iii) is not relevant

D (i) is unnecessary; (ii) is intrusive; and (iii) is extrapolatory

ii. Complete the sentence appropriately:

Umberto calls empty spaces in our lives

iii. "I work in empty spaces". Choose the option that most accurately captures Eco's idea of empty spaces.

(i) management of time

(ii) organization of space

(iii) philosophical inclination

(iv) command of thought

A options (i) and (ii)

B options (iii) and (iv)

C options (i) and (iii)

D options (ii) and (iv)

iv. What secret did Umberto Eco had?

v. What, according to Umberto, will happen to the world if we eliminate empty spaces from the universe?

vi. Umberto Eco was interviewed by

OR

3. B

"Since you have been so nice to me all day long, as if I was a captain, I want to be nice to you, in return, as if I was a real captain — for I do not want you to be embarrassed at this Christmas season by a thief; but you can give back the money to the old man on the roadside, who has the money pouch hanging on the window frame as a bait for poor wanderers. The rattrap is a Christmas present from a rat who would have been caught in this world's rattrap if he had not been raised to captain, because in that way he got power to clear himself.

"Written with friendship

and high regard,

"Captain von Stahle."

i. Which of the following CANNOT be attributed to the peddler, according to the above extract?

A indebtedness

B reform

C self-pity

D self-awareness

ii. Why did the peddler gift a rattrap as a Christmas present?

A It was all the peddler had that he could give away, and represented his turn to honesty.

B It symbolized his successful escape from entrapment as he returned the stolen money.

C It served as a reminder for Edla to be wary of the dangerous temptations of the world.

D It was a practical and convenient present that the lady of the house could effectively use.

iii. The word 'frame' has been used to indicate a rigid structure that surrounds something such as a picture, door, or windowpane. There are other meanings of 'frame' too.

Choose the option that DOES NOT list the meaning of 'frame'.

(1) a person's body with reference to its size and build	(2) a single complete picture in a series forming a cinema, television, or video film	(3) the triangular structure for positioning the red balls in snooker	(4) a thin solid object that seals a container or hole; a lid
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A Option (1)

B Option (2)

C Option (3)

D Option (4)

iv. This communication includes:

1) A promise

2) Regret

3) An apology

4) Shame

A only 4

B only 1

C 1 & 3

D 2 & 4

v. What was the content of the package left for Edla by the peddler?

vi. Peddler signed himself as Captain von Stahle. Why?

V Answer ANY FIVE of the following in about in 40-50 words each.
10

2x5=

i. "It was all much more tempting than the rule for participles." What did Franz find 'much more tempting'? How did he finally react?

ii. "The instructor was finished. But I was not finished." What does this refer to? Explain briefly.

iii. "This was the typical Gandhi pattern" observes Louis Fischer. What do you learn about Gandhian politics from the extract 'Indigo'?

- iv. The author in 'Poets and Pancakes' says, "Prose writing is not and cannot be the true pursuit of a genius." Explain the statement.
- v. How is death contrasted with life in the poem 'My Mother at Sixty-six'?
- vi. What difficulty does Aunt Jennifer face while making her tigers and why?

**VI Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 40-50 words each:
2x2=4**

- i. '..... an unforeseen hurdle brought his mission to a standstill'. What was the mission and how did it stop? What do you find amusing in the reasons justifying the 'hurdle'?
- ii. Comment on Dr Sadao's attitude to the white man in the light of the following:
- (i) "Sadao took up his wrist, hating the touch of it."
 - (ii) "But certainly I do not want this man to live."
 - (iii) "This man will live in spite of all."
- iii. "But this eating by formula was not the hardest trial in that first day", says Zitkala-Sa. What does she mean by 'eating by formula'?

**VII Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words.
1x5=5**

- i. Both Derry and Lamb are physically impaired and lonely. It is the responsibility of society to understand and support people with infirmities so that they do not suffer from a sense of alienation. As a responsible citizen, write in about 100 words what you would do to bring about a change in the lives of such people.

OR

- ii. Certain traditions and lineage, condemn thousands of children to a life of abject poverty and choke their aspirations. (Lost Spring)
- Do you agree? Explain.
 - How can we change this? Suggest some ways to tackle this issue.

**VIII Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words.
1x5=5**

- i. Derry mentions two kinds of responses people often have to justify misfortune, one "Look at all those people who are in pain and brave and never cry and never complain and don't feel sorry for themselves"; and secondly, "think of all those people worse off than you." Far from comforting him, these empty words only agitate him.

In both cases, one's sense of self is derived from others and how they live their lives.

- a) How far might looking at others itself be the cause of suffering?
- b) In what way can people, especially children, be empowered to face their challenges without the spectre of comparison?

OR

- ii. The author calls her two-week stay in Antarctica, 'a chilling prospect'. How far do you think is she justified? What other features of the Antarctic environment are highlighted?
