



COMMON PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION: 2022-23

Class-XII

Subject: ENGLISH CORE (301)



Date:/.../2023

Time allowed: 3 hours

Maximum marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. 15-minute prior reading time allotted for Question 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

1. How often do we remember to treat others as we would like them to treat us? In our quest to get more and more, we forget that the quality of our lives depends on the kind of personalities we have cultivated for ourselves. Genes might play a role when it comes to one's disposition, but the major portion of our attitudes and behaviour is influenced by the choices we make. So in the beginning of every year, should you resolve to make more money, learn a new language, travel more frequently, then you must discontinue to be the same grumpy, impatient soul you always were. Should you then not seek to refine your character, focus on nuances like how you treat people, react to challenges and deal with stressful situations? For most people such a course would yield rich results.

2. According to Mary Thomas, usually our New Year resolutions remain unachieved because we try to achieve the impossible or, sometimes, just add more goals that we wish to accomplish to the list of resolutions, but, strangely, we do not remember much about them during the course of the year as we do not seem to value them enough to complete them. The better option would be to address something fundamental to you, to who you really are, and go ahead with completing them instead of making any drastic resolutions which you will never be able to fulfil. You could resolve to be a better person by having a positive attitude towards people you come across in life. This could involve being nice with the lady who cleans the house, or your colleague who sits near you, but you never interacted with. Another trick is to acknowledge people for the value they add to your personal or professional life. By extending basic courtesies to people around you, you add value to your life and that pays off in the long run.

3. Sometimes, we know that there is room for improvement as far as our personalities are concerned but we have little or no idea where to make the start. An easy starting point could be to look for opportunities in one's immediate surroundings. One positive starting point could be taking a positive attitude towards life and dispelling all negative thoughts. You could make a positive beginning by being a better person at work. This means treating everyone with respect. You should not only interact politely, but also value each person's ideas however far removed they may be, to your own. After all, your friend's ideas are an integral part of the organization to which both of you belong. Inculcating this habit of making an effort to talk to people you would normally not

have to interact with on a daily basis, would make you a better person at the workplace.

4. Also, you do not have to do something extraordinary to prove your good intentions. Just greeting or smiling at your colleagues first thing in the morning could always brighten someone's day. These are simple things that we are taught while growing but tend to forget as we move through life. So essentially, being better is an exercise in learning to be nice, and you will see that playing nice will get your work done better than scolding or frowning or passing orders.

5. A purposeful life should contain skills that lead to practical changes. After all, no people are alike, so why should your ideas be the only right solution? A company, where individual differences are nurtured, information is not suppressed, soon becomes a workplace that adds value to its employees, rather than merely extracting work out of them. It makes workers feel intrinsically rewarded. It is, therefore, imperative that co-workers and partners share a camaraderie that transcends mere professional conduct and delivery. Thus, for a person who wishes to remain happy and content, it is as valuable to spend time on nurturing qualities like friendship and consideration as it is on acquiring skills and knowledge.

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

1 x 10 = 10

- i. The quality of our life depends on:
 - A. the challenges we face in life.
 - B. the personalities we have cultivated for ourselves.
 - C. the New Year resolutions we make.
 - D. the genes we inherit.
- ii. Our New Year resolutions remain unfulfilled because we:
 - A. add more goals than what we can accomplish.
 - B. are caught up with work.
 - C. soon forget them.
 - D. do not understand the importance.
- iii. To add value to your life you:
 - A. must earn more money.
 - B. should be nice to people in your immediate surroundings.
 - C. must make better resolutions for the new year.
 - D. share correct information with people around you.
- iv. Workers feel intrinsically rewarded if:
 - A. you greet them every morning.
 - B. their contribution is acknowledged.
 - C. their individual differences are acknowledged.
 - D. they are provided with better facilities.
- v. Playing worse will:
 - A. not help you at all.
 - B. get your work done better.
 - C. prove who is in authority.
 - D. remind people to be loyal.
- vi. You could become a better person by:
 - A. interacting with your colleagues every day.

- B. treating everyone with respect.
- C. making use of the opportunities at work.
- D. talking to colleagues about your ideas on work.

vii. The word 'acknowledge' in paragraph 2 means to:

- A. accompany someone to a place of work.
- B. recognize someone's efforts or accomplishments.
- C. accomplish a task at hand.
- D. acquire a good reputation.

viii. Which of the following describes what a good company is?

- 1. Differences are encouraged.
- 2. Employees are expected to work more hours.
- 3. Co-workers share good relationship.
- 4. Information is not suppressed.

- A. 2 and 3.
- B. 1, 2 and 3.
- C. 2, 3 and 4.
- D. 1, 3 and 4.

ix. The word 'camaraderie' in paragraph 5 means:

- A. positive atmosphere.
- B. vivacious and friendly.
- C. mutual trust and friendship.
- D. a feeling of fierce competition.

x. In order to refine one's character, it is important to:

- A. meet more people
- B. travel frequently to add to one's experiences.
- C. learn positive values and skills.
- D. be friendly with colleagues.

II. Read the passage given below:
Study on fake news

1 x 10 = 10

1. A 2020 study on misinformation in India by the University of Michigan has noted a rise in the number of inaccurate stories being circulated.

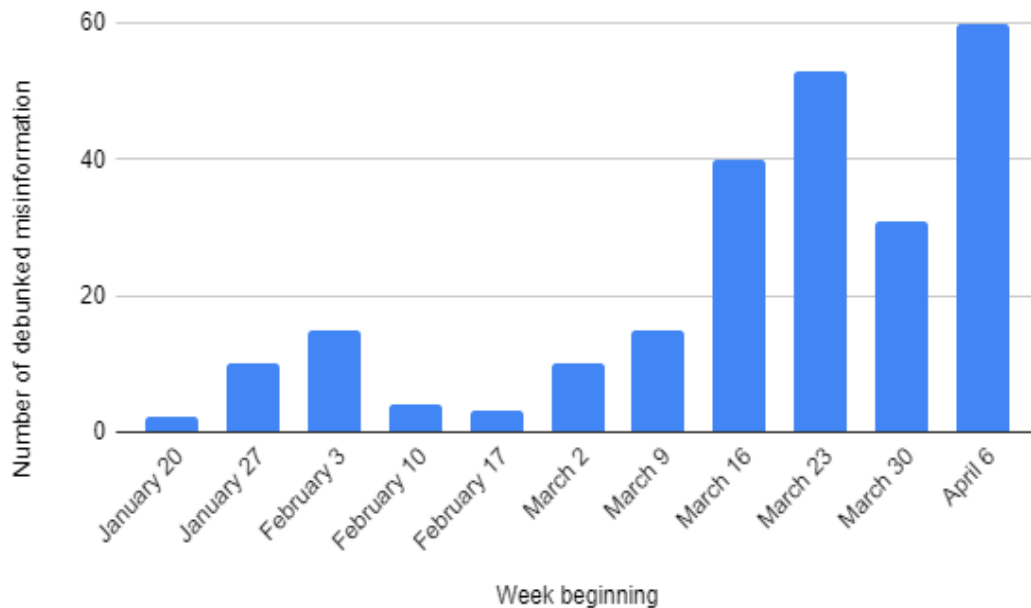
2. The study used 243 unique instances of misinformation from an archive maintained by Tattle Civic Technology (a Delhi-based news project that aims to make accurate information more accessible to mobile-first users). The archive represents all the stories that have been debunked by different fact-checkers.

3. The misinformation that was circulating on social-media apps was classified into several categories — culture, government, doctored statistics, etc. "There are many reasons; one is pure mischief, people who enjoy seeing falsehoods — they create, propagate," said Joyojeet Pal, one of the authors of the study, while talking about why misinformation is spread. "Another reason is political; driven by those who want a certain agenda to triumph. And then, there is pure economics. Platforms often use misinformation to make money by click-baiting people. The more extreme and

controversial a piece of news sounds, the more likely it is that someone will click on it.”

*Increase in the number of (debunked) misinformation
January to April 2020*

Number of debunked misinformation vs. Week beginning



4. Different modes of media are used to relay different kinds of misinformation, shows the study. For example, misinformation in the ‘casualty’ category relies heavily on visuals, such as video clips, since the goal is to evoke a physical reaction, often fear or disgust. Misleading statistics use a lot of text to sound legitimate by offering specifics.

5. Several mainstream media houses, including newspapers and news channels, have put out widely circulated misinformation, showed the study. Even public figures, by not removing the debunked misinformation from their social media pages, have contributed to the propagation of false information.

6. The study could not cite clear reasons why mainstream media was sharing misinformation. It hinted that some may simply be out of poor editorial standards in a competitive media ecosystem. “One thing that remains clear, however, is that misinformation travels fast,” the authors wrote, “and that news sources may increase footfalls through deliberate misinformation or click-bait headlines.”

- Prachi Salve

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

- i. The researchers from Michigan gathered the data for their study from a _____.
- A. news channel
 - B. social media app
 - C. classified document
 - D. repository of news data

- ii. Select the information that can be added before paragraph 1 in the passage.
- A. the methods by which fake news is spread
 - B. the different ways in which one can identify fake news
 - C. a definition and a clear description of what fake news is
 - D. a list of notable studies done by scholars at the University of Michigan
- iii. Which of these CANNOT be a reason behind conducting a study on misinformation?
- A. People easily believe in misinformation without checking for facts.
 - B. The use of billboards to spread misinformation needs to be banned.
 - C. There is an increasing urgency to identify the sources of misinformation.
 - D. Spread of misinformation often disrupts the communal peace in the society.
- iv. Which of these sentences uses 'relay' in the same manner as it is used in paragraph 4 of the passage?
- A. Peter used a relay of horses to pull the wagon up the hill.
 - B. Malcolm and John set up a relay of buckets to fill the kid's pool quickly.
 - C. Rhythm intended to relay everything she had learnt to her peers before she resigned.
 - D. New television transmitters and relay stations have been set up in the neighbourhood.
- v. Read the two statements given below and select the option that suitably explains them.
- (1) An archive of circulated misinformation is maintained by Tattle Civic Technology.
(2) Tattle Civic Technology wants to make accurate news more accessible.
- A. (2) led to (1).
 - B. (1) is the cause of (2).
 - C. (2) is the source of (1).
 - D. (1) and (2) are independent of each other.
- vi. Select the option that lists what we can conclude from the text.
- (1) Making money by spreading misinformation is rampant.
(2) Newspapers are the main source of spreading misinformation.
(3) Misinformation can be spread in audio, video and textual forms.
(4) The circulation of misinformation has seen a significant increase.
- A. (1) and (4) are true.
 - B. (2) and (3) are true.
 - C. (1), (3) and (4) are true.
 - D. (2), (3) and (4) are true.
- vii. From the bar graph given in the passage, we can infer that the spread of misinformation is _____.
- A. exhibiting an upward trend
 - B. showing signs of slowing down
 - C. following a predetermined trajectory
 - D. going against the conclusions of the study

viii. Public figures sharing misinformation on their social media platforms often leads to _____.

- A. people blindly believing in what has been shared
- B. people defending the celebrity for what has been shared
- C. people ignoring the main message of what has been shared
- D. people looking for the original source of what has been shared

ix. The word 'debunked' in paragraph 5 means:

- A. outrageous
- B. classified
- C. exposed as incorrect
- D. blown out of proportion

x. Which quote summarises the essence of the given passage?

- A. "Bad news travels at the speed of light; good news travels like molasses."
- B. "It's amazing that the amount of news that happens in the world every day always just exactly fits the newspaper."
- C. "All the papers that matter live off their advertisements, and the advertisers exercise an indirect censorship over news."
- D. "The social media platforms have taken over the distribution of news globally. They treat a lie the same way you would treat a fact."

III. Section B: Creative Writing Skills (20 marks)

1. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below. 5

A. An NGO has approached your school to offer book grants to the needy students. As Head Girl of Sunshine Public School, Aram Bagh, write a notice, in about 50 words, asking students who are in need to put their requests into the box kept outside the Principal's office.

OR

B. The Cultural Society of R. J. Public School is organizing a fancy dress show on 25 January. The aim is to show the cultural diversity of India. As Secretary of the Society, write a notice, in not more than 50 words, inviting the names of students who want to participate.

2. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below. 5

A. Infant Jesus School, Ahmedabad is organising the Annual Sports Day in the school field. As the Head of the Department of Sports and Games, draft a formal invitation to invite Ankita Raina, professional tennis player, to be the chief guest. You are Mala Dwivedi. (50 words)

OR

B. You are Catherine Sam, Executive Director, College of Arts and Sculptures, Puri. You have been invited to preside over a seminar on 'Art Integrated Studies'. Since you will be out of town, respond to the invitation, regretting your inability to attend the function.

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

- A. You are Himanshu / Harshita, a student of class 12 in Aakash Public School, Ajmer. On a three-day tour to Corbett National Park that was organized by the school, you noticed how visitors abuse the available facilities and thus endanger the environment. Write a letter, in 120 to 150 words, to the editor of a national daily highlighting the situation. Suggest ways through which the environment of the park can be saved.

OR

- B. You have recently completed your graduation course in tourism and hospitality from Srinivas Institute of Hotel Management, Mangalore. You come across an advertisement by a resort inviting applications for tour operators. You decide to apply for the post. Write an application with a bio-data.

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

5

- A. You are Rakesh. You recently attended a wedding celebration of your friend's sister. You learnt that the bride's parents had to pay a hefty amount to the bridegroom's family including jewellery worth ten lakhs, a vehicle and other basic necessities. You feel anguished and thought that this money could have been spent on the girl's education. Write an article, in about 120 to 150 words, entitled, 'Educational Degrees for Girls as Dowry'.

OR

- B. You are Karan / Kirti of Tagore Memorial Public School, Channapatna. Your school has adopted a village as a social responsibility. Students are being taken to teach the children of that village on a regular basis. Various activities are also organised for the children there. In 120 to 150 words, write a report for your school magazine on the programme organised by your school.

Section C: Literature 40 marks

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

1. Attempt ANY ONE of the two extracts given.

1 x 6 = 6

- 1.A. *The polished traffic passed with a mind ahead,
Or if ever aside a moment, then out of sorts.*

- i. 'The polished traffic' indicates:

- A. the elegant vehicles of the city dwellers.
- B. the coloured traffic on the road.
- C. the clean vehicles of the rich.
- D. the smooth flow of traffic.

- ii. The poetic device in the first line is:

- A. irony
- B. transferred epithet
- C. simile
- D. metaphor

- iii. What does 'mind ahead' indicate?

- A. The direction was wrong.
- B. Self-absorption.
- C. Warning board for the traffic.
- D. Stand ahead.

- iv. The urban rich felt 'out of sorts' because
A. the roadside stand blocked the road.
B. the country side looked unattractive.
C. the roadside stand blocked the view.
D. the roadside stand spoilt the beauty of the landscape.
- v. State whether the following sentence is True or False:
The city dwellers in their cars sometimes stopped at the roadside stand.
- vi. Complete the following sentence:
The second line shows the annoyance of the _____ at the peasants.

OR

- 1.B. *Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull
The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band
Sits heavily upon aunt Jennifer's hand.*
- i. Aunt Jennifer's fingers flutter because:
A. she is nervous.
B. she is ill.
C. she is weak with age.
D. she is tired.
- ii. The first two lines suggest:
A. her work is restricted by the use of the ivory needle.
B. her trembling fingers slow down her work.
C. she is weakened by the restrictions imposed on her.
D. her fingers are hurt.
- iii. Answer the question in a sentence.
What sits heavily on Aunt Jennifer's hand?
- iv. In the line, 'The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band', the poetic device used is:
A. personification
B. irony
C. hyperbole
D. transferred epithet
- v. What does the 'Uncle' in the extract indicate?
A. A man's view of the world.
B. The society in general.
C. Male ego.
D. Male chauvinism and patriarchy.
- vi. What issue does the poet address in this poem?
A. Difficulties faced by women.
B. Constraints of married life a woman experiences.
C. Restrictions imposed on a woman by the society.
D. The difficulties of a married life.

2. Attempt ANY ONE of the two extracts given.

1 x 4 = 4

2.A. *The presidents of the New York central and the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroads will swear on a stack of timetables that there are only two. But I say there are three, because I've been on the third level of the Grand Central Station. Yes, I've taken the obvious step. I talked to a psychiatrist friend of mine, among others. I told him about the third level at Grand Central Station, and he said it was a waking dream wish fulfillment. He said I was unhappy. That made my wife kind of mad, but he explained that he meant the modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war worry and all the rest of it, and that I just want to escape.*

i. The third level signifies:

- A. a third gate on Grand Central Station.
- B. the third attempt to reach one's destination.
- C. the tendencies to escape from the harsh realities of life.
- D. the three stages to live a meaningful life.

ii. "The modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry..." signifies that :

- A. the narrator is happy although the world is full of chaos.
- B. the narrator is not satisfied with his life.
- C. the narrator wanted to explore more about the modern world.
- D. the narrator enjoys the feeling of pain and insecurities in his life.

iii. The phrase "waking dream wish fulfillment" suggests:

- A. A pleasant wish that makes one forget the past's terrible experiences.
- B. A pleasant wish that takes one to the future.
- C. A pleasant wish that encourages to work.
- D. A pleasant wish that makes one forget the present.

iv. Pick out the option that best describes the mental tendency of the narrator.

(1) Disappointed (2) Escapism (3) Calm (4) Satisfied

- A. 1 and 3
- B. 1 and 2
- C. 3 and 4
- D. 2 and 4

OR

2.B. *'If we sheltered a white man in our house we should be arrested and if we turned him over as a prisoner, he would certainly die,' Sadao said.*
'The kindest thing would be to put him back into the sea,' Hana said. But neither of them moved. They were staring with a curious repulsion upon the inert figure.

i. The 'white man' refers to:

- A. a criminal wanted by the police.
- B. a prisoner who had escaped.
- C. an American prisoner of war.
- D. an old acquaintance of Sadao in America.

- ii. They felt if they turned him over as a prisoner, he would certainly die because:
- A. the place was inhospitable.
 - B. he looked sickly.
 - C. he was terribly wounded and was bleeding.
 - D. he would not be welcome.

- iii. According to Hana, it would be best to:
- A. leave the man to himself.
 - B. take the man inside.
 - C. wash the man in the waters of the sea.
 - D. throw the man back into the sea.

- iv. 'But neither of them moved.' This statement suggests that:
- A. they were too shocked to move.
 - B. they were in a dilemma.
 - C. both were waiting for the other person to make the first move.
 - D. they were too scared to speak.

3. Attempt ANY ONE of the two extracts given.

1 x 6 = 6

3.A. *I heard M. Hamel say to me, 'I won't scold you, little Franz; you must feel bad enough. See how it is! Every day we have said to ourselves, 'Bah! I've plenty of time. I'll learn it tomorrow.' And now you see where we have come out. Ah, that's the great trouble with Alsace; she puts off learning till tomorrow. Now those fellow out there will have the right to say to you, 'How is it; you pretend to be Frenchmen and you can neither speak nor write your own language?' But you are not the worst, poor little Franz. We have all a great deal to reproach ourselves with.'*

- i. 'I have plenty of time. I will learn it tomorrow.' What trait does this reflect of the people of Alsace?

- A. Optimism
- B. Procrastination
- C. Indifferent
- D. Happy-go-lucky

- ii. M. Hamel's tone while speaking is filled with _____.

- A. eagerness
- B. regret
- C. unhappiness
- D. satisfaction

- iii. What is M. Hamel trying to emphasize on?

- A. The importance of one's mother tongue.
- B. Freedom of expression.
- C. The importance of language.
- D. The necessity to learn to read and write.

- iv. State whether the sentence is true or false:

In the extract, 'those fellows' refers to the French people.

- v. 'We have all a great deal to reproach ourselves with.' By saying this, Hamel holds _____ responsible.
- A. 'Those fellows'
 - B. Parents
 - C. Himself
 - D. Parents and himself

vi. What led Hamel to speak thus?

- A. Franz frequently stayed out of school.
- B. Franz wasn't prepared to write the lesson.
- C. Franz's parents would not send him to school.
- D. Franz wasn't prepared with his lesson.

OR

3.B. *In those days I worked in a cubicle, two whole sides of which were French windows. (I didn't know at that time they were called French windows.) Seeing me sitting at my desk tearing up newspapers day in day out, most people thought I was doing next to nothing. It is likely that the Boss thought likewise too. So anyone who felt I should be given some occupation would barge into my cubicle and deliver an extended lecture. The 'boy' in the make-up department had decided I should be enlightened on how great literary talent was being allowed to go waste in a department fit only for barbers and perverts. Soon I was praying for crowd-shooting all the time. Nothing short of it could save me from his epics.*

i. The author worked 'in a cubicle' suggests that he:

- A. worked all by himself.
- B. was the only person who worked in the department.
- C. worked in a small room.
- D. worked in an uncomfortable office.

ii. The author assumes that 'the Boss' thought he was

- A. idling away his time.
- B. sitting at his desk.
- C. simply staring out of the French windows.
- D. constantly talking to the 'boy'.

iii. The 'boy' would tell the narrator:

- A. how great literary talent should not be wasted.
- B. that he should continue to write.
- C. that his literary talent was being wasted in the department.
- D. why he should no longer work in the department.

iv. The narrator was soon 'praying for crowd-shooting all the time' since:

- A. the boy wasn't letting him work.
- B. he was tired of listening to the boy.
- C. the boy complained of lack of any good work.
- D. the boy's epics were too lengthy.

v. In one sentence answer the following question.

What did the 'boy' in the make-up department do?

vi. The phrasal verb 'barge into' in this context means:

- A. enter noisily
- B. enter suddenly without a reason
- C. enter suddenly and noisily
- D. enter rudely for no reason

- V. Answer ANY FIVE of the following in about 40 – 50 words each. 2 x 5 = 10
- i. Which images in the poem ‘Keeping Quiet’ show that the poet condemns violence? 2
 - ii. In the poem, ‘A Thing of Beauty’, how does the poet express that the beauty in nature is sublime and uplifts the human spirit? 2
 - iii. How are the two boys, Saheb and Mukesh, in ‘Lost Spring: Stories of Stolen Childhood’ different from each other? 2
 - iv. What did William Douglas do to get rid of any residual doubts about his fear of water? 2
 - v. How were Rajkumar Shukla and Gandhi received in Rajendra Prasad’s house? 2
 - vi. Why does Umberto Eco call himself a ‘professor who writes novels on Sundays’? 2
- VI. Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 40 – 50 words each. 2 x 2 = 4
- i. Had the Maharaja of Pratibandhapuram been rational, his life would have taken a different course. Write why you agree or disagree with this statement. 2
 - ii. According to Tishani Doshi, how has mankind etched its dominance over nature? 2
 - iii. Why was Zitkala-Sa determined not to let anyone cut her hair? 2
- VII. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120 – 150 words. 1 x 5 = 5
- i. The story, ‘The Rattrap’ exemplifies the concept that the emotional needs of human beings directly influence their behaviour. Elucidate.
- OR
- ii. Why did Sophie like her brother Geoff more than any other person? From her perspective, what did he symbolise?
- VII. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120 – 150 words. 1 x 5 = 5
- i. What are your impressions about Dr. Sadao as a man and as a surgeon?
- OR
- ii. How does Derry’s brief meeting with Mr. Lamb impact the young boy?