



**INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
FIRST PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION 2023
ENGLISH CORE (301)**



CLASS: XII
DATE: 28 /11/2023

TIME ALLOTTED: 3 HRS.
MAXIMUM MARKS: 80

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- i) Please check that this question paper contains 13 questions.
- ii) All questions are compulsory.
- iii) This question paper contains THREE Sections – Section – A: READING SKILLS, Section – B: CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS and Section – C: LITERATURE.
- iv) Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
- v) Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them strictly.
- vi) Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

I. SECTION – A (READING)

1. Read the passage given below:

1. Nations are built by the imagination and untiring enthusiastic efforts of generations. One generation transfers the fruits of its toil to another, which then takes forward the mission. As the coming generation also has its dreams and aspirations for the nation's future, it therefore adds something from its side to the national vision; which the next generation strives hard to achieve. This process goes on and the nation climbs steps of glory and gains higher strength. The first vision: Freedom of India

2. Any organisation, society or even a nation without a vision is like a ship cruising on the high seas without any aim or direction. It is the clarity of national vision which constantly drives the people towards the goal.

3. Our last generation, the glorious generation of freedom fighters, led by Mahatma Gandhi and many others set for the nation a vision of free India. This was the first vision, set by the people for the nation. It therefore went deep into the minds and the hearts of the masses and soon became the great inspiring and driving force for the people to collectively plunge into the struggle for freedom movement. The unified dedicated efforts of the people from every walk of life won freedom for the country. The second vision: Developed India

4. The next generation (to which I also belong) has put India strongly on the path of economic, agricultural and technological development. But India has stood too long in the line of developing nations. Let us, collectively, set the second national vision of Developed India. I am confident that it is very much possible and can materialise in 15 – 20 years' time. Developed status

5. What does the developed nation status mean for the common man? It means the major transformation of our national economy to make it one of the largest economies in the world, where the countrymen live well above the poverty line, their education and health are of a high standard, national security is reasonably assured, and the core competence in certain major areas gets enhanced significantly so that the production of quality goods, including exports, is rising and thereby bringing all-round prosperity for the countrymen.

6. What is the common link needed to realise these sub-goals? It is the technological strength of the nation, which is the key to reaching this developed status. Build around our strength

7. The next question that comes to mind is, how can it be made possible? We have to build and strengthen our national infrastructure in an all-round manner, in a big way. Therefore, we should build around our existing strengths including the vast pool of talented scientists and technologists and our abundant natural resources. The manpower resource should be optimally utilised to harness health care, services sectors and engineering goods sectors

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

12 Marks

i) According to the passage, how do nations progress and achieve their visions?

1

- a) Through the efforts of one generation only
- b) By setting one vision for all generations
- c) By transferring the fruits of toil to the next generation
- d) By relying on external support and aid

ii) What is the importance of a clear national vision, as mentioned in the passage?

1

- a) It is unnecessary for the development of a nation.
- b) It helps a nation to navigate its path and achieve its goals.
- c) It limits the flexibility of a nation.
- d) It only applies to organizations, not nations.

iii) (i) According to the author, what, from the following, a nation without a vision is?

1

(a) Futuristic (b) Prudent (c) Desultory (d) Belligerent

(iv) Select the option that suitably completes the dialogue with reference to the above passage. 1

John: The diversity of India is a gift, wouldn't you agree? I think it adds to the glory of our nation and makes it unique in its existence.

Matt: I do agree. In fact, I think

- (a) If everyone stays isolated, that would nurture the nation's strength
- (b) Unity in diversity is what will make our nation great
- (c) Generalisation of every citizen as a part of one single community is integral to the growth of the nation
- (d) It separates our nation and makes India superior to all others
- v) Choose the option that best conveys the message in – "It therefore went deep into the minds and the hearts of the masses and soon became the great inspiring and driving force..." 1

- (a) A person is a coward because they think they are.
- (b) A person is brave because their family and friends support them.
- (c) A person's happiness depends upon a healthy relationship with the society.
- (d) A person's valour is determined by their contribution to the world.



vi) What qualities does the writer of the above passage display when they talk about the necessary steps to build our nation's strength?

1

Choose one option from the following.

- (a) Ambitious and alertness
- (b) Tendency to help everyone in need
- (c) Visionary and confident
- (d) Leading people by trying to do everything in their own way

vii) Select the option with the underlined words that can suitably replace 'driving'.

1

- (a) He was the acting force behind the new ballet company.
- (b) You should never take a chance while swiftly drunk riding a car.
- (c) Covered in the engine, dragging forcefully the 31-foot propeller shaft for the 2 propellers.
- (d) During the first year of the war, he was active in exerting force and maltreating Union men.

viii) What does the author advise, in paragraph 7?

1

- (a) To strengthen the nation's technological strength.
- (b) To strengthen the nation's defensive strength.
- (c) To strengthen the nation's nuclear strength.
- (d) To strengthen the nation's educational strength

ix) Choose the option that lists the quote best expressing the central idea of the passage.

1

- (a) Not merely a nation, but a nation of nations. (Lyndon B Johnson)
- (b) To survive in peace and harmony united and strong, we must have one people, one nation, and one flag. (Pauline Hanson)
- (c) After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. (Nelson Mandela)
- (d) In the truest sense, freedom cannot be bestowed; it must be achieved. (F. D. Roosevelt)

x) What was the first vision set by the people for India, as per the passage?

1

- a) Economic development
- b) Freedom of India
- c) Technological advancement
- d) Environmental sustainability

xi) How does the passage describe the role of successive generations in the development of a nation's vision and progress? (30-40 words)

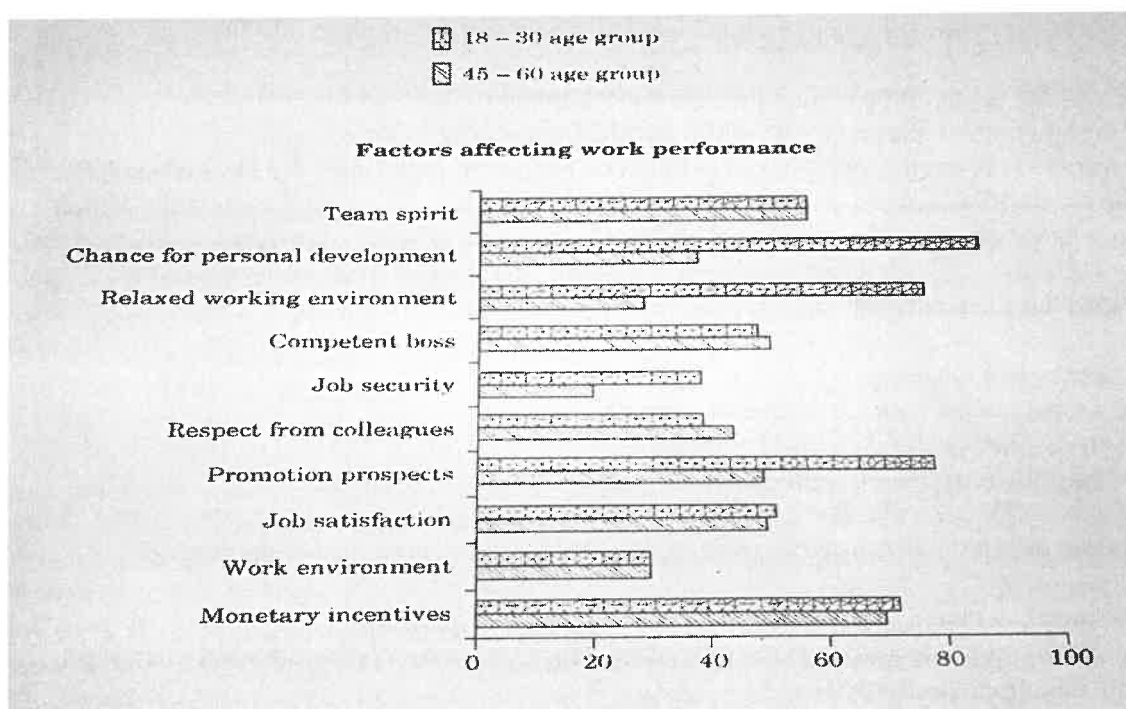
1

xii) What is the second national vision proposed in the passage, and what does it entail for India's future? (30-40 words)

1

2. Read the passage given below:

(1) Nowadays companies demand an outstanding job performance by every single employee to be better than that of their competitors because there is competition among enterprises. The employers make efforts to motivate the employees and optimize performance.



(2) There are numerous factors affecting job performance. These can be divided into external and internal factors. The internal factors are team spirit, competent boss, respect from colleagues and job satisfaction. The external factors are chance for personal development, job security, promotion prospects and monetary incentives. The decisive determinant is that the employees remain highly motivated. One possible method to increase motivation is the salary. Employees are willing to stay longer hours in the office and perform better, when they have the chance to get financial rewards, for instance, a higher salary or bonuses.

(3) The bar graph (given above) shows the result of a survey conducted among workers in a company to analyse their work performance across ten different factors that contribute to make their work environment pleasant. The workers are grouped into two categories - those between the ages of 18-30 and those between 45-60. Interestingly, in six out of the ten factors surveyed, the 18-30 age group is shown to be more affected than the 45-60 age group. Factors, besides the salary, which affect the work performance of the two different age groups are interesting. These factors are the chance for personal development, relaxed working environment, promotion prospects, job satisfaction and monetary incentives. Furthermore, two out of the remaining four factors namely, team spirit and work environment have been equally influential among the two groups. The 45-60 years workers are impacted a lot by 'respect from colleagues' whereas the prospect of a promotion is an important reason that drives younger employees to work better.

(4) Job performance of happy employees is 31% more productive and they show three times more creativity than their unhappy counterparts. They are more resilient and more likely to stay in the same company for a longer period. Consequently, they drive the company towards long-term goals by being more productive and efficient. Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below:

28

- (i) Does the following statement agree with the information given in para 1? 1
- When the company has a lot of competitors, it tries to invent the most efficient technology to stay ahead.
- Select from the following:
- a) True b) False c) Not Given d) Partially true
- ii) Why do you think the companies demand exemplary performance from their employees? Support your answer with reference to the passage. 1
- iii) Select the option that displays the most likely reason for employees to perform better. 1
- a) companies demand an outstanding performance
b) if the company grows, its growth is assured
c) when there are chances to get financial gratification
d) to drive the company towards long-term goals
- iv) Select two factors that display that the work performance of both categories of workers remains the same. 1
- v) Based on the bar graph, complete the following statement:
- The 18-30 age group is shown to be more affected than the 45-60 age group in most factors. We can say this because _____ 1
- vi) Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option: Loyalty as an attribute is there in employees who are _____ 1
- a) senior b) healthy c) motivated d) happy
- vii) The 45-60 age group workers are motivated by _____. 1
- viii) Based on the reading of the passage, state a point to challenge the given statement. 1
- An increase in salary is the only motivation for better job performance.
- (ix) Complete the sentence. 1
- The internal factors affecting work performance are _____
- (x) Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option: 1
- The concluding sentence of the passage makes a clear case for _____ by listing it as a core component of steering the company towards long-term goals.
- (a) collaboration, (b) flexibility, (c) happiness, (d) adaptability

3. A. The water supply will be suspended for eight hours (10 am to 6 pm) on the 6th of March for cleaning of the water tank. Write a notice in about 50 words advising the residents to store water for a day. You are Jonas Bailey / Jacinta Ben, Secretary, Imperial Group Housing Society, Palam Vihar, Kurnool. 4

OR

B. You are Rohit Simon / Raichel Simons. As President of the Cultural Forum of your school, you have organised an inter-school orchestra competition on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of your school. Write a notice in about 50 words, informing the students of your school about this competition.

4. A. Draft an invitation in 50 words, on behalf of your friend Robin Dsouza, which he has to share to invite former work colleagues to the inaugural event of his own investment consultancy firm, in the Acasia Enclave, Trichy, Tamil Nādu. 4

OR

B. You are Dr. Albert George. You have received an invitation from the Director, of Health Services, Basti, U.P, to preside over a gathering of leading medical practitioners attending a workshop on mental wellness on 09 December 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in the General Hospital, Pune, Maharashtra. Respond accepting the invitation in 50 words.

5. A. You are Antony Dmello, a commerce graduate from Madras University. You are seeking a suitable job. You came across an advertisement in The Decan Chronicles, inviting young and dynamic graduates as junior sales managers in L&T Inc. Apply in 120-150 words for the said job to Box No. 8365, C/o The Decan Chronicles, New Delhi, including your resume. 5

OR

B. Lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, obesity, hypertension, and heart disease have increased in India. 53% of deaths in India are due to lifestyle diseases. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the editor of a national daily about the issue and your understanding of the reasons behind the same. Offer suggestions on how one can reduce their risk of having such diseases and on ways to cope with them. You may use the following cues to compose the letter. You are Sakshi Saran, a concerned citizen.

Consequences: - leads to poor quality of life mentally and physically - increases the cost of health care - can reduce life expectancy and cause early deaths

Solutions: - follow a balanced diet - incorporate some form of exercise that is sustainable - get regular blood tests to check our health status

6. A. You are Sneha Srinivasan of Class XII. Write an article in 120-150 words for your school magazine on the 'Importance of Active Listening'. Expand on how good listening skills help one to gain multiple perspectives, be an effective team player, and contribute to an overall atmosphere of empathy and care. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this article. 5

Listening skills: listening and comprehending, paraphrasing, active body language like nodding, changing facial expressions, and sitting straight.

Effect on others: we feel heard and acknowledged, which builds trust, others more likely to hear us, and leads to more ideas being shared.

OR

B. Your school recently organised a workshop on 'Students' Role in Social Welfare Initiatives' for students of Classes XI and XII on 29 October 2023. As Soumya Dinesh, a member of the organising committee, write a report in 120-150 words covering the event for a local daily. Support your ideas with the outline cues given below to craft your report.



→ *purpose of the workshop* → *who attended the workshop* → *activities that took place* → *key messages or takeaways from the workshop* → *post-workshop resources and information given to attendees* → *what impact the workshop would have on the students and their involvement.*

III **SECTION C: LITERATURE** **40 Marks**

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 1x6=6

A.

Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green,
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.
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) Denizens of the world of green refer to _____.

(a) huntsmen (b) Aunt Jennifer (c) uncle (d) tigers

ii) Choose the option that displays the same poetic device as used in the second line of the extract.

(a) heart of stone (b) trees sprouting (c) silver spoon (d) white murder

iii) What does the phrase 'sleek chivalric certainty' suggest about the tigers?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| a) They are afraid of challenges | b) they are confident and graceful, |
| c) they are aggressive and fierce | d) they are uncertain about their actions. |

iv) What quality of uncle can be inferred through these lines?

(a) offensive (b) courageous (c) confident (d) dominating

v) What do Aunt Jennifer's Tigers symbolize in the context of her life?

(a) her artistic talent and creativity (b) her confidence and satisfaction
(c) her desire for freedom and escape from her marriage (d) her love for nature and wildlife.

vi) Read the statements given below. Choose the option that accurately describes the given statements.

Statement I: The poem is a manifesto against the institution of marriage.

Statement II: Aunt Jennifer represents all women artists.

Statement III: The poem embodies an alternative for women to express their repressed desires through art.

- (a) Statement I is True, Statement II is False, Statement III cannot be inferred.
- (b) Statements I and III are False, Statement II cannot be inferred.
- (c) Statements I and II are True, Statement III cannot be inferred.
- (d) Statement I is False, Statement II cannot be inferred, Statement III is True.

OR

B.

... I saw my mother,
beside me,
doze, open-mouthed, her face
ashen like that
of a corpse and realised with
pain
that she was as old as she
looked but soon
put that thought away, and
looked out at Young
Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling
out of their homes, ...

- i) Why does the poet compare her mother's face to a corpse? Answer in one sentence.
- ii) What effect does the phrase 'open mouthed' have on the poem?
 - (a) It builds a mood of surprise and shock in the poem.
 - (b) It reveals the speaker's fear of her own death and mortality.
 - (c) It adds to the imagery of the speaker's mother appearing dead.
 - (d) It highlights the speaker's attempt at hiding her emotions from her mother.
- iii) Complete the given sentence appropriately.
The contrast present in the given extract is between _____
- iv) State a reason for the following.
The speaker looks out of the window while travelling with her mother.
- v) Which of these phrases uses the same poetic device as the following line from the extract?
looked out at Young Trees sprinting...
 - (a) that restaurant is as nice as the Big Fish
 - (b) the pen became my highway to success
 - (c) that fluffy cloud crying with sadness
 - (d) the tall trees with many branches
- vi) Why do you think the poet has placed the word 'pain' in a separate line? Give a reason.

8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 1X4=4

A.

When I was studying in the third class, I hadn't yet heard people speak openly of untouchability. But I had already seen, felt, experienced and been humiliated by what it is. I was walking home from school one day, an old bag hanging from my shoulder. It was actually possible to walk the distance in ten minutes. But usually it would take me from half an hour to an hour to dawdle along watching all the fun and games that were going on. All the entertaining novelties and oddities in the streets, the shops and the bazaar.



i) The narrator was humiliated because _____ (answer in not more than 2 sentences)

ii) The narrator 'dawdled along' as she _____.

- (a) enjoyed looking at the various sights
- (b) was getting late for school
- (c) she didn't like going home
- (d) she enjoyed haggling and shopping

iii) On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below:

- (I) The distance from school to home was very short.
- (II) She was feeling upset and was dawdling her way home.

- (a) (I) can be inferred from the extract but (II) cannot.
- (b) (II) can be inferred from the extract but (I) cannot.
- (c) Both (I) and (II) cannot be inferred from the extract
- (d) Both (I) and (II) can be inferred from the extract.

iv) The word 'novelties' in the passage most nearly means:

- (a) colourful trinkets
- (b) wooden toys
- (c) unique and interesting items
- (d) expensive souvenirs

OR

B.

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. Well, who doesn't? Everybody I know wants to escape, but they don't wander down into any third level at Grand Central Station.

i) Complete the given sentence appropriately. Unlike the two levels that have 'a stack of timetables' to prove their existence, the third level has _____.

ii) Yes, I've taken the obvious step. What is the narrator assuming that the reader is thinking when he says the above line?

iii) Which of these is an example of 'a waking-dream wish fulfillment' as described in the extract?

- a) Meenal loses her book and swears that it is her enemy who stole it.
- b) Milind claims that he was petting his beloved dog whom he lost a few years ago.
- c) Malini tells everyone that she saw a Cheetah though she herself knows it is a lie.
- d) Mrinal thinks that he saw a spaceship in the sky which later turned out to be a normal aircraft

iv) Based on the extract, what does the narrator think about the psychiatrist's opinion?

9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the two, given.

1x6=6

A.

"I am thinking of this stranger here." said Edla "He walks and walks the whole year long, and there is probably not a single place in the whole country where he is welcome and can feel at home. Wherever he turns he is chased away. Always he is afraid of being arrested and cross-examined. I should like to have him enjoy a day of peace with us here just once in the whole year."

i) Complete the following sentence with the most appropriate option:

Edla wished the Peddler to have a peaceful day because _____

- (a) The peddler had worked for Edla.
- (b) The peddler had not been released from jail.
- (c) the Peddler had been staying at the forge.
- (d) The peddler had always been looked at with suspicion.

ii) Select the suitable word from the extract to complete the analogy -
single: multiple: abroad: _____

iii) In the above extract, Edla comes across as:

- (a) conscientious (b) pretentious
- (c) compassionate (d) selfless

iv) Based on the above extract, choose the statement which is true.

- (a) relationship are rattraps.
- (b) money is important in the world.
- (c) criminal is not born but made.
- (d) Christmas is a time of charity.

v) In the context of the given extract, which day is referred to in the expression 'just one in the whole year'?

vi) What does the expression 'he is cross-examined' suggest?

OR

B.

"Or an actress, now there's real money in that. Yes, and I could have the boutique on the side. Actresses don't work full-time, do they? Anyway, that or a fashion designer. You know something a bit sophisticated". And she turned in through the open street door leaving Jansie standing in the rain. "If I ever come into money, I'll buy a boutique". "Hub, if you ever come into money ... if you ever come into money, you'll buy us a blessed decent house to live in thank you very much."

Sophie's father was scooping shepherd's pie into his mouth as hard as he could go, his plump face still grimy and sweat-marked from the day. "She thinks money grows on trees, don't she Dad? Said little Derek hanging on the back of his father's chair. Their mother sighed.

i) Sophie wants to become an actress to:

- (a) become famous (b) to earn money
- (c) to support her father (d) to compete with Jansie



- ii) Jansie wanted Sophie to spend her money on:
- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| (a) her marriage | (b) her career |
| (c) to open a boutique | (d) buying a house |

iii) Why did Sophie turn away, leaving Jansie standing in the rain?

- a) She got excited about the idea of being an actress.
- b) She didn't want Jansie to know her future plans.
- c) She wanted to avoid the rain.
- d) She went to buy a boutique.

iv) What is Little Derek's comment about Sophie's ideas?

- a) He supports Sophie's ideas.
- b) He thinks she's unrealistic.
- c) He wants to become an actor.
- d) He wants to be a fashion designer too

v) Sophie's mother's sigh is one of:

- | | |
|------------|------------------|
| (a) regret | (b) delights |
| (c) relief | (d) helplessness |

vi) What is Sophie's father doing during this conversation?

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a) Cooking dinner | b) Eating shepherd's pie |
| c) Arguing with Sophie | d) Helping Little Derek with homework |

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words.

5x2=10

i) Why does Sophie's father look at Sophie with disdain in the following scene from 'Going Places'? "Sophie's met Danny Casey", Geoff said.

ii) The author of 'Poets and Pancakes' is extremely observant of people and their behaviour. Support this statement with an example of a description he gives us about any one of the characters.

iii) What were some strategies that helped the narrator to overcome his fear of water that one can apply in their own life for facing any major fear? Explain any two.

iv) In the poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers', why does the poet describe the tigers as 'bright topaz denizens of a world of green'?

v) Umberto Eco, with reference to "The Name of the Rose" says, "I think if I had written The Name of the Rose ten years earlier or ten years later, it wouldn't have been the same." What could he have meant?

vi) Imagine that John Keats meets someone who is feeling sad. What advice would he give to such a person? State any one feature of beauty from 'A Thing of Beauty' and relate the advice to it.

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.

2x2=4

i) In the story, 'On the Face of It', what brings Derry and Mr Lamb together as friends? What can you conclude about friendships from this?

ii) How would a student's learning experience be enhanced in the 'Students on Ice' programme as compared to studying only in a classroom? Analyse any one point.

iii) In his letter to Charley, Sam writes, '...then I got to believing you were right.' What could have made Sam begin to believe?

12. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.

5

A. Imagine you are Pablo Neruda, the poet of Keeping Quiet. What advice might you offer to Robert Frost, the poet of A Roadside Stand, in the context of his conflicted emotions, as displayed in the given lines 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. Pen down your advice, in a letter to Frost.

You may begin this way: Dear Robert I recently read your poem, "A Roadside Stand," and...

You may end this way: I hope this advice is helpful to you. Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to support you. Warmly, Pablo Neruda

OR

B. The different portrayals of women in the texts 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers', 'Going Places', 'Lost Spring', and 'My Mother at Sixty-six', offer insights into the experiences of women in society. You have been asked to address your peers and share- → the ways these portrayals highlight the diversity of the female experience. → the importance of understanding each individual woman's challenges and experiences. Compose this draft, with reference to any three of these prescribed texts. listed above.

You may begin this way: Good morning, everyone. As I analysed the allotted texts...

You may end this way. To conclude, I'd like to say that ...

13. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.

5

A. A grown-up Zitkala-Sa, reflects on the incident about cutting of her long hair and is conflicted that she did not do enough to resist and surrendered easily. She also wonders if she could have tried something else to prevent the incident. As the grown-up Zitkala-Sa, create a diary entry, expressing these thoughts and conclude by absolving yourself of any blame. You may begin like this: I find myself reflecting on an event that happened many years ago...

OR

B. In the story, 'The Third Level' by Jack Finney, Charley is obsessed with finding the third level. In an attempt to thrash out whether this obsession is a good quality or a harmful one, Charley's wife expresses her thoughts in a diary entry. As Louisa, Charley's wife, write this diary entry. Support your response with reference to the story. You may begin this way: I have been married to Charley for a few years now and I have always known him to be an intelligent man with an imaginative mind. However, his recent obsession with finding the Third Level has ...

******END OF THE QUESTION PAPER******

ROLL NUMBER				
----------------	--	--	--	--

SET	B
-----	---



**INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
FIRST PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION 2023
ENGLISH CORE (301)**



CLASS: XII
DATE: 28/11/2023

TIME ALLOTTED: 3 HRS.
MAXIMUM MARKS: 80

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- i) Please check that this question paper contains 13 questions.
- ii) All questions are compulsory.
- iii) This question paper contains THREE Sections – Section – A: **READING SKILLS**, Section – B: **CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS** and Section – C: **LITERATURE**.
- iv) Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
- v) Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them strictly.
- vi) Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

I. SECTION – A (READING)
1.

Read the passage given below:

1. Nations are built by the imagination and untiring enthusiastic efforts of generations. One generation transfers the fruits of its toil to another, which then takes forward the mission. As the coming generation also has its dreams and aspirations for the nation's future, it therefore adds something from its side to the national vision; which the next generation strives hard to achieve. This process goes on and the nation climbs steps of glory and gains higher strength. The first vision: Freedom of India

2. Any organisation, society or even a nation without a vision is like a ship cruising on the high seas without any aim or direction. It is the clarity of national vision which constantly drives the people towards the goal.

3. Our last generation, the glorious generation of freedom fighters, led by Mahatma Gandhi and many others set for the nation a vision of free India. This was the first vision, set by the people for the nation. It therefore went deep into the minds and the hearts of the masses and soon became the great inspiring and driving force for the people to collectively plunge into the struggle for freedom movement. The unified dedicated efforts of the people from every walk of life won freedom for the country. The second vision: Developed India

4. The next generation (to which I also belong) has put India strongly on the path of economic, agricultural and technological development. But India has stood too long in the line of developing nations. Let us, collectively, set the second national vision of Developed India. I am confident that it is very much possible and can materialise in 15 – 20 years' time. Developed status

Handwritten signature

5. What does the developed nation status mean for the common man? It means the major transformation of our national economy to make it one of the largest economies in the world, where the countrymen live well above the poverty line, their education and health is of high standard, national security is reasonably assured, and the core competence in certain major areas gets enhanced significantly so that the production of quality goods, including exports, is rising and thereby bringing all-round prosperity for the countrymen.

6. What is the common link needed to realise these sub-goals? It is the technological strength of the nation, which is the key to reaching this developed status. Build around our strength

7. The next question that comes to mind is, how can it be made possible? We have to build and strengthen our national infrastructure in an all-round manner, in a big way. Therefore, we should build around our existing strengths including the vast pool of talented scientists and technologists and our abundant natural resources. The manpower resource should be optimally utilised to harness health care, services sectors and engineering goods sectors

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

**12
Marks**

i) According to the passage, how do nations progress and achieve their visions?

1

- a) Through the efforts of one generation only
- b) By setting one vision for all generations
- c) By transferring the fruits of toil to the next generation
- d) By relying on external support and aid

ii) What is the importance of a clear national vision, as mentioned in the passage?

1

- a) It is unnecessary for the development of a nation.
- b) It helps a nation to navigate its path and achieve its goals.
- c) It limits the flexibility of a nation.
- d) It only applies to organizations, not nations.

iii) (i) According to the author, what, from the following, a nation without a vision is?

1

(a) Futuristic (b) Prudent (c) Desultory (d) Belligerent

(iv) Select the option that suitably completes the dialogue with reference to the above passage.

1

John: The diversity of India is a gift, wouldn't you agree? I think it adds to the glory of our nation and makes it unique in its existence.

Matt: I do agree. In fact, I think

- (a) If everyone stays isolated, that would nurture the nation's strength
- (b) Unity in diversity is what will make our nation great
- (c) Generalisation of every citizen as a part of one single community is very integral to the growth of the nation
- (d) It separates our nation and makes India superior to all others

v) Choose the option that best conveys the message in – "It therefore went deep into the minds and the hearts of the masses and soon became the great inspiring and driving force..."

1



- (a) A person is a coward because they think they are.
- (b) A person is brave because their family and friends support them.
- (c) A person's happiness depends upon a healthy relationship with the society.
- (d) A person's valour is determined by their contribution to the world.

vi) What qualities does the writer of the above passage display when they talk about the necessary steps to build our nation's strength? 1

Choose one option from the following.

- (a) Ambitious and alertness
- (b) Tendency to help everyone in need
- (c) Visionary and confident
- (d) Leading people by trying to do everything in their own way

vii) Select the option with the underlined words that can suitably replace 'driving'. 1

- (a) He was the acting force behind the new ballet company.
- (b) You should never take a chance while swiftly drunk riding a car.
- (c) Covered in the engine, dragging forcefully the 31-foot propeller shaft for the 2 propellers.
- (d) During the first year of the war, he was active in exerting force and maltreating Union men.

viii) What does the author advise, in paragraph 7? 1

- (a) To strengthen the nation's technological strength.
- (b) To strengthen the nation's defensive strength.
- (c) To strengthen the nation's nuclear strength.
- (d) To strengthen the nation's educational strength

ix) Choose the option that lists the quote best expressing the central idea of the passage. 1

- (a) Not merely a nation, but a nation of nations. (Lyndon B Johnson)
- (b) To survive in peace and harmony united and strong, we must have one people, one nation, and one flag. (Pauline Hanson)
- (c) After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. (Nelson Mandela)
- (d) In the truest sense, freedom cannot be bestowed; it must be achieved. (F. D. Roosevelt)

x) What was the first vision set by the people for India, as per the passage? 1

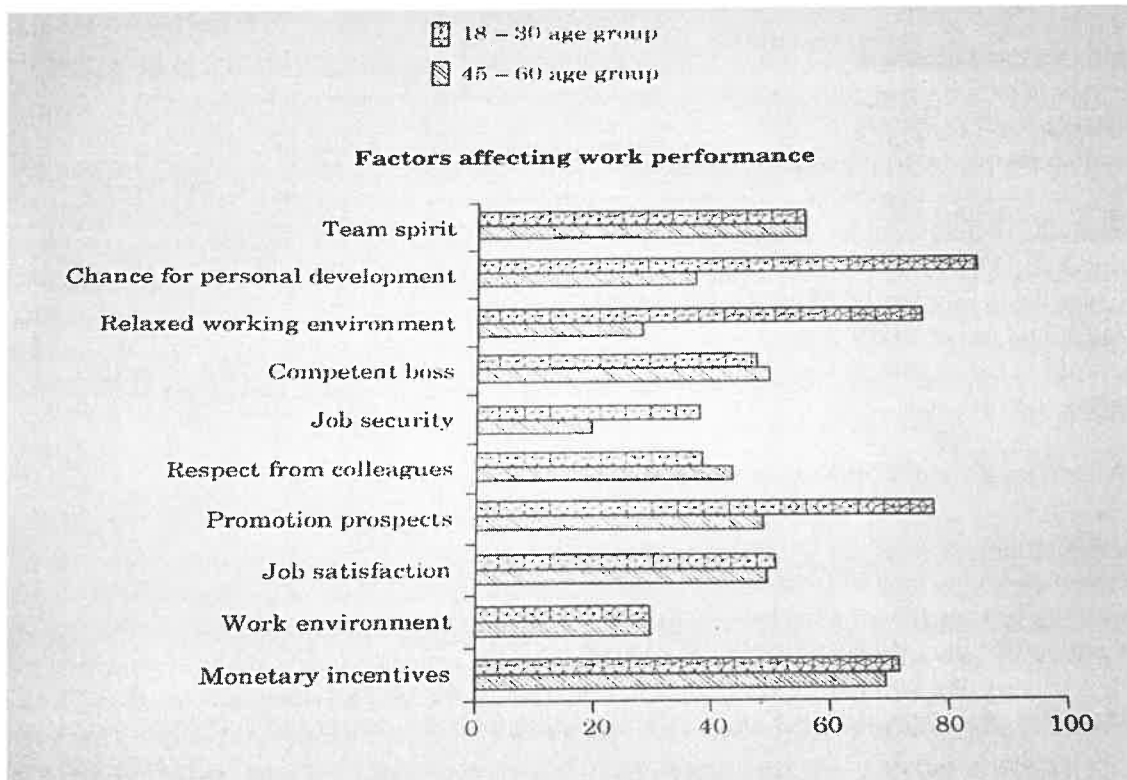
- a) Economic development
- b) Freedom of India
- c) Technological advancement
- d) Environmental sustainability

xi) How does the passage describe the role of successive generations in the development of a nation's vision and progress? (30-40 words) 1

xii) What is the second national vision proposed in the passage, and what does it entail for India's future? (30-40 words) 1

2. Read the passage given below:

(1) Nowadays companies demand an outstanding job performance by every single employee to be better than that of their competitors because there is competition among enterprises. The employers make efforts to motivate the employees and optimize performance.



(2) There are numerous factors affecting job performance. These can be divided into external and internal factors. The internal factors are team spirit, competent boss, respect from colleagues and job satisfaction. The external factors are chance for personal development, job security, promotion prospects and monetary incentives. The decisive determinant is that the employees remain highly motivated. One possible method to increase motivation is the salary. Employees are willing to stay longer hours in the office and perform better, when they have the chance to get financial rewards, for instance, a higher salary or bonuses.

(3) The bar graph (given above) shows the result of a survey conducted among workers in a company to analyse their work performance across ten different factors that contribute to make their work environment pleasant. The workers are grouped into two categories - those between the ages of 18-30 and those between 45-60. Interestingly, in six out of the ten factors surveyed, the 18-30 age group is shown to be more affected than the 45-60 age group. Factors, besides the salary, which affect the work performance of the two different age groups are interesting. These factors are the chance for personal development, a relaxed working environment, promotion prospects, job satisfaction and monetary incentives. Furthermore, two out of the remaining four factors namely, team spirit and work environment have been equally influential among the two groups. The 45-60-year-old workers are impacted a lot by 'respect from colleagues' whereas the prospect of a promotion is an important reason that drives younger employees to work better.

(4) The job performance of happy employees is 31% more productive and shows three times more creativity than their unhappy counterparts. They are more resilient and more likely to stay in the same company longer. Consequently, they drive the company towards long-term goals by being more productive and efficient.

20

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

10Marks

(i) Select the option that displays the most likely reason for employees to perform better. **1**

- a) companies demand an outstanding performance
- b) if the company grows, its growth is assured
- c) when there are chances to get financial gratification
- d) to drive the company towards long-term goals

ii) Why do you think the companies demand exemplary performance from their employees? **1**
Support your answer with reference to the passage.

iii) Does the following statement agree with the information given in para 1? **1**

When the company has a lot of competitors, it tries to invent the most efficient technology to stay ahead.

Select from the following:

- a) True b) False c) Not Given d) Partially true.

iv) Select two factors that display that the work performance of both categories of workers remains the same. **1**

v) Based on the bar graph, complete the following statement: **1**
The 18-30 age group is shown to be more affected than the 45-60 age group in most factors.
We can say this because _____

vi) Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option: **1**
Loyalty as an attribute is there in employees who are _____

- a) senior b) healthy c) motivated d) happy

vii) The 45-60 age group workers are motivated by _____. **1**

viii) Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option: **1**

The concluding sentence of the passage makes a clear case for _____ by listing it as a core component of steering the company towards long-term goals.

- (a) collaboration, (b) flexibility, (c) happiness, (d) adaptability

(ix) Complete the sentence. **1**
The internal factors affecting work performance are _____

(x) Based on the reading of the passage, state a point to challenge the given statement. **1**
An increase in salary is the only motivation for better job performance.

II **SECTION B - CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS** **18 Marks**

3. A. The Young Men Linguistic Club of your society, Emi World, Sector 10, Gandhinagar, will be holding free English language classes on Sunday mornings, in the common hall. As a member of the club, draft notice in about 50 words informing the young residents. Mention any other relevant details required for the notice. **4**

OR

B. Marvelous Public School will be conducting an online course on public reading during the winter vacations for students of Class XI and XII. In this course, students will learn to understand about nuances of reading, develop the habit of reading the news regularly, and will have a chance to interact with well-known journalists. As Richa Srivastav, Editor of the school magazine, draft a notice in about 50 words for the school notice board, urging students to sign up. Mention any other relevant details required for the notice.

4. A. You and your parents have received an invitation for your elder cousin's wedding to be held in Jabalpur on the 6th and 7th of December. All of you would be delighted to attend. Draft a reply to your cousin accepting the invite and sharing your excitement while congratulating him. **4**

OR

B. You are a member of the Cultural Society at L.F. High School. Your school is organising a cultural programme aimed at spreading awareness about environmental conservation. The programme will have dance and song performances, poetry recitations, and art exhibitions by the students throughout the day, in the school auditorium. In about 50 words, create an invitation for parents and school teachers to attend. Mention the relevant details required for an invitation.

5. A. You are Rohan/Richa of P.S.J.K. Enclave, Bhopal. You have recently come across an advertisement for the post of Manager in W.S. Food Products Pvt. Ltd., Bhopal. Apply with bio-data to The H.R. Department, W.S. Food Products Pvt. Ltd., J.H. Avenue, Bhopal. **5**

W.S. Food Products Pvt. Ltd.

Required Manager

Preferred skills and qualifications

*** Bachelor's degree, * MBA, * Strong interpersonal & communication skills**

*** Computer competency, * 5 years' experience**

Apply with complete bio-data within 7 days to the HR Dept. W.S. Food Products.

OR

B. Lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, obesity, hypertension, and heart disease have increased in India. 53% of deaths in India are due to lifestyle diseases. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the editor of a national daily about the issue and your understanding of the reasons behind the same. Offer suggestions on how one can reduce their risk of having such diseases and on ways to cope with them. You may use the following cues to compose the letter. You are Sakshi Saran, a concerned citizen.

Consequences: - leads to poor quality of life mentally and physically - increases the cost of health care - can reduce life expectancy and cause early deaths Page 8 of 16

Solutions: - follow a balanced diet - incorporate some form of exercise that is sustainable - get regular blood tests to check our health status.

6. A. Your school recently organised a workshop on 'Students' Role in Social Welfare Initiatives' for students of Classes XI and XII on 29 October 2023. As Soumya Dinesh, a member of the organising committee, write an article in 120-150 words about the event for a local daily. Support your ideas with the outline cues given below to craft your report. 5

→ *purpose of the workshop* → *who attended the workshop* → *activities that took place* → *key messages or takeaways from the workshop* → *post-workshop resources and information given to attendees* → *what impact the workshop would have on the students and their involvement.*

OR

B. Your school recently conducted an inter-school debate competition. As a student reporter Anita/Anish, write a report of the event to be published in your school magazine. Use the input given below and your own ideas to write a report in 120-150 words.

INTER SCHOOL DEBATE COMPETITION
TOPIC: INDIA - THE NEW EDUCATION DESTINATION

* *Date:* * *Time:* * *Venue:*

* *Each team comprises 3 participants. One for the motion, one against and an interjector*

* *Prizes - Certificate of Participation to all participants*

* *Cash prize to winners: Sponsored by EdTech Now.*

III

SECTION C: LITERATURE

40
Marks
1x6=6

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

A.

When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.
The tigers in the panel that she made.
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.

- i) Read the statement given below:

Aunt Jennifer's plight is best explained by her hands, they hold both her freedom and the instrument of her imprisonment.

Choose the option that best explains the above statement, as per the extract.

- (a) Aunt Jennifer's hands are terrified, but when she is dead, her tigers will roam free.
- (b) Aunt Jennifer knits her desires but is overpowered by the wedding ring she wears.
- (c) Aunt Jennifer's tigers are proud and unafraid, but she is mastered by ringed ordeals.
- (d) Aunt Jennifer makes panels of tigers when she has time from her responsibilities.

- ii) Which of the following CANNOT be inferred from the given extract?

- (a) Aunt Jennifer's tigers will keep her alive in everyone's memory.
- (b) Aunt Jennifer feels oppressed and constricted in her marriage.
- (c) Even in death, Aunt Jennifer cannot escape patriarchal subjugation.
- (d) Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance as a lasting symbol of her desires.

- iii) What makes the tigers "proud and unafraid"?
- (a) They embody the grandeur and supremacy of animals in the wild.
 - (b) They symbolise authority and are 'topaz denizens of green'.
 - (c) They represent Aunt's repressed desires for freedom and power.
 - (d) They are a product of Aunt's imagination and colonial experience.
- iv) Choose the option that DOES NOT reflect the movement implied by 'prancing'.
- (a) Bounding
 - (b) Frolicking
 - (d) Shuffling
 - (c) Strutting
- v) What does the poem suggest about the lasting impact of Aunt Jennifer's artistic creations?
- (a) Her art will outlive her
 - (b) Her art will stand as a symbol of her inner strength
 - (c) Her art will be criticized by others
 - (d) Her desire for freedom and dignity will remain alive.
- Select the correct set of options:
- (1) (a), (b) and (c)
 - (2) (a), (d) and (c)
 - (3) (a), (b) and (d)
 - (4) (b), (c) and (d)
- vi) Explain in a single sentence the symbolism in the expression 'terrified hands'.

OR

B.

Those who prepare green wars,
wars with gas, wars with fire,
victory with no survivors,
would put on clean clothes
and walk about with their
brothers
in the shade, doing nothing.

- i) What is the significance of "victory with no survivors" in the context of the lines? (Respond in not more than 2 sentences)
- ii) According to the lines, what is the outcome of these wars?
- a) Total destruction
 - b) Victory with no survivors
 - c) Endless conflict
 - d) Peaceful resolution
- iii) What does the act of putting on clean clothes symbolize in the lines? (Respond in not more than 2 sentences)
- iv) What is the emotional state of those who "walk about with their brothers in the shade, doing nothing"? (Respond in not more than 2 sentences)

v) What do the people who "walk about with their brothers in the shade" symbolize in the lines?

- a) Unity and solidarity
- b) The desire for revenge
- c) The need for secrecy
- d) A love for leisure

vi) What is the common factor among those who "prepare green wars" and "victory with no survivors"?

- a) Their commitment to environmental preservation
- b) Their desire for clean clothes
- c) Their shared victory in battles
- d) Their participation in destructive wars.

8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

1X4=4

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 fulfilment. 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. Well, who doesn't? Everybody I know wants to escape, but they don't wander down into any third level at Grand Central Station.

i) Complete the given sentence appropriately. Unlike the two levels that have 'a stack of timetables' to prove their existence, the third level has _____.

ii) Yes, I've taken the obvious step. What is the narrator assuming that the reader is thinking when he says the above line?

iii) Which of these is an example of 'a waking-dream wish fulfilment' as described in the extract?

- a) Meenal loses her book and swears that it is her enemy who stole it.
- b) Milind claims that he was petting his beloved dog whom he lost a few years ago.
- c) Malini tells everyone that she saw a Cheetah though she herself knows it is a lie.
- d) Mrinal thinks that he saw a spaceship in the sky which later turns out to be a normal aircraft

iv) Based on the extract, what does the narrator think about the psychiatrist's opinion?

OR

B. When I was studying in the third class, I hadn't yet heard people speak openly of untouchability. But I had already seen, felt, experienced and been humiliated by what it is. I was walking home from school one day, an old bag hanging from my shoulder. It was actually possible to walk the distance in ten minutes. But usually, it would take me from half an hour to an hour to dawdle along watching all the fun and games that were going on. All the entertaining novelties and oddities in the streets, the shops and the bazaar.

i) The narrator was humiliated because _____ (answer in not more than 2 sentences)

ii) The narrator 'dawdled along' as she _____.

- (a) enjoyed looking at the various sights
- (b) was getting late for school
- (c) she didn't like going home
- (d) she enjoyed haggling and shopping

iii) On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below:

- (I) The distance from school to home was very short.
- (II) She was feeling upset and was dawdling her way home.

- (a) (I) can be inferred from the extract but (II) cannot.
- (b) (II) can be inferred from the extract but (I) cannot.
- (c) Both (I) and (II) cannot be inferred from the extract
- (d) Both (I) and (II) can be inferred from the extract.

iv) The word 'novelties' in the passage most nearly means:

- (a) colourful trinkets
- (b) wooden toys
- (c) unique and interesting items
- (d) expensive souvenirs

9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the two, given.

1x6=6

A. "Or an actress, now there's real money in that. Yes, and I could have the boutique on the side. Actresses don't work full-time, do they? Anyway, that or a fashion designer. You know something a bit sophisticated". And she turned in through the open street door leaving Jansie standing in the rain. "If I ever come into money, I'll buy a boutique". "Hub, if you ever come into money ... if you ever come into money, you'll buy us a blessed decent house to live in thank you very much."

Sophie's father was scooping shepherd's pie into his mouth as hard as he could go, his plump face still grimy and sweat-marked from the day. "She thinks money grows on trees, doesn't she Dad? Said little Derek hanging on the back of his father's chair. Their mother sighed.

i) Sophie wants to become an actress to:

- (a) become famous
- (b) to earn money
- (c) to support her father
- (d) to compete with Jansie

ii) Jansie wanted Sophie to spend her money on:

- (a) her marriage
- (b) her career
- (c) to open a boutique
- (d) buy a house

iii) Why did Sophie turn away, leaving Jansie standing in the rain?

- a) She got excited about the idea of being an actress.
- b) She didn't want Jansie to know her future plans.
- c) She wanted to avoid the rain.
- d) She went to buy a boutique.



iv) What is Little Derek's comment about Sophie's ideas?

- a) He supports Sophie's ideas.
- b) He thinks she's unrealistic.
- c) He wants to become an actor.
- d) He wants to be a fashion designer too

v) Sophie's mother's sigh is one of:

- | | |
|------------|------------------|
| (a) regret | (b) delights |
| (c) relief | (d) helplessness |

vi) What is Sophie's father doing during this conversation?

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a) Cooking dinner | b) Eating shepherd's pie |
| c) Arguing with Sophie | d) Helping Little Derek with homework |

OR

B.

"I am thinking of this stranger here." said Edla "He walks and walks the whole year long, and there is probably not a single place in the whole country where he is welcome and can feel at home. Wherever he turns he is chased away. Always he is afraid of being arrested and cross-examined. I should like to have him enjoy a day of peace with us here just once in the whole year."

i) Complete the following sentence with the most appropriate option:

Edla wished the Peddler to have a peaceful day because _____

- (a) The peddler had worked for Edla.
- (b) The peddler had not been released from jail.
- (c) the Peddler had been staying at the forge.
- (d) The peddler had always been looked at with suspicion.

ii) Select the suitable word from the extract to complete the analogy -
single: multiple: abroad: _____

iii) In the above extract, Edla comes across as:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| (a) conscientious | (b) pretentious |
| (c) compassionate | (d) selfless |

iv) Based on the above extract, choose the statement which is true.

- (a) relationship are rattraps.
- (b) money is important in the world.
- (c) criminal is not born but made.
- (d) Christmas is a time of charity.

v) In the context of the given extract, which day is referred to in the expression 'just one in the whole year'?

vi) What does the expression 'he is cross-examined' suggest?

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words.

5x2=10

i) Why does Sophie's father look at Sophie with disdain in the following scene from 'Going Places'? "Sophie's met Danny Casey", Geoff said.

ii) The author of 'Poets and Pancakes' is extremely observant of people and their behaviour. Support this statement with an example of a description he gives us about any one of the characters.

iii) What lesson did the author learn from his experience of overcoming his fear of water?

iv) How does the poem end, and what is the implication of the ending?

v) Umberto Eco, with reference to "The Name of the Rose" says, "I think if I had written The Name of the Rose ten years earlier or ten years later, it wouldn't have been the same." What could he have meant?

vi) Imagine that John Keats meets someone who is feeling sad. What advice would he give to such a person? State any one feature of beauty from 'A Thing of Beauty' and relate the advice to it.

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.

2x2=4

i) In the story, 'On the Face of It', what brings Derry and Mr. Lamb together as friends? What can you conclude about friendships from this?

ii) In his letter to Charley, Sam writes, '...then I got to believing you were right.' What could have made Sam begin to believe?

iii) How would a student's learning experience be enhanced in the 'Students on Ice' programme as compared to studying only in a classroom? Analyse any one point.

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.

5

A. The different portrayals of women in the texts 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers', 'Going Places', 'Lost Spring', and 'My Mother at Sixty-six', offer insights into the experiences of women in society. You have been asked to address your peers and share- → the ways these portrayals highlight the diversity of the female experience. → the importance of understanding each individual woman's challenges and experiences. Compose this draft, with reference to any three of these prescribed texts listed above.

You may begin this way: Good morning, everyone. As I analysed the allotted texts...

You may end this way. To conclude, I'd like to say that ...

OR

B. Imagine you are Pablo Neruda, the poet of Keeping Quiet. What advice might you offer to Robert Frost, the poet of A Roadside Stand, in the context of his conflicted emotions, as displayed in the given lines 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. Pen down your advice, in a letter to Frost.

You may begin this way: Dear Robert I recently read your poem, "A Roadside Stand," and...
You may end this way: I hope this advice is helpful to you. Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to support you. Warmly, Pablo Neruda

13.

Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.

5

A. In the story, 'The Third Level' by Jack Finney, Charley is obsessed with finding the third level. In an attempt to thrash out whether this obsession is a good quality or a harmful one, Charley's wife expresses her thoughts in a diary entry. As Louisa, Charley's wife, write this diary entry. Support your response with reference to the story. You may begin this way: I have been married to Charley for a few years now and I have always known him to be an intelligent man with an imaginative mind. However, his recent obsession with finding the Third Level has ...

OR

B. A grown-up Zitkala-Sa, reflects on the incident about cutting of her long hair and is conflicted that she did not do enough to resist and surrendered easily. She also wonders if she could have tried something else to prevent the incident. As the grown-up Zitkala-Sa, create a diary entry, expressing these thoughts and conclude by absolving yourself of any blame. You may begin like this: I find myself reflecting on an event that happened many years ago...

******END OF THE QUESTION PAPER******

ROLL NUMBER				
----------------	--	--	--	--

SET	C
-----	---



**INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
FIRST PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION 2023
ENGLISH CORE (301)**



CLASS: XII
DATE: 28/11/2023

TIME ALLOTTED: 3 HRS.
MAXIMUM MARKS: 80

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- i) Please check that this question paper contains 13 questions.
- ii) All questions are compulsory.
- iii) This question paper contains THREE Sections – Section – A: **READING SKILLS**, Section – B: **CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS** and Section – C: **LITERATURE**.
- iv) Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
- v) Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them strictly.
- vi) Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

I. SECTION – A (READING)

1.

Read the passage given below:

1. Nations are built by the imagination and untiring enthusiastic efforts of generations. One generation transfers the fruits of its toil to another, which then takes forward the mission. As the coming generation also has its dreams and aspirations for the nation's future, it therefore adds something from its side to the national vision; which the next generation strives hard to achieve. This process goes on and the nation climbs steps of glory and gains higher strength. The first vision: Freedom of India

2. Any organisation, society or even a nation without a vision is like a ship cruising on the high seas without any aim or direction. It is the clarity of national vision which constantly drives the people towards the goal.

3. Our last generation, the glorious generation of freedom fighters, led by Mahatma Gandhi and many others set for the nation a vision of free India. This was the first vision, set by the people for the nation. It therefore went deep into the minds and the hearts of the masses and soon became the great inspiring and driving force for the people to collectively plunge into the struggle for freedom movement. The unified dedicated efforts of the people from every walk of life won freedom for the country. The second vision: Developed India

4. The next generation (to which I also belong) has put India strongly on the path of economic, agricultural and technological development. But India has stood too long in the line of developing nations. Let us, collectively, set the second national vision of Developed India. I am confident that it is very much possible and can materialise in 15 – 20 years' time. Developed status

Handwritten signature

5. What does the developed nation status mean for the common man? It means the major transformation of our national economy to make it one of the largest economies in the world, where the countrymen live well above the poverty line, their education and health are of a high standard, national security is reasonably assured, and the core competence in certain major areas gets enhanced significantly so that the production of quality goods, including exports, is rising and thereby bringing all-round prosperity for the countrymen.

6. What is the common link needed to realise these sub-goals? It is the technological strength of the nation, which is the key to reaching this developed status. Build around our strength

7. The next question that comes to mind is, how can it be made possible? We have to build and strengthen our national infrastructure in an all-round manner, in a big way. Therefore, we should build around our existing strengths including the vast pool of talented scientists and technologists and our abundant natural resources. The manpower resource should be optimally utilised to harness health care, services sectors and engineering goods sectors

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

**12
Marks**

i) According to the passage, how do nations progress and achieve their visions?

1

- a) Through the efforts of one generation only
- b) By setting one vision for all generations
- c) By transferring the fruits of toil to the next generation
- d) By relying on external support and aid

ii) What is the importance of a clear national vision, as mentioned in the passage?

1

- a) It is unnecessary for the development of a nation.
- b) It helps a nation to navigate its path and achieve its goals.
- c) It limits the flexibility of a nation.
- d) It only applies to organizations, not nations.

iii) (i) According to the author, what, from the following, a nation without a vision is?

1

- (a) Futuristic (b) Prudent (c) Desultory (d) Belligerent

(iv) Select the option that suitably completes the dialogue with reference to the above passage.

1

John: The diversity of India is a gift, wouldn't you agree? I think it adds to the glory of our nation and makes it unique in its existence.

Matt: I do agree. In fact, I think

- (a) If everyone stays isolated, that would nurture the nation's strength
- (b) Unity in diversity is what will make our nation great
- (c) Generalisation of every citizen as a part of one single community is integral to the growth of the nation
- (d) It separates our nation and makes India superior to all others

v) Choose the option that best conveys the message in – "It therefore went deep into the minds and the hearts of the masses and soon became the great inspiring and driving force..."

1



- (a) A person is a coward because they think they are.
- (b) A person is brave because their family and friends support them.
- (c) A person's happiness depends upon a healthy relationship with the society.
- (d) A person's valour is determined by their contribution to the world.

vi) What qualities does the writer of the above passage display when they talk about the necessary steps to build our nation's strength?
Choose one option from the following.

- (a) Ambitious and alertness
- (b) Tendency to help everyone in need
- (c) Visionary and confident
- (d) Leading people by trying to do everything in their own way

vii) Select the option with the underlined words that can suitably replace 'driving'. 1

- (a) He was the acting force behind the new ballet company.
- (b) You should never take a chance while swiftly drunk riding a car.
- (c) Covered in the engine, dragging forcefully the 31-foot propeller shaft for the 2 propellers.
- (d) During the first year of the war, he was active in exerting force and maltreating Union men.

viii) What does the author advise, in paragraph 7? 1

- (a) To strengthen the nation's technological strength.
- (b) To strengthen the nation's defensive strength.
- (c) To strengthen the nation's nuclear strength.
- (d) To strengthen the nation's educational strength

ix) Choose the option that lists the quote best expressing the central idea of the passage. 1

- (a) Not merely a nation, but a nation of nations. (Lyndon B Johnson)
- (b) To survive in peace and harmony united and strong, we must have one people, one nation, and one flag. (Pauline Hanson)
- (c) After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. (Nelson Mandela)
- (d) In the truest sense, freedom cannot be bestowed; it must be achieved. (F. D. Roosevelt)

x) What was the first vision set by the people for India, as per the passage?
a) Economic development 1
b) Freedom of India
c) Technological advancement
d) Environmental sustainability

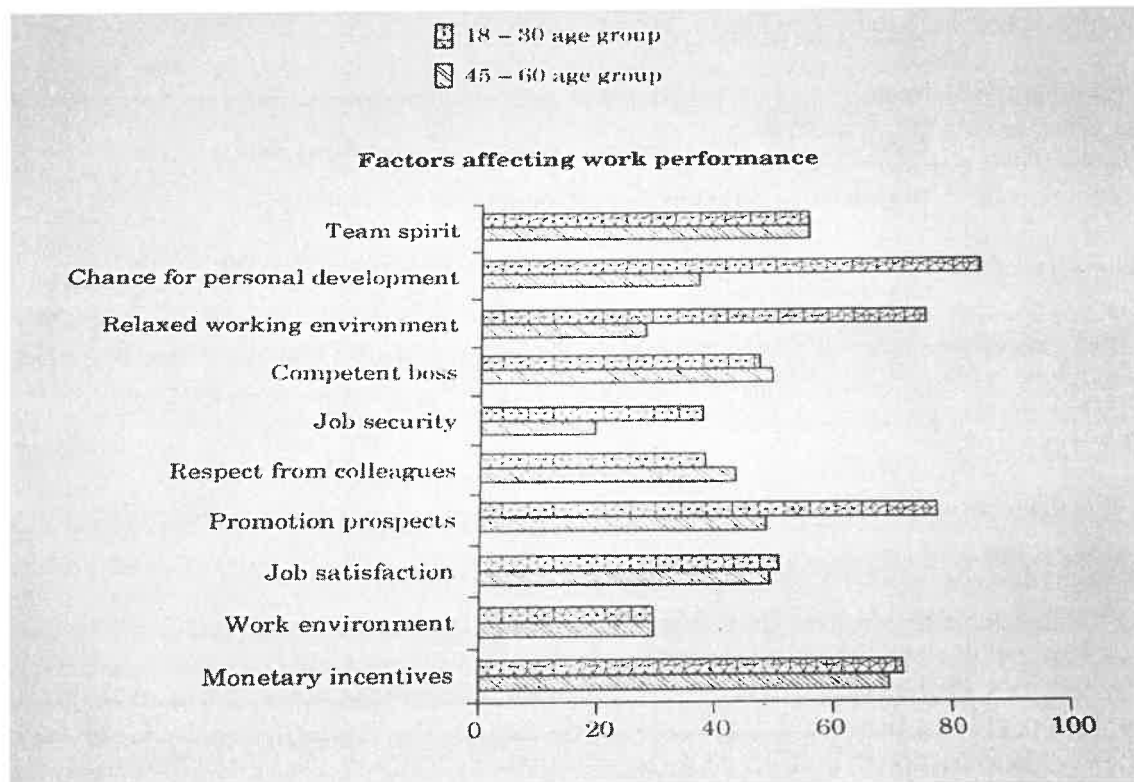
xi) How does the passage describe the role of successive generations in the development of a nation's vision and progress? (30-40 words) 1

xii) What is the second national vision proposed in the passage, and what does it entail for India's future? (30-40 words) 1

2. Read the passage given below:

(1) Nowadays companies demand an outstanding job performance by every single employee to

be better than that of their competitors because there is competition among enterprises. The employers make efforts to motivate the employees and optimize performance.



(2) There are numerous factors affecting job performance. These can be divided into external and internal factors. The internal factors are team spirit, competent boss, respect from colleagues and job satisfaction. The external factors are chance for personal development, job security, promotion prospects and monetary incentives. The decisive determinant is that the employees remain highly motivated. One possible method to increase motivation is the salary. Employees are willing to stay longer hours in the office and perform better, when they have the chance to get financial rewards, for instance, a higher salary or bonuses.

(3) The bar graph (given above) shows the result of a survey conducted among workers in a company to analyse their work performance across ten different factors that contribute to make their work environment pleasant. The workers are grouped into two categories - those between the ages of 18-30 and those between 45-60. Interestingly, in six out of the ten factors surveyed, the 18-30 age group is shown to be more affected than the 45-60 age group. Factors, besides the salary, which affect the work performance of the two different age groups are interesting. These factors are the chance for personal development, relaxed working environment, promotion prospects, job satisfaction and monetary incentives. Furthermore, two out of the remaining four factors namely, team spirit and work environment have been equally influential among the two groups. The 45-60 years workers are impacted a lot by 'respect from colleagues' whereas the prospect of a promotion is an important reason that drives younger employees to work better.

(4) Job performance of happy employees is 31% more productive and they show three times more creativity than their unhappy counterparts. They are more resilient and more likely to stay in the same company for a longer period. Consequently, they drive the company towards long-term goals by being more productive and efficient.

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



(i) Select the option that displays the most likely reason for employees to perform better.

1

- a) companies demand an outstanding performance
- b) if the company grows, its growth is assured
- c) when there are chances to get financial gratification
- d) to drive the company towards long-term goals

ii) Why do you think the companies demand exemplary performance from their employees? Support your answer with reference to the passage.

1

iii) Does the following statement agree with the information given in para 1?

1

When the company has a lot of competitors, it tries to invent the most efficient technology to stay ahead.

Select from the following:

- a) True b) False c) Not Given d) Partially true.

iv) Select two factors that display that the work performance of both categories of workers remains the same.

1

v) Based on the bar graph, complete the following statement:

1

The 18-30 age group is shown to be more affected than the 45-60 age group in most factors. We can say this because _____

vi) Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option: Loyalty as an attribute is there in employees who are _____

1

- a) senior b) healthy c) motivated d) happy

vii) The 45-60 age group workers are motivated by _____.

1

viii) Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option:

1

The concluding sentence of the passage makes a clear case for _____ by listing it as a core component of steering the company towards long-term goals.

- (a) collaboration, (b) flexibility, (c) happiness, (d) adaptability

(ix) Complete the sentence.

1

The internal factors affecting work performance are _____

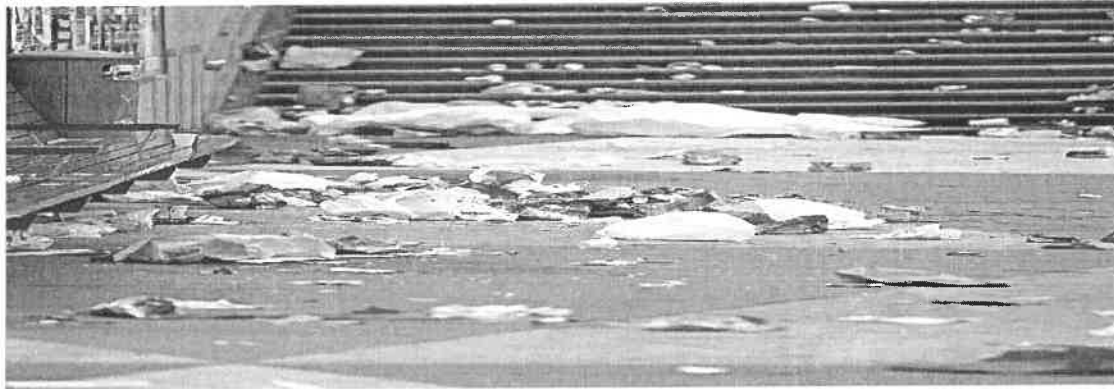
(x) Based on the reading of the passage, state a point to challenge the given statement.

1

An increase in salary is the only motivation for better job performance.

II **SECTION B - CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS** **18 Marks**

3. A. You are the Head Girl/Head Boy of your school. You recently noticed that many students have been littering the school premises, which is causing a lot of inconvenience and environmental damage. Write a notice in 50 words to be displayed on the school notice board, informing all students about the issue and requesting their cooperation in maintaining a clean and green environment. Use the given visual input of a littered school campus to support your notice. **4**



OR

- B. Marvelous Public School will be conducting an online course on public reading during the winter vacations for students of Class XI and XII. In this course, students will learn to understand about nuances of reading, develop the habit of reading the news regularly, and will have a chance to interact with well-known journalists. As Richa Srivastav, Editor of the school magazine, draft a notice in about 50 words for the school notice board, urging students to sign up. Mention any other relevant details required for the notice.
4. A. You and your parents have received an invitation for your elder cousin's wedding to be held in Jabalpur on the 6th and 7th of December. All of you would be delighted to attend. Draft a reply to your cousin accepting the invite and sharing your excitement while congratulating him. **4**

OR

- B. You are a member of the Cultural Society at L.F. High School. Your school is organising a cultural programme aimed at spreading awareness about environmental conservation. The programme will have dance and song performances, poetry recitations, and art exhibitions by the students throughout the day, in the school auditorium. In about 50 words, create an invitation for parents and school teachers to attend. Mention the relevant details required for an invitation.
5. A. Lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, obesity, hypertension, and heart disease have increased in India. 53% of deaths in India are due to lifestyle diseases. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the editor of a national daily about the issue and your understanding of the reasons behind the same. Offer suggestions on how one can reduce their risk of having such diseases and on ways to cope with them. You may use the following cues to compose the letter. You are Sakshi Saran, a concerned citizen. **5**

Consequences: - leads to poor quality of life mentally and physically - increases the cost of health care - can reduce life expectancy and cause early deaths *Page 8 of 16*

Solutions: - follow a balanced diet - incorporate some form of exercise that is sustainable - get regular blood tests to check our health status.

OR

B. You are Ramesh/Rodha of Golden Tulip Apartments, Ujjain. You have recently come across an advertisement for the post of Asst. Manager in New Tastes Food Company Lcc. Ujjain. Apply with bio-data to The General Manager, New Tastes Food Company Lcc, W.K.H. Avenue, Ujjain.

New Tastes Food Company Lcc.

Required Asst. Managers

Preferred skills and qualifications

* Bachelor's degree, * MBA, * Strong interpersonal & communication skills

* Computer competency, * 5 years' experience

Apply with complete bio-data within 7 days to the General Manager, New Tastes Food Company Lcc

6.

5

A. Your school recently organised a workshop on 'Students' Role in Social Welfare Initiatives' for students of Classes XI and XII on 29 October 2023. As Soumya Dinesh, a member of the organising committee, write an article in 120-150 words about the event for a local daily. Support your ideas with the outline cues given below to craft your report.

** purpose of the workshop * who attended the workshop * activities that took place * key messages or takeaways from the workshop * post-workshop resources and information given to attendees * what impact the workshop would have on the students and their involvement.*

OR

B. Your school recently conducted an inter-school debate competition. As a student reporter Anita/Anish, write a report of the event to be published in your school magazine. Use the input given below and your own ideas to write a report in 120-150 words.

INTER SCHOOL DEBATE COMPETITION

TOPIC: INDIA - THE NEW EDUCATION DESTINATION

** Date: * Time: * Venue * Each team comprises 3 participants. One for the motion, one against and an interjector * Prizes - Certificate of Participation to all participants, * Cash prize to winners: Sponsored by EdTech Now.*

III

SECTION C: LITERATURE

40

Marks

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

1x6=6

A.

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) In the given lines, what does the speaker feel about providing relief to the people mentioned?
- a) He is enthusiastic about offering help.
 - b) He is reluctant to offer help.
 - c) He is indifferent to the people's pain.
 - d) He is uncertain about how to help.
- ii) What is the country's voice complaining about in the poem?
- a) Lack of unity among its people.
 - b) The absence of economic progress.
 - c) The inability to find spirituality.
 - d) Environmental pollution.
- iii) The phrase "put these people at one stroke out of their pain" suggests that the speaker is contemplating:
- a) Offering financial assistance.
 - b) Providing emotional support.
 - c) Easing the suffering of the people suddenly.
 - d) Ignoring the people's pain
- iv) Which one of the following statements is NOT substantiated by information in the stanza given above?
- a) The life of the rural people is very miserable because they are in scarcity of money.
 - b) the rural people are feeling devastated because of their perpetual state of poverty
 - c) The poet would feel conscience-stricken when he regains his consciousness
 - d) The poet craves the required lift of spirit to alleviate the distress of the rural people
- v) Whom does the poet empathize with in the given verse?
- vi) What does the poet want to see happen in the villages?
- a) progress b) comfort c) relief d) complain e) deterioration f) pain
- 1) a, b, c 2) c, e, f 3) d, c, f 4) a, e, f

OR

B.

Those who prepare green wars,
wars with gas, wars with fire,
victory with no survivors,
would put on clean clothes
and walk about with their
brothers
in the shade, doing nothing.

- i) What is the significance of "victory with no survivors" in the context of the lines? (Respond in not more than 2 sentences)
- ii) According to the lines, what is the outcome of these wars?
- a) Total destruction
 - b) Victory with no survivors
 - c) Endless conflict
 - d) Peaceful resolution



iii) What does the act of putting on clean clothes symbolize in the lines? (Respond in not more than 2 sentences)

iv) What is the emotional state of those who "walk about with their brothers in the shade, doing nothing"? (Respond in not more than 2 sentences)

v) What do the people who "walk about with their brothers in the shade" symbolize in the lines?

- a) Unity and solidarity
- b) The desire for revenge
- c) The need for secrecy
- d) A love for leisure

vi) What is the common factor among those who "prepare green wars" and "victory with no survivors"?

- a) Their commitment to environmental preservation
- b) Their desire for clean clothes
- c) Their shared victory in battles
- d) Their participation in destructive wars.

8. **Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.**

1X4=4

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. Well, who doesn't? Everybody I know wants to escape, but they don't wander down into any third level at Grand Central Station.

i) Complete the given sentence appropriately. Unlike the two levels that have 'a stack of timetables' to prove their existence, the third level has _____.

ii) Yes, I've taken the obvious step. What is the narrator assuming that the reader is thinking when he says the above line?

iii) Which of these is an example of 'a waking-dream wish fulfilment' as described in the extract?

- a) Meenal loses her book and swears that it is her enemy who stole it.
- b) Milind claims that he was petting his beloved dog whom he lost a few years ago.
- c) Malini tells everyone that she saw a Cheetah though she herself knows it is a lie.
- d) Mrinal thinks that he saw a spaceship in the sky which later turned out to be a normal aircraft

iv) Based on the extract, what does the narrator think about the psychiatrist's opinion?

OR

B. When I was studying in the third class, I hadn't yet heard people speak openly of untouchability. But I had already seen, felt, experienced and been humiliated by what it is. I was walking home from school one day, an old bag hanging from my shoulder. It was actually possible to walk the distance in ten minutes. But usually it would take me from half an hour to an hour to dawdle along watching all the fun and games that were going on. All the entertaining novelties and oddities in the streets, the shops and the bazaar.

i) The narrator was humiliated because _____ (answer in not more than 2 sentences)

ii) The narrator 'dawdled along' as she _____.

- (a) enjoyed looking at the various sights
- (b) was getting late for school
- (c) she didn't like going home
- (d) she enjoyed haggling and shopping

iii) On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below:

- (I) The distance from school to home was very short.
- (II) She was feeling upset and was dawdling her way home.

- (a) (I) can be inferred from the extract but (II) cannot.
- (b) (II) can be inferred from the extract but (I) cannot.
- (c) Both (I) and (II) cannot be inferred from the extract
- (d) Both (I) and (II) can be inferred from the extract.

iv) The word 'novelties' in the passage most nearly means:

- (a) colourful trinkets (b) wooden toys
- (c) unique and interesting items (d) expensive souvenirs

9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the two, given.

1x6=6

A.

"I am thinking of this stranger here." said Edla "He walks and walks the whole year long, and there is probably not a single place in the whole country where he is welcome and can feel at home. Wherever he turns he is chased away. Always he is afraid of being arrested and cross-examined. I should like to have him enjoy a day of peace with us here just once in the whole year."

i) Complete the following sentence with the most appropriate option:

Edla wished the Peddler to have a peaceful day because _____

- (a) The peddler had worked for Edla.
- (b) The peddler had not been released from jail.
- (c) the Peddler had been staying at the forge.
- (d) The peddler had always been looked at with suspicion.

ii) Select the suitable word from the extract to complete the analogy -

single: multiple: abroad: _____

iii) In the above extract, Edla comes across as:

- (a) conscientious (b) pretentious
- (c) compassionate (d) selfless

iv) Based on the above extract, choose the statement which is true.

- (a) relationships are rattraps.
- (b) money is important in the world.
- (c) a criminal is not born but made.
- (d) Christmas is a time of charity.

v) In the context of the given extract, which day is referred to in the expression 'just one in the whole year'?

vi) What does the expression 'he is cross-examined' suggest?

OR

B. "Or an actress, now there's real money in that. Yes, and I could have the boutique on the side. Actresses don't work full-time, do they? Anyway, that or a fashion designer. You know something a bit sophisticated". And she turned in through the open street door leaving Jansie standing in the rain. "If I ever come into money, I'll buy a boutique". "Hub, if you ever come into money ... if you ever come into money, you'll buy us a blessed decent house to live in thank you very much."

Sophie's father was scooping shepherd's pie into his mouth as hard as he could go, his plump face still grimy and sweat-marked from the day. "She thinks money grows on trees, don't she Dad? Said little Derek hanging on the back of his father's chair. Their mother sighed.

i) Sophie wants to become an actress to:

- (a) become famous
- (b) to earn money
- (c) to support her father
- (d) to compete with Jansie

ii) Jansie wanted Sophie to spend her money on:

- (a) her marriage
- (b) her career
- (c) to open a boutique
- (d) buying a house

iii) Why did Sophie turn away, leaving Jansie standing in the rain?

- a) She got excited about the idea of being an actress.
- b) She didn't want Jansie to know her future plans.
- c) She wanted to avoid the rain.
- d) She went to buy a boutique.

iv) What is Little Derek's comment about Sophie's ideas?

- a) He supports Sophie's ideas.
- b) He thinks she's unrealistic.
- c) He wants to become an actor.
- d) He wants to be a fashion designer too

v) Sophie's mother's sigh is one of:

- (a) regret
- (b) delights
- (c) relief
- (d) helplessness

vi) What is Sophie's father doing during this conversation?

- a) Cooking dinner
- b) Eating shepherd's pie
- c) Arguing with Sophie
- d) Helping Little Derek with homework

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words **5x2=10**

i) Why does Sophie's father look at Sophie with disdain in the following scene from 'Going Places'? "Sophie's met Danny Casey", Geoff said.

ii) The author of 'Poets and Pancakes' is extremely observant of people and their behaviour. Support this statement with an example of a description he gives us about any one of the characters.

iii) What lesson did the author learn from his experience of overcoming his fear of water?

iv) How does the poem Aunt Jennifer's Tigers end, and what is the implication of the ending?

v) Umberto Eco, with reference to "The Name of the Rose" says, "I think if I had written The Name of the Rose ten years earlier or ten years later, it wouldn't have been the same." What could he have meant?

vi) Imagine that John Keats meets someone who is feeling sad. What advice would he give to such a person? State any one feature of beauty from 'A Thing of Beauty' and relate the advice to it.

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. **2x2=4**

i) In the story, 'On the Face of It', what brings Derry and Mr. Lamb together as friends? What can you conclude about friendships from this?

ii) In his letter to Charley, Sam writes, '...then I got to believing you were right.' What could have made Sam begin to believe?

iii) What are Geoff Green's reasons for including high school students in the 'Students on Ice' expedition?

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words **5**

A. The different portrayals of women in the texts 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers', 'Going Places', 'Lost Spring', and 'My Mother at Sixty-six', offer insights into the experiences of women in society. You have been asked to address your peers and share- → the ways these portrayals highlight the diversity of the female experience. → the importance of understanding each individual woman's challenges and experiences. Compose this draft, with reference to any three of these prescribed texts listed above.

You may begin this way: Good morning, everyone. As I analysed the allotted texts...

You may end this way. To conclude, I'd like to say that ...

OR

B. Imagine you are Pablo Neruda, the poet of Keeping Quiet. What advice might you offer to Robert Frost, the poet of A Roadside Stand, in the context of his conflicted emotions, as displayed in the given lines 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. Pen down your advice, in a letter to Frost.

You may begin this way: Dear Robert I recently read your poem, "A Roadside Stand," and...

You may end this way: I hope this advice is helpful to you. Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to support you. Warmly, Pablo Neruda

13. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5

A. In the story, 'The Third Level' by Jack Finney, Charley is obsessed with finding the third level. In an attempt to thrash out whether this obsession is a good quality or a harmful one, Charley's wife expresses her thoughts in a diary entry. As Louisa, Charley's wife, write this diary entry. Support your response with reference to the story. You may begin this way: I have been married to Charley for a few years now and I have always known him to be an intelligent man with an imaginative mind. However, his recent obsession with finding the Third Level has ...

OR

B. A grown-up Zitkala-Sa, reflects on the incident about cutting of her long hair and is conflicted that she did not do enough to resist and surrendered easily. She also wonders if she could have tried something else to prevent the incident. As the grown-up Zitkala-Sa, create a diary entry, expressing these thoughts and conclude by absolving yourself of any blame. You may begin like this: I find myself reflecting on an event that happened many years ago...

******END OF THE QUESTION PAPER******

Shree

log

