

Series : ZYW2X



SET – 2



Roll No.

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Q.P. Code

1/2/2

Candidates must write the Q.P. Code on the title page of the answer-book.

ENGLISH (Core)

Time allowed : 3 hours



Maximum Marks : 80

- Please check that this question paper contains **15** printed pages.
- Please check that this question paper contains **13** questions.
- Q.P. Code given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer-book by the candidate.
- **Please write down the Serial Number of the question in the answer-book at the given place before attempting it.**
- 15 minute time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed at 10.15 a.m. From 10.15 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., the candidates will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.

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General Instructions :

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them :

- (i) *This Question Paper has **13** questions. **All** questions are compulsory.*
- (ii) *This question paper contains **three** sections – Section – A : **Reading Skills**, Section – B : **Creative Writing Skills** and Section – C : **Literature**.*
- (iii) *Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.*
- (iv) *Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.*
- (v) *Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

SECTION – A (READING SKILLS)

(22 Marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully :

12 M

- (1) Having a sense of humour might mean having the ability to entertain other people by making them laugh, but it can also mean having a quick wit that is frequently employed to criticize other people with snide comments. Some might define the sense of humour as the ability to see humour in everyday life or as appreciating the cleverness of puns and other wordplay, and may think it entirely possible to possess a good sense of humour without ever having those around them become aware of it.
- (2) In any case, a sense of humour is a socially valued trait that almost all of us would prefer to have more, rather than less, of – akin to the way that we think about intelligence or good looks. A person with an undeveloped sense of humour lacks a social skill that puts him or her at a severe disadvantage in the hurly-burly of everyday social life.
- (3) Freud thought of humour as an outlet for forbidden impulses, and philosophers ranging from Aristotle to Descartes believed that we are amused by something when it makes us feel superior to other people.



- (4) Evolutionary psychologists believe that humour, along with other creative abilities, such as art and music, evolved as an honest signal of intelligence and genetic quality. The value of such a skill in defusing tense, aggressive situations and in managing alliances and friendships should not be underestimated either.
- (5) Schmoozing with a bunch of new people at a cocktail party is an opportunity to engage in light hearted banter, and other people are grateful when someone is skillful enough to turn a stiff and awkward situation into fun. Cracking jokes, making witty remarks, and engaging in tongue-in-cheek observations about the social world can be like fishing for other minds that connect naturally with one's own. In other words, humour can be a device for connecting people who are operating on the same wavelength.
- (6) Observing the performance of other people in such situations tips you off as to who you might like to get to know better – and who might be best left behind, wallowing in indignation and blank stares. In short, a sense of humour is the Swiss Army Knife of social skills. Perhaps it is indeed a single instrument, but it contains an arsenal of tools – each exquisitely designed for a unique social purpose.

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage above :

- (i) How does the author prove in paragraph 1 that sense of humour is a double edged sword ? 1
- (ii) Cite evidences from the passage to prove that sense of humour is a valuable tool to make someone's life better. 2
- (iii) Complete the following sentence suitably with reference to paragraph 3. 1
One significant advantage of humour is that it helps one _____.
- (iv) Provide ONE textual evidence with reference to paragraph 5, how a good sense of humour can be a great ice breaker. 1
- (v) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank : 1
According to evolutionary psychologists, people with a sense of humour can _____ (trigger / lighten) tense situation.



- (vi) Choose the correct option : 1
“....humour can be a device for connecting people who are operating on the same wavelength.”
By the phrase ‘same wavelength’ the author refers to
(A) people of age group
(B) people who belong to same line of profession.
(C) people having similar interests and attitudes.
(D) people who are working in the same organisation.
- (vii) Complete the analogy with one word from paragraph 6 : 1
advantage : benefit : _____ : anger
(A) situation
(B) stare
(C) indignation
(D) arsenal
- (viii) In the line perhaps ‘it is indeed a single instrument, but it contains an arsenal of tools.....’ What does the phrase ‘arsenal of tools’ refer to ? 2
- (ix) Provide ONE textual evidence from the text which states lack of sense of humour may prove to be a handicap in one’s life. 1
- (x) An undeveloped sense of humour shows lack of a social skill that puts him or her at a disadvantage.
Choose the correct option (A) or (B) which reaffirms the idea conveyed in the above extract. 1
(A) Sense of humour elevates the status of a person in the social circle.
(B) People with sense of humour are not taken seriously in the society.

2. Read the passage carefully : 10 M

- (1) This report presents findings from the Youth Aspirations in India Survey in which 5,764 youth between the ages of 15 and 30 were asked about their employment, education, and skilling aspirations.
- (2) Indian youth valued higher education. 50 percent of respondents aspire to attain a post-graduate degree, 24 percent a PhD, and 21 percent a bachelor’s degree. Only 2 percent of respondents hope to attain a college or vocational diploma as their highest form of education.



- (3) Respondents have a strong preference for attaining higher education degrees. At the same time, there is an awareness of changing skills requirements and an interest in augmenting their skills. 76 percent of youth report being very interested in pursuing a skills development programme. 70 percent of youth identified more employment opportunities as the main motivation for wanting to pursue skills development training.
- (4) A study related to their job preference reveals their strong desire for job security and opportunities for career advancement. It is evident from the following data :

Percentage	Preference
49	Public Sector
23	Private Sector
17	Entrepreneurship

- (5) In the context of technological adoption and digitization, jobs and tasks, along with the competencies required to execute them, are changing. 86 percent of youth feel very or moderately up to date with changes in skills requirements. Yet, 39 percent of youth feel very prepared or prepared for their ideal job, while 16 percent of youth feel either not prepared or very unprepared for their ideal job.
- (6) Female respondents' education and employment aspirations match, if not exceed, those of male respondents. Yet, female respondents face discriminatory biases in hiring, have less paid work experience than their male counterparts, and face greater barriers in pursuing skills development opportunities. 60 percent of female respondents, for example, report having no paid work experience, compared to 54 percent of male respondents. In addition, 15 percent of female respondents report personal biases such as marital status, gender, age, or family background as a main barrier to employment compared to 9 percent of male respondents. While more female respondents report being very interested in participating in a skills development programme, only 19 percent have enrolled in a programme, compared to 26 percent of male respondents.



Answer the following questions, based on the given passage :

- (i) As per the survey, Indian youth is broadly focussed on 1
(A) skill development and entrepreneurship.
(B) private sector jobs and technology.
(C) higher education and career opportunities.
(D) vocational diploma and public sector jobs.
- (ii) With reference to paragraph 3, what is the latest trend among Indian youth in preparing themselves for the job market ? 1
- (iii) With reference to the table, state one reason for entrepreneurship being the last preference among Indian youth. 1
- (iv) Cite two evidences from the text to show that gender bias is still a hindrance in the progress of women in society. 2
- (v) Complete the following sentence suitably. 1
The driving force for the Indian youth to join a skill development programme is _____.
- (vi) Paragraph 5 uses words 'competencies' and 'adoption'. Classify the following sentences which talks about 'competency' and which talks about 'adoption'. 1
Sentence – 1 : Ria embraced new technology to gain global market for her paintings.
Sentence – 2 : Ria displays her artistic skill through her paintings.
- (vii) Cite two evidences from the text to show that Indian youth is adapting itself to the needs of the job market. 2
- (viii) Choose the correct option : 1
The main road blocks to employment opportunities for females are :
(i) lack of interest
(ii) marriage
(iii) lack of opportunities
(iv) over qualification
(v) family background
(A) (i) & (ii) (B) (iii) & (iv)
(C) (ii), (iii) & (v) (D) (iv) & (v)



SECTION – B
(CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS) (18 Marks)

(Note : All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose)

3. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two (A) or (B) in about **50** words : **1 × 4 = 4**

(A) Your school is organizing a road safety awareness workshop for students of class IX – XII. As the head boy of your school, draft a notice informing the students about the workshop. Include other necessary details. You are Ashna/Ashish. Put your notice in a box.

OR

(B) Your school is organizing an Inter-House Science Model-Making-Competition. As President of the Science Club, draft a notice to inform all House members from IX – XII about the competition and specify the number of registrations invited per house. Include other necessary details. You are Mitali/Mukesh. Put your notice in a box.

4. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two (A) or (B) in about **50** words : **1 × 4 = 4**

(A) Draft an invitation card on behalf of the Principal of J.B. Bhatia Public School for the launch of ‘Yoga for Life’ programme in the school. Mention a compelling highlight of the programme along with other necessary details.

OR

(B) You are Mrs. Savita Manjrekhar, a professor in English. You are invited to be one of the judges for the inter-school debate competition by the Principal of J.M. Public School, Cochin. Write a formal letter expressing your inability to accept the invitation.

5. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two, (A) or (B) in **120-150** words : **1 × 5 = 5**

(A) You are Nidhi of 42, M.G. Road, Gwalior. You read the given advertisement and wish to apply for the post advertised. Write job application along with your bio-data.

M.V. Public School, Shimla
Requires

Western Music Teacher

Qualification : Graduate in music

Experience : Min. 2 years in similar field

Skills :

- Lesson planning, preparing students for competitions and performances.
- Organize school bands, orchestra and choir groups.
- Proficiency in computers and technology aided music.

Apply to The Principal, M.V. Public School, Shimla

OR



- (B) The rapid expansion of urban sprawl (the geographic extent of cities and towns,) is mainly due to the desire for increased living space. This urban sprawl comes with a cost of air pollution, water pollution, and disruption of environmentally sensitive areas. Write a letter to the editor of a National daily expressing your concern over the above issue and also suggest ways to improve the situation. You are Sonal of 14, A, R.P. Nagar, New Delhi. You may use the following cues along with your own ideas to compose the letter.

- What is urban sprawl ?
- What is the long term impact of urban sprawl in over daily lives ?
- How can effective urban design and planning reduce problems of urban sprawl ?

6. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two, (A) or (B) in **120-150** words : **1 × 5 = 5**

- (A) In this competitive world, students are expected to excel in all fields like academics, sports, music, art, etc. The main reason for students to reel under stress is poor time management.

Write an article stressing on the need to develop the skill of time management. You may use the following cues along with your own ideas to compose the article. You are Seema of class XII C.

- What is time management ?
- Why are realistic goals important ?
- Ways to prioritize tasks, minimize distractions.
- How to utilize technology effectively ?

OR

- (B) You are Heena of class XII E and a member of the school magazine editorial board. Write a comprehensive report on Republic Day celebrations held in your school. Include descriptions of the events, participation details and the overall impact of these activities on the school community.

You may organize your report by following –

Who – What – When – Where – How.



SECTION – C
(LITERATURE)

(40 Marks)

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the given two (A) or (B) : **1 × 6 = 6**

(A) It is in the news that all these pitiful kin
Are to be bought out and mercifully gathered in
To live in villages, next to the theatre and the store.
Where they won't have to think for themselves anymore,
While greedy good-doers, beneficent beasts of prey,
Swarm over their lives enforcing benefits
That are calculated to soothe them out of their wits,
And by teaching them how to sleep they sleep all day
Destroy their sleeping at night the ancient way. (*A Roadside Stand*)

- (i) The expression 'It is in the news' suggests
- (A) it is good news for the roadside stand owners.
(B) an important decision has been taken by the government.
(C) the roadside stand owners have protested against the government.
(D) that the news was not there in the newspaper.

- (ii) Read the Assertion and the Reason below, with reference to the given extract.

Assertion : The poet complains that the rural people are exploited by the people in power.

Reason : The rural people reposed blind faith in the false promises of the people in power.

Choose the correct option regarding their relationship.

- (A) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true and the Reason is the correct explanation.
(B) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, but the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion.
(C) The Assertion is true, but the Reason is false.
(D) The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.

- (iii) Complete the following suitably :

In the line 'that are calculated to soothe them out of their wits', the phrase 'soothe them out of their wit' refers to _____.

- (iv) Bring out the irony in the expression 'they won't have to think for themselves'.



- (v) Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.

The poet uses the expression 'greedy good-doers' to _____
(criticize / appreciate) the intention of the powerful people.

- (vi) Complete the following suitably.

The tone of the poet in the above extract is _____.

OR

- (B) If we were not so single-minded
about keeping our lives moving,
and for once could do nothing,
perhaps a huge silence
might interrupt this sadness
of never understanding ourselves with death.
Perhaps the Earth can teach us
as when everything seems dead
and later proves to be alive.
Now I'll count up to twelve
And you keep quiet and I will go.

(Keeping Quiet)

- (i) Complete the following suitably.

The poet uses the expression 'single minded' to refer to _____.

- (ii) Why does the poet refer to silence as a welcoming interruption ?

- (iii) Read the Assertion and the Reason below, with reference to the given extract.

Assertion : The poet personifies Earth as a teacher.

Reason : We learn from the Earth that pausing doesn't mean the end.

Choose the correct option regarding their relationship.

- (A) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion.
(B) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, but the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion.
(C) The Assertion is true, but the Reason is false.
(D) The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.
- (iv) Complete the following suitably.

By the expression "keeping our lives moving" the poet refers to _____.



- (v) Choose the correct option :
The intention of the poet in the above extract is
(A) to make us aware of the importance of Earth.
(B) to criticize our single mindedness.
(C) to highlight the reason for our sadness.
(D) to highlight the importance of sustaining peace and silence.
- (vi) What is the significance of the last line of the extract 'you keep quiet and I will go' ?

8. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the given two (A) or (B) : **1 × 4 = 4**

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

- (i) 'I felt terribly sad'. The reason for the speaker's sadness is because it was an act of _____.
- (ii) Choose the correct option :
'The thought of it infuriated me' with reference to the above line, what do you think is the impact of the incident on the speaker ?
(A) The speaker was sympathetic and helpless.
(B) The speaker was angry and condemning.
(C) The speaker was excited to see the incident.
(D) The speaker was very impressed and motivated.
- (iii) Complete the sentence suitably :
'I wanted to touch those wretched Vadais myself'
The above expression indicates the speaker's _____.
- (iv) Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank :
The incident made the speaker realise that the discrimination was _____. (dehumanizing / elevating)

OR



(B) Mr. Lamb : When I go down the streets, the kids shout 'Lamey Lamb'. But they will come into the garden, into my house; it's a game. They're not afraid of me. Why should they be ? Because I'm not afraid of them, that's why not.

Derry : Did you get your leg blown off in the war ?

Mr. Lamb : Certainly

Derry : How will you climb on a ladder and get the crab apples down, then ?

Mr. Lamb : Oh, there's a lot of things I've learned to do and plenty of time for it. Years. I take it steady. (*On the Face of it*)

(i) Complete the following suitably :

'Years. I take it steady'. The above line speaks of the speaker's _____.

(ii) Derry, how will you climb on a ladder ? What does Derry hint at in the above query ?

(iii) 'When I go down the streets, the kids shout Lamey Lamb.'

The attitude of the speaker expressed in the above line is

(A) his habit of finding fault.

(B) he is timid and faint hearted.

(C) his acceptance of reality and positive attitude.

(D) his indifferent and careless attitude.

(iv) Fill in the blank suitably :

Mr. Lamb's handicap has not _____ his attitude towards life.

9. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the given two (A) or (B) :

1 × 6 = 6

(A) Those were the days of mainly indoor shooting, and only five percent of the film was shot outdoors. I suppose the sets and studio lights needed the girls and boys to be made to look ugly in order to look presentable in the movie. A strict hierarchy was maintained in the make-up department. The chief make-up man made the chief actors and actresses ugly, his senior assistant 'second' hero and heroine, the junior assistant the main comedian and so forth. The players who played the crowd were the responsibility of the office boy. (Even the make-up department of the Gemini Studio had an 'office boy')

On the days when there was crowd-shooting, you could see him mixing his paint in a giant vessel and slapping it on the crowd players. The idea was to close every pore on the surface of the face in the process of applying make-up. (*Poets and Pancakes*)



- (i) What does the writer mean by the phrase 'indoor shooting' in the first line of the extract ?
- (ii) Pick up one sentence from the extract that reflects the sarcastic tone of the writer.
- (iii) The hierarchy in the make-up department puts the 'office boy' in the _____ (lowest / top) rung of the ladder.
- (iv) Complete the following suitably :
On the days when there was a 'crowd-shooting'. By the phrase crowd-shooting, the author refers to _____.
- (v) Choose the correct option :
".....mix his paint in a giant vessel and slapping it on the crowd players."
The choice of words like 'paint' and 'slapping' by the author reflects.
(A) author's intention to degrade the office boy's role in the make-up department.
(B) the office boy's lack of seriousness.
(C) author's sarcastic and humorous writing style.
(D) author's dislike of the office boy.
- (vi) Choose the correct option :
What does the following line from the extract showcase ?
"A strict hierarchy was maintained in the make-up department."
(A) The office boy took all the decisions in the make-up department.
(B) A system of ranks according to importance of work was followed.
(C) Everyone was given an equal share of work in the department.
(D) Nepotism was prevalent in the make-up department.

OR

- (B) My Last French Lesson ! Why, I hardly knew how to write ! I should never learn any more ! I must stop there, then ! Oh, how sorry I was for not learning my lessons, for seeking birds 'eggs or going sliding on the Saar ! My books, that had seemed such a nuisance a while ago, so heavy to carry, my grammar, and my history of the saints, were old friends now that I couldn't give up and M. Hamel, too; the idea that he was going away, that I should never see him again, made me forget all about his ruler and how cranky he was.
Poor man ! It was in honour of this last lesson that he had put on his fine Sunday clothes, and now I understood why the old men of the village were sitting there in the back of the room. It was because they were sorry, too, that they had not gone to school more. It was their way of thanking our master for his forty years of faithful service and of showing their respect for the country that was theirs no more.
(The Last Lesson)



- (i) Choose the correct option :
What is the tone of the speaker in the expression 'I hardly knew how to write how sorry I was for not learning my lessons' ?
(A) confused (B) regretful
(C) surprised (D) happy
- (ii) Choose the correct option :
The speaker refers to 'seeking birds' egg' and 'sliding on the Saar' as
(A) part of his routine
(B) his daily routine
(C) source of distraction from learning
(D) fun time with friends
- (iii) What is reflected through the shift in the speaker's perception of his books through his expression of calling them his 'old friends' rather than considering them as 'nuisance' ?
- (iv) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank :
"It was because they were sorry too...."
They were sorry for _____ (not following the government order / not learning their language)
- (v) What is inferred from the expression 'the country that was theirs no more' ?
- (vi) What does M. Hamel's ruler reflect about his image ?

10. Answer **ANY FIVE** of the following six questions in **40-50** words each : **5 × 2 = 10**

- (i) "One of these days you're going to talk yourself into a load of trouble;" her father said aggressively. What do you learn about Sophie's father's from these lines ?
(*Going Places*)
- (ii) 'A thing of beauty is a joy forever.' Explain with reference to the poem.
(*A Thing of Beauty*)
- (iii) How did Franz plan to turn the commotion in the classroom to his favour ?
- (iv) How do the expressions 'polished traffic' and a stand that 'pathetically pled' depict the contrasting worlds that co-exist in the poem 'A Roadside Stand' ?
- (v) 'What I want should not be confused'. What clarification does Pablo Neruda give to his readers ?
(*Keeping Quiet*)
- (vi) 'But the game he is watching so intently is out of his reach.'
What are the factors that have made their game inaccessible to Saheb ?
(*Lost Spring*)



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

2 × 2 = 4

- (i) What is the significance of the third level ? (*The Third Level*)
(ii) 'Not at all,' Sadao said. "It is inconvenient to have you here any longer."
(*The Enemy*)

What image do you form of Dr. Sadao based on the above remark ?

- (iii) Mr. Lamb : you thought it has an empty house, but inside it's full. What do these words tell you about Mr. Lamb ? (*On the Face of it*)

12. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions in **120-150** words : **1 × 5 = 5**

- (A) Gandhi said, "The real relief for them is to be free from fear." (*Indigo*)
Roosevelt knew when he said, "All we have to fear is fear itself."

(*Deep Water*)

Analyse the status of share-croppers and plight of William Douglas in the light of the above statements.

OR

- (B) Sophie is an escapist and a dreamer. Franz loves to miss school. Analyse the result of both these characters as a result of their attitude towards life.
(*Going Places* 'The Last Lesson')

13. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions, in **120-150** words : **1 × 5 = 5**

- (A) Derry in '*On the Face of it*' is a victim of self-pity. Analyse Derry's behaviour in the light of the above statement.

OR

- (B) "...how little changes in the environment can have big repercussions" Tishani Doshi in '*Journey to End of the Earth*' gives an awakening call for man. Analyse the theme of the lesson in the light of the above statement.



Strictly Confidential: (For Internal and Restricted use only)
Senior Secondary School Examination 2025
Marking Scheme – ENGLISH CORE (301)
(QUESTION PAPER CODE – 1/2/2)

General Instructions: -

1. You are aware that evaluation is the most important process in the actual and correct assessment of the candidates. A small mistake in evaluation may lead to serious problems which may affect the future of the candidates, education system and teaching profession. To avoid mistakes, it is requested that before starting evaluation, you must read and understand the spot evaluation guidelines carefully.
2. **“Evaluation policy is a confidential policy as it is related to the confidentiality of the examinations conducted, evaluation done and several other aspects. Its leakage to public in any manner could lead to derailment of the examination system and affect the life and future of millions of candidates. Sharing this policy/document with anyone, publishing in any magazine and printing in News Paper/Website etc. may invite action under various rules of the Board and IPC.”**
3. Evaluation is to be done as per instructions provided in the Marking Scheme. It should not be done according to one’s own interpretation or any other consideration. Marking Scheme should be strictly adhered to and religiously followed. **However, while evaluating, answers which are based on the latest information or knowledge and / or are innovative, may be assessed for their correctness otherwise, and due marks may be awarded to them.**
4. The Marking Scheme carries only suggested value points for the answers. These are in the nature of Guidelines only and do not constitute the complete answer. The students can have their own expression and if the expression is correct, then due marks should be awarded accordingly.
5. The Head-Examiner must go through the first five answer books evaluated by each evaluator on the first day, to ensure that evaluation has been carried out as per the instructions given in the Marking Scheme. If there is any variation, the same should be zeroed after deliberation and discussion. The remaining answer books meant for evaluation shall be given only after ensuring that there is no significant variation in the marking of individual evaluators.
6. Evaluators will tick mark (✓) wherever answer is correct. For wrong answer “X” be marked. Evaluators will not put tick mark (✓) while evaluating a wrong answer which gives an impression that answer is correct and no marks are awarded. **This is the most common mistake which evaluators are committing.**
7. If a question has parts, please award marks on the right-hand side for each part. Marks awarded for different parts of the question should then be totalled up and written in the left- hand margin and encircled. This must be followed strictly.
8. If a question does not have any parts, marks must be awarded in the left-hand margin and encircled. This must be followed strictly.

9. If a student has attempted an extra question, answer of the question deserving more marks should be retained and the other answer scored out with a note **“Extra Question”**.
10. **If more than one option is mentioned in the answer of multiple choice questions, then marks are not to be awarded.**
11. No marks to be deducted for the cumulative effect of an error. It should be penalized only once.
12. A full scale of marks (0-80 marks) as given in Question Paper has to be used. Please do not hesitate to award full marks if the answer deserves it.
13. Every examiner has to necessarily do evaluation work for full working hours i.e. 8 hours every day and evaluate 20 answer books per day in main subjects and 25 answer books per day in other subjects (Details are given in Spot Guidelines).
14. Ensure that you do not make the following common types of errors committed by the Examiner in the past:-
 - Leaving answer or part thereof unassessed in an answer book.
 - Giving more marks for an answer than assigned to it.
 - Wrong totalling of marks awarded on an answer.
 - Wrong transfer of marks from the inside pages of the answer book to the title page.
 - Wrong question-wise totalling on the title page.
 - Wrong totalling of marks of the two columns on the title page.
 - Wrong grand total.
 - Marks in words and figures not tallying / not same.
 - Wrong transfer of marks from the answer book to online award list.
 - Answers marked as correct, but marks not awarded. (Ensure that the right tick mark (✓) is correctly and clearly indicated. It should not merely be a line. Same is with the (X) for incorrect answer.)
 - Half or a part of answer marked correct and the rest as wrong, but no marks awarded.
15. While evaluating the answer books if the answer is found to be totally incorrect, it should be marked as cross (X) and awarded zero (0) Marks. ‘Zero’ should be mentioned both in figures and words.
16. Any unassessed portion, non-carrying over of marks to the title page, or totalling error detected by the candidate shall damage the prestige of all the personnel engaged in the evaluation work as also of the Board. Hence, in order to uphold the prestige of all concerned, it is again reiterated that the instructions should be followed meticulously and judiciously.
17. The Examiners should acquaint themselves with the guidelines given in the **“Guidelines for Spot Evaluation”** before starting the actual evaluation.
18. Every Examiner shall also ensure that all the answers are evaluated, marks carried over to the title page, correctly totalled and written in figures and words.
19. The candidates are entitled to obtain photocopy of the Answer Book on request on payment of the prescribed processing fee. All Examiners / Additional Head Examiners / Head Examiners are once again reminded that they must ensure that evaluation is carried out strictly as per Value Points for each answer as given in the Marking Scheme.

MARKING SCHEME
Senior Secondary School Examination, 2025
ENGLISH CORE (Subject Code–301)
[Question Paper Code : 1/2/2]

Maximum Marks : 80

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS:

1. The answers given below are suggestive. Credit should be given for any relevant point which is not included in the value points listed below. However, any independent interpretation should be discussed with the HE before awarding marks.
2. No marks shall be deducted for exceeding the word-limit.
3. If a spelling error is recurring, it should be penalised only once.

	SUGGESTED VALUE POINTS	Marks
	SECTION—A Reading Skills	22 marks
	NOTE: The objective of the reading section is to focus on testing a candidate's ability to comprehend. No mark(s) should be deducted for mistakes in usage and grammar, spelling or word-limit. Full marks may be awarded if a student has been able to identify the core ideas. If a student literally lifts a portion of the given passage as an answer to a question, no mark(s) to be deducted for this, as long as it is relevant.	
Q1.	Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:	12 marks
(i)	How does the author prove in paragraph 1 that sense of humour is a double edged sword?	
Ans.	Having a sense of humour might mean having the ability to entertain other people by making them laugh, but it can also mean having a quick wit that is frequently employed to criticize other people with snide comments.	1
(ii)	Cite evidences from the passage to prove that sense of humour is a valuable tool to make someone's life better.	
Ans.	Sense of humour: - is an outlet for forbidden impulses - is a socially valued trait - is a skill to defuse tense, aggressive situations - helps in managing alliances and friendships - turns stiff and awkward situations into fun - is a device for connecting people who are operating on the same wavelength - is the Swiss Army Knife of social skills (any two)	2
(iii)	Complete the following sentence suitably with reference to paragraph 3. One significant advantage of humour is that it helps one _____.	
Ans.	to give an outlet/vent to one's forbidden impulses/ to feel superior to other people	1
(iv)	Provide ONE textual evidence with reference to paragraph 5, how a good sense of humour can be a great ice breaker.	

Ans.	If we meet new people, sense of humour gives us an opportunity to engage in light-hearted banter/makes us skilled enough to turn a stiff and awkward situation into fun. (any one)	1
(v)	Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank: According to evolutionary psychologists, people with a sense of humour can _____ (trigger/lighten) tense situation.	
Ans.	lighten	1
(vi)	Choose the correct option: “....humour can be a device for connecting people who are operating on the same wavelength.” By the phrase ‘same wavelength’ the author refers to (A) people of age group (B) people who belong to same line of profession. (C) people having similar interests and attitudes. (D) people who are working in the same organisation.	
Ans.	(C) people having similar interests and attitudes	1
(vii)	Complete the analogy with one word from paragraph 6: Advantage: benefit: _____: anger (A) situation (B) stare (C) indignation (D) arsenal	
Ans.	(C) indignation	1
(viii)	In the line perhaps ‘it is indeed a single instrument, but it contains an arsenal of tools....’ What does the phrase ‘arsenal of tools’ refer to?	
Ans.	- sense of humour is the Swiss Army Knife of social skills. - collection of social skills with each skill designed for a unique social purpose	2
(ix)	Provide ONE textual evidence from the text which states lack of sense of humour may prove to be a handicap in one’s life.	
Ans.	A person with an undeveloped sense of humour lacks a social skill that puts him/her at a severe disadvantage in the hurly-burly of everyday social life.	1
(x)	An undeveloped sense of humour shows lack of a social skill that puts him or her at a disadvantage. Choose the correct option (A) or (B) which reaffirms the idea conveyed in the above extract. (A) Sense of humour elevates the status of a person in the social circle. (B) People with sense of humour are not taken seriously in the society.	
Ans.	(A) Sense of humour elevates the status of a person in the social circle.	1

	Passage 2	
Q2.	Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:	10 Marks
(i)	As per the survey, Indian youth is broadly focused on (A) skill development and entrepreneurship. (B) private sector jobs and technology. (C) higher education and career opportunities. (D) vocational diploma and public sector jobs.	
Ans.	(C) higher education and career opportunities.	1
(ii)	With reference to paragraph 3, what is the latest trend among Indian youth in preparing themselves for the job market?	
Ans.	There is an awareness of changing skills requirements and an interest in augmenting their skills/pursuing skill development programme (any one)	1
(iii)	With reference to the table, state one reason for entrepreneurship being the last preference among Indian youth.	
Ans.	- there is a strong desire for job security and opportunities for career advancement.	1
(iv)	Cite two evidences from the text to show that gender bias is still a hindrance in the progress of women in society.	
Ans.	- discriminating biases in hiring - have less paid work experience than their male counterparts - face greater barriers in pursuing skill development opportunities - no paid work experience - personal biases such as marital status, gender, age, or family background (any two)	2
(v)	Complete the following sentence suitably. The driving force for the Indian youth to join a skill development programme is _____.	
Ans.	more employment opportunities	1
(vi)	Paragraph 5 uses words ‘competencies’ and ‘adoption’. Classify the following sentences which talks about ‘competency’ and which talks about ‘adoption’. Sentence-1: Ria embraced new technology to gain global market for her paintings. Sentence-2: Ria displays her artistic skill through her paintings.	
Ans.	Adoption - Sentence-1: Ria embraced new technology to gain global market for her paintings. Competency - Sentence-2: Ria displays her artistic skill through her paintings.	1
(vii)	Cite two evidences from the text to show that Indian youth is adapting itself to the needs of the job market.	
Ans.	- there is an awareness of changing skills requirements - show interest in augmenting their skills - 76 percent of youth express interest in pursuing a skills development programme - adopting new technology and digitization (any two)	2

(viii)	Choose the correct option: The main roadblocks to employment opportunities for females are: - Lack of interest - Marriage - Lack of opportunities - Over qualification - Family background (A) i & ii (B) iii & iv (C) ii, iii & v (D) iv & v	
Ans.	(C) ii, iii & v	1
	SECTION B Creative Writing Skills	18 Marks
	<u>OBJECTIVES:</u> - to test the ability to think logically and express clearly - to use a style appropriate to the given situation - to plan, organize and present ideas coherently	
Q3.	Attempt ANY ONE of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words :	4 Marks
	Distribution of marks Format -1 Content – 2 Expression – 1 FORMAT - Name of issuing authority- organization / agency, NOTICE, heading, date of issue, signature / name, designation (bottom left) - No mark for format if content is irrelevant or missing. - Full credit of 1 mark if all aspects are mentioned. - Partial credit of ½ mark if any of the aspects is missing. EXPRESSION - grammar, spelling, punctuation, organisation and coherence of ideas	
	NOTICE WRITING	
(A)	Your school is organizing a road safety awareness workshop for students of class IX - XII. As the head boy of your school, draft a notice informing the students about the workshop. Include other necessary details. You are Ashna/Ashish. Put your notice in a box.	
Ans.	Suggested value points: - name of the event - date, time, venue - description of the workshop - participation details: targeted classes - contact information (inputs given in the question to be included)	4

	OR	
(B)	Your school is organizing an Inter-House Science Model-Making- Competition. As President of the Science Club, draft a notice to inform all House members from IX - XII about the competition and specify the number of registrations invited per house. Include other necessary details. You are Mitali/Mukesh. Put your notice in a box.	
Ans.	Suggested value points - name of the event - date, time, venue - participation details: targeted classes - registration details - contact information (inputs given in the question to be included)	4
Q4.	Attempt ANY ONE of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words.	4 Marks
	Distribution of marks Format -1 Content – 2 Expression – 1 FORMAT: • No mark for format if content is irrelevant or missing. • Full credit of 1 mark if all aspects are mentioned. • Partial credit of ½ mark if any of the aspects is missing. EXPRESSION - grammar, spelling, punctuation, organisation and coherence of ideas	
	FORMAL INVITATION	
(A)	Draft an invitation card on behalf of the Principal of J.B. Bhatia Public School for the launch of 'Yoga for Life' programme in the school. Mention a compelling highlight of the programme along with other necessary details.	
Ans.	Format: Card, third person, in a box Suggested value points: - host, line of invitation, event, day, date, time, venue - name and designation of the chief guest, R.S.V.P - an appropriate compelling highlight of the programme (inputs given in the question to be included)	4
	OR	
	FORMAL REPLY	
(B)	You are Mrs. Savita Manjrekhar, a professor in English. You are invited to be one of the judges for the inter-school debate competition by the Principal of J.M. Public School, Cochin. Write a formal letter expressing your inability to accept the invitation.	

Ans.	Format: Formal letter Suggested value points - express thanks - acknowledge the invitation (mention event, date, time, venue) - refusal with reason - convey best wishes (inputs given in the question to be included)	4
Q5.	Attempt ANY ONE of the two, (A) or (B), in 120 - 150 words.	5 Marks
	Distribution of marks Format -1 Content – 2 Expression - 2 FORMAT –Sender’s address, Date, Receiver’s address, Subject and Salutation/ Salutation and Subject, Complimentary Close, Name • No mark for format if content is irrelevant or missing. • Full credit of 1 mark if all aspects are mentioned. • Partial credit of ½ mark if any of the aspects is missing. EXPRESSION - grammar, spelling, punctuation, organisation and coherence of ideas	
	JOB APPLICATION	
(A)	You are Nidhi of 42, M.G. Road, Gwalior. You read the given advertisement and wish to apply for the post advertised. Write job application along with your bio-data. M.V Public School, Shimla Requires Western Music Teacher Qualification : Graduate in Music Experience : Minimum 2 years experience in similar field. Skills : Lesson Planning, preparing Students for competitions and performances • Organize school bands, orchestra and choir groups • Proficiency in computers and technology aided music Write to The Principal, M.V Public School, Shimla	
Ans.	Suggested value points: Covering Letter: - reference to the advertisement - suitability for the post - offer candidature Bio-Data/Resume/C.V: - personal details	5

	- qualifications - experience - skills/hobbies/achievements - References NOTE: No marks to be deducted if the Resume/CV/Bio-data is included in the covering letter (inputs given in the question to be included)	
	OR	
	LETTER TO EDITOR	
(B)	The rapid expansion of urban sprawl (the geographic extent of cities and towns,) is mainly due to the desire for increased living space. This urban sprawl comes with a cost of air pollution, water pollution , and disruption of environmentally sensitive areas. Write a letter to the editor of a National daily expressing your concern over the above issue and also suggest ways to improve the situation. You are Sonal of 14, A, R.P. Nagar, New Delhi. You may use the following cues along with your own ideas to compose the letter. • What is urban sprawl ? • What is the long term impact of urban sprawl in over daily lives ? • How can effective urban design and planning reduce problems of urban sprawl ?	
Ans.	suggested value points: - statement of the problem - rapid expansion of cities and towns - impact-congestion, pollution, scarcity of resources, etc - Solutions-prioritize well-being of people, optimum utilization of space and resources, preservation of environment, focus on connectivity, sustainability, etc (inputs given in the question to be included) (any other relevant point) (any four)	5
Q6.	Attempt ANY ONE of the two, (A) or (B), in 120 - 150 words.	5 Marks

	Distribution of marks Format -1 Content – 2 Expression - 2 Format -1 - Title and byline • <i>No mark for format if content is irrelevant or missing.</i> • <i>Partial credit of ½ mark if any of the aspects is missing.</i> EXPRESSION - grammar, spelling, punctuation, organisation and coherence of ideas	
	ARTICLE WRITING	
(A)	In this competitive world, students are expected to excel in all fields like academics, sports, music, art, etc. The main reason for students to reel under stress is poor time management. Write an article stressing on the need to develop the skill of time management. You may use the following cues along with your own ideas to compose the article. You are Seema of class XII C. • What is time management ? • Why are realistic goals important ? • Ways to prioritize tasks, minimize distractions. • How to utilize technology effectively?	
Ans.	Suggested value points: - time management- process of effective planning and utilization of time - realistic goals-easy to achieve, boosts confidence, gives sense of satisfaction - allotment of proper time on priority basis-systematic planning -avoid distractions - use technology sensibly to enhance learning -avoid overuse/misuse of technology (inputs given in the question to be included) (any other relevant point) (any four)	5
	OR	
	REPORT WRITING	
(B)	You are Heena of class XII E and a member of the school magazine editorial board. Write a comprehensive report on Republic Day celebrations held in your school. Include descriptions of the events, participation details and the overall impact of these activities on the school community. You may organize your report by following - Who -What -When - Why - How.	

Ans.	suggested value points : - day, date, venue - chief guest, invitees - description of function, activities/ events - participation details - impact - inculcated patriotism, pride in the Nation, etc (inputs given in the question to be included) (any other relevant point)	5
	SECTION C Literature	40 Marks
	NOTE: The objective of this section is to test a candidate's ability to understand and interpret the prescribed text through short & long answer type questions. Long answer type questions have been set to test the students' understanding of the text and their ability to interpret, evaluate & respond to the issues raised therein. Hence, no particular answer can be accepted as the only correct answer. All presentations may be accepted as correct with consultation of the HE, if they have been duly supported by the facts drawn from the text. The student should be able to justify his / her viewpoint. In the Inter textual questions reference to both the texts must be included.	
Q7.	Read the following extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B) :	
(a)	It is in the news that all these pitiful kin Are to be bought out and mercifully gathered in To live in villages, next to the theatre and the store. Where they won't have to think for themselves anymore, While greedy good-doers, beneficent beasts of prey, Swarm over their lives enforcing benefits That are calculated to soothe them out of their wits, And by teaching them how to sleep they sleep all day Destroy their sleeping at night the ancient way. (A Roadside Stand)	1 x 6 = 6 marks
(i)	(i) The expression 'It is in the news' suggests (A) it is good news for the roadside stand owners. (B) an important decision has been taken by the government. (C) the roadside stand owners have protested against the government. (D) that the news was not there in the newspaper.	
Ans.	(B) an important decision has been taken by the government	1
(ii)	Read the Assertion and the Reason below, with reference to the given extract. Assertion : The poet complains that the rural people are exploited by the people in power.	

	Reason : The rural people reposed blind faith in the false promises of the people in power. Choose the correct option regarding their relationship. (A)Both the Assertion and the Reason are true and the Reason is the correct explanation. (B)Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, but the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion. (C)The Assertion is true, but the Reason is false. (D)The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.	
Ans.	(A) Both the assertion and reason are true and the reason is the correct explanation	1
(iii)	Complete the following suitably : In the line 'that are calculated to soothe them out of their wits', the phrase 'soothe them out of their wit' refers to_____	
Ans.	Cheating/deceiving/manipulating/duping them (any one)	1
(iv)	Bring out the irony in the expression 'they won't have to think for themselves'.	
Ans.	No one thinks about them / they are exploited by everyone/ those who offer to think are thinking about themselves only/ they are forced to think for themselves.	1
(v)	Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank. The poet uses the expression 'greedy good-doers' to_____(criticize/ appreciate) the intention of the powerful people.	
Ans.	Criticize	1
(vi)	Complete the following suitably. The tone of the poet in the above extract is_____.	
Ans.	critical/ sarcastic/ disapproving (any one)	1
	OR	
(B)	If we were not so single-minded about keeping our lives moving, and for once could do nothing, perhaps a huge silence might interrupt this sadness of never understanding ourselves with death. Perhaps the Earth can teach us as when everything seems dead and later proves to be alive. Now I'll count up to twelve And you keep quiet and I will go. <i>(Keeping Quiet)</i>	1x6=6 marks
(i)	Complete the following suitably. The poet uses the expression 'single minded' to refer to _____.	

Ans.	man's selfish attitude/his focus on moving ahead	1
(ii)	Why does the poet refer to silence as a welcoming interruption?	
Ans.	- silence helps us find better solution/makes our life better/gives space for introspection/leads to understanding/ gives a break in our chaotic life and ends the sadness of not understanding (any one)	1
(iii)	Read the Assertion and the Reason below, with reference to the given extract. Assertion: The poet personifies Earth as a teacher. Reason : We learn from the Earth that pausing doesn't mean the end. Choose the correct option regarding their relationship. (A)Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion. (B)Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, but the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion. (C)The Assertion is true, but the Reason is false. (D)The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.	
Ans	(A) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion	1
(iv)	Complete the following suitably. By the expression "keeping our lives moving" the poet refers to_____.	
Ans.	moving ahead in life/ mindlessly moving ahead/moving ahead or making progress without thinking of the consequences (any one)	1
(v)	Choose the correct option : The intention of the poet in the above extract is (A) to make us aware of the importance of Earth. (B) to criticize our single mindedness. (C) to highlight the reason for our sadness. (D) to highlight the importance of sustaining peace and silence.	
Ans.	(D) to highlight the importance of sustaining peace and silence	1
(vi)	What is the significance of the last line of the extract 'you keep quiet and I will go'?	
Ans.	The poet wants readers to take responsibility/practice introspection and silence/follow his advice for a better world	1

Q8.	Read the following extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B) :	
(A)	When I heard this, I didn't want to laugh any more, and I felt terribly sad. How could they believe that it was disgusting if one of us held that package in his hands, even though the Vadai had been wrapped first in a banana leaf, and then parcelled in paper ? I felt so provoked and angry that I wanted to touch those wretched Vadais myself straight away. Why should we have to fetch and carry for these people. I wondered. Such an important elder of ours goes meekly to the shops to fetch snacks and hands over reverently, bowing and shrinking, to this fellow who just sits there and stuffs them into his mouth. The thought of it infuriated me. <i>(Memories of Childhood)</i>	1x4=4 Marks
(i)	'I felt terribly sad'. The reason for the speaker's sadness is because it was an act of _____	
Ans.	discrimination /humiliation/disrespect (any other relevant word) (any one)	1
(ii)	Choose the correct option : 'The thought of it infuriated me' with reference to the above line, what do you think is the impact of the incident on the speaker ? (A) The speaker was sympathetic and helpless. (B) The speaker was angry and condemning. (C) The speaker was excited to see the incident. (D) The speaker was very impressed and motivated.	
Ans.	(B)The speaker was angry and condemning.	1
(iii)	Complete the sentence suitably : 'I wanted to touch those wretched Vadais myself' The above expression indicates the speaker's _____.	
Ans.	anger/outrage/frustration/revolt/disgust (any other relevant word) (any one)	1
(iv)	Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank : The incident made the speaker realize that the discrimination was_____.(dehumanizing/elevating)	
Ans.	dehumanizing	1
	OR	

(B)	Mr. Lamb : When I go down the streets, the kids shout ‘Lamey Lamb’. But they will come into the garden, into my house; it's a game. They're not afraid of me. Why should they be? Because I'm not afraid of them, that's why not. Derry : Did you get your leg blown off in the war ? Mr. Lamb : Certainly Derry : How will you climb on a ladder and get the crab apples down, then? Mr. Lamb : Oh, there's a lot of things I've learned to do and plenty of time for it. Years. I take it steady. <i>(On the Face of it)</i>	1x4=4 marks
(i)	Complete the following suitably : 'Years. I take it steady'. The above line speaks of the speaker's_____.	
Ans.	patience/determination/will-power/courage/self-belief (any one)	1
(ii)	Derry, how will you climb on a ladder ? What does Derry hint at in the above query?	
Ans.	Lamb's handicap/tin leg/physical disability (any one)	1
(iii)	‘When I go down the streets, the kids shout Lamey Lamb.’ The attitude of the speaker expressed in the above line is _____. (A) his habit of finding fault. (B) he is timid and faint hearted. (C) his acceptance of reality and positive attitude. (D) his indifferent and careless attitude.	
Ans.	(C) his acceptance of reality and positive attitude.	1
(iv)	Fill in the blank suitably : Mr. Lamb's handicap has not _____his attitude towards life.	
Ans.	changed/ dampened/ shadowed (any one)	1
Q9.	Read the following extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B) :	

(A)	Those were the days of mainly indoor shooting, and only five percent of the film was shot outdoors. I suppose the sets and studio lights needed the girls and boys to be made to look ugly in order to look presentable in the movie. A strict hierarchy was maintained in the make-up department. The chief make-up man made the chief actors and actresses ugly, his senior assistant 'second' hero and heroine, the junior assistant the main comedian and so forth. The players who played the crowd were the responsibility of the office boy. (Even the make-up department of the Gemini Studio had an 'office boy') On the days when there was crowd-shooting, you could see him mixing his paint in a giant vessel and slapping it on the crowd players. The idea was to close every pore on the surface of the face in the process of applying make-up.	1x6=6 Marks
(i)	What does the writer mean by the phrase 'indoor shooting' in the first line of the extract ?	
Ans.	Shooting inside the studio	1
(ii)	Pick up one sentence from the extract that reflects the sarcastic tone of the writer.	
Ans.	- “studio lights needed the girls and boys to be made to look ugly” - “The chief make-up man made the chief actors and actresses ugly” - “mixing his paint in a giant vessel and slapping it on the crowd” - “The idea was to close every pore on the surface of the face in the process of applying make-up” (any one)	1
(iii)	The hierarchy in the make-up department puts the 'office boy' in the _____(lowest/top) rung of the ladder.	
Ans.	lowest	1
(iv)	Complete the following suitably : On the days when there was a 'crowd-shooting'. By the phrase crowd-shooting, the author refers to _____	
Ans.	participation of many/ a large number of actors, people (any one)	1
(v)	Choose the correct option : ".....mix his paint in a giant vessel and slapping it on the crowd players." The choice of words like 'paint' and 'slapping' by the author reflects _____. (A) author's intention to degrade the office boy's role in the make-up department. (B) the office boy's lack of seriousness. (C) author's sarcastic and humorous writing style.	

	(D) author's dislike of the office boy.	
Ans.	(C) author's sarcastic and humorous writing style.	1
(vi)	Choose the correct option : What does the following line from the extract showcase ? "A strict hierarchy was maintained in the make-up department ." (A)The office boy took all the decisions in the make-up department. (B)A system of ranks according to importance of work was followed. (C)Everyone was given an equal share of work in the department. (D)Nepotism was prevalent in the make-up department.	
Ans.	(B) A system of ranks according to importance of work was followed.	1
(B)	My Last French Lesson !Why, I hardly knew how to write !I should never learn any more !I must stop there, then !Oh, how sorry I was for not learning my lessons, for seeking birds 'eggs or going sliding on the Saar ! My books, that had seemed such a nuisance a while ago, so heavy to carry, my grammar, and my history of the saints, were old friends now that I couldn't give up and M. Hamel, too; the idea that he was going away, that I should never see him again, made me forget all about his ruler and how cranky he was. Poor man ! It was in honour of this last lesson that he had put on his fine Sunday clothes, and now I understood why the old men of the village were sitting there in the back of the room. It was because they were sorry, too, that they had not gone to school more. It was their way of thanking our master for his forty years of faithful service and of showing their respect for the country that was theirs no more. (The Last Lesson)	1x6=6 marks
(i)	Choose the correct option : What is the tone of the speaker in the expression 'I hardly knew how to write how sorry I was for not learning my lessons' ? (A)confused (B)regretful (C)surprised (D)happy	
Ans.	(B)regretful	1
(ii)	Choose the correct option : The speaker refers to 'seeking birds' egg' and 'sliding on the Saar' as (A) part of his routine (B) his daily routine (C) source of distraction from learning (D) fun time with friends	
Ans.	(C) source of distraction from learning	1
(iii)	What is reflected through the shift in the speaker's perception of his books through his expression of calling them his 'old friends' rather than considering them as 'nuisance' ?	
Ans.	from regret to realization of the importance of his books	1
(iv)	Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank : "It was because they were sorry too...." They were sorry for (not following the government order/ not learning their language)	

Ans.	not learning their language	1
(v)	What is inferred from the expression 'the country that was theirs no more'?	
Ans.	country is enslaved/conquered/Prussians' occupation/loss of freedom (any one)	1
(vi)	What does M. Hamel's ruler reflect about his image ?	
Ans.	strict/strict disciplinarian/hard task master	1
Q. 10	Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions in 40-50 words each :	5 x 2 = 10 marks
	Distribution of marks:- Content – 1 Expression – 1	
(i)	"One of these days you're going to talk yourself into a load of trouble;" her father said aggressively. What do you learn about Sophie's father from these lines? <i>(Going Places)</i>	
Ans.	suggested value points: - his concern for his daughter - strict - practical - aggressive (any one)	2
(ii)	'A thing of beauty is a joy forever.' Explain with reference to the poem. (A Thing of Beauty)	
Ans.	suggested value points: • is a source of everlasting joy • is something that withstands time • 'never passes into nothingness' • that we cherish forever • 'endless fountain of immortal drink' (any one)	2
(iii)	How did Franz plan to turn the commotion in the classroom to his favour?	
Ans.	suggested value points: He was late and hence planned to reach his desk without being noticed/he had counted on the commotion to get to his desk without being seen (any one)	2
(iv)	How do the expressions 'polished traffic' and a stand that 'pathetically pled'	

	depict the contrasting worlds that co-exist in the poem 'A Roadside Stand'?	
Ans.	suggested value points: - 'Polished traffic' - sophisticated people of the city in their cars/rich urban people - 'pathetically pled' refers to the miserable living condition of the rural people/owners of the roadside stand - the rural-urban divide/difference between rich and poor/economic disparity of the society (any one)	2
(v)	'What I want should not be confused'. What clarification does Pablo Neruda give to his readers? (Keeping Quiet)	
Ans.	suggested value points: - keeping quiet does not imply death or idleness/inactivity but means living a meaningful life with introspection - 'life is what it is about' (any one)	2
(vi)	'But the game he is watching so intently is out of his reach.' What are the factors that have made their game inaccessible to Saheb? (Lost Spring)	
Ans.	suggested value points: Tennis is an expensive game. Saheb's poverty makes it unaffordable/out of reach	2
Q. 11	Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions in 40-50 words each :	2 x 2 = 4 marks
	Distribution of marks:- Content – 1 Expression – 1	
(i)	What is the significance of the third level?	
Ans.	suggested value points: - a medium of escape from stressful world/modern world full of fear, war, worry, insecurity, etc. - leisurely/unhurried/simple/peaceful lifestyle (any one)	2
(ii)	'Not at all,' Sadao said. "It is inconvenient to have you here any longer." What image do you form of Dr.Sadao based on the above remark?	
Ans.	suggested value points: - concern for his wife and children - practical - straightforward and frank (any other relevant point) (any one)	2

(iii)	Mr.Lamb:you thought it was an empty house,but inside it's full.What do these words tell you about Mr.Lamb?	
Ans.	suggested value points: - reflects his optimism/ reveals his positive perspective - portrays himself as contented and living a fulfilling life - books are his companions (any one)	2
Q 12	Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 120-150 words :	5 marks
	Distribution of marks:- Content – 3 Expression – 2 EXPRESSION - grammar, spelling, punctuation, organisation and coherence of ideas	
(A)	Gandhi said, "The real relief for them is to be free from fear." (Indigo) Roosevelt knew when he said, "All we have to fear is fear itself." (Deep Water) Analyse the status of share-croppers and plight of William Douglas in the light of the above statements.	
Ans.	suggested value points Indigo - sharecroppers-feared landlords - crushed and fear-stricken/maltreated - could not raise their voice in courts - Gandhi instilled confidence in them by defying the British openly - their spontaneous demonstration around the courthouse-beginning of their liberation from fear - after 25% refund, the peasants learned courage - became aware of their rights and defenders - the British were forced to abandon their estates-indigo sharecropping disappeared Douglas - developed fear of water - missed the pleasure of enjoying water sports - felt handicapped for years - determined to overcome his fear of water - hired instructor to learn swimming skills - patient in learning step-by-step - tested himself to gain confidence in the pool and other water bodies - showed perseverance and willpower In both cases, freedom from fear helped them make their life better (any other relevant point) (any three - at least one point from each part)	5
	OR	
(B)	Sophie is an escapist and a dreamer. Franz loves to miss school. Analyse the result of both these characters as a result of their attitude towards life. ('Going Places' 'The Last Lesson')	

	suggested value points: Sophie - is a day-dreamer - wants instant success, fame, money, etc - ambitious –not focused on one goal-wants to become manager, open a boutique, become actress and fashion designer - not willing to accept reality - leads her to dream about meeting a celebrity like Danny Casey - results in her disappointment, not being believed by family members, delusional, continues to stay in her world of fantasy Franz - has lot of distractions-interested in bird watching, sliding on the saar, missed his lessons - the outdoors have more attraction - the drilling of the Prussians has more fascination than reaching the school on time - postpones learning his language - considers books as burden earlier - loses opportunity to learn/write/speak his own language - last lesson resulted in change of his perspective towards learning and M. Hamel - full of regret, remorse, eager to learn the language on the day, respect for M. Hamel grows (any other relevant point) (any three-at least one point from each part)	
Q 13	Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 120-150 words:	5 marks
	Distribution of marks:- Content – 3 Expression – 2 EXPRESSION - grammar, spelling, punctuation, organisation and coherence of ideas	
13 (A)	Derry in 'On the Face of it' is a victim of self-pity. Analyse Derry's behaviour in the light of the above statement.	
Ans.	Suggested value points Derry - defiant and withdrawn - was over conscious of his scar/over-sensitive - he was afraid of looking at himself in the mirror - he felt that the acid not only ate up his face but also destroyed his confidence/inner-self - considered himself a handicap - develops inferiority complex - affected deeply by people's comments/reactions - he doesn't like his mother kissing him - suspicious of Mr. Lamb's friendly nature and people's intentions - hated people as he imagined people hating his face/pitying him for it	5

	(any other relevant point) (any three)	
	OR	
(B)	"....how little changes in the environment can have big repercussions" Tishani Doshi in 'Journey to End of the Earth' gives an awakening call for man. Analyse the theme of the lesson in the light of the above statement.	
Ans.	Suggested value points - depletion of ozone layer will affect activities of microscopic phytoplankton-in turn affecting all marine animals - glaciers retreating and ice shelves collapsing-leading to global warming - affects global carbon cycle - man's dominance over Nature-led to climate change - urbanization, human population leading to limited resources - unmitigated burning of fossil fuels creates a blanket of carbon-dioxide - everything does indeed connect (any other relevant point) (any three)	5
