



Series : 4YWZX

Set – 3

Q.P. Code

1/4/3

Roll No.

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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 **19** printed pages.
- 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 check that this question paper contains **13** questions.
- **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.

#

General Instructions :

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them :

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



SECTION A
Reading Skills

(22 marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully :

12

- (1) Gossip. All humans partake in some form, despite the age-old adage, “*If you have nothing nice to say, don’t say anything at all.*” Whether it’s workplace chatter, the sharing of family news or group texts between friends, it’s inevitable that anyone who participates in the above, talks about other people.
- (2) People tend to think of gossip as synonymous with malicious rumours, put-downs, or the breathless propagation of a tabloid scoop. But researchers often define it more broadly as “talking about people who aren’t present,” says an assistant professor of psychology. “It’s something that comes very naturally to us” — an integral part of conversation, information sharing, and even community building.
- (3) “It’s not necessarily negative,” adds a professor of psychology. “It can be positive or neutral.” Some researchers argue that gossip helped our ancestors survive. Evolutionary psychologists first pioneered this idea, comparing gossip to the grooming primates engage in as a means of bonding.
- (4) People are usually resistant to thinking about gossip as anything but bad. It is true that there are some types of gossip that should be avoided, such as gossip that is purely harmful and serves no purpose like mean comments on someone’s way of dressing. In such a scenario no one benefits. Gossip can also be both active and passive. Active gossiping refers to directly sharing negative information about someone else. An active gossiper initiates the conversation and actively spreads it. Passive gossiping on the other hand involves more subtle behaviour like hinting, dropping suggestive comments or participating in gossip by listening without actively contributing, but still allowing the gossip to spread through their presence.



- (5) It's interesting to note that gossiping also says something about relationships people have with one another. The act of gossiping often implies a level of trust and closeness with someone, which are key aspects of a good friendship.
- (6) Research has found that gossip can stave off loneliness, while other studies have found it can facilitate bonding and closeness and serve as a form of entertainment. So, keep on talking. And when your conversation turns to gossip, as it inevitably will, remember that some good can come of it — with the right intentions, of course.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

- (i) Complete the following suitably. 1
..... think of gossip as synonymous with malicious rumours, put-downs in paragraph (2).
By the phrase 'put-downs' the writer means _____.
- (ii) Despite the bad reputation of 'gossip', mention any two benefits that it offers. 2
- (iii) Read and complete the following suitably : 1
The phrase – 'It's something that comes very naturally to us' suggests that gossip should not merely be associated with malicious rumours.
Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence.
The concern this phrase points towards is about
A. that some types of gossip should be avoided.
B. that gossip can be viewed as part of our daily interaction and bonding.
- (iv) Complete the analogy with one word from paragraph (2). 1
Praise : Commend :: _____ : Malevolent
(A) Scoop
(B) Propagation
(C) Malicious
(D) Conversation
- (v) What type of gossip does the author disapprove of and why ? 2
- (vi) Complete the following suitably with one difference between the author's opinion and that of people about gossip. 1
Generally, people do not readily accept _____.



- (vii) “There’s also a physiological distinction to be drawn between active and passive participation in gossip.” (paragraph (4)) 1

Based on the above statement, classify the following sentences as active and passive participation.

Sentence 1 : Ranjan told Raman and Shah the sensational facts he had heard about his friend Vineet from others.

Sentence 2 : Kumar stayed silent while his friends criticized his close friend Vijay in his absence.

- (viii) Why does the author say that gossip is a reflection of relationships ? 1

- (ix) Choose the correct option : 1

..... gossip can ‘stave off loneliness’. (paragraph (6))

The above statement is true as :

- (A) we always enjoy talking ill of others.
- (B) we believe what we read about people in the print media.
- (C) we are free to talk loosely in the absence of the person.
- (D) in order to gossip, you need to feel close to people.

- (x) Complete the following suitably : 1

The author puts forth the fact that man can never _____ gossiping.

2. Read the following passage carefully : 10

- (1) **Introduction** : Humans are social creatures with a deep desire to interact with one another. Recent developments in technology have made it possible for billions of people worldwide to use cell phones to satisfy this need. The current study aims to analyse the impact of smartphone use among various categories of people in Kerala, India. The present study will provide an insight into the extent and magnitude of people’s reliance on smartphones to communicate in this modern age and the dwindling nature of social relationships.



- (2) **Methodology** : A google form created questionnaire was used to gather information on the subject from a sample of participants who were from various districts in Kerala, India.
- (3) **Survey Examination** : Among the 131 study participants, 66 were men and the remaining 65 were women. For convenience, the study considered only the main purpose for which a smartphone is used by any given individual.
- (4) **Results** :

S.No	Purpose	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Academic	21	11.11
2.	Communication	56	29.63
3.	Entertainment	48	25.40
4.	Others	64	33.86

Individuals differed in their interests and preferences regarding their choice of communication medium. Some preferred direct conversation, while others conveyed their messages through virtual mediums of communication, that did not involve any face-to-face interaction.

- (5) **Implications for Interventions** : It was observed that individuals were interested in using their smartphones even when they were dining. This constant use can have several disadvantages such as reckless use of mobile phones, including prolonged hours of radiation exposure, over-calorie intake due to binge eating, leading to obesity, and other health problems. It is also a vital tool to achieve social progress.

The use of phones while travelling can sometimes detract from an individual's enjoyment of the serenity of the environment, the scenic beauty of picnic spots, and affect the way an individual behaves and interacts with his or her co-travellers.

- (6) **Conclusion** : It is true that most of the population under different age and gender categories use smartphones every day, but there is no significant fall in the duration spent in direct face-to-face conversation with fellow beings, except in very few individuals. The majority of people agree that traditional face-to-face communication is more comfortable, reliable, and expressive than text messages, phone calls, or electronic mail.



Answer the following questions, based on the given passage.

- (i) Complete the following suitably.

In paragraph (1), the author highlights the use of smartphones to _____ . 1

- (ii) How does the author validate the fact that smartphones take away the joy of beauty around us ? 1

- (iii) Paragraph (4) includes the phrases, direct communication and virtual communication.

Classify the following sentences as direct and virtual communication : 1

Sentence 1 : Most of the students attend online classes on mobile phones.

Sentence 2 : He arranged for a get-together to meet his school friends.

- (iv) In paragraph (5), 'By reckless use of mobile phones' the author blames : 1

- (A) binge eating (B) mobile phones
(C) responsibility of man (D) demands of society

- (v) Give two points to support how smartphones make a major impact on man's life. 2

- (vi) What would the following be classified as ? 1

There is no significant fall in the duration spent in direct face-to-face conversation.

Select the appropriate response :

- (A) Primary purpose (B) Secondary objective
(C) Method of analysis (D) Research outcome

- (vii) 'Technological development is a double-edged sword.'
Analyse the above statement with reference to the text. 2

- (viii) The study is very relevant in the contemporary times, because : 1

- (A) we are living in the 21st century.
(B) it is an era of IT revolution.
(C) mobile phones have penetrated everyone's life.
(D) mobile phones are used by students for academic purposes.



SECTION B
Creative Writing Skills

(18 marks)

3. Attempt any **one** of the two, (a) or (b), in about 50 words. *1×4=4*

- (a) You are Aruna/Arun, Head girl/Head boy of Kohinoor Public School, Hawapuri. Your school is organising an inter-house book review competition. Draft a notice informing the students of classes IX – XII about the competition and invite registrations for the same. Include other necessary details. Put your notice in a box.

OR

- (b) You are Renuka/Rahul Bhatia, President of J.M. Colony, Pawanshahr, Residents Welfare Association. You are planning to organise a free eye care camp in collaboration with a reputed hospital for the senior citizens of your locality. Draft a notice informing the residents about the camp. Include all necessary details. Put your notice in a box.

4. Attempt any **one** of the two, (a) or (b), in about 50 words. *1×4=4*

- (a) Your school is planning to host the Annual Awards Function on Saturday, 9th April. On behalf of the Principal, draft a formal invitation card to be sent to the parents and other guests inviting them for the function. Mention a compelling highlight of the celebration along with other details.

OR

- (b) You are Sonali/Sohail of 4, A.C. Nagar, Akashgarh. Your friend Jyoti has invited you to a party to celebrate her appointment as Junior Scientist in ISRO. Write an informal letter of reply accepting the invitation.



5. Attempt any **one** of the two, (a) or (b), in 120 – 150 words.

1×5=5

- (a) You are Kanika/Kavin of 7, Lake View Road, Jheelpur. You read the given advertisement and wish to apply for the post advertised. Write an job application along with your bio-data.

<p style="text-align: center;">Golden Jewellery Mart, Khushibagh Requires Business Development Executive Qualification : Graduation in business/marketing/management Experience : Minimum 3 years in relevant field. Skills : Negotiation skills, presentation skills, marketing strategies. Apply to the Manager, Golden Jewellery Mart, 46, Besant Road, Khushibagh.</p>

OR

- (b) Cyberbullying cases have been on the rise in recent times. One in six school children experience cyberbullying. Many adolescents are not able to handle the pressure. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily expressing your concern over the issue and stressing the importance of teaching children how to deal with cyberbullying. You are Tanya/Tanmay of 58, S.K. Nagar, A.K. Town, Veersahar. You may use the following cues along with your own ideas to draft the letter.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cyberbullying – a problem.• Importance of creating awareness among children.• How can schools educate children on cyberbullying ?• Role of parents in helping children cope with the situation.• Help of Anti-Bullying Helpline and how to access it.



6. Attempt any **one** of the two, (a) or (b), in 120 – 150 words.

1×5=5

- (a) Today's youth is ready to take up challenges and become successful entrepreneurs. Nurturing skills and an entrepreneurial mindset in schools can spur creativity and enhance career prospects for young people. Write an article stressing on the importance of including entrepreneurship education in schools. You may use the cues given along with your own ideas to draft the article. You are Niti/Nitin Chopra, a career counsellor.

- Entrepreneurship education can promote creative thinking.
- Teaches students to be resilient and adaptable.
- Opens up more career choices.
- Increases employability skills.

OR

- (b) You are Mohit/Minakshi of Class XII-C and a member of the school editorial board. Your school recently organised a science exhibition wherein the students showcased their science projects and models. Write a comprehensive report of the event to be published in the school newsletter. You may use the following cues along with your own ideas to compose the report.

- Who – What – Where – When – Why – 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) 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.

When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie

Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.

The tigers in the panel that she made

Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.

(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

- (i) Complete the following suitably :

The massive weight of 'wedding band' symbolises _____. 1

- (ii) By the phrase 'fingers fluttering', the poet portrays Aunt Jennifer in a constant state of _____.

(nervousness/happiness) 1

- (iii) Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract. 1

Assertion : Aunt Jennifer lives a life full of agony and pain.

Reason : She is a victim of the male dominant society.

- (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 : 1
‘The tigers in the panel will go on prancing’
The above line refers to the _____ of art.
- (v) The expressions ‘terrified hands’ and ‘ordeals’ used in the
above extract highlight the _____ of women in marriage. 1
- (vi) Choose the correct option : 1
‘Tigers in the panel’ symbolise
- (A) Aunt Jennifer’s interest in wildlife.
(B) Tigers in the green forest.
(C) Aunt Jennifer’s deep desire for freedom.
(D) Tigers that are yellow in colour.

OR

- (b) Driving from my parent’s
home to Cochin last Friday
morning, 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,

(My Mother at Sixty-six)



- (i) Complete the following suitably : 1
The expressions 'doze' and 'open mouthed' are used by the poet to indicate the poet's mother's _____.
- (ii) Give the phrase that suggests the following. 1
The image of exuberance and youthfulness affects the poet's thoughts.
- (iii) What does the imagery of 'Trees sprinting' **not** represent in the given extract ? 1
(A) energy (B) liveliness
(C) shade (D) vitality
- (iv) Select the correct option from those given in the brackets, to fill in the blank. 1
The poet's use of the phrase 'ashen like that of a corpse', illustrates the poet's use of _____ (irony/imagery).
- (v) Choose the correct option : 1
The poet is unable to bear the sight of her ageing mother, because _____.
(A) her mother had refused to accompany her
(B) she is upset with her mother dozing off
(C) it upsets her to see the ageing face of her mother
(D) she is in a hurry to reach the airport
- (vi) Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract. 1
Assertion : The mother was accompanying her daughter to the airport.
Reason : The daughter was leaving her mother behind and flying off.
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.



8. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any **one** of the given two, (a) or (b) : 1×4=4

(a) “That young master is so proud of his skill to save life that he saves any life,” the cook said contemptuously.

“It is the children of whom we must think,” Yumi said sadly. “What will be their fate if their father is condemned as a traitor ?”

They did not try to hide what they said from the ears of Hana as she stood arranging the day’s flowers in the veranda near by, and she knew they spoke on purpose that she might hear.

(The Enemy)

(i) Complete the following suitably : 1

The tone of the cook while speaking about her master’s skill is _____.

(ii) “They spoke on purpose that she might hear’ 1

They wanted her to hear to convey their :

- (A) interest
- (B) disapproval
- (C) sympathy
- (D) respect

(iii) How is Yumi’s concern for the children justified ? 1

(iv) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank. 1

The above extract reveals a _____ (superficial/close) association between the master and the servants.

OR



- (b) The British officer's secretary sent word to the Maharaja through the dewan that the *durai* himself did not have to kill the tiger. The Maharaja could do the actual killing. What was important to the *durai* was a photograph of himself holding the gun and standing over the tiger's carcass. But the Maharaja would not agree even to this proposal. If he relented now, what would he do if other British officers turned up for tiger hunts ?

Because he prevented a British officer from fulfilling his desire, the Maharaja stood in danger of losing his kingdom itself.

(The Tiger King)

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

The last line of the extract reflects _____ attitude of the British officers. (an oppressive/a courageous) 1

- (ii) Why did the *durai* want to take a photograph with the tiger's carcass ? 1

- (iii) The Tiger King's refusal to the request of the *durai* reflects : 1

- (A) his concern for the tiger population.
(B) his courage to deny permission to the British officer.
(C) his ego and selfishness.
(D) his strained rapport with the British officer.

- (iv) Complete the following suitably : 1

Maharaja's _____ action put his kingdom in danger.



9. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any **one** of the given two, (a) or (b) : 1×6=6

(a) He thought of the thirty kronor. To go up to the manor house would be like throwing himself voluntarily into the lion's den. He only wanted a chance to sleep here in the forge and then sneak away as inconspicuously as possible.

The ironmaster assumed that he felt embarrassed because of his miserable clothing.

“Please don't think that I have such a fine home that you cannot show yourself there”, He said... “Elizabeth is dead, as you may already have heard. My boys are abroad, and there is no one at home except my oldest daughter and myself. We were just saying that it was too bad we didn't have any company for Christmas. Now come along with me and help us make the Christmas food disappear a little faster.”

(The Rattrap)

- (i) What does the narrator mean by the expression ‘throwing himself into the lion's den’ ? 1
- (ii) What does the expression ‘sneak away’ reveal about the intention of ‘he’ in the above extract ? 1
- (iii) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank. 1

“ there is no one home” indicates that the ironmaster was leading a _____ life. (peaceful/lonely)



- (iv) “We didn’t have any company for Christmas.” The essence of Christmas spirit with reference to the above statement is : 1
- (A) to make a special dish to mark the celebration.
- (B) to invite guests to join the celebration.
- (C) to show off his wealth.
- (D) to conduct communal prayers.
- (v) Complete the following statement suitably : 1
- The peddler was feeling uncomfortable at the ironmaster’s invitation because the peddler only wanted to _____.
- (vi) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank. 1
- “Please don’t think that I have such a fine home.”
- The ironmaster uttered the above statement to make the peddler feel _____ . (awkward/comfortable)

OR

- (b) “They wouldn’t make you manager straight off, Soaf.”
- “I’ll be like Mary Quant,” Sophie said. “I’ll be a natural. They’ll see it from the start. I’ll have the most amazing shop this city’s ever seen.”
- Jansie, knowing they were both earmarked for the biscuit factory, became melancholy. She wished Sophie wouldn’t say these things.
- When they reached Sophie’s street Jansie said, “It’s only a few months away now, Soaf, you really should be sensible. They don’t pay well for shop work, you know that, your dad would never allow it.”
- (Going Places)



- (i) Choose the correct option : 1
What trait of the speaker is reflected in the first line of the extract ?
(A) optimistic
(B) pessimistic
(C) realistic
(D) fatalistic
- (ii) Choose the correct option from those given in the brackets to fill in the blank. 1
“They’ll see it from the start.” The above statement reflects Sophie’s _____. (modesty/overconfidence)
- (iii) “They don’t pay well for the shop work.” Jansie’s statement depicts Jansie as a : 1
(A) happy-go-lucky girl.
(B) practical friend of Sophie.
(C) casual friend of Sophie.
(D) jealous friend.
- (iv) Complete the following suitably : 1
“Your dad would never allow it” The image of Sophie’s father as we infer from the above statement is that he _____.
- (v) What does the following line from the extract showcase about Jansie’s emotions ? 1
“Soaf, you really should be sensible.”
(i) indifference
(ii) concern
(iii) regret
(iv) envy
- (vi) “They were both ‘earmarked’ for the biscuit factory.” What does the word ‘earmarked’ convey ? 1



10. Answer any **five** of the following six questions in 40 – 50 words each : $5 \times 2 = 10$

- (i) Why does M. Hamel refer to language as a key to freedom from slavery ?
(The Last Lesson)
- (ii) Explain how Mukesh in 'Lost Spring' stands as a ray of hope for the bangle making community.
- (iii) What is the importance of beauty in a man's life ?
(A Thing of Beauty)
- (iv) How did Umberto Eco display his innovative style in the presentation of his dissertation ?
(The Interview)
- (v) What is Robert Frost's complaint in 'A Roadside Stand' ?
- (vi) What was the link between the makeup department and national integration as described in 'Poets and Pancakes' ?

11. Answer any **two** of the following three questions in 40 – 50 words each : $2 \times 2 = 4$

- (i) What was the aim of the 'Students on Ice' programme ?
(Journey to end of the Earth)
- (ii) The man behind the success of Dr. Sadao is his father. Bring out the truth in the above statement with evidences from the text 'The Enemy'.
- (iii) How can we say that the description of Galesburg gives us a peep into the stress-free world of the past ?
(The Third Level)



12. Answer any **one** of the following two questions in 120 – 150 words : 1×5=5

- (a) How do the characters of Umberto Eco from 'The Interview' and Subbu from 'Poets and Pancakes' compare in terms of their resourcefulness ?

OR

- (b) Discuss how the poems 'Keeping Quiet' and 'A Thing of Beauty' draw attention to the importance of beauty and introspection.

13. Answer any **one** of the following two questions in 120 – 150 words : 1×5=5

- (a) How did Zitkala-Sa react to the cultural impositions at school ?
(Memories of Childhood)

OR

- (b) 'A beautiful appearance will last a few decades, but a beautiful personality will last a lifetime.' Mr. Lamb with his personality successfully influenced Derry to understand the essence of the above quote. Analyse the characters of Mr. Lamb and Derry in the light of the above statement.

(On The Face Of It)

Strictly Confidential: (For Internal and Restricted use only)
Senior Secondary School Examination 2025
Marking Scheme – ENGLISH CORE (301)
(QUESTION PAPER CODE – 1/4/3)

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 no marks 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 and 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: 1/4/3]

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 penalized 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.	
	SUGGESTED VALUE POINTS	Marks
Q.1.	Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:	12 marks
(i)	Complete the following suitably.think of gossip as synonymous with malicious rumours, put-downs.....in paragraph (2). By the phrase 'put downs' the writer means	
Ans.	to humiliate /belittle a person/ hurt/ insult (any other relevant point)	1
(ii)	Despite the bad reputation of 'gossip', mention any two benefits that it offers.	
Ans.	staves off loneliness/facilitates bonding and closeness/ helps in sharing of information /serves as a form of entertainment/ community building (any two)	2 1+1
(iii)	Read and complete the following suitably : The phrase- 'It's something that comes very naturally to us' suggests that gossip should not merely be associated with malicious rumours. Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence. The concern this phrase points towards is about A. that some types of gossip should be avoided. B. that gossip can be viewed as part of our daily interaction and bonding.	
Ans.	B. that gossip can be viewed as part of our daily interaction and bonding.	1
(iv)	Complete the analogy with one word from paragraph (2). Praise : Commend : : _____ : Malevolent (A) Scoop (B) Propagation (C) Malicious	

	(D) Conversation	
Ans.	(C) Malicious	1
(v)	What type of gossip does the author disapprove of and why ?	
Ans.	What- Gossip that is purely harmful and serves no purpose, like mean comments on someone's way of dressing Why- One is not learning anything and no one benefits.	2
(vi)	Complete the following suitably with one difference between the author's opinion and that of people about gossip. Generally, people do not readily accept _____.	
Ans.	-gossip as positive/ good/ active /constructive	1
(vii)	“There's also a physiological distinction to be drawn between active and passive participation in gossip.” (paragraph (4)) Based on the above statement, classify the following sentences as active and passive participation. Sentence 1 : Ranjan told Raman and Shah the sensational facts he had heard about his friend Vineet from others. Sentence 2 : Kumar stayed silent while his friends criticized his close friend Vijay in his absence.	
Ans.	Sentence 1 Active Sentence 2 Passive	1
(viii)	Why does the author say that gossip is a reflection of relationships?	
Ans.	implies a level of trust and closeness/ means of social bonding/is a key aspect of friendship	1
(ix)	Choose the correct option :gossip can 'stave off loneliness'. (paragraph (6)) The above statement is true as : (A) we always enjoy talking ill of others. (B) we believe what we read about people in the print media. (C) we are free to talk loosely in the absence of the person. (D) in order to gossip, you need to feel close to people.	
Ans.	(D) in order to gossip, you need to feel close to people.	1
(x)	Complete the following suitably : The author puts forth the fact that man can never _____ gossiping.	
Ans.	stop/prevent/avoid/give up/ stay away from (any one)(any other relevant points)	1
	Passage 2	
Q.2.	Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:	10
(i)	Complete the following suitably. In paragraph (1), the author highlights the use of smartphones to _____.	
Ans.	communicate/interact with one another	1
(ii)	How does the author validate the fact that smartphones take away the joy of beauty around us ?	

Ans.	Detracts us from the enjoyment of serenity of environment/ scenic beauty of picnic spot	1
(iii)	Paragraph (4) includes the phrases, direct communication and virtual communication. Classify the following sentences as direct and virtual communication : Sentence 1 : Most of the students attend online classes on mobile phones. Sentence 2 : He arranged for a get-together to meet his school friends.	
Ans.	Sentence 1. Virtual Sentence 2. Direct	1
(iv)	In paragraph (5), ‘By reckless use of mobile phones’ the author blames : (A) binge eating (B) mobile phones (C) responsibility of man (D) demands of society	
Ans.	(C) responsibility of man	1
(v)	Give two points to support how smartphones make a major impact on man’s life.	
Ans.	Positive impact – vital tool to achieve social progress/ used for interaction with others/ entertainment Negative impact - health problems- exposure to radiations/obesity - detraction from nature- serenity of environment/ scenic beauty - dwindling social relationships- more dependence on virtual than face to face interactions (any two)	2 1+1
(vi)	What would the following be classified as ? There is no significant fall in the duration spent in direct face-to-face conversation. Select the appropriate response : (A) Primary purpose (B) Secondary objective (C) Method of analysis (D) Research outcome	
Ans.	(D) Research outcome	1
(vii)	‘Technological development is a double-edged sword.’ Analyse the above statement with reference to the text.	
Ans.	Advantages- interact with each other/ have transformed communication- useful in academics, communication, entertainment etc./ tool for social progress Disadvantages- has major impact on man’s health/ disturbs social relationship/prevent travellers from enjoying the scene and people around him. (any one from each)	2 1+1
(viii)	The study is very relevant in the contemporary times, because : (A) we are living in the 21st century. (B) it is an era of IT revolution. (C) mobile phones have penetrated everyone’s life. (D) mobile phones are used by students for academic purposes.	
Ans.	(C) mobile phones have penetrated everyone’s life.	1

SECTION B Creative Writing Skills		18 marks
	<p><u>OBJECTIVES:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	
Q.3	Attempt <i>any one</i> of the two, (a) or (b), in about 50 words :	
	NOTICE WRITING	
	<p>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) (put notice in a box)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>No mark for format if content is irrelevant or missing.</i> • <i>Full credit of 1 mark if all aspects are mentioned.</i> • <i>Partial credit of ½ mark if any of the aspects is missing.</i> <p>EXPRESSION - Grammar, spelling, punctuation, organization and coherence of ideas</p>	
a)	You are Aruna /Arun, Head girl/Head boy of Kohinoor Public School, Hawapuri. Your school is organising an inter-house book review competition. Draft a notice informing the students of classes IX-XII about the competition and invite registrations for the same. Include other necessary details. Put your notice in a box.	
Ans.	<p>Suggested value points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -name of the event - date, time, venue - targeted class - invite registrations - deadline for registration - contact information <p>(inputs given in the question to be included)</p> <p>(any other relevant point)</p>	4
	OR	
b)	You are Renuka/Rahul Bhatia, President of J.M. Colony, Pawanshahr, Residents Welfare Association. You are planning to organise a free eye care camp in collaboration with a reputed hospital for the senior citizens of your locality. Draft a notice informing the residents about the camp. Include all necessary details. Put your notice in a box.	
Ans.	<p>Suggested value points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - name of the event - date, time, venue - target- senior citizens - details of the camp <p>(inputs given in the question to be included)</p>	4

	(any other relevant point)	
Q. 4	Attempt <i>any one</i> of the two, (a) or (b), in about 50 words.	4
	FORMAL INVITATION	
	<p>Distribution of marks Format -1 Content – 2 Expression - 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>No mark for format if content is irrelevant or missing.</i> • <i>Full credit of 1 mark if all aspects are mentioned.</i> • <i>Partial credit of ½ mark if any of the aspects is missing.</i> <p>EXPRESSION - Grammar, spelling, punctuation, organization and coherence of ideas</p>	
Q.4 (a)	Your school is planning to host the Annual Awards Function on Saturday, 9th April. On behalf of the Principal, draft a formal invitation card to be sent to the parents and other guests inviting them for the function. Mention a compelling highlight of the celebration along with other details.	
Ans.	<p>Format : Card style in third person, enclosed in a box Suggested value points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -host -name of event -date, venue, time -chief guest with designation -RSVP -must include a compelling highlight <p>(inputs given in the question to be included) (any other relevant point)</p>	4
	OR	
	INFORMAL LETTER REPLY	
	<p>Distribution of marks Format -1 Content – 2 Expression - 1</p> <p>FORMAT –Sender’s address, Date, Salutation, Complimentary Close</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>No mark for format if content is irrelevant or missing.</i> • <i>Full credit of 1 mark if all aspects are mentioned.</i> • <i>Partial credit of ½ mark if any of the aspects is missing.</i> <p>EXPRESSION - Grammar, spelling, punctuation, organization and coherence of ideas</p>	
Q.4 (b)	You are Sonali/Sohail of 4, A.C. Nagar, Akashgarh. Your friend Jyoti has invited you to a party to celebrate her appointment as Junior Scientist in ISRO. Write an informal letter of reply accepting the invitation.	
Ans.	<p>Suggested value points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - express thanks - acknowledge the invitation - invite details - acceptance <p>(inputs given in the question to be included) (any other relevant point)</p>	4

Q. 5	Attempt <i>any one</i> of the two, (a) or (b), in 120 - 150 words.	5 marks
JOB APPLICATION		
<p>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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>No mark for format if content is irrelevant or missing.</i> • <i>Full credit of 1 mark if all aspects are mentioned.</i> • <i>Partial credit of ½ mark if any of the aspects is missing.</i> <p>EXPRESSION - Grammar, spelling, punctuation, organization and coherence of ideas</p>		
Q.5 (a)	<p>You are Kanika /Kavin of 7, Lake View Road, Jheelpur. You read the given advertisement and wish to apply for the post advertised. Write a job application along with your bio-data.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Golden Jewellery Mart, Khushibagh Requires Business Development Executive Qualification : Graduation in business/marketing/management Experience : Minimum 3 years in relevant field. Skills : Negotiation skills, presentation skills, marketing strategies. Apply to the Manager, Golden Jewellery Mart, 46, Besant Road, Khushibagh.</p> </div>	
Ans.	<p>Suggested value points</p> <p>Covering Letter-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -reference to the advertisement -suitability for post -offer candidature <p>Bio-data/ Resume/ CV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -personal profile -qualifications -experience -skills/ hobbies/ achievements -references <p>Note- no marks to be deduced if the Bio-data/ Resume/ CV is included in the covering letter</p> <p>(inputs given in the question to be included)</p> <p>(any other relevant point)</p>	5
OR		
LETTER TO EDITOR		

Q.5 (b)	<p>Cyberbullying cases have been on the rise in recent times. One in six school children experience cyberbullying. Many adolescents are not able to handle the pressure. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily expressing your concern over the issue and stressing the importance of teaching children how to deal with cyberbullying. You are Tanya/Tanmay of 58, S.K. Nagar, A.K. Town, Veersahar. You may use the following cues along with your own ideas to draft the letter.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyberbullying a problem. • Importance of creating awareness among children. • How can schools educate children on cyberbullying? • Role of parents in helping children cope with the situation. • Help of Anti-Bullying Helpline and how to access it. </div>	
Ans.	<p>Suggested value points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Cyber bullying- a major concern -mean texts, spreading rumours, social media harassment -impacts child's self-esteem and mental health -role of schools-conduct workshops and seminars -children to be taught responses /how to block and report bullying -provide tools and strategies to deal -encourage positive online behaviour <p>(inputs given in the question to be included) (any other relevant point) (any four)</p>	5
Q. 6	<p>Attempt <i>any one</i> of the two, (a) or (b), in 120 - 150 words.</p>	5 marks
ARTICLE WRITING		
<p>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> Content – 2 Expression-2 EXPRESSION - grammar, spelling, punctuation, organization and coherence of ideas</p>		
Q. 6 (a)	<p>Today's youth is ready to take up challenges and become successful entrepreneurs. Nurturing skills and an entrepreneurial mindset in schools can spur creativity and enhance career prospects for young people. Write an article stressing on the importance of including entrepreneurship education in schools. You may use the cues given along with your own ideas to draft the article. You are Niti /Nitin Chopra, a career counsellor.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrepreneurship education can promote creative thinking. • Teaches students to be resilient and adaptable. • Opens up more career choices. • Increases employability skills. </div>	

Ans.	<p>Suggested value points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develops real world skills. • prepares for an uncertain future. • enhances creativity and collaborative skills. • teaches problem identification and problem solving skills. • helps develop grit and courage. • gives awareness about career choices. <p>(inputs given in the question to be included) (any other relevant point) (any four)</p>	5	
OR			
REPORT WRITING			
Q.6 (b)	<p>You are Mohit /Minakshi of Class XII-C and a member of the school editorial board. Your school recently organised a science exhibition wherein the students showcased their science projects and models. Write a comprehensive report of the event to be published in the school newsletter. You may use the following cues along with your own ideas to compose the report.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="337 890 1268 932"> <tr> <td data-bbox="337 890 1268 932"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who -What –When- Where- Why- How </td> </tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who -What –When- Where- Why- How 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who -What –When- Where- Why- How 			
Ans.	<p>Suggested value points :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - description of the event-date, venue , time, chief guest - participation details-invitees - highlights of day –showcasing of models and projects - impact <p>(inputs given in the question to be included) (any other relevant point)</p>	5	
SECTION C Literature		40 Marks	
<p>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.</p>			
Q.7	<p>Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any <i>one</i> of the given two, (a) or (b) :</p>		

(a)	<p>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 hands.</p> <p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)</p>	6 x 1 = 6 marks
(i)	<p>Complete the following suitably : The massive weight of 'wedding band' symbolises _____.</p>	
Ans.	-constraints of married life/ domestic burden/ family responsibilities/ male dominance (any one)	1
(ii)	<p>By the phrase 'fingers fluttering', the poet portrays Aunt Jennifer in a constant state of -----. (nervousness/happiness)</p>	
Ans.	nervousness	1
(iii)	<p>Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract. Assertion : Aunt Jennifer lives a life full of agony and pain. Reason : She is a victim of the male dominant society. (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.</p>	
Ans.	(A) Both the assertion and the reason are true and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.	1
(iv)	<p>Complete the following suitably : 'The tigers in the panel will go on prancing.....' The above line refers to the _____ of art.</p>	
Ans.	immortality/ permanence/ everlasting nature (any one)	1
(v)	<p>The expressions 'terrified hands' and 'ordeals' used in the above extract highlight the _____ of women in marriage.</p>	
Ans.	pain/ agony/misery/oppression/suppression/ difficulties (any one)	1
(vi)	<p>Choose the correct option : 'Tigers in the panel' symbolise (A) interest in wildlife. (B) Tigers in the green forest. (C) Aunt Jennifer's deep desire for freedom. (D) Tigers that are yellow in colour.</p>	
Ans.	(C) Aunt Jennifer's deep desire for freedom.	1
OR		

Q.7 (b)	<p>Driving from my parent's home to Cochin last Friday morning, 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,.....</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(My Mother at Sixty-six)</p>	6 x 1 = 6 marks
(i)	<p>Complete the following suitably : The expressions 'doze' and 'open mouthed' are used by the poet to indicate the poet's mother's _____.</p>	
Ans.	old age/ weakness / ageing/ frailty/ exhaustion (any one)	1
(ii)	<p>Give the phrase that suggests the following. The image of exuberance and youthfulness affects the poet's thoughts.</p>	
Ans.	put that thought away/Young trees sprinting/ merry children spilling (any one)	1
(iii)	<p>What does the imagery of 'Trees sprinting' not represent in the given extract? (A) energy (B) liveliness (C) shade (D) vitality</p>	
Ans.	(C) shade	1
(iv)	<p>Select the correct option from those given in the brackets, to fill in the blank. The poet's use of the phrase 'ashen like that of a corpse', illustrates the poet's use of _____ (irony/imagery).</p>	
Ans.	imagery	1
(v)	<p>Choose the correct option : The poet is unable to bear the sight of her ageing mother, because _____. (A) her mother had refused to accompany her (B) she is upset with her mother dozing off (C) it upsets her to see the ageing face of her mother (D) she is in a hurry to reach the airport</p>	
Ans.	(C) it upsets her to see the ageing face of her mother	1
(vi)	<p>Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract. Assertion : The mother was accompanying her daughter to the airport. Reason : The daughter was leaving her mother behind and flying off. 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.</p>	
Ans.	(A) Both the assertion and the reason are true and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.	1

Q.8	Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any <i>one</i> of the given two, (a) or (b) :	
(a)	<p>“That young master is so proud of his skill to save his life that he saves any life”, the cook said contemptuously.</p> <p>“It is the children of whom we must think,” Yumi said sadly. “What will be their fate if their father is condemned as a traitor?”</p> <p>They did not try to hide what they said from the ears of Hana as she stood arranging the days’ flowers in the veranda near by, and she knew they spoke on purpose that she might hear.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(The Enemy)</p>	1 x 4 = 4 marks
(i)	Complete the following suitably : The tone of the cook while speaking about her master’s skill is _____.	
Ans.	sarcastic/bitter/disdainful/disrespectful/disapproving/ contemptuous (any other relevant point) (any one)	1
(ii)	<p>‘They spoke on purpose that she might hear’.</p> <p>They wanted her to hear to convey their :</p> <p>(A) interest (B) disapproval (C) sympathy (D) respect</p>	
Ans.	(B) disapproval	1
(iii)	How is Yumi’s concern for the children justified ?	
Ans.	If Dr. Sadao is caught for treason, it will affect his children too	1
(iv)	Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank. The above extract reveals a _____ (superficial/close) association between the master and the servants.	
Ans.	close	1
OR		
Q.8 (b)	<p>The British officer’s secretary sent words to the Maharaja through the dewan that the <i>durai</i> himself did not have to kill the tiger. The Maharaja could do the actual killing. What was important to the <i>durai</i> was a photograph of himself holding the gun and standing over the tiger’s carcass. But the Maharaja would not agree even to this proposal. If he relented now, what would he do if other British officers turned up for tiger hunts ?</p> <p>Because he prevented a British officer from fulfilling his desire, the Maharaja stood in danger of losing his kingdom itself.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(The Tiger King)</p>	1 x 4 = 4 marks
(i)	Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank. The last line of the extract reflects _____ attitude of the British officers. (an oppressive/a courageous)	
Ans.	- an oppressive	1
(ii)	Why did the <i>durai</i> want to take a photograph with the tiger’s carcass?	
Ans.	to satisfy his ego / to show his pride/display his power/show off his hunting skill (any one)	1
(iii)	The Tiger King’s refusal to the request of the <i>durai</i> reflects: (A) his concern for the tiger population. (B) his courage to deny permission to the British officer . (C) his ego and selfishness. (D) his strained rapport with the British officer.	

Ans.	(C) his ego and selfishness.	1
(iv)	Complete the following suitably: Maharaja's _____ action put his kingdom in danger.	
Ans.	thoughtless/foolish/irresponsible/reckless/egoistic (any other relevant point) (any one)	1
Q.9	Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (a) or (b) :	
(a)	<p>He thought of the thirty kronor. To go up to the manor house would be like throwing himself voluntarily into the lion's den. He only wanted a chance to sleep here in the forge and then sneak away as inconspicuously as possible. The ironmaster assumed that he felt embarrassed because of his miserable clothing.</p> <p>"Please don't think that I have such a fine home that you cannot show yourself there," He said...." Elizabeth is dead, as you may already have heard. My boys are abroad, and there is no one at home except my oldest daughter and myself. We were just saying that it was too bad we didn't have any company for Christmas. Now come along with me and help us make the Christmas food disappear a little faster."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(The Rattrap)</p>	1 x 6 = 6 marks
(i)	What does the narrator mean by the expression, 'throwing himself into the lion's den'?	
Ans.	putting himself in danger/ afraid of being caught and put in jail/afraid of his real identity being revealed (any one)	1
(ii)	What does the expression 'sneak away' reveal about the intention of 'he' in the above extract?	
Ans.	flee/ move away/escape without being caught/ noticed (any one)	1
(iii)	Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank. "..... there is no one home" indicates that the ironmaster was leading a _____ life. (peaceful/lonely)	
Ans.	lonely	1
(iv)	<p>"We didn't have any company for Christmas." The essence of Christmas spirit with reference to the above statement is :</p> <p>(A) to make a special dish to mark the celebration. (B) to invite guests to join the celebration. (C) to show off his wealth. (D) to conduct communal prayers.</p>	
Ans.	(B) to invite guests to join the celebration.	1
(v)	Complete the following statement suitably : The peddler was feeling uncomfortable at the ironmaster's invitation because the peddler only wanted to _____.	
Ans.	to be left alone/be inconspicuous/sleep or rest at the forge/ spend the night at the forge and then move away / sneak away as inconspicuously as possible (any one)	1
(vi)	Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank. "Please don't think that I have such a fine home". The ironmaster uttered the above statement to make the peddler feel _____. (awkward/comfortable)	

(i)	Why does M. Hamel refer to language as a key to freedom from slavery? (The Last Lesson)	
Ans.	Suggested value points- Language -a uniting force/ power to awaken people and raise their voice against slavery / power to motivate people to stand united against common enemy/ part of people's identity (any one)	2
(ii)	Explain how Mukesh in 'Lost Spring' stands as a ray of hope for the bangle making community.	
Ans.	Suggested value points- dares to dream and is determined to pursue his dream/ dreams of driving a car and break family lineage/has the courage to do something different/ / ready to walk miles to go to garage/ an inspiration to all the children of his community (any one)	2
(iii)	What is the importance of beauty in a man's life? (A Thing of Beauty)	
Ans.	Suggested value points- -is a constant joy/ is relaxing, calming and destressing/ provides peace/offers good sleep and sweet dreams/ promotes good health/ gives strength and inspiration to face day-to-day struggles (any other relevant point) (any one)	2
(iv)	How did Umberto Eco display his innovative style in the presentation of his dissertation? (The Interview)	
Ans.	Suggested value points- Umberto Eco told the story of his research/ included his trials and errors/ presented his thesis in an informal narrative style/ broke the tradition of formal writing and adopted story telling approach. (any one)	2
(v)	What is Robert Frost's complaint in 'A Roadside Stand'?	
Ans.	Suggested value points- Robert Frost complains about the indifferent attitude of people in power/ apathy of the city people towards the rural people/ selfish and mean attitude of passers by- do not stop and buy their products / false promises by greedy- good -doers and beneficent- beasts of prey (any one)	2
(vi)	What is the link between the makeup department and national integration as described in 'Poets and Pancakes'?	

(a)	How did Zitkala-Sa react to the cultural impositions at school? (Memories of Childhood)	
Ans.	<p>Suggested value points- Zitkala-Sa faced humiliation due to cultural impostions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • felt like sinking to the floor- had to wear clinging dresses • began crying eating by formula • resisted and rebelled the shingling of her long, heavy hair- asserted that she will not submit/ will struggle/ hid herself/ had to be dragged out/ kicked, scratched, shook her head to prevent cutting of her hair • determined to fight for the cause after growing up- highlights in her writing <p>(any three)</p>	5
	OR	
(b)	‘A beautiful appearance will last a few decade, but a beautiful personality will last a life time.’ Mr. Lamb with his personality successfully influenced Derry to understand the essence of the above quote. Analyse the characters of Mr. Lamb and Derry in the light of the above statement. (On The Face Of It)	
Ans.	<p>Suggested value points- Mr. Lamb- a beautiful personality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lived alone/ sat in the garden watching, listening and thinking • did not have curtains – shows his open mindedness • watched bees buzz, but for him it was humming • he watched only the good side of all things- beauty of nature • grew weeds with flowers in his garden considering both as life • narrated the episode of a man who locked himself in his room due to fear of getting hurt • did not let his disability become a handicap/influenced Derry with his positivity and wise thoughts. <p>Derry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • obsessed / conscious about his burnt face/was afraid of venturing out • defiant and withdrawn • Got disturbed by people’s reaction- his mother/ ladies on the bus-stop • influenced later by Mr. Lamb’s positivity and wise thoughts • changed his negative perspective/motivated to come out of his shell • realized the importance of inner beauty <p>(any three with at least one from each character)</p>	5
