

POST MID TERM EXAMINATION (2023-24)
ENGLISH CORE (301)
CLASS XII
Set A1

Time: 3 Hrs

Max. Marks 80

General Instructions:

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

Section A: READING SKILLS (22 marks)
Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages

1. Read the following text:

12 m

1. The art of conversation, like any art, is a skill of elegance, nuance and creative execution. I happen to believe that there is an art to everything we do, and why not? Without flair and panache most things become a drudgery. Why settle for drudgery when you can have art?

(11) 2. When it comes to the art of conversation, we have all met people who seem to have the knack for it. They can talk to anybody about anything and they seem to do it with complete ease. And while it is true that there are those who are born with the gift of the gab, luckily for the rest of us, conversation skills can be developed and mastered.

vii 3. Conversation is a form of communication; however, it is usually more spontaneous and less formal. We enter into conversations for purposes of pleasant engagement in order to meet new people, to find out information and to enjoy social interactions. As far as types of conversation, they vary anywhere from intellectual conversations and information exchanges to friendly debates and witty banter. While there is more to having good conversation skills than being a comedian, a dramatic actor, or a great story teller, it is not necessary to become more gregarious, animated, or outgoing.

(v) 4. (Instead, you can develop the ability to listen attentively, ask fitting questions, and pay attention to the answers, all qualities essential to the art of conversation) With diligent practice and several good pointers, anyone can improve his or her conversation skills. People who are genuinely interested in others are usually interested in themselves. Why? Because they are more open to learning about and understanding new things. Showing interest also encourages the other person to be relaxed and share information more freely. Display attentiveness by keeping good eye contact and listening actively. If you happen to be shy and need time to warm up before you share your own views, you can ask open-ended questions or encourage the other person to elaborate on their insights. This kick-starts the conversation and before you know it you are engaged in a good conversational flow.

(vi) 5. To start a conversation, go up to someone and introduce yourself. It is both polite and necessary to start off things smoothly. When the occasion calls for it, you can offer a handshake and then smile and make eye contact. Being friendly puts the other person at ease and opens the door for him or her to introduce themselves. The art of conversation, like any skill, takes practice. Do not expect to be adept after your first few attempts. It will take practice as well as exposure to many different social situations.

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

i. A collocation is a group of words that often occur together. For instance, the underlined group of words is a collocation:

'When it comes to the art of conversation, we have all met people who seem to have the knack for it'.

Select the word from the options that *does not* correctly collocate with the phrase: 'art of'

- A. living
- B. amateur
- C. writing
- D. critique

ii. Comment on the writer's reference to conversation skills as something you are 'born with' in about 40 words. 2

iii. List two reasons why people enter into conversation. 1

iv. Select the option that conveys the meaning of the word *panache* as used in paragraph 1. 1

- A. educated intelligentsia
- B. stylish elegance
- C. ignorant and oblivious
- D. boring and dismal

v. Complete the given sentence based on your inference from para 4 (not in single word) 1

All qualities essential to the art of conversation include _____

vi. How can one warm up before one share one's views? (in 40 words) 2

vii. Complete the given sentence with an appropriate inference from paragraph 3:
As far as types of conversation go, they vary _____ 1

viii. In the passage, the writer says that with diligent practice and several good pointers, anyone can improve his or her conversation skills. Elaborate in not more than 40 words. 2

ix. Select the most suitable title for the above passage. 1

- A. Conversation: A Challenging Pursuit
- B. Conversation vs. Communication
- C. Effective Listening
- D. Mastering the Art of Conversation

2. Read the following text.

10 m

1. Air pollution is a major threat to human health. The United Nations Environment Programme has estimated that, globally, 1.1 billion people breathe in unhealthy air. The World Health Organization (WHO) has estimated that urban air pollution is responsible for approximately 800,000 deaths and 4.6 million people lose their lives every year around the globe.

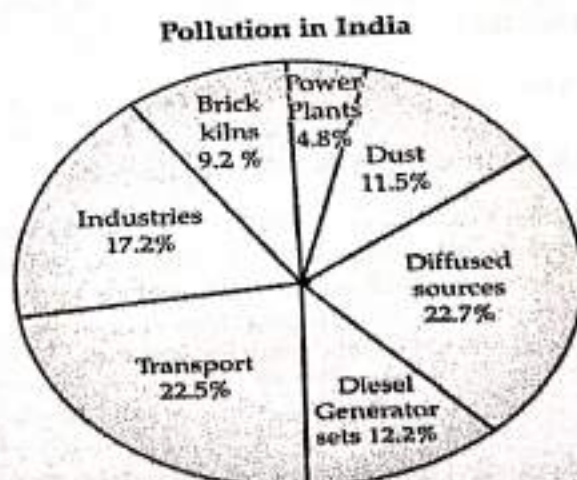
2. Traffic and transportation problems, inadequate drainage facilities, lack of open spaces, carbon emissions and the accumulation of waste aggravate the problem. Air pollution is associated with increased risk of acute respiratory infections (ARI), the principal cause of infant and child mortality in developing countries.

3. Urban air quality in most mega-cities has been found to be critical and Kolkata is no exception to this. An analysis of ambient air quality in Kolkata was done by applying the Exceedance Factor (EF) method, where the presence of listed pollutants' (RPM, SPM, NO₂ and SO₂), annual average concentration are classified into four different categories; namely critical, high, moderate and low pollution. Out of a total of 17 ambient air quality monitoring stations operating in Kolkata, five fall under the critical category and the remaining 12 locations fall under the high category of NO₂ concentration, while for RPM, four record critical and 13 come under the high pollution category. The causes of high concentration of pollutants in the form of NO₂ and RPM have been identified in earlier studies as vehicular emission (51.4%), followed by industrial sources (24.5%) and dust particles (21.1%).

4. Later, a health assessment was undertaken with a structured questionnaire at some nearby dispensaries which fall under areas with different ambient air pollution levels. Three dispensaries have been surveyed with 100 participants. It shows that respondents with respiratory diseases (85.1%) have outnumbered waterborne diseases (14.9%) and include acute respiratory infections (ARI) (60%), chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases (COPD) (7.8%), upper tract respiratory infection (UTRI) (1.2%), influenza (12.7%) and acid-fast bacillus (AFB) (3.4%).

5. To live a healthy life and have better well-being, practising pollution averting activities in one's day-to-day activities is needed. These pollution-averting practices can only be possible when awareness among the masses is generated that the air they breathe outdoors, is not found to be safe.

6. Promoting public awareness on air quality is crucial. Implement solutions such as reducing vehicle emissions, increasing green spaces, and using cleaner energy sources. Encourage sustainable transportation, stricter emission standards, and community initiatives to create healthier living environments and enhance overall well-being.



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

i. On the basis of your understanding of the given pictorial representation, state the least significant factor contributing to pollution in India? 1

ii. Select the option that displays the correct 'cause and effect' relationship. 1

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| A. Cause: Traffic and transportation problem | Effect: 4.6 million deaths |
| B. Cause: Lack of open spaces | Effect: Mega cities |
| C. Cause: Air pollution | Effect: Respiratory diseases |
| D. Cause: Air quality monitoring stations | Effect: Emission of NO ₂ |

iii. How many people lose their lives due to air pollution, across the globe, every year? 1

iv. What measures contribute to a healthy life and overall well-being, according to the passage? (40 words) 2

v. The author's opinion on the development of mega-cities is: 1

- A. Cities face transportation problems due to heavy traffic.
- B. Urbanisation leads to deterioration of air quality.
- C. Mega cities are the right spots to study air pollution.
- D. Cities face the problem of congestion.

vi. Select the option that holds true as per the pie-chart given: 1

- A. Dust and power plants are the causes for maximum pollution. ✓
- B. Pollution caused by transport is much more than the pollution caused by industries. ✓
- C. The use of diesel generators is responsible for more than 50% of air pollution. ✓
- D. Dust stands fourth in the list that causes air pollution. ✓

vii. An analysis of ambient air quality in Kolkata was done by applying the Exceedance Factor (EF) method. Substantiate its results in not more than 40 words. 2

viii. Find a word from para 3 to complete the given sentence meaningfully. 1
According to the doctors the condition of the injured boy was _____

SECTION B: CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

18 marks

3. Attempt ANY ONE of two in about 50 words. 4

- A. You are Jai Vohra, the President of the Book Club of Spark Public School, Pune. The club is organising a drive for promoting reuse of study materials and books. Draft a notice in about 50 words, for the school notice board, addressing students of Classes X-XII, informing them about this drive and urging them to contribute to the endeavour. Mention how the donated books would benefit a charitable cause. ✓

OR

- B. You are Anoop/Arya, the Cultural Secretary of Heritage School, Jaipur. As part of the National Heritage Programme, the school has decided to put up a show on ancient art

forms. Write a notice to be put up on the school notice board inviting students to watch the show and encourage the artists. Write the notice in not more than 50 words.

✓ 4. Attempt ANY ONE of two in about 50 words.

4

✓ B. Your mother, Radhika Ranjan, is going to set up a bookstore in Star City Mall, New Delhi. Draft a formal invitation in about 50 words, which she can use to invite her friends and family to the inauguration ceremony. ✓

OR

✓ B. Your friend, Satish, has invited you to attend the wedding of his sister, Jaya. You find that you have your First Pre-Board examination on the day of the wedding. Hence you cannot attend the event. Write in about 50 words a reply to the invitation, expressing your regret. You are Puneeta Vij, residing at M 114, Fort Road, Chennai.

✓ 5. Answer ONE of two in about 120 - 150 words.

5

A. Somaiya Public School, Pune requires a Swimming Coach and coaches for other sports. Each should be a degree holder in physical education as well as a SAI certified coach. You have seen their advertisement and you know that you have these qualifications to apply for the post of a Swimming Coach. Write an application in 120 - 150 words along with your resumé. You are Praveen/Praveena, M - 114, Park Street, Pune. ✓

The advertisement is a rectangular poster with a black border. At the top left is the Somaiya Public School logo, which includes a circular emblem with a book and a lamp, and the text 'SOMAIYA PUBLIC SCHOOL' and 'SOMAIYA UNIVERSITY'. Below the logo, the text 'WE ARE HIRING' is written in large, bold, black letters on a white background. Underneath this, the text 'JOB POSITIONS' is written in a smaller font. Below that is a list of job positions: 'SWIMMING COACH', 'ASST. SWIMMING COACH', 'LIFEGUARD', 'FEMALE FOOTBALL COACH', 'FEMALE BASKETBALL COACH', 'FEMALE SQUASH COACH', and 'FEMALE BADMINTON COACH'. To the right of the list is a small illustration of three people: a man in a cap and a woman, both looking at a document. At the bottom of the poster, the text 'JOIN OUR TEAM' is written in white letters on a black background.

OR

✓ B. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, complaining about the noise pollution in your locality drawing the attention of the government to take steps to check the same. Sign as Gaurav/Gauri, Janata Nagar, Ahmedabad. You may use the following cues to compose the letter. (120-150 words)

Sources of Noise Pollution

loud music, transportation (traffic, rail, aeroplanes, etc.), lawn care maintenance, construction, electrical generators, wind turbines etc

Consequences

hearing loss, interference with communication, disturbance of sleep, annoyance, effect on performance, physiological effects, stress

Solutions

designing quieter machines, insulate homes with noise absorbing materials, increasing the distance of the transmission, using noise-cancelling headphones, earplugs

✓ 6. Attempt ANY ONE of two in about 120 - 150 words.

5

A.A study revealed that the lives of up to 59% of people who suffered from an injury could have been saved if the victims had been given some type of simple first aid. As a columnist for a health magazine, draft an article in about 120-150 words, on the importance of the general public having basic life-saving skills titled: *First Aid - First*. Discuss the advantages of first aid knowledge and encourage people to acquire the needed training for it. Support your ideas with the cues given below

How does it help?

- saves lives.
- relieves pain.
- creates confidence.
- prevents the situation from becoming worse,
- encourages healthy and safe living.

Some First Aid tips:

- CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation):
- Bleeding Control
- cool the burn with cold running water for at least 10 minutes/cover the burn with a sterile dressing or clean cloth.
- Immobilize the injured area using a splint or bandage.
- Elevate the affected limb to reduce swelling.

OR

✓ 7. Your school recently organised a seminar on World Computer Literacy Day for Classes VI to XII. It aimed to spread awareness about the inculcation of technological skills in people from marginalised communities. As Raghav Gupta, member of the organising committee, Learn well Public School, New Delhi draft a report covering the event for your school's magazine. Support your ideas with the outline cues given below to draft your report in not more than 120-150 words.

- ✓ purpose of the seminar
- ✓ who attended the seminar
- ✓ key messages or takeaways from the seminar
- ✓ post-seminar resources and information given to attendees
- what impact the seminar would have on the students

SECTION C: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING
TEXT

40 marks

1. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given: 6

A. *Now we will count to twelve
and we will all keep still.
For once on the face of the Earth
let's not speak in any language,
let's stop for one second,
and not move our arms so much.
It would be an exotic moment
without rush, without engines,
we would all be together
in a sudden strangeness. (Keeping Quiet)*

i. What is the significance of *number twelve* as given in the extract? ^{12 kids 12 minutes 12 on a clock} 1

ii Margaret Atwood said, "Language divides us into fragments, I wanted to be whole."

Choose the option that correctly comments on the relationship between Margaret Atwood's words and the line from the above extract – "let's not speak in any language" 1

- A. Atwood endorses Neruda's call to not speak in any language.
- B. Atwood rejects Neruda's request to not engage in any speaking.
- C. Atwood undermines Neruda's intent to stop and not speak in any language.
- D. Atwood underestimates Neruda's desire for silence and not speak in any language.

iii. Complete the given analogy: 1
The Roadside Stand: Robert Frost: Keeping Quiet: ^{Pablo Neruda}

iv. Complete the given statement: (not in a single word) 1
The poet employs words like "*exotic*" and "*strangeness*" in order to.....

v. List any two ways in which that the exotic moment can be achieved. 1

vi. Which of these phrases uses the same poetic device as the following line from the extract? 1
'in a sudden strangeness'.

- A. If I don't eat soon, I'm going to die of hunger.
- B. The floorboards groaned under the weight of each step.
- C. Go gather green leaves on the grass.
- D. Life is a roller coaster.

OR

2. *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... (My Mother at Sixty -Six)*

✓ i. In the given context the phrase 'put that thought away' means: the thought of her mother ageing 1

✓ ii. Choose the book title that perfectly describes the condition of the poet's mother. 1

Title 1	Title 2	Title 3	Title 4
You're only old once! — By Dr. Seuss	The Gift of Years — By Joan Chittister	Somewhere Towards the end — By Diana Athill	The Book You Wish Your Parents Had Read — By Philippa Perry

✓ A. Title 1

✓ B. Title 2

✓ C. Title 3

✓ D. Title 4

✓ iii. Choose the option that applies correctly to the two statements given below. 1
Assertion: The poet wards off the thought of her mother getting old quickly.
Reason: The poet didn't want to confront the fact that her mother was ageing.

- A. Assertion can be inferred but the Reason cannot be inferred.
✓ B. Assertion cannot be inferred but the Reason can be inferred.
C. Both Assertion and Reason can be inferred.
D. Both Assertion and Reason cannot be inferred.

✓ iv. Choose the correct option that displays the same literary device as in the given lines of the extract. 1

*her face
ashen like that
of a corpse...*

- A. There was only a small crowd in front of the grocery store.
✓ B. The student is as sharp as a tack.
C. The flood water gushed through the town.
D. 'I haven't seen you in ages!'

✓ v. Find a word from the given extract to fill in the blank with a single word only 1
I was just about to drive off when the phone rang

✓ vi. What is the realisation that dawns upon the poet? old mother 1

8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given: 4

A. *To make sure, I walked over to a newsboy and glanced at the stack of papers at his feet. It was *The World*; and *The World* hasn't been published for years. The lead story said something about President Cleveland. I've found that front page since, in the Public Library files, and it was printed June 11, 1894. I turned toward the ticket windows knowing that here — on the third level at Grand Central — I could buy tickets that would take Louisa and me anywhere in the United States we wanted to go.*

(The Third Level)

- i. What did the narrator want 'to make sure' of? 1
A. he was not on the third level ✓ B. he was not on the second level
C. he was on the third level D. the date printed on the newspaper was correct ✓

ii. The word 'glanced' here means the same as: 1

- A. looked down upon
- C. grasped

- B. glimpsed
- D. startled

iii. Where in the United States did Charley want to go to and why?

1
1

iv. Complete the given analogy based on the given extract:

Book: review: lead:

OR

B. *I watched my chance, and when no one noticed, I disappeared. I crept up the stairs as quietly as I could in my squeaking shoes, my moccasins had been exchanged for shoes. Along the hall I passed, without knowing whether I was going. Turning aside to an open door, I found a large room with three white beds in it. The windows were covered with dark green curtains, which made the room very dim. Thankful that no one was there, I directed my steps toward the corner farthest from the door. On my hands and knees I crawled under the bed, and huddled myself in the dark corner.*

(Memories of Childhood: The Cutting of my Long Hair)

i. Why was narrator trying to hide?

1

- A. in order to protect her hair from being shingled.
- B. in order to avert the punishment for coming late
- C. in order to avoid learning the French language
- D. None of these

ii. Identify the narrator of the given lines. *Zitakala Sa*

1

iii. State whether TRUE or FALSE

The narrator's moccasins were taken away as they made a lot of noise. *False*

iv. After the narrator hides herself under the bed, _____

1

- A. she falls asleep only to be found the next day
- B. she's discovered soon after and her hair is shingled
- C. she manages to escape to the Reservation
- D. she lays there till she is found and rescued by Judewin

9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given: 6

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

(The Rattrap)

List any two qualities of the peddler, as inferred from the given extract. *Grateful, sincere*

1

To whom is the peddler's letter addressed? *Eala*

1

iii. Identify the tone of the letter signed "Captain von Stahle".

- A. sincere and grateful
- C. angry and resentful

- B. sarcastic and mocking
- D. fearful and apologetic

1

iv. The word 'frame' has been used to indicate a rigid structure that surrounds something such as a picture, door, or windowpane. There are other meanings of 'frame' too. Choose the option that DOES NOT list the meaning of 'frame'.

1

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

B. Option (2)

C. Option (3)

D. Option (4)

1

v. The phrase 'raised to' here means the same as:

- A. To place higher in rank or position.
- B. To shift to a new place or accommodation.
- C. To move to a higher floor.
- D. To slacken the pace of progress.

vi. Complete the given statement with respect to the given extract: (not in single word)

1

The manner in which the speaker reciprocates the kindness and understanding displayed by Edla teaches us that.....

OR

B. Saul Bellow, who has consented to be interviewed on several occasions, nevertheless once described interviews as being like thumbprints on his windpipe. Yet despite the drawbacks of the interview, it is a supremely serviceable medium of communication. "These days, more than at any other time, our most vivid impressions of our contemporaries are through interviews," Denis Brian has written. "Almost everything of moment reaches us through one man asking questions of another. Because of this, the interviewer holds a position of unprecedented power and influence." (The Interview)

i. How would you describe Denis Brian's opinion on interviews?

1

Choose the most appropriate option:

- (i) critical (ii) useful (iii) approving (iv) shoddy

A. Options (i) and (ii)

B. Options (iii) and (iv)

C. Options (ii) and (iii)

D. Options (i) and (iv)

ii Find a word from the given extract to complete the given sentence:

There's been an unprecedented rise in the number of people using social media these days.

iii. Complete the given sentence (not in a single word)

Denis Brian states that the interviewer occupies a position of power and influence as

1

iv. The use of the word "serviceable" implies that interviews are _____ 1
A. digressing. B. dismissive C. advanced. D. useful

v. Which phrase from the extract means choking someone with questions to get responses? 1
stump print on wind pipe

vi. Based on the extract, mention one positive aspect of an interview **not** attributed to Denis Brian. 1

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions in about 40-50 words: 2x5=10

i. In the make-up department of the Gemini Studios, a perfect hierarchy was maintained. Support this statement with reference to the text, 'Poets and Pancakes' *Chief - rainactors, Assistant - like characters, office boy - crowd, no. mal - comedians*

ii. Though Sophie and Jansie were good friends, they were basically different from each other. Substantiate. (Going Places)

iii. In the lesson *Deep Water*, Douglas was keen to get over his aversion towards water. Give reasons.

iv. Why does the Aunt choose to embroider only tigers on the cloth panel in the poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers'?

v. On the day of the last lesson, Franz felt that the "whole school was strange". Support the given statement with two examples from the text. *lower, bushes in summer, water, flowers, animals, also*

vi. List the things of beauty mentioned in the poem 'A Thing of Beauty'. How according to Keats does a thing of beauty remain a joy forever?

10. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions in about 40-50 words: 2x2=4

i. Compare and contrast the characters of Mr Lamb and Derry' (On the Face of It)

ii. How can a visit to Antarctica be an enlightening experience? (Journey to the End of the Earth)

iii. With reference to 'The Enemy', describe any two ways in which Dr Sadao ensured the safe escape of Tom.

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

A. Imagine you are Robert Frost, the poet of *The Roadside Stand*. You read the poem *Aunt Jennifer's Tigers* and feel there are many commonalities between the two poems.

As Robert Frost, write a diary entry highlighting the similarities and how you feel that there are so many forms of discrimination and exploitation.

OR

B. 'His dreams loom like a mirage'. Whose dreams are being referred to and why are they compared to a mirage? (Lost Spring)

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

A You are Sia Vohra, a student of Class XII. You read the lesson Memories of Childhood. The two accounts that you read were based in two distant cultures. Based on your reading you were asked to write an article for your school magazine on the topic '*Oppression and the Quest for Solutions*'.

OR

✓ 14. How did the Tiger King meet his end? What is ironic about his death? ✓
