



**CLASS XII: ENGLISH (301)**  
**PRE BOARD EXAMINATION**  
**SESSION: 2023-24**

Georgi  
29

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Roll No. \_\_\_\_\_

Weightage: \_\_\_\_\_

80 marks

Time Allowed: \_\_\_\_\_

3 hrs.

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number in your answer sheet to indicate the option/s being attempted.
3. This paper consists of 10 pages.

**SECTION A-READING - (20 Marks)**

**1 Read the passage given below carefully:**

(1) When we think of the game of cricket, we come to the conclusion that it is primarily a game that depends on outstanding physical activities, good hand-eye coordination, speed, skill and strength. It provides entertainment and generates strong feelings of excitement. A good match of cricket or of any other game neither adds to the existing stock of human knowledge nor reveals any secret of existence. It does not carry any deep meaning but most people, particularly the lover of sports attach deep emotions and numerous meanings to it. Games are thought of as a metaphor for life. They are supposed to teach many lessons. In fact, more is said and written about a cricket match than about scientific findings or great philosophy.

(2) This is because games, like a morality play, in which settings and rules are made by us, can easily make people test their fair and foul conduct, principles of reward and punishment, and emotions of joy and disappointment. They can make us experience the thrill of war without exposing us to its dangers. A man watching a cricket match on T.V. and munching popcorn is like a surrogate warrior. In fact, games provide us with a safe outlet for our aggressiveness. If games become aggressive, they lose the very purpose of providing entertainment and purging us of our aggressiveness. They can calm our impatience without creating any conflict.

(3) Commentators, journalists, politicians and analysts can do a great favor to the competing teams by keeping the excitement within limits. The teams should play without being dominated by feelings of national honor and shame. Excellent performance of the players of both teams should be enjoyed and appreciated.

Winning or losing in a game should not be taken seriously. A game is fun if it is played with the true spirit of sportsmanship.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the correct options:

(i) Complete the sentence by choosing an appropriate option :  
Most people conclude that cricket is primarily a game because \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) it is played as a match
- (c) it includes physical activity

- (b) it requires two teams
- (d) it depends only on skill and strength

(ii) Comment on the writer's reference to that cricket does not reveal any secret of existence.

(iii) List two responses which watching a game of cricket gives rise to.

(iv) Select the option that conveys the opposite of 'destroy' from words used in the passage.

- (a) reveals
- (c) generate
- (b) experience
- (d) purging

(v) The writer would not agree with the given statements based on paragraph 2, EXCEPT

- (a) Rules of any game are made by people.
- (b) Watching a cricket match makes the viewer believe that he is fighting a battle ?
- (c) It is necessary for a game to be aggressive in-order to build excitement.
- (d) A game can test people's sense of fair judgment.

(vi) With reference to the passage, a spectator is compared to a 'surrogate warrior'. Choose the option that best describes this phrase :

- (a) a spectator who is paid to watch.
- (b) a spectator who is in pain while watching the match.
- (c) a spectator who enjoys the match as an armchair soldier.
- (d) a spectator who makes judgment about reward and punishment.

(vii) Why does the writer compare games to morality play ?

(viii) Complete the given sentence with an appropriate inference with respect to the following  
The writer says that games can calm our impatience without creating any conflict by \_\_\_\_\_.

(ix) The writer advises the players that games should not become aggressive because \_\_\_\_\_.

(x) Select the most suitable title for the above passage.

- (a) Excellent Performance by Cricketers
- (c) Cricket - The King of Games

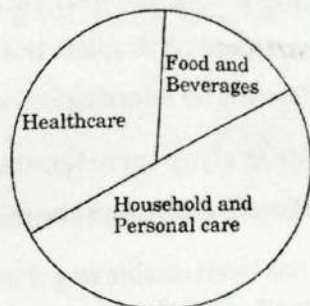
- (b) The Benefits of Playing Cricket
- (d) The True Spirit of Playing Games

2) Read the passage given below:

Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) are products that sell quickly at relatively low cost. FMCG is the fourth-largest sector in the Indian economy. There are three main segments in the sector: food and beverages, which accounts for 19% of the sector; healthcare, which accounts for 31% of the

share; and household and personal care, which accounts for the remaining 50% share. The urban segment contributes to about 55% of the revenue share, while the rural segment accounts for 45%. Rise in rural consumption will drive the FMCG market. The Indian processed food market is projected to expand to US\$ 470 billion by 2025, up from US\$ 263 billion in 2019 -20.

2 The Indian FMCG industry grew by 16% in 2021, a 9-year high, despite nationwide lockdowns, supported by consumption-led growth and value expansion from higher product prices, particularly for staples. Real household spending is projected to increase 9.1% after 2021, after a decrease of 9.3% in 2020 due to the economic impact of the pandemic. Price increase across product categories will offset the impact of rising raw material prices, along with volume growth and resurgence of demand for discretionary items.



The FMCG sector has received good investments and support from the Government in the recent past. The sector witnessed healthy FDI inflows from April 2000 March 2022. Furthermore, as per the Union Budget 2022 23, a substantial amount has been allocated to the Department of Consumer Affairs, an increased amount has been allocated to the Department of Food and Public Distribution. In 2021 22, the Government approved Production-Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI) with an outlay of a larger amount to help Indian brands of food products in the international markets.

4 -Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme gives companies a major opportunity to boost exports. The future outlook of the FMCG rural sector looks on track now. Rural consumption has increased, led by a combination of increasing income and higher aspiration levels. There is an increased demand for branded products in rural India. The growth of the organized sector in FMCG is expected to rise with an increased level of brand consciousness, augmented by the growth in modern retail.

**Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions by choosing the correct option: (1x10=10)**

Table I. FMCG Products

1. Processed foods : Cheese products, cereals
2. Prepared meals : Ready-to-eat meals
3. Beverages : Bottled water, aerated drinks, and juices
4. Baked goods : Biscuits, bread
5. Fresh foods, frozen foods, and dry goods : Fruits, vegetables, milk, butter, frozen food, and nuts
6. Medicines : Aspirin, pain relievers, and over-the-counter medication that can be purchased without a prescription
7. Cleaning products : Baking soda, washing powder
8. Cosmetics and toiletries : Beauty products, soaps, toothpastes
9. Office supplies : Pens, pencils

(i) Does the following statement agree with the information given in para 1 ?  
Food and beverages segment dominates the Global FMCG market and is expected to

- dominance. Select from the following:  
(a) True- If the statement agrees with the information  
(b) False- If the statement contradicts the information  
(c) Not Given- If there is no information on this

(ii) What do you think gives opportunities to boost exports ?

- (iii) Select the option that displays the most likely reason for FMCG rural sector being on track.  
(a) FMCG sector has been unable to get investments from the Government.  
(b) PLI schemes don't reach the rural sector.  
(c) Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) of the online grocery segment in India is expected to double in the next five years.  
(d) There is a desire to buy branded products in the villages too.

(iv) Complete the sentence based on the following statement : The Indian FMCG industry grew by 16% in 2021, a 9-year high, despite nationwide lockdowns because \_\_\_\_\_.

(v) From the given pie chart, which segment of FMCG accounts for the maximum percentage of the sector ?

(vi) Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option : The combination of increasing income and higher aspiration levels in the rural areas has led to \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) the Government taking a direct interest  
(b) the demand for branded products  
(c) price increases across product categories  
(d) the fall of supply in urban areas

(vii) How is the Government trying to help Indian brands of food products in the international markets ?

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

The concluding paragraph of the passage makes a clear case \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) that the rural people also want branded products.  
(b) that the FMCG industry will not focus on brand consciousness.  
(c) for the role of data analytics in the FMCG industry.  
(d) for the Government's role by providing incentives.

(ix) What will be the impact of increased level of brand consciousness ?

(x) Based on the reading of the passage, correct the following statement: The urban segment contributes to about 45% of the revenue share, while the rural segment accounts for 55%.

SECTION B - CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (20 Marks)

3) Attempt ANY ONE given below.

(5)

Water supply will be suspended for eight hours (10 am to 6 pm) on 6th of March for cleaning of the water tank. Write a notice in about 50 words advising the residents to store water for a day. You are Karan Kumar/Karuna Bajaj, Secretary, Janata Group Housing Society, Palam Vihar, Kurnool

OR

You are Pushpak /Pooja. As the Secretary of the Social Service League of your school; you have organized a cultural benefit show in aid of mentally handicapped children of your town, Vijayawada. Write a notice in not more than 50 words for your school notice board, giving necessary information about the programme.

4) Attempt ANY ONE given below.

(5)

You are the secretary of Haryana Civil Medical Doctors' Association, 2345 Sector 15, Panchkula. You have organized a seminar on AIDS for the members of the association and invited a specialist guest speaker. Draft an invitation for publication in the newspapers.

OR

You are the Director of Apex Orientations, a leading name in postal coaching for competitive examinations including IIT-JEE and CBSE-PMT. Draft an invitation to the principal's of some prestigious schools inviting the names of two brilliant students from each institution to attend their Counseling Session free of cost.

5) Attempt ANY ONE given below.

(5)

Anita/Amit of Civil Lines, Kanpur, sees an advertisement for World Sales Manager in a reputed export house. Write an application along with your resume to the Personnel Manager, DeZine Furniture Exports, Kanpur.

OR

A leading news channel recently gave a live coverage of some young slum dwellers being beaten up mercilessly by the police for crimes not committed by them. Such atrocities shake the very faith of the people. Write a letter to the Commissioner of Police urging him to adopt effective measures to curb such brutality against innocent people. You are Nita/Nitesh, a resident of Guwahati.

6) Attempt ANY ONE given below.

(5)

You have just finished Class 12 and are seeking admission in college. You are looking forward to the freedom from parents and the strict discipline of school life. However, you also realize that freedom brings with it responsibility and a mature preparation for your forthcoming career. Write an article in 150 words on what college life spells for you. You are Surabhi/Suresh.

OR

You are Radha/Ranjan of Daulat Ram Public School, Vadodara. Your school recently celebrated its twenty-five years of meritorious service to the cause of education. You were asked to cover an event as a student correspondent of the school magazine. Write a report of 150 words.

### SECTION C - LITERATURE ( 40 Marks)

7) Read the given extracts to attempt the questions with reference to context. Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.

(1x6=6)

In front at the edge of the road where the traffic sped,  
A roadside stand too pathetically pled,  
It would not be fair to say for a dole of bread  
But for some of the money, the cash, whose flow supports  
The flower of cities from sinking and withering faint.  
The polished traffic passed with a mind ahead,  
Or if ever aside a moment, then out of sorts  
At having the landscape marred with the artless paint  
Of signs that with N turned wrong and S turned wrong

(i) What is the tone of the poet in the extract?  
Choose the correct option :-

- (a) optimistic
- (c) sympathetic

- (b) resigned
- (d) indifferent

(ii) With reference to the given extract, what harm has been caused by the artless paint?

- (iii) The city is compared to \_\_\_\_\_ .
- (a) a landscape
  - (c) a flower

- (b) signs of N and S
- (d) a dole of bread

(iv) Choose the correct option : The roadside stand is

- (a) at the edge of the road
- (c) like the flower of cities.

- (b) marred with artless paint.
- (d) well maintained.

(v) What type of expectations do the stand owners have from the city dwellers who come there ?

(vi) Complete the analogy with a word from the given extract. donate : contribute ::  
dying : \_\_\_\_\_

OR

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

(i) Identify the phrase that indicates youthful energy.

Which thought is the poet trying to put away?

(a) missing the flight

(c) leaving her mother behind

(b) fear of losing her mother

(d) reaching Cochin

(iii) The poet's mother is described as 'open mouthed' because \_\_\_\_\_.

(a) she is curious

(c) she was dead

(b) she is surprised

(d) she was dozing

(iv) Complete the following analogy : children spilling : metaphor :: \_\_\_\_\_ : personification

(v) The sight of the trees and the children helped the poet \_\_\_\_\_.

(vi) In the given extract, the phrase 'realized with pain' indicates the poet's

(a) anxiety

(c) troubled past

(b) desperation

(d) ill-health

8) Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.

(1x6=6)

The make-up department was first headed by a Bengali who became too big for a studio and left. He was succeeded by a Maharashtrian who was assisted by a Dharwar Kannadiga, an Andhra, a Madras Indian Christian, an Anglo-Burmese and the usual local Tamils. All this shows that there was a great deal of national integration long before A.I.R. and Doordarshan began broadcasting programmes on national integration.. This gang of nationally integrated make-up men could turn any decent-looking person into a hideous crimson hued monster with the help of truck-loads of pancake and a number of other locally made potions and lotions.

(i) How was there national integration long before A.I.R. and Doordarshan in the make-up department?

- (a) The staff consisted of a Bengali, a Maharashtrian, a Dharwar Kannadiga, an Andhra, a Madras Indian Christian, an Anglo-Burmese and Tamils.
- (b) They recited slogans of national integration.
- (c) The staff studied make-up techniques of various states.
- (d) Their clients were from various states.

(ii) Select a suitable word from the extract to complete the analogy : front : rear :: ravishing :

\_\_\_\_\_.

(iii) Select the correct option to fill in the blanks :

The make-up artists could turn \_\_\_\_\_ looking people into \_\_\_\_\_ looking men and women.

(a) ordinary; pleasant

(b) ugly; good

(c) pleasant; ugly

(d) monstrous; beautiful

(iv) The word 'pancake' in the extract mostly means

(a) brand name

(c) savory

(b) lemon cake

(d) preservative

(v) Based on the above extract, choose the statement that is true for the make-up department.

(a) The make-up artists were welcomed by the actors.

(b) The make-up artists were poorly paid.

(c) The work done by the make-up artists was not appreciated.

(d) The department exhibited national integration.

(vi) Bring out the irony in the above given extract.

OR

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow :

Similarly, we have a lot of empty spaces in our lives. I call them interstices. Say you are coming over to my place. You are in the elevator and while you are coming up, I am waiting for you. This is an interstice, an empty space. I work in empty spaces. While waiting for your elevator to come up from the first to the third floor, I have already written an article !

(i) Umberto Eco, was

- (a) a professor of semiotics, an author
- (c) a journalist, a professor

(b) an interviewer, a novelist

(d) a publisher, an author

(ii) Rationalise, to support the given statement :

Similarly, we have a lot of empty spaces in our lives.

(iii) Rewrite the sentence by replacing the underlined phrase with its inference : I call them interstices

(iv) On the basis of the extract, study the two statements, I and II given below :

I Umberto Eco works even in the spare time between activities

II. Umberto Eco does not like to be interviewed.

Choose the most appropriate option:

- (a) I can be inferred from the extract, but II cannot
- (b) I cannot be inferred from the extract, but II can
- (c) I and II are true
- (d) II is the reason for I

(v) Replace the underlined word with its antonym from the extract.

Umberto Eco does not like to waste time. He writes an article while he is proceeding to the elevator.

(vi) Umberto Eco's views on his manner of work are based on \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) facts
- (b) an interview
- (c) his blog
- (d) hypothesis

9) Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.

Students on Ice, the programme I was working with on the Shokalskiy, aims to do exactly this by taking high school students to the ends of the world and providing them with inspiring educational opportunities which will help them foster a new understanding and respect for our planet. It's been in operation for six years now, headed by Canadian Geoff Green, who got tired of carting celebrities and retired, rich, curiosity-seekers who could only 'give' back in a limited way. With Students on Ice, he offers the future generation of policy-makers a life-changing experience at an age when they're ready to absorb, learn, and most importantly, act.

(1x4=4)



complete the sentence appropriately, with reference to the extract. The writer refers to the educational opportunities as 'inspiring' because-----.

(ii) Which of the following would NOT be 'a life changing experience'?

- (a) Being given the lead role in a play. (b) Going on an adventure trip.  
(c) Playing a video game. (d) Meeting a great leader you admire.

(iii) Select the most suitable title for the given extract.

- (a) Adventure with a Mission. (b) Adventure - The Spice of Life  
(c) The Wanderlust (d) Students of the Future

(iv) Why does the writer refer to 'act' as more important than 'absorb' or 'learn'?

OR

DERRY: You're... peculiar. You say peculiar things. You ask questions I don't understand.

MR LAMB: I like to talk. Have company. You don't have to answer questions. You don't have to stop here at all. The gate's open.

DERRY: Yes, but...

MR LAMB: I've a hive of bees behind those trees over there. Some hear bees and they say, bees buzz. But when you listen to bees for a long while, they humm....and hum means 'sing'. I hear them singing, my bees.

DERRY: But....I like it here. I came in because I liked it .....when I looked over the wall. MR LAMB: If you'd seen me, you'd not have come in.

DERRY: No

(i) List the playwright's purpose of using ellipses (...) in this extract.

(ii) Select the option that best describes Derry and Mr. Lamb in the extract.

- (a) Derry: introvert; Mr. Lamb: friendly (b) Derry: fearful; Mr. Lamb: domineering  
(c) Derry: friendly; Mr. Lamb: weird (d) Derry: open minded; Mr. Lamb: charming

(iii) Which of the following best summarizes Mr. Lamb's attitude towards the bees?

- (a) Beauty is being true to yourself. (b) There is a kind of beauty in imperfection.  
(c) Beauty is the promise of happiness. (d) The beauty of the world lies in the details.

(iv) Derry says, "I came in here because I liked it ...." What was the one significant thing Derry might have liked about the place, as per the extract?

10) Answer any five the following in about 40-50 words each.

(2x5=10)

(i) "You realize the true value of a thing only by losing it." Comment on this statement in the light of the story, The Last Lesson.

(ii) What do we come to know about the author of Lost Spring, Anees Jung, through her interactions with Saheb and Mukesh?

(iii) Give two reasons why, according to Pablo Neruda, is 'keeping quiet' is essential to attaining a better, more peaceful world. (Keeping Quiet)

(iv) If the Christmas spirit is about selflessness, forgiveness and becoming 'better' versions of ourselves amongst other things, Edla Willmansson is the epitome of this spirit. Justify with two points of evidence from *The Rattrap*.

(v) How can we say that marriage was a compromise for Aunt Jennifer? Support your response with two justifications. (*Aunt Jennifer's Tigers*)

(vi) How is the Earth a source of life when all seems dead on it?

11) Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 40-50 words each.

(i) 'It's easy to judge others and give advice, but much more difficult to apply it to ourselves.' Elaborate with reference to the character of Sam in *The Third Level*. (2x2=4)

(ii) Comment on any one aspect of the writing style of the author, Kalki in *The Tiger King*.

(iii) How do we know that Dr. Sadao was conscientious as well as loyal? (*The Enemy*)

12) Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 150 words.

The prose selections, *Deep Water* and *Indigo*, bring out the importance of overcoming fear, in order to be able to lead our lives successfully. Imagine yourself to be a motivational speaker who has to address high school students. Write this address in elaborating on occurrences from the two texts to inspire your audience and to convince them about the importance of overcoming fear. (1x5=5)

OR

'Their mother sighed. Sophie watched her back stooped over the sink and wondered at the incongruity of the delicate bow which fastened her apron strings.' The prose selection, *Going Places* includes this telling comment about Sophie's mother. In *Aunt Jennifer's Tigers*, we are told that - 'The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's Hand.' Imagine a conversation between Sophie's mother and Aunt Jennifer. Create this exchange with reference to the two extracts given above.

You may begin the conversation like this ... Sophie's mother: Your embroidery is so beautiful. Do you love tigers?

13) Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 150 words.

(1x5=5)

After seeing off the enemy soldier, Dr. Sadao must have felt relieved. He was able to uphold the oath that he had taken as a doctor. Dr. Sadao made an entry into his daily diary explaining the dilemma faced by him and how he resolved it. Imagine yourself to be Dr. Sadao and express his thoughts. (You may begin like this : I was able to uphold the oath that I had taken as a doctor....)

OR

Imagine Zitkala-Sa and Bama meet each other. They both share their experience of being from marginalized communities. They reflect on instances of oppression they faced and how those instances proved to be the source of strength to fight against such oppression.

Write down their discussion in a creative way, with reference to their experiences.

Day Date  
Date Day