

Pre Board Examination - 2023-24

Class : XII

Paper : English

Time : 3 hrs.

M.M. : 80

General Instruction:

- 1) This question paper has 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.
- 2) This question paper contains three sections-
Section A: Reading skills, Section B: Creative Writing Skills and Section C: Literature.
- 3) Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part in your answer sheet.
- 4) Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

Section-A (Reading Skills) 22 Marks

1. Read the passage given below:

- (1) I know many friends of mine who drink coffee regularly but do not know that coffee exists in different forms other than instant coffee. There are many who swear by flora cafe classic or coco gold, which they consider premium coffee. I may sound offensive but instant coffee is not the way; in fact, it's a very bad way of making coffee! Instant coffee cannot match up to brewed coffee's flavour nor does it have Arabica beans. It uses Robusta beans that are lower in flavour Don't know the difference? Read on.....
- (2) That plant might be a genius! It created a chemical that would keep pests away. Fortunately for us and unfortunately for the plant-that plant did not work the way it was intended to. The chemical might have averted a few pest attacks, but attracted a far greater threat - human beings. The plant I am talking about is coffee and the chemical is caffeine.
- (3) To begin from the beginning - coffee is from a more mature part of the tree- the seed - unlike other stimulants. The ripe berry is picked with de-pulped leaving us with a seed called 'green bean' or 'green coffee. Green bean is uncharacteristically bland with a taste nowhere close to that of coffee, but it is valued for its higher antioxidant levels.
- (4) It's an interesting phenomenon to see how this bland green beans turn to a flavourful coffee bean. Coffee bean is a seed and like any other seed is rich in proteins, fats and all necessary ingredients for giving birth to a new plant. When exposed to heat, the fats and carbohydrates in the bean turn into essential oils, which give the characteristic taste and

aroma to coffee bean. The degree of roasting depends on the need or purpose of use.

(5) These beans are ground so that the surface area of the bean is increased, which makes extraction easier. The bean can be ground or crushed but making the particles uniform will ensure equal extraction or else the smaller particle will get over extracted and the larger one under extracted. Hence, the burr grinder is used to ensure that the coffee bean gets ground in a uniform way in which all particles are of similar sizes.

(6) Does under extraction give a lighter coffee and over extraction a stronger one? No. for lighter or stronger coffee less or more coffee powder has to be used. Why? Under extraction will not get all the flavours of the coffee as the water runs too quickly. It will not get what you want- it will taste sour over extraction will bring out all unnecessary flavours rendering the taste bitter.

- On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer the questions given below :

- i) The author complained that his friends _____
 - a) consumed only flora classics.
 - b) were not aware of different forms of coffee
 - c) were severely addicted to drinking coffee.
 - d) considered coco gold as premium coffee.
- ii) Comment on the writer's reference to the unique feature of the coffee plant. (Para 2)
- iii) List the reason why the author refers to humans as 'great threat to coffee' plants?
- iv) Select the option that conveys the same meaning as 'energiser' from words in Para 3
(a) bland (b) mature (c) antioxidant (d) stimulants
- (v) Fats and Carbohydrates turn into essential oils leading to _____ (1)
- vi) Comment on the writer's reference to the interesting phenomenon in Para 4. (2)
- vii) Based on your understanding of Para 6 list one method to get stronger coffee. (1)
- viii) The writer would not agree with the given statements based on para 5 except
 - a) The burr grinder grinds coffee beans uniformly.
 - b) Less surface area makes extraction easier
 - c) Grinding gives stronger aroma.
 - d) Good coffee is a mix of smaller and bigger particles.
- ix) Why is it fair to say that the right degree of extraction of coffee is important? (2)

x) Select the most suitable title for the above passage :

- (a) The Art of coffee making (b) Benefits of consuming coffee
c) Green Coffee - The perfect antioxidant (d) The Coffee Addict

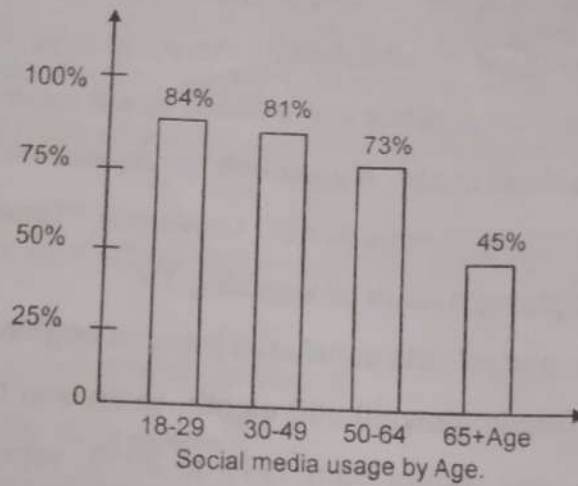
2. Read the passage given below :

10 Marks

- (1) News - If you can't remember the last time, you saw a teenager reading a book, newspaper or magazine, you're not alone. In recent years, less than 20% of teens report reading a book, magazine or newspaper daily for pleasure. More than 80% say they use social media every day, according to research published by the world psychological Association.
- (2) "Compared with previous generations, teens in the 2010s spent more time online and less time with traditional media, such as books, magazines and television", said lead author of the book 4Gen and Professor of psychology at ABC University. "Time on digital media has displaced time once spent enjoying a book or watching TV."
- (3) Swaner and her colleagues analysed data concluded from an ongoing study of a nationally representative sample of approximately 50,000 eighth, tenth and twelfth grade students annually. They looked at survey results from 1976 to 2016, representing more than 1 million teenagers. While the study started with only twelfth-graders in the 1970s, eighth and tenth graders were added in 1991.
- (4) Use of digital media increased substantially from 2006 to 2016. Among twelfth-graders, internet use during leisure time doubled from one to two hours per day during that period. It also increased 75% for 10th graders and 68% for 8th graders.
- (5) "In the mid 2010s, the average 12th grader reported spending approximately time hours a day texting, just over two hours a day on the internet - which included gaming - and just under two hours a day on social media," said Swaner. That's a total of about six hours per day on just three digital media activities during their leisure time."
- (6) In comparison, 10th graders reported a total of five hours per day and 8th graders reported four hours per day on those three digital activities consequently the spent time in the digital world is seriously degrading the time they spend on more traditional media such as print book and newspapers.
- (7) The decline in reading print media was especially steep. In the early 1990s, 33% of 10th graders said they read a newspaper almost every day. By 2016, that number was only 2%. In the late 1970s, 60% of 12th graders said they read a book or a magazine almost everyday;

by 2016, only 16% did. 12th graders also reported reading fewer books each year in 2016 compared to how much they read in 1976, and approximately 1/3 did not read a book for pleasure in the year prior to the 2016 survey.

(8) There's no lack of intelligence among young people. However due to over dependence on digital media they find it difficult to focus for long periods of time and to read long form text. Subsequently, they find it challenging to understand complex issues and develop critical thinking skills.



On the basis of your understanding of the passage answer the questions given below :

i) Does the following statement agree with the information given in Para 1?

The writer believes that very few teens indulge in reading as a pleasure activity.

Select from the following:

True: If the statement agrees with the information.

False : If the statement contradicts the information.

Not given : If there is no information on this.

ii) Select the option that displays the most likely reason for this research.

In order to find out...

a) reading choices of teenagers.

b) digital competency of teenagers.

c) Speed of reading text.

d) The decline of time spent on traditional media.

iii) Traditional media has been replaced by digital media, we can say this because ____

iv) Do you think that the researchers of study added 10th and 8th graders to the survey deliberately? Give reasons.

v) The concluding sentence of the text makes a clear case for ____ by listing it as a core competency for analysis and application.

5 Marks

5. Attempt any one of two in about 120-150 words.

Write an application (including a resume) for the post of a receptionist advertised in a national newspaper by JKL Publishers, Peshwa Road, Pune You are Karuna, M 114, Mall Road, Pune, a graduates from SNDT university and have done a Secretarial Practice Course from YWCA, Mumbai

OR

When cricket teams go abroad, the members are allowed to take their wives, even friends along with them. Does this fact distract them or help them focus on their game in a better way? If it is good, why don't we allow our athletes to enjoy the same privilege? Write a letter to the editor of a National daily on the trend giving your views on the issue. You are Navtej, M-114, mount Kailash, Kanpur.

6. Today, taking selfies has become a rage and is a global phenomenon. It has cost us several lives and also immortalized several moments. Write an article on the trend of taking selfies and its impact on people. You are Sonam. (5)

OR

A massive fire due to short circuiting gutted 50 old shops in the congested area of Sadar Bazaar in Delhi leading to loss of life and property. As a reporter with 'The Deccan, draft a report for the newspaper. You are Samyak of New Delhi.

Section-C (Literature) 40 Marks

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for any one of the two. 6 marks

Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool

Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.

The massive weight of uncle's wedding band

sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.

i) What was Aunt Jennifer's mental state while creating woollen tigers?

ii) What is it that is troubling Aunt Jennifer?

iii) The rhyme scheme of the stanza is aabb

iv) What is the poetic device used in the first line here?

a) simile

b) assonance

c) alliteration

d) metaphor

v) The husband's wedding band on Aunt Jennifer's hand has become a symbol of _____

a) Joy

b) Happiness

c) oppression

d) Connection

vi) Aunt Jennifer's married life has been miserable. (True/ False)

OR

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) In what tone does the poet refer to the rich motorists?
- ii) The clumsy paint of the roadside stand _____ the passers-by.
- iii) What is the name of the poem and the poet.
- iv) The expression 'a mind ahead' reveals that the passers-by remain _____
- a) lost in their thoughts b) puzzled
- c) upset d) Insane
- v) The expression 'out of sorts' means _____
- vi) The city people who drove through the countryside felt happy to see the displayed goods. (True/False)

8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for any one : (4)

He wondered often whom he would have married if he had not met Hana, and by what luck he had found her in the most casual way, by chance literally, at an American Professor's house. The Professor and his wife had been kind people anxious to do something for their few foreign students and the students though bored, had accepted his kindness.

- i) Complete the following analogy with a word/ phrase from the extract.
disgust : repulsion : : worried
- ii) He met Hana at _____
- a) An American Professor's house b) the university
- c) a theatre d) a shop
- iii) The foreign students had accepted their professor's kindness though they were Do
- iv) The American professor and his wife were unkind to their foreign students. (True/false)

OR

I was walking home from school one day, an old bag hanging from my shoulder. It was

actually possible to walk the distance in ten minutes. But usually it would take me thirty minutes at the very least to reach home. It would take me from half an hour to an hour to dawdle along, watching all the fun and games that were going on, all the entertaining novelties and oddities in the streets, the shops and the bazaar.

- i) Who does the word "it" is the first line stand for?
- ii) She would watch sports of all kinds on the way back (True/ false)
- iii) The narrator could easily cover the distance from school to home in _____
 - a) 15 minutes
 - b) 30 minutes
 - c) 10 minutes
 - d) 1 hour
- iv) She used to be attracted by _____ in the streets, the shops and the bazaar.

9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for any one - 6 Marks

At that point, at the age of 22, I understood scholarly books should be written the way I had done - by telling the story of the research. This is why my essays always have a narrative aspect. And this is why probably I started writing narratives (novels) so late - at the age of 50, more or less.

- i) When did the writer understand how scholarly books should be written?
- ii) What is the nature of his essay?
- iii) Supply the suitable word from the extract to complete the following analogy.
dominance : supremacy :: exploration : _____
- iv) What impression do you form of the writer?
 - a) a scholarly person
 - b) an essayist
 - c) novelist
 - d) all of the above
- v) Name the chapter and its writer.
- vi) The narrator's essays hardly had a narrative aspect. (True/ false)

OR

He had naturally been thinking of his rattraps when suddenly he was struck by the idea that the whole world about him - the whole world with its lands and seas, its cities and villages - was nothing but a big rattrap. It had never existed for any other purpose than to set baits for people.

- i) Who is 'he' referred to in the first line?
- ii) He felt that the whole world nothing but _____

iii) The purpose of the world is to _____

- a) before the people b) set baits for people
c) attract the people d) teach a lesson to the people

iv) An idea struck the peddler. What was he doing at that time?

v) The peddler held a very favourable view of the world. (True/ false)

vi) According to the peddler, the world did not exist for any other purpose than to set _____ for people.

10. Answer any five of the following six question in about 40-50 words: 5 x 2 = 10

- a) Why does the author say that the bangle makers of Firozabad are caught in a vicious web?
- b) Reflect upon the symbolism of 'embroidery in the poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers'.
- c) What sort of terror seized Douglas as he went down the water for a second time? How could he feel that he was still alive?
- d) 'Prose writing is not and cannot be the true pursuit of a genius', says the author. Explain the statement with reference to the chapter 'Poets and Pancakes'?
- e) Why did Sophie like her brother Geoff more than any other person? From her perspective, what he symbolise?
- f) "The battle of champaran is won" when and why did Gandhiji utter these words?

11. Answer any two of the following three questions in about 40-50 words. 2 x 2 = 4

- a) Why was 'Akademik Shokalskiy' heading towards Antarctica?
- b) Do you agree with the statement and observation of the American Professor, "Ignorance of the human body is the surgeon's cardinal sin"? Which essential trait is he emphasizing?
- c) Does Kalki use satire to comment on the debasing of those in authority? Was the Tiger king a fair ruler who had the best interests of his citizens at heart?

12. Answer any one of the following two questions in about 120-150 words : 5 Marks

The last lesson reflects the flaws in human character that led to the sad plight of people in Alsace. Substantiate your answer with evidence from the text:

OR


Obstacles determine the quality of life. Hermits feel convinced that sweet are the uses of adversity. Elucidate the saying taking ideas from the given lines! " Events justified Gandhi's position. Within a few years, the British planters abandoned their estates, which reverted

to the peasants. Indigo sharecropping disappeared"

13. Answer any one of the following two questions in about 120-150 words. 5 marks
- The title of the play 'On the face of it' refers to Derry's burnt, ugly face. Although there is a fallacy in this statement, it reflects a common attitude of the common people. Justify.

OR

though

-  What are the similarities in the lives of Bama and Zitkala-Sa, ~~they~~ belong to different cultures?