



BK BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION
SARALA BIRLA GROUP OF SCHOOLS
SENIOR SECONDARY CO-ED DAY CUM BOYS' RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL
Pre-Board II (2024-25)
ENGLISH CORE (301)



Class: XII
Date: 18.12.24
Name:

Duration: 3 hrs.
Max Marks: 80
Exam No. :

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

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

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (22 marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully:

12

(1) In a bustling café filled with chatter, laughter, and the clinking of cups, most eyes are fixed on screens rather than faces. The hum of conversations is interrupted by the occasional beep or vibration, drawing attention away from the people around us. With every swipe or tap, we dive deeper into the digital world, leaving behind the tangible connections that once defined human interaction. A message, an update, a notification — each one takes priority over the present moment, forcing us to become more engaged with the virtual than the physical world.

(2) As we scroll endlessly through social media feeds, the pressure to be always available, always on, begins to feel suffocating. It's as if the digital space has become an extension of ourselves, a reflection of our worth in likes and shares. The constant checking, the compulsion to respond instantly, makes us feel as though we are never truly free. The weight of expectation and the fear of being left out seep into our daily lives, leaving us tethered to our devices, even when there's no real need.

(3) Despite our best efforts to remain connected, the bonds we form online are often shallow. A comment, a like, a share — these quick interactions feel hollow when compared to the warmth of a face-to-face conversation. The desire for validation through digital interaction seems to drain the joy of spontaneous, genuine connections. We find ourselves running on a digital treadmill, always moving, yet never really going anywhere.

(4) This digital dance, while offering convenience and speed, takes away from the richness of personal interactions. The endless rush to respond, the constant influx of notifications, pulls our attention away from the people sitting right in front of us. The art of being present — of fully immersing oneself in the moment — is becoming a lost skill. We're so preoccupied with the next ping or buzz that we miss the beauty of just being with others without the need to prove our presence through digital means.

(5) In this era of constant digital engagement, it's important to remember that real life happens when we look away from the screen. The genuine connections that make life meaningful cannot be replicated in the virtual world. True happiness, after all, lies not in the validation of others online but in the quality of the relationships we build offline. It's time we reclaim our presence, unplug from the digital noise, and rediscover the simple joy of authentic, undistracted human connection.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

I. According to paragraph 1, how do smartphones affect the dynamics of human interaction in the café?

II. How does the author use the metaphor of "the digital space has become an extension of ourselves" to describe the relationship people have with their devices?

III. Complete the following sentence suitably.

The phrase 'tethered to our devices' suggests that individuals feel a sense of dependence on their digital devices, making it difficult for them to disconnect even when it's not necessary.

Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence.

The concern this analogy points towards is about _____.

A. the overwhelming connection to technology that disrupts real-life experiences

B. the physical damage caused by excessive use of digital devices

IV. Complete the following suitably with ONE advantage, with reference to paragraph 2.

Designating specific periods each day to avoid digital devices can help _____.

V. Why does the writer refer to the bonds formed online as "shallow" in paragraph 3?

Because-

A. Online interactions lack the depth and authenticity of face-to-face conversations.

B. Online communication is more convenient but less engaging.

C. Digital interactions fail to provide meaningful connections.

D. Digital communication is often quick and brief, without real connection.

VI. Provide ONE textual evidence with reference to paragraph 3 to prove the following:

The impact of digital interactions on genuine human connections is negative.

VII. In the line, "The desire for validation through digital interaction seems to drain the joy of spontaneous, genuine connections," what does the phrase "drain the joy" refer to? (Paragraph 3) 2

VIII. Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph 4.

whisper: quietly: _____: loudly

A. validation

B. shallow

C. immersion

D. rush

IX. Why is it fair to say that the statement "The art of being present... is becoming a lost skill" from paragraph 4 employs irony?

A. People are more connected digitally but less connected personally.

B. The writer exaggerates the effects of digital engagement.

- C. The writer mocks how people spend more time online than offline.
- D. The phrase suggests people aren't aware of their disconnection.

X. Assess the potential challenges OR benefits of unplugging from digital devices, as outlined in paragraph 5. 2

2. Read the following carefully. 10

(1) Introduction:

In today's fast-paced world, the consumption of beverages has become an integral part of daily life. However, the type of beverages people choose can have a significant impact on their health. This study aims to explore the preference for sugary drinks versus water and fruit juices among different age groups and to understand the factors influencing these choices.

(2) Methodology:

A questionnaire was distributed to a diverse group of participants across age categories, including children, teenagers, adults, and seniors. The survey asked participants about their preferred beverages, the reasons behind their choices, and how often they consume them. The responses were analyzed to identify patterns and factors influencing beverage selection among various demographics.

(3) Survey Examination:

The survey explored not only beverage preferences but also the underlying reasons for these preferences. Participants were encouraged to provide insights into the factors that influenced their choices, including taste, convenience, health concerns, and social influences. This allowed for a deeper understanding of the behavioral patterns surrounding beverage consumption.

(4) Results:

The survey revealed several interesting trends:

Age Group	Preferred Beverage	Reasons for Preference
Children	60% Sugary Drinks	Taste, Social Influence, Advertising
Teenagers	75% Sugary Drinks	Convenience, Taste, Peer Influence
Young Adults	45% Water, 30% Fruit Juices	Health Consciousness, Hydration, Fitness
Adults	70% Water	Hydration, Health Awareness, Weight Control
Seniors	80% Water	Hydration, Health Benefits, Ease of Digestion

(5) Implications for Interventions:

Understanding the beverage preferences across different age groups allows health professionals to tailor educational campaigns and interventions more effectively. For instance, encouraging parents to limit sugary drink consumption in children through education and reducing the impact of advertising could play a crucial role in shaping healthier habits. Additionally, promoting the benefits of water and fruit juices, especially among young adults and adults, could lead to better long-term health outcomes.

(6) Conclusion:

This study highlights the importance of targeted strategies to address the beverage preferences of different demographic groups. By leveraging the findings, health experts and policymakers can implement more effective measures to reduce the consumption of sugary drinks and encourage healthier beverage choices across all age groups, thus contributing to improved public health.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

I. According to the introduction, what is the main focus of the study?

II. What would the following statement be classified as?

To explore beverage preferences across different age groups and understand the reasons behind them.

Select the appropriate response:

A. Primary purpose B. Secondary objective C. Method of analysis D. Research outcome

III. Provide two reasons why sugary drinks were included as an option in the survey about beverage preferences. 2

IV. Classify the following sentences as 'influence' or 'motivation':

Sentence 1: Peer pressure encourages teenagers to opt for sugary drinks rather than healthier alternatives.

Sentence 2: Health awareness motivates adults to choose water over sugary drinks.

V. Read the following:

Nina prefers having a cola while hanging out with friends. Ravi enjoys a glass of fresh orange juice with his breakfast every morning. Amit often chooses a cup of tea or water after a workout.

Select the option that identifies the correct demographic Nina, Ravi, and Amit belong to.

A. Nina – teenager; Ravi – young adult; Amit – middle-aged

B. Nina – teenager; Ravi – young adult; Amit – elderly

C. Nina – child; Ravi – teenager; Amit – young adult

D. Nina – teenager; Ravi – young adult; Amit – elderly

VI. Why do seniors prefer water more than any other age group, according to the survey results?

VII. How can understanding the diverse beverage preferences of different age groups lead to more effective health interventions? (Paragraph 5) 2

VIII. What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders based on the insights from this study?

A. Increase beverage sales

B. Promote healthier beverage choices

C. Reduce beverage prices

D. Expand the beverage market

SECTION-B

CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 MARKS)

3. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 50 words.

4

A. You are Arjun/Meera. You have organized a guest lecture by a renowned environmentalist for the students of Green Valley High School, Delhi, to raise awareness about climate change. Draft a notice stating the objective of the event, also provide the necessary details, and request students to attend the lecture.

OR

B. You are Aniket/Priya. You have planned a workshop on digital safety and online etiquette for the students of Sunrise Public School, Hyderabad, to educate them about responsible online behavior. Draft a notice stating the objective of the workshop, also provide the necessary details, and request students to participate in the workshop.

4. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 50 words.

4

A. You are the Head of the Parents-Teachers Association (PTA) of Blue Ridge School, Pune. Draft an invitation to the local community leaders inviting them to the school's Annual Day celebration, highlighting the key events and importance of their presence.

OR

B. Draft a formal reply declining an invitation to speak at a conference on "Innovations in Education" due to prior commitments. You are Prof. Rajesh Khanna, an expert in educational technology.

5. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 120-150 words.

5

A. You are Rohan/Radhika of 45, Green Park, Mumbai. Write a letter to the Commissioner of Police, Mumbai, drawing attention to the rising incidents of theft in your area and requesting increased patrolling.

OR

B. You are Arjun/Aarushi from 78, Dadar West, Mumbai. You came across a job opening for a Software Developer at XYZ Tech Solutions, 50, Andheri East, Mumbai. Write an application to the HR Manager, including your detailed resume.

6. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in 120-150 words.

5

A. Write an article on the importance of sustainable living and how individuals can contribute.

OR

B. You are a reporter with 'India Today'. You recently witnessed illegal trade of rare animals on some websites. Write a report in about 120-150 words about the same for your magazine.

SECTION C

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two-A or B

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.

- i. Why is the poet asking the people not to speak?
- ii. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.

Assertion: The poet urges people to pause and embrace silence and stillness for a moment.

Reason: The poet believes that by stopping all activity and speech, even for a short time, humanity can reflect on its actions.

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.

- iii. Complete the following suitably.

“Not move our arms” in the given extract refers to _____.

- iv. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.

During counting to twelve, the poet wants us to remain _____ (noisy/quiet).

- v. Which poetic form has been used in the given extract?

vi. Select the option that is NOT true.

- (A) During this moment, we will forget our differences and experience a strength of togetherness.
- (B) When we stop for a second, we get an opportunity to introspect our follies.
- (C) We will realize the harm we are causing to the world with our words and actions.
- (D) We should always remain lazy.

OR

B. *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.

- i. Identify the figure of speech in ‘terrified hands’.

(A) Transferred epithet (B) Imagery (C) Hyperbole (D) Synecdoche

- ii. Which issue is the poet addressing through this poem?

- iii. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.

The rhyming scheme of the poem is _____ (aabb/aaab).

iv. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.

Assertion: Even after Aunt Jennifer's death, the tigers she created will continue to symbolize freedom and fearlessness.

Reason: The tigers represent Aunt Jennifer's inner strength and confidence, which she displayed in her life through her actions.

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.

v. Aunt Jennifer's life is ringed with ordeals. 'Ringed' has a significant meaning here. What is it?

Complete the following suitably.

vi. Aunt Jennifer faced ordeals from the oppressive male _____ society

8. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (A) or (B)

A. Friends everywhere. People come ineverybody knows me. The gate's always open. They come and sit here. And in front of the fire in winter. Kids come for the apples and pears. And for toffee. I make toffee with honey. Anybody comes. So have you. (On the Face of It)

i. Why Mr. Lamb always keeps gate of his garden open?

ii. What does the phrase 'gate's always open' show about the speaker?

iii. The extract shows the speaker to be _____.

(A) overthinker (B) genial (C) pessimistic (D) None of these

iv. Name the writer of the given extract.

OR

B. Yes, I've taken the obvious step: I talked to a psychiatrist friend of mine, among others. I told him about the third level at Grand Central Station and he said it was a waking dream wish fulfillment. He said I was unhappy. That made my wife kind of mad, but he explained that he meant the modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry and all the rest of it and that I just want to escape. Well, who doesn't? Everybody I know wants to escape, but they don't wander down into any third level at Grand Central Station.

i. Why did the narrator go to a psychiatrist?

ii. What is 'waking dream wish fulfillment' according to the psychiatrist in the lesson?

(A) Charley's finding, of a Third Level at Grand Central Station.

(B) Charley's realisation of his wish to visit Galesburg Illinois.

(C) Charley's escaping into his daydreaming everyday.

(D) Charley's post stamp collecting habit.

iii. Complete the sentence appropriately.

The third level, according to Charley, was _____.

iv. What does the psychiatrist explain to Charley?

9. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, A or B.

A. It seemed a long way down. Those nine feet were more like ninety, and before I touched bottom my lungs were ready to burst. But when my feet hit bottom, I summoned all my strength and made what I thought was a great spring upwards. I imagined I would bob to the surface like a cork. Instead, I came up slowly. I opened my eyes and saw nothing but water - water that had a dirty yellow tinge to it. (Deep Water)

i. Why did the nine feet deep pool seem ninety to Douglas?

ii. The expression "I imagined I would bob to the surface like a cork" implies that

(A) Frightened, Douglas was not able to shout for help.

(B) Douglas accepted his failure and ultimate death.

(C) Though Douglas was frightened he was not out of his wits.

(D) Douglas was afraid to die.

iii. Pick the word from the given extract which means to 'make a quick, short movement up and down.

iv. What does the speaker mean by I summoned all my strength?

(A) That he called up his strength.

(B) That he accumulated his strength.

(C) That he gathered his strength.

(D) All of these

v. Where did the given event take place?

vi. 'It seemed a long way down. What was the author referring to?

OR

B. He was involved, he told the court, in a 'conflict of duties' - on the one hand, not to set a bad example as a lawbreaker; on the other hand, to render the 'humanitarian and national service' for which he had come. He disregarded the order to leave, not 'for want of respect for lawful authority, but in obedience to the higher law of our being, the voice of conscience.' He asked the penalty due.

i. List any two details about Gandhiji discussed in the extract.

ii. Why did Gandhiji call fighting for the rights of the poor farmers 'national service'?

(A) Because he wanted all sharecroppers throughout the country to unite against the landlords.

(B) Because the plight of the sharecroppers was the same throughout the country.

(C) Because the sharecroppers of Champaran were leading the fight.

(D) Because the sharecroppers refused to be convinced by the commission.

iii. What was the consequence of the court proceeding?

iv. Pick evidence from the extract that helps one infer that Gandhiji disobeyed the authority.

v. Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the extract?

(A) Gandhiji – an authoritarian

(B) Gandhiji – a humanitarian and nationalist

(C) Gandhiji – a lawbreaker

(D) Gandhiji – a political activist

vi. Complete the sentence appropriately.

The ‘conflict of duties’ refers to _____.

10. Answer any five of the following six questions in 40 50 words each: 5 X 2 = 10

i. Why did the author appear to be doing nothing at the studios?

ii. Why was Edla happy to see the gift left by the peddler?

iii. Why are the young trees described as ‘sprinting’?

iv. Describe the endless fountain of immortal drink.

v. Why did Aunt Jennifer choose to embroider tigers on the panel?

vi. What does the title ‘Lost Spring’ convey?

11. Answer any two of the following three questions in 40 50 words each: 2 X 2 = 4

i. “But this eating by formula was not the hardest trial in that first day”, says Zitkala-Sa.

What does she mean by ‘eating by formula’?

ii. Why did the booking clerk refuse to accept the money from Charley?

iii. How did the Maharaja devote himself to realise his ambition? How far did he succeed?

12. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 1 X 5 = 5

A. Exploitation is a universal phenomenon. The poor indigo farmers were exploited by the British landlords to which Gandhiji objected. Even after our independence, we find exploitation of unorganized labour. What values do we learn from Gandhiji’s campaign to counter the present day problems of exploitation? Imagine yourself to be a motivational speaker who has to address high school students. Write this address in about 120-150 words elaborating how the weak have always and at all times been the victims of injustice and exploitation.

OR

B. Sophie lives in her fantasies. She hopes to make it big. You realise that the modern-day youth are also like her. You decide to write an article about the need to dream and how it can prove to be harmful sometimes. You are Bhavya from class XII

13. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words

1 X 5 = 5

A. 'Knowing too much of your future is never a good thing.' In light of this quote, examine how knowing the future paved the way for the king's end.

OR

B. "But this eating by formula was not the hardest trial in that first day", says Zitkala-Sa.

What do you understand by 'eating by formula' and how did she find it a hard trial?