

CBSE Class 12 2025 English Question Paper (1/1/3) With Solutions

Time Allowed :3 Hours	Maximum Marks :80	Total questions :13
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General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. Please check that this question paper contains 15 printed pages.
2. Please check that this question paper contains 13 questions.
3. 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.
4. Please write down the Serial Number of the question in the answer- book at the given place before attempting it.
5. 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.
6. This Question Paper has 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.
7. This question paper contains three sections - Section - A: Reading Skills, Section B: Creative Writing Skills and Section - C: Literature.
8. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
9. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
10. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A
(READING SKILLS)

1. Read the following passage carefully:

(1) Marketing is all about creativity and expression, so it must be an art, right? Not necessarily. While marketers once relied purely on instinct, they now rely on data-driven insights. On top of that, cutting-edge technologies and analytics have shifted the focus of marketing farther toward the science side of the spectrum. Armed with so much data, marketers can now track the impact of money spent on their bottom line.

(2) In today's world, the best approach to marketing combines both disciplines. And there's a distinct balance to the craft - a strategic mix of interpersonal empathy and tactical analysis. Neither side of the mix can be isolated or ignored, or the results will not be encouraging. Psychologists believe the brain is separated into two distinct functions: the left-brain and the right-brain. The right side of the brain is responsible for creative thinking and artistic intuition.

(3) As an art, marketing is all about understanding the nuances of human behaviour and determining how to make an emotional connection with the customer. More importantly, some level of art is needed to create brand standards for your company, including the logo, messaging, and overall visual identity for a brand.

(4) Right-brained marketers focus on the creative - the copy, graphics and emotions tied to the message. The science side of marketing tells us to let the data guide what strategies will be most effective. Marketers are now reporting the need for digital-first expertise including digital proficiency, data analysis, and data science. With science, marketers adopt an outcome-centric mindset that helps them curate smarter campaigns. Over the past few years, there has been an evolving prioritization on data-savvy talent. In 2020 and beyond, brands will need to focus on recruiting talent that can understand the complexities of AI and machine technologies.

(5) But when we reflect on earlier times, marketing was defined as the predominance of traditional advertising, like television, newspaper, and direct mail. Today, it ropes in digital channels, social media, mobile devices, and integrated, complex campaigns. And just as consumers today are more tech-savvy, employees should be able to match and

exceed their expertise. It's important that brands continue to prioritize creative, engaging campaign messages while also focusing on key insights and performance metrics for optimal results.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:

(i) According to paragraph 1, how does the author describe the evolution of marketing?

Solution: The author describes the evolution of marketing as a shift from instinct-based practices to data-driven insights. Modern marketing now focuses more on the scientific side, with cutting-edge technologies and analytics helping marketers track the impact of their spending.

Quick Tip

Modern marketing blends creativity with data analytics. While the right brain fosters artistic expression, the left brain ensures logical and data-driven decision making.

(ii) Choose ONE of the following statements that aptly reflects the point of view of the writer:

- (a) In the field of marketing, there is a conflict between Art and Science.
- (b) Art and Science should work in tandem to do effective marketing.

Solution: (b) Art and Science should work in tandem to do effective marketing.

Quick Tip

Effective marketing harmonizes creative thinking (art) with analytical decision-making (science) for successful campaigns.

(iii) Provide ONE textual evidence with reference to paragraph 3 to support that marketing is an art.

Solution: Marketing is all about understanding the nuances of human behaviour and determining how to make an emotional connection with the customer.

Quick Tip

Marketing as an art involves emotional appeal, empathy, and creative communication with the audience.

(iv) Based on the passage, assess the way data and digital platforms have transformed the field of marketing and employment.

Solution: Data and digital platforms have shifted marketing from instinct-based practices to data-driven insights. They have introduced digital-first expertise like data analysis, digital proficiency, and AI technologies, transforming employment by prioritizing data-savvy talent capable of handling complex digital campaigns.

Quick Tip

Digital marketing today depends heavily on analytics and AI tools for strategy and employment demands.

(v) ----- cutting-edge technologies and analytics have shifted the focus of marketing. (Para 1)

By ‘cutting-edge technologies’, the writer refers to -----.

Solution: Advanced cutting-edge technologies and analytics have shifted the focus of marketing.

By ‘cutting-edge technologies’, the writer refers to modern data-driven tools and digital analytics that enable marketers to track the financial impact of their campaigns.

Quick Tip

Cutting-edge technologies in marketing include AI tools, data analytics software, and digital platforms to measure campaign outcomes.

(vi) Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph 2:

included : incorporated : _____ : secluded

(A) approach (B) empathy (C) isolated (D) intuition

Solution: (C) isolated

Quick Tip

When solving analogies, look for synonyms or words with a similar relationship structure in the passage.

(vii) ‘Marketing is all about understanding the nuances of human behaviour.’ (Para 3)

The writer uses the word ‘nuances’ to denote:

- (A) man’s appreciation for art.
- (B) man’s preference for branded clothes.
- (C) the complexities of human character.
- (D) human inclination for analytical approach.

Solution: (C) the complexities of human character.

Quick Tip

The word ‘nuances’ often refers to subtle differences or complexities, especially in human behaviour or emotions.

(viii) Complete the following based on your understanding of the above passage:

According to the writer, modern marketing is built on both _____ and _____.

Solution: According to the writer, modern marketing is built on both **Art** and **Science**.

Quick Tip

Effective marketing requires a balance between creative thinking (Art) and data-driven analysis (Science).

(ix) ‘_____ exceed their expertise’. (Para 5)

With reference to paragraph 5, what skills do you think the employees should possess to match the demand of the consumers?

Solution: The line is: ‘**match — and exceed — their expertise**’.

To match the demand of consumers, employees should be tech-savvy, creative, capable of handling integrated digital campaigns, and focus on key insights and performance metrics.

Quick Tip

Modern marketers must balance creativity with digital proficiency and data-driven decision making to meet evolving consumer expectations.

(x) **What fascinating fact about the human brain is revealed by the writer in the above passage?**

Solution: The writer reveals that the brain is divided into two parts — the left brain and the right brain. The right side of the brain is responsible for creative thinking and artistic intuition.

Quick Tip

The left side of the brain handles logic and analysis, while the right side nurtures creativity and intuition — both vital in modern marketing.

2. Case Study: Tourism in India

(1) Introduction India, with its rich cultural heritage, diverse landscapes, and historical sites, attracts millions of tourists each year. Tourism significantly contributes to India’s GDP, generating employment and boosting infrastructure. This case study explores factors impacting tourism in India, examines seasonal patterns, and assesses tourist satisfaction through a survey.

(2) Methodology: The study involved primary data collection through a structured survey targeting 500 tourists across major destinations like Delhi, Jaipur, Goa and Kerala. Additionally, secondary data from government reports and tourism boards were used. The survey included questions about preferences, challenges and satisfaction levels, focusing on various demographics, including international and domestic tourists.

(3) Survey Examination : Tourists were surveyed on travel preferences, challenges encountered, accommodation satisfaction and cultural experiences. Feedback highlighted India's appeal due to its history and cultural diversity, but also noted issues like infrastructure gaps and pollution.

(4) Results: The study found that most tourists preferred historical sites and beaches. International tourists were drawn to heritage sites, while domestic tourists preferred nature destinations. Satisfaction was high among tourists who experienced local culture, but infrastructure issues and overcrowding at key locations were common complaints. Overall, 85% of tourists expressed a desire to revisit.

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage:

(i) Complete the following suitably.

In the introduction, the researcher links tourism to India's GDP to highlight

Solution: In the introduction, the researcher links tourism to India's GDP to highlight its role in generating employment and boosting infrastructure.

Quick Tip

Tourism doesn't just attract visitors — it also fuels the economy by creating jobs and improving public infrastructure.

(ii) What would the following be classified as?

The study involved primary data collection through a structured survey.

Select the appropriate response:

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

Solution: (C) Method of analysis

Quick Tip

A structured survey used to collect data is a *method of analysis* — the tool through which information is gathered for a study.

(iii) Give two points to support why the study involved primary data and secondary data.

Solution: 1. Primary data was collected through a structured survey of 500 tourists to gain first-hand insights into tourist preferences and satisfaction.
2. Secondary data from government reports and tourism boards offered broader statistical and policy-based perspectives to complement the survey results.

Quick Tip

Primary data helps in gathering direct insights from respondents, while secondary data adds credibility and broader context.

(iv) Classify the following sentences as ‘preference’ or ‘challenge’:

Sentence 1: Feedback highlighted India’s appeal due to its history and cultural diversity.

Sentence 2: Also noted issues like infrastructure gaps and pollution.

Solution: Sentence 1: Preference

Sentence 2: Challenge

Quick Tip

Preferences reflect what tourists liked, while challenges highlight the problems they faced.

(v) List any two points tourists were asked about in the survey.

- Solution:** 1. Tourists were asked about their travel preferences.
2. They were also asked about satisfaction with accommodation and experiences.

Quick Tip

Survey questions covered aspects of travel behavior, satisfaction, and encountered challenges.

(vi) What were the more preferred destinations?

Solution: International tourists preferred heritage destinations like historical sites and beaches, while domestic tourists favored nature destinations.

Quick Tip

Tourist preferences varied—international visitors favored heritage sites, locals preferred nature-based destinations.

(vii) Analyse why though there was satisfaction among tourists, there were some complaints.

Solution: Although many tourists reported high satisfaction due to cultural experiences and heritage attractions, complaints arose due to infrastructure gaps and pollution in key tourist locations.

Quick Tip

Satisfaction may coexist with complaints when positive experiences are offset by service or environmental issues.

(viii) What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders, based on the insights from the study?

- (A) tourists expressed a desire to revisit.
- (B) tourist will visit historical sites.

- (C) domestic tourism will increase.
(D) to promote India as a tourist destination.

Correct Answer: (D)

Solution: The study aims to provide stakeholders insights into improving tourism experiences and addressing challenges, ultimately to promote India as a more attractive and competitive tourist destination.

Quick Tip

The larger goal of such studies is to help stakeholders enhance tourism appeal and develop better infrastructure and policies.

SECTION B

(CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS)

Note: All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose

3. Attempt ANY ONE of the two (A) or (B) in about 50 words:

(A) Your school is organizing an Education Fair in the school premises. As the Head boy / Head girl of Sunshine Public School, Agra, draft a notice informing students of Classes IX – XII about the fair. Include other necessary details. You are Muskan / Manoj. Put your notice in a box.

Solution:

SUNSHINE PUBLIC SCHOOL, AGRA

NOTICE

EDUCATION FAIR ON CAMPUS

This is to inform all students of Classes IX–XII that an Education Fair will be held in the school auditorium on 25th June 2025 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Several universities and institutions will participate. Do not miss this informative opportunity.

Muskan / Manoj
(Head Girl / Head Boy)

Quick Tip

A good notice includes a heading, date, venue, purpose, and authority's signature — all inside a box.

OR

(B) Your school is organising an inter-house 'Maths Quiz' Competition. As president of the Quiz Club, draft a notice informing students of Classes IX – XII about the competition. Include necessary details regarding the number of participants, registration date, etc. You are Akila / Akhil. Put your notice in a box.

Solution:

SUNSHINE PUBLIC SCHOOL, AGRA

NOTICE

INTER-HOUSE MATHS QUIZ COMPETITION

Students of Classes IX–XII are informed that an Inter-House Maths Quiz Competition will be held on 28th June 2025 in the AV Room from 9:00 a.m. onwards. Each house may nominate a team of 3 participants. Interested students must register with the undersigned by 24th June.

Akila / Akhil
(President, Quiz Club)

Quick Tip

Always mention the event title, date, venue, eligibility, registration deadline, and the signatory in notices.

4. Attempt ANY ONE of the two (A) or (B) in about 50 words:

(A) You are Mr. Abhishek Sharma. You are planning to celebrate your parents' 50th wedding anniversary in a grand manner. Draft a formal invitation card for your friends and relatives. Mention all necessary details.

Solution:

50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Mr. Abhishek Sharma cordially invites you to the grand celebration of his parents' 50th wedding anniversary.

Date: 10th July 2025

Time: 6:30 p.m. onwards

Venue: Hotel Grand Palace, Civil Lines, Agra

Your gracious presence is highly solicited.

Mr. Abhishek Sharma

Quick Tip

An invitation card should include the occasion, host name, date, time, venue, and a polite closing line.

OR

(B) You are Mrs. Sonali Gupta, a nutritionist. You are invited by the Principal of Radiant Public School, Jammu to address the students on ‘Forming Healthy Food Habits’. Write a formal letter of reply accepting the invitation.

Solution:

Mrs. Sonali Gupta

23, Health Avenue

Delhi – 110034

20th June 2025

The Principal

Radiant Public School

Jammu – 180001

Subject: Acceptance of Invitation to Address Students

Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to accept your kind invitation to address the students of your esteemed school on the topic ‘Forming Healthy Food Habits’ on 25th June 2025. I look forward to the interaction.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Sonali Gupta

(Nutritionist)

Quick Tip

In a formal reply letter, include the sender's and receiver's address, date, subject, a polite acceptance, and a formal closing.

5. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, (A) or (B) in 120-150 words:

(A) You are Reshmi of 17, Rose Valley, Avenue, Dehradun. You read the given advertisement and wish to apply for the post advertised. Write this job application along with your bio-data:

KPMG requires Software Developer	
Qualification	– B.E./B.Tech. in Computer Science
Skills required	– Proficiency in programming languages, understanding of computer systems and problem solving skills. – Understanding of user needs and software requirements.
Experience	– Min. 3 years in similar field.
Apply to The H.R. Manager, KPMG Pvt. Ltd., 40, New Friends Colony, Dehradun	

Solution:

Reshmi

17, Rose Valley, Avenue

Dehradun – 248001

20th June 2025

The H.R. Manager

KPMG Pvt. Ltd.

40, New Friends Colony

Dehradun – 248002

Subject: Application for the Post of Software Developer

Sir/Madam,

With reference to your advertisement for the post of Software Developer, I hereby offer my candidature. I am a B.Tech graduate in Computer Science and have over three years of experience in the software development industry. I possess excellent programming skills, a sound understanding of computer systems, and strong problem-solving capabilities. My expertise also includes assessing user requirements and designing effective software solutions.

I am enclosing my bio-data for your kind consideration. I would be grateful for an opportunity to appear for an interview.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Reshmi

Bio-data:

Name: Reshmi

Address: 17, Rose Valley, Avenue, Dehradun

Email: reshmi.cs@gmail.com

Phone: 9876543210

Date of Birth: 5th March 1998

Qualification: B.E./B.Tech. in Computer Science

Experience: 3 years in software development

Skills: Proficiency in programming languages, strong problem-solving skills, and understanding of user needs

Languages Known: English, Hindi

References: Available upon request

Quick Tip

A job application should include a cover letter with qualifications and experience followed by a neatly formatted bio-data.

OR

(B) You are Susheel of 10, R.K. Marg, New Delhi. You come across a report stating that a number of people in cities suffer from respiratory diseases, lung cancer, and heart diseases due to air pollution. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily expressing your concern and suggestions and ways to improve the situation.

- What are the causes for air pollution ?
- What are the ways it affects human health ?
- Ways to reduce air pollution.
- Steps to be taken by government.
- How can common people help in reducing air pollution ?
- Role of Media

Solution:

Susheel

10, R.K. Marg

New Delhi – 110001

20th June 2025

The Editor

The Times of India

New Delhi – 110002

Subject: Concern over Rising Air Pollution in Cities

Sir/Madam,

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I wish to draw attention to the growing menace of air pollution in urban areas. It is a major cause of respiratory diseases, heart ailments, and even cancer. The increasing number of vehicles, construction dust, and industrial emissions are the main contributors.

Immediate steps must be taken by the government such as promoting public transport, stricter emission norms, and green energy solutions. Media must spread awareness, and citizens should adopt carpooling and tree plantation initiatives.

Together, we can reduce air pollution and ensure a healthier life for all.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Susheel

Quick Tip

In a letter to the editor, always state the issue clearly, support it with reasons, and end with constructive suggestions.

6. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, (A) or (B) in 120-150 words:

(A) Parents want their children to excel in academics and due to this physical activity is compromised. Sports is an important aspect of education and is deeply connected with the physical, physiological, mental, and intellectual health of the students. Write an article for your school magazine stressing on the value of sports in education. You are Anil Vij of XII-G.

- Helps in maintaining physical and mental fitness.
- Brings motivation, discipline, and concentration.
- Enhances confidence levels and leadership qualities.
- Role of school in promoting sports.

Solution:

Value of Sports in Education

– By Anil Vij, XII-G

In today's competitive academic environment, students often neglect physical activity.

However, sports play a crucial role in a child's overall development. It helps in maintaining both physical and mental fitness, and also brings motivation, discipline, and concentration.

Participation in sports enhances self-confidence and cultivates leadership qualities. It

promotes teamwork, resilience, and decision-making skills. Moreover, a healthy body leads

to a healthy mind, which further boosts academic performance.

Schools must provide adequate facilities, schedule regular physical activities, and encourage students to take part in games and sports events. Sports must be seen as an integral part of education, not an optional one.

Quick Tip

While writing an article, include a catchy title, a byline, a clear introduction, main content with supporting points, and a concluding note.

OR

(B) Your school has recently inaugurated a botanical garden in the school campus to educate children on the need to preserve species of plants and appreciate their significance in our lives. As a member of the student editorial board, write a report of the inaugural ceremony and details of the garden to be published in your school newsletter. You are Ayush of class XII A.

You may organize your report by following -

Who - What - When - Where - Why - Who

Solution:

Inauguration of Botanical Garden at Green Valley School

– By Ayush, XII A

On 18th June 2025, Green Valley School inaugurated a botanical garden on its campus. The event took place at 10:00 a.m. in the presence of the school principal, teachers, students, and invited guests. The chief guest, Dr. R.K. Sharma, a noted environmentalist, addressed the gathering on the importance of plant preservation.

The garden hosts over 50 species of medicinal and ornamental plants. It has informative boards explaining each plant's significance and ecological value. The initiative aims to raise awareness among students about biodiversity and environmental conservation.

The event concluded with a plantation drive by students. The garden will serve as a learning space and a green retreat for all.

Quick Tip

A report should include the event name, date, venue, key highlights, purpose, and concluding remarks in a clear and factual tone.

SECTION C (LITERATURE)

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the given two (A) or (B):

(A) From “Keeping Quiet”:

**It would be an exotic moment
without rush, without engines.
we would all be together
in a sudden strangeness
Fishermen in the cold sea
would not harm whales
and the man gathering salt
would look back at his hurt hands.**

(i) How according to the poet can we create this exotic moment?

Solution: According to the poet, this exotic moment can be created by pausing all activity, maintaining silence, and taking a break from the mechanical rush of life. In that moment of stillness, people will come together in harmony and self-reflection.

Quick Tip

The poet urges us to be still and quiet, suggesting that true unity and peace can emerge when we disconnect from constant activity.

(ii) Choose the correct option:

The outcome of fisherman's activity led to the _____ (destruction / protection) of environment.

Solution: The outcome of fisherman's activity led to the **destruction** of the environment.

Quick Tip

The poet highlights how harmful human actions, like fishing, disturb marine life — urging for mindful behavior and ecological awareness.

(iii) What is the common outcome of this exotic moment?

- (A) No rush and no mechanization
- (B) Men would be gathering salt.
- (C) There would be a strangeness among warring nations.
- (D) Fisherman will look at his hurt hands.

Correct Answer: (A) No rush and no mechanization

Solution: The poet imagines a peaceful moment where humans pause all activity. In this quietness, there will be no rush, no use of engines or machines, and everyone will be united in a rare calmness.

Quick Tip

'Exotic moment' reflects the poet's desire for global stillness, away from chaos and technology — allowing time for reflection and unity.

(iv) Choose the correct option:

The tone of the poet is _____ (appealing / introspective) in the line "and the man gathering salt would look back at his hurt hands."

Correct Answer: introspective

Solution: The tone of the poet is introspective. The poet encourages a pause in routine tasks so individuals can reflect on their actions and the harm they may be causing to themselves or the environment.

Quick Tip

The line invites readers to self-reflect — a key trait of an introspective tone, where attention turns inward to examine consequences.

(v) The poet uses the expression 'sudden strangeness' to suggest

Solution: The poet uses the expression 'sudden strangeness' to suggest the unusual and unfamiliar experience of complete silence and stillness. It highlights the rare moment of unity, peace, and introspection which contrasts sharply with the usual chaos of life.

Quick Tip

'Sudden strangeness' symbolizes the unfamiliar peace and harmony that could arise if humanity paused its relentless activity.

(vi) Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract:

Assertion: The poet advocates for taking a break to introspect the damage inflicted by man.

Reason: Introspection will make man's life better.

Choose the correct option regarding their relationship:

- (A) Both the Assertion and Reason are true, but the Reason is not the correct explanation.
- (B) Both the Assertion and Reason are true, and the Reason is 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.

Correct Answer: (B) Both the Assertion and Reason are true, and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion.

Solution: The poet urges mankind to pause and reflect on its actions, particularly those harming the world and themselves. Through this introspection, a path to a more meaningful and peaceful life can be found — validating both the assertion and the reason.

Quick Tip

In assertion-reason questions, confirm that both statements are factually correct and see if the reason directly explains the assertion.

OR

(B) A thing of beauty is a joy forever

**Its loveliness increases, it will never
pass into nothingness; but will keep**

A bower quiet for us, and a sleep

Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing,

Therefore, on every morrow are we wreathing

A flowery band to bind us to the earth.

(A Thing of Beauty)

(i) By the phrase 'joy forever' the poet refers to things:

(A) that make people extremely happy.

(B) that are a feast to eyes.

(C) that are a constant source of happiness.

(D) that are beautiful but transient.

Correct Answer: (C) that are a constant source of happiness.

Solution: The poet describes beautiful things as eternal sources of joy. Their impact never fades, and they continue to uplift the human spirit, making them a lasting source of happiness.

Quick Tip

Keats believes that true beauty is timeless and continues to bring comfort, joy, and peace throughout our lives.

(ii) Choose the correct option:

By using the expression 'never pass into nothingness' the poet states that nature's beauty will create a _____ (lasting / temporary) impression on man's mind.

Correct Answer: lasting

Solution: The poet emphasizes that the impact of a beautiful thing never fades. It leaves a lasting impression on the human mind, offering eternal joy and comfort.

Quick Tip

Poetic expressions like "never pass into nothingness" highlight the timeless and enduring effect of beauty in our lives.

(iii) How does Keats make it evident that there is a link between man's wellness and nature's beauty?

Solution: Keats links man's wellness to nature's beauty by describing how beautiful things create a calming bower, induce sweet dreams, and bring health and peaceful breathing. These images show how beauty nurtures both the body and soul.

Quick Tip

Keats connects natural beauty to human well-being through imagery of rest, peace, and health — emphasizing its healing power.

(iv) Read the Assertion and the Reason below, with reference to the given extract:

Assertion: Keats states that man derives strength and inspiration from the beauty of nature.

Reason: Nature gives physical, emotional and mental solace to man.

Choose the correct option regarding their relationship:

- (A) Both the Assertion and Reason are true, and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion.
- (B) Both the Assertion and Reason are true, and the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion.
- (C) The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.
- (D) The Assertion is true, but the Reason is false.

Correct Answer: (A) Both the Assertion and Reason are true, and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion.

Solution: Keats suggests that beauty in nature provides continuous support and motivation to mankind. Since it brings mental, emotional, and physical peace, the reason directly explains how nature inspires and strengthens man.

Quick Tip

When both statements are true and logically connected, choose the option where the reason justifies the assertion.

(v) Select one phrase from the extract which implies that man wants to continue his life on this earth despite innumerable problems.

Solution: The phrase “**a flowery band to bind us to the earth**” implies that man finds enough beauty and hope in nature to stay connected to life, despite all hardships.

Quick Tip

Look for metaphoric expressions in poetry — they often reveal deeper meanings about human emotions and desires.

(vi) Complete the following sentence:

‘a sleep full of sweet dreams’ implies _____

Solution: ‘A sleep full of sweet dreams’ implies the peace, comfort, and mental relaxation that beauty brings to human life, helping people to rest and rejuvenate.

Quick Tip

In poetry, sleep often symbolizes calmness and relief — here it reflects the tranquil impact of nature’s beauty.

8. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the given two (A) or (B):

(A) At midnight when the town slept in peace, the Dewan and his aged wife dragged the tiger to the car and shoved it into the seat. The Dewan himself drove the car straight to the forest where the Maharaja was hunting. When they reached the forest, the tiger launched its Satyagraha and refused to get out of the car. The Dewan was thoroughly exhausted in his efforts to haul the beast out of the car and push it down to the ground. On the following day, the same old tiger wandered into the Maharaja’s presence and stood as if in humble supplication, ”Master, what do you command of me ?” It was with boundless joy that the Maharaja took careful aim at the beast. The tiger fell in a crumpled heap. (The Tiger King)

(i) How did the Dewan manage to take the tiger to the forest?

- (A) The Dewan conceded to the tiger’s satyagraha.
- (B) The Dewan pushed the tiger into the car and drove to the forest.
- (C) The Dewan hauled the tiger into the tent.
- (D) The Dewan persuaded the tiger into a humble supplication of the Maharaja.

Correct Answer: (B) The Dewan pushed the tiger into the car and drove to the forest.

Solution: To help the Maharaja achieve his goal of killing the hundredth tiger, the Dewan and his wife secretly captured an old tiger from a circus. At midnight, they shoved the tiger into the car, and the Dewan personally drove it to the forest where the Maharaja was hunting.

Quick Tip

Look closely at the character's actions and motivations — the Dewan's actions show a mix of fear, loyalty, and desperation to please the king.

(ii) Choose the correct option:

The attitude of the Dewan in the above extract can be described as _____
(negligent and reluctant / meek and servile)

Correct Answer: meek and servile

Solution: The Dewan's actions — sneaking out at midnight, dragging an old tiger into a car, and exhausting himself to fulfill the Maharaja's wish — clearly show his submissive and overly obedient nature. He acted out of fear and devotion rather than duty.

Quick Tip

Words like “meek” and “servile” often describe characters who act with blind obedience or fear-driven loyalty.

(iii) Select one statement or expression from the extract that reflects the humorous writing style of the author.

Solution: The line “**the tiger launched its Satyagraha and refused to get out of the car**” reflects the author's humorous writing style. The use of a serious political term like 'Satyagraha' for a tiger's refusal adds a satirical and comic effect.

Quick Tip

Humour in literature can come from exaggeration, irony, or unexpected word choices — like comparing an animal's behavior to civil disobedience.

(iv) State one reason for the 'boundless joy of the Maharaja'.

Solution: The Maharaja felt boundless joy because he believed he had successfully hunted the hundredth tiger, fulfilling the prophecy and proving his bravery, which was a matter of pride and ego for him.

Quick Tip

The Maharaja's exaggerated sense of pride and obsession with the prophecy is key to understanding his actions and emotional responses.

OR

(B) The rapid increase of human populations has left us battling with other species for limited resources, and the unmitigated burning of the fossil fuels has now created a blanket of carbon dioxide around the world, which is slowly but surely increasing the average global temperature. Climate change is one of the most hotly contested environmental debates of our time. Will the west Antarctic ice sheet melt entirely? Will the Gulf stream ocean current be disrupted? Will be the end of the world as we know it? (Journey to the End of the Earth)

(i) List one way in which the increasing human population is affecting other species.

Solution: The increasing human population is leading to intense competition with other species for limited natural resources, which threatens the survival and habitats of many animal and plant species.

Quick Tip

Look for cause-effect relationships — here, more people means more consumption and less space for wildlife.

(ii) Choose the correct option that best reflects the tone of the writer in the last line of the extract.

(A) happy and excited

- (B) encouraging and optimistic
- (C) anxious and concerned
- (D) spiteful and bitter

Correct Answer: (C) anxious and concerned

Solution: The last line poses serious questions about environmental catastrophe in a dramatic tone, revealing the writer’s concern and anxiety about the uncertain future of the planet.

Quick Tip

Tone is reflected in the writer’s choice of words — rhetorical questions and future concerns often show anxiety or urgency.

(iii) Choose the correct option:

‘unmitigated burning of fossil fuels’ reflects the _____ (avaricious / furious) streak in man’s nature.

Correct Answer: avaricious

Solution: The phrase points to mankind’s greedy and unchecked exploitation of natural resources for economic growth and convenience, without regard for long-term consequences — a clear sign of avarice.

Quick Tip

‘Avaricious’ means greedy — fitting when human actions show uncontrolled consumption without concern for sustainability.

(iv) In the above extract, what message is the author giving to mankind?

Solution: The author warns that human actions — especially overpopulation and fossil fuel burning — are leading to global climate instability. The message is a call for awareness, responsibility, and urgent action to protect the planet and ensure survival.

Quick Tip

Identify the core idea — here it's a caution against environmental negligence and a plea for sustainable living.

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

(A) or (B):

(A) The next day both men got up in good season. The crofter was in a hurry to milk his cow, and the other man probably thought he should not stay in bed when the head of the house had gotten up. They left the cottage at the same time. The crofter locked the door and put the key in his pocket. The man with the rattraps said good bye and thank you, and thereupon each went his own way. But half an hour later the rattrap peddler stood again before the door. He did not try to get in, however. He only went up to the window, smashed a pane, stuck in his hand, and got hold of the pouch with the thirty Kronor. He took the money and thrust it into his own pocket. Then he hung the leather pouch very carefully back in its place and went away. (The Rattrap)

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

The behaviour of the peddler as described in the above extract is an act of _____ . (deceit / obedience)

Correct Answer: deceit

Solution: The peddler broke the crofter's trust by returning and stealing money from his house after being offered food and shelter. This clearly shows dishonesty and trickery, which is an act of deceit.

Quick Tip

'Deceit' refers to dishonest behaviour meant to mislead or betray someone — perfectly describing the peddler's actions in the passage.

(ii) "Both men got up in good season". The author uses the expression 'good season' to

denote that (A) They slept for a long time.

(B) They got up in a good mood.

(C) They got up early and timely.

(D) They got up hurriedly.

Correct Answer: (C) They got up early and timely.

Solution: The phrase "in good season" implies that both the crofter and the peddler woke up at an appropriate and early hour, ready to begin their daily routines — not hurriedly or mood-based.

Quick Tip

The term "in good season" refers to being punctual and timely — not rushed or moody.

(iii) State the irony in the peddler's response: "The man with the rattraps said good bye and thank you".

Correct Answer: The irony lies in the fact that the peddler expresses gratitude right before betraying the crofter by stealing his money.

Solution: Although the peddler says "thank you" and appears polite, his actions contradict this civility. His words of gratitude are ironic because he ends up committing theft — an act of ingratitude and betrayal.

Quick Tip

Irony is when words convey the opposite of actions — here, the peddler says "thank you" but soon robs the man.

(iv) Choose the correct option:

The flaw in the peddler's character as reflected in the above extract is

(A) He is jealous of rich people.

- (B) He indulges in self-pity.
- (C) He can rob his benefactor.
- (D) He can sleep anywhere without any hesitation.

Correct Answer: (C) He can rob his benefactor.

Solution: The peddler’s moral failing is shown when he chooses to rob the crofter — someone who treated him with kindness. This highlights a deep flaw in his values.

Quick Tip

A benefactor is someone who helps — robbing such a person is a serious character flaw.

(v) Complete the following sentence:

The role of cow in the crofter’s life is _____.

Correct Answer: to provide him with livelihood through milk, which he sells to the creamery for money.

Solution: The cow is a source of income for the crofter. It allows him to earn money by selling milk, helping him live independently despite his old age.

Quick Tip

In rural settings, livestock like cows are valuable income sources — a central part of livelihood.

(vi) Choose one instance from the above extract to show that peddler acted like a well-mannered person.

Correct Answer: The peddler said “good bye and thank you” to the crofter before leaving.

Solution: Despite his later wrongdoing, the peddler displayed politeness and good manners in his words. This contrast enhances the irony of the situation.

Quick Tip

Even people who commit wrong can show surface politeness — but actions speak louder than words.

OR

(B) "It takes longer to build a school." I say, embarrassed at having made a promise that was not meant. But promises like mine abound in every corner of his bleak world. After months of knowing him, I ask him his name. 'Saheb-e-Alam', he announces. He does not know what it means. If he knew its meaning - lord of the universe - he would have a hard time believing it. Unaware of what his name represents, he roams the streets with his friends, an army of bare feet boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon. Over the months, I have come to recognise each of them.

"Why aren't you wearing chappals ?" I ask one. "My mother did not bring them down from the shelf." He answers simply.

"Even if she did he will throw them off," adds another who is wearing shoes that do not match. (The Last Spring)

Select the option from those given in brackets , to fill in the blank (i) The intention of the speaker in the first line of the extract is one of _____. (clarification / confusion)

Correct Answer: confusion

Solution: The speaker feels awkward and guilty for making a promise that wasn't genuine. The remark reflects uncertainty and embarrassment — showing confusion, not clarity.

Quick Tip

Confusion occurs when someone speaks without clear intent or confidence — as seen in false or unkept promises.

(ii) What is implied by the expression 'he would have a hard time believing it'?

- (A) Saheb is too innocent to believe everything.
- (B) Saheb is living up to his name.
- (C) Saheb’s living condition is contrary to the meaning of his name.
- (D) Saheb is not used to anyone calling his name.

Correct Answer: (C) Saheb’s living condition is contrary to the meaning of his name.

Solution: The name ‘Saheb-e-Alam’ means ‘lord of the universe’, but Saheb lives a life of poverty. The irony lies in the mismatch between name and reality, making it unbelievable for him.

Quick Tip

When someone’s name signifies grandeur but their life is full of struggle, irony and disbelief arise.

(iii) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank:

“Promises like mine abound in every corner of his bleak world.”

The above statement of the speaker reveals the fact that people like Saheb are _____ (deluded / empowered) by such promises.

Correct Answer: deluded

Solution: The line reflects how false promises mislead poor children like Saheb. They place hope in things that are rarely fulfilled, hence they are deluded rather than empowered.

Quick Tip

To be deluded is to be misled by false hopes — especially common in impoverished lives filled with empty promises.

(iv) State one reason for the boy was wearing shoes that did not match.

Correct Answer: Because he had to make do with whatever was available; poverty prevented him from owning a proper pair.

Solution: The mismatched shoes show how the children are forced to use whatever they can find. Matching or proper footwear is a luxury for them.

Quick Tip

Mismatched clothing or footwear in literature often symbolizes poverty and lack of access to basic needs.

(v) **The speaker describes Saheb's life as a 'bleak world' because**

- (A) he lives in a house without electricity.
- (B) his world is his friends.
- (C) his life is devoid of hope.
- (D) he belongs to the world of illiterates.

Correct Answer: (C) his life is devoid of hope.

Solution: 'Bleak world' signifies a life lacking in joy, opportunity, and future prospects. Saheb's reality is filled with poverty, broken promises, and emotional darkness.

Quick Tip

A "bleak world" implies hopelessness and hardship, not merely material lack.

(vi) **"Why aren't you wearing chappals?" I asked one.**

The conversation between the speaker and the boys reflects the _____ of the speaker.

Correct Answer: curiosity

Solution: The speaker is trying to understand the boys' choices and lifestyle. The question comes from a place of genuine interest and a desire to know more about their world.

Quick Tip

When characters ask sincere questions to understand others' lives, it reflects curiosity and empathy.

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions in 40-50 words each:

(i) What valid reason does Rudyard Kipling have to call an interview immoral? (*The Interview*)

Solution: Rudyard Kipling believed that interviews are immoral because they invade a person's privacy and compel them to expose personal matters. He felt it was like an unwarranted intrusion that could misrepresent someone's words or intentions. Kipling argued that the process is disrespectful and often misused to manipulate or sensationalize, thus degrading the dignity of the individual being interviewed.

Quick Tip

When explaining someone's opinion in literature, focus on the logic and emotion behind their view and relate it to the story's theme.

(ii) How was self-reliance intertwined with the Champaran incident? (*Indigo*)

Solution: The Champaran incident was a turning point where Gandhi promoted self-reliance among poor farmers. He encouraged them to stand up to British indigo planters through nonviolent resistance. Gandhi's leadership taught them to depend on their courage and collective unity rather than external help. It fostered a sense of empowerment and self-respect, showing that change could be achieved through moral strength and self-sufficiency.

Quick Tip

Connect historical events in stories with the values or ideologies promoted by key figures like Gandhi.

(iii) “I’ve plenty of time. I’ll learn it tomorrow. And now you see where we’ve come out.”

What does M. Hamel mean to convey through these lines? *(The Last Lesson)*

Solution: M. Hamel is criticizing the tendency to postpone learning, as people never realized the importance of their language until it was taken away. His statement conveys deep regret over the community’s neglect towards education and the French language. He wants to show that procrastination leads to irreversible loss, and people often value things only after losing them. His message is a warning about the cost of delay and carelessness in education.

Quick Tip

Look for themes of regret or loss when characters reflect on missed opportunities in prose texts.

(iv) How can Earth play the role of a teacher according to Pablo Neruda? *(Keeping Quiet)*

Solution: According to Pablo Neruda, Earth teaches us the value of stillness, balance, and renewal. When everything appears silent and still during winter, life goes on beneath the surface, preparing for a new beginning. This natural rhythm teaches humanity that introspection and pause are necessary for peace and harmony. Earth becomes a teacher by showing how moments of quiet can lead to growth and transformation.

Quick Tip

In poetry-based questions, explore symbolism and how nature is personified to reflect human values.

(v) ‘And such too is the grandeur of dooms’. How can ‘grandeur of dooms’ be impressive and inspiring according to Keats? *(A Thing of Beauty)*

Solution: Keats refers to the noble sacrifices and heroic deeds of people who faced tragic ends. The ‘grandeur of dooms’ represents the dignity and glory in such fates. These acts of courage and moral strength remain eternal sources of inspiration and beauty. Keats finds aesthetic and emotional power in such noble tragedies, which uplift the human spirit despite their sorrowful end.

Quick Tip

Link poetic phrases to broader human emotions like courage, legacy, or sacrifice when analyzing imagery.

(vi) “Christ, Sophie, you’re still at school.”

What image do you form of Geoff as a brother from the above context? *(Going Places)*

Solution: From Geoff’s reaction, we see him as a mature and realistic brother. He knows the difference between dreams and reality and is concerned about Sophie’s fantasies. His statement reflects protectiveness and possibly frustration, as he feels she is being naive. Geoff appears as someone grounded and practical, aware of the harshness of the real world, unlike his younger sister’s dreamy nature.

Quick Tip

Character sketch answers should include attitude, tone, and how one character reacts to or influences another.

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions , in 40-50 words each:

(i) **Why did Geoff Green start the ‘Students on Ice Programme’?** *(Journey to the End of the Earth)*

Solution: Geoff Green started the ‘Students on Ice Programme’ to provide young students with a firsthand experience of Antarctica’s unique ecosystem. He believed that exposing future decision-makers to this pristine environment would inspire them to understand and act on ecological and environmental issues with greater urgency and awareness.

Quick Tip

When answering purpose-based questions, explain the aim behind the action and its intended impact using specific examples.

(ii) ‘I will struggle first.’ I answered. What emotion and trait of Zitkala-Sa is revealed in her response? *(Childhood Memories)*

Solution: Zitkala-Sa’s response reflects her courage, determination, and resistance to oppression. It shows her inner strength and unwillingness to surrender to injustice. Her defiant attitude in the face of forced cultural assimilation highlights her strong will and deep attachment to her identity and freedom.

Quick Tip

Focus on emotional tone and character traits when analyzing dialogue or personal responses in autobiographical texts.

(iii) “Who can limit our future? It depends on what we make it.” What image do you form of Dr. Sadao’s father based on the above expressions? *(The Enemy)*

Solution: Dr. Sadao’s father comes across as a visionary and disciplined man who believed in self-reliance and focused effort. His words suggest he valued ambition, hard work, and personal responsibility. He instilled in his son the importance of determination and shaping one’s destiny through perseverance and dedication.

Quick Tip

Use quoted expressions to infer character qualities and values, especially for indirect character sketches.

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following three questions , in 120-150 words each:

(A) Umberto Eco: “I consider myself a University professor who writes novels on Sundays”.

Umberto Eco in *The Interview* and William Douglas in *Deep Water* are multifaceted personalities. Elaborate with reference to the texts.

Solution: Umberto Eco and William Douglas are portrayed as individuals of remarkable depth and versatility. In *The Interview*, Eco reveals his identity as a university professor with a structured academic life who also engages in creative pursuits like writing novels. His ability to balance rigorous scholarship with fiction writing illustrates his intellectual agility and time management. He believes in using “interstices”—the gaps in his schedule—for productive work, highlighting his discipline and passion for learning.

In contrast, William Douglas in *Deep Water* exemplifies a different kind of multifaceted personality. He is a man of strong resolve and inner strength. After a traumatic experience with water, he undertakes the challenging journey of overcoming his fear through persistent effort. His transformation from a fearful child to a confident swimmer reflects his courage, patience, and determination. Beyond the swimming pool, Douglas became a renowned judge who stood for civil liberties and justice—again showing complexity in character.

Both Eco and Douglas represent individuals who do not let themselves be defined by a single role. They reflect a blend of intellect, creativity, emotional depth, and moral strength. Their lives encourage readers to embrace multiple dimensions of identity and to keep growing intellectually and personally.

Quick Tip

Highlight how each figure exhibits personal and professional depth. Use examples from the texts to showcase versatility and resilience.

OR

(B) What do the images of nature signify in Keats' *A Thing of Beauty* and Pablo Neruda's *Keeping Quiet*?

Solution: In both *A Thing of Beauty* and *Keeping Quiet*, the poets use nature as a powerful symbol of healing, reflection, and peace. Keats' imagery in *A Thing of Beauty* evokes a world where beauty in nature—like clear rills, shady trees, and blooming flowers—acts as an eternal source of joy and hope. These images soothe human suffering, lift the burden of despair, and serve as an escape from the harshness of life. Keats views nature as a divine and everlasting wellspring of positivity that connects man with a higher aesthetic and emotional truth.

In contrast, Neruda in *Keeping Quiet* uses nature to advocate for introspection, mindfulness, and unity. His imagery—such as the earth teaching us through quietness and the example of fishermen pausing to mend their nets—suggests that nature embodies wisdom and balance. The stillness he promotes is not passive but transformative; it invites humans to reconsider their destructive actions and to live in peaceful coexistence with the environment and each other.

Keats celebrates the physical and emotional beauty of nature, finding in it a source of inspiration and comfort. Neruda, however, uses nature as a guide and teacher, encouraging self-awareness, silence, and spiritual renewal. While Keats focuses on the joy nature brings in the midst of despair, Neruda sees it as a path to global harmony and inner peace.

Together, the poems convey that nature is not only aesthetically pleasing but also intellectually and spiritually enriching. It becomes a medium through which the poets urge humanity to pause, reflect, heal, and transform. The images of nature in both works remind us that reconnecting with the natural world can lead to a more harmonious and purposeful life.

Quick Tip

Compare Keats' aesthetic appreciation of nature with Neruda's philosophical interpretation. Use rich imagery and connect it with the central themes of healing, harmony, and reflection.

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following three questions , in 120-150 words each:

(A) Compare the characters of Zitkala-Sa and Bama in terms of their struggle, pain, determination, and success. *(Memories of Childhood)*

Solution: Zitkala-Sa and Bama, in their respective narratives, present powerful accounts of personal struggle against systemic oppression. Zitkala-Sa, a Native American, is forcibly stripped of her cultural identity when she is sent to a school run by white missionaries. Her resistance to cutting her hair and her emotional turmoil represent a deep struggle to preserve her dignity. Despite the humiliation, she emerges stronger and later becomes a writer and activist advocating for the rights of her people.

Similarly, Bama, a young Dalit girl from Tamil Nadu, confronts the entrenched caste discrimination in Indian society. The turning point comes when she realizes the injustice of untouchability and the humiliation associated with it. Inspired by her brother's words, she pursues education as a means to fight back. Her determination leads to personal empowerment and professional success, and she ultimately becomes a voice against caste-based oppression.

Both girls suffer pain—Zitkala-Sa through cultural alienation and Bama through social exclusion. Yet both channel their anguish into action. Their stories underscore the transformative power of education and inner strength. Despite being silenced by society, they reclaim their identity through courage, awareness, and resilience.

Thus, Zitkala-Sa and Bama exemplify how marginalized voices can challenge the status quo. Their journeys inspire readers to question social injustice and recognize that change begins with individual resistance backed by determination.

Quick Tip

Draw parallels between the characters' experiences, highlighting both the emotional and social aspects of their journey. Use key incidents from the text to support the comparison.

OR

(B) 'It is only war that makes people enemies.' Analyse the theme of the lesson '*The Enemy*' in the light of the above statement.

Solution: *The Enemy* by Pearl S. Buck powerfully illustrates how enmity is often a construct of war rather than a reflection of human nature. The protagonist, Dr. Sadao, a Japanese surgeon, finds himself treating an injured American prisoner of war—a man who, under normal circumstances, would be considered his enemy. However, the humanity of the situation transcends political divisions.

Dr. Sadao's decision to save the soldier is driven not by allegiance to his country but by a moral obligation to a fellow human being. His dilemma reflects the inner conflict between nationalism and compassion. Despite the fear of punishment and societal judgment, he cannot allow an injured man to die when he has the power to heal him. His wife, Hana, shares his fear but ultimately supports his humane choice.

The story contrasts the constructed hatred brought on by war with the universal values of empathy, kindness, and ethical responsibility. It questions the idea that nationality should define relationships and highlights the artificiality of boundaries created by conflict.

Through Dr. Sadao's actions, Buck asserts that war may label people as enemies, but it is compassion and shared humanity that define true moral choices. The narrative reminds readers that the real enemy is not a person, but prejudice, hatred, and fear created by war.

Quick Tip

Focus on how war distorts human relationships and how the protagonist's compassion reasserts the importance of universal values over nationalistic hostility.

