

**Directorate of Education, GNCT of Delhi**  
**Practice Paper (Session: 2023-24)**

**Class: XII**  
**Duration: 3 hours**

**Subject: English Core**  
**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. The paper is divided into three sections Section-A: Reading Comprehension, Section-B: Writing Skills and Section-C: Literature. All the sections are compulsory.
2. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.
3. Please write down the serial number of the question in the answer script correctly before attempting it.
4. Separate instructions are given with each question, wherever necessary. Read these carefully.

**SECTION--A: READING SKILLS**

1. Read the following passage:

12 Marks

1. Mother's Day is a holiday honouring motherhood that is observed in different forms throughout the world. In the United States, Mother's Day occurs on Sunday, May 10. While dates and celebrations vary, Mother's Day traditionally involves presenting moms with flowers, cards and other gifts.

2. The origins of Mother's Day as celebrated in the United States date back to the 19th century. In the years before the Civil War, Anna Reeves Jarvis of West Virginia helped start "Mothers' Day Work Clubs" to teach local women how to properly care for their children. These clubs later became a unifying force in a region of the country still divided over the Civil War. In 1868 Jarvis organized "Mothers' Friendship Day," at which mothers gathered with former Union and Confederate soldiers to promote reconciliation.

3. The official Mother's Day holiday arose in the 1900s as a result of the efforts of Anna Jarvis, daughter of Ann Reeves Jarvis. Following her mother's 1905 death, Anna Jarvis conceived of Mother's Day as a way of honouring the sacrifices mothers made for their children. After gaining financial backing from a Philadelphia department store owner named John Wanamaker, in May 1908 she organized the first official Mother's Day celebration at a Methodist church in Grafton, West Virginia. That same day also saw thousands of people attend a Mother's Day event at one of Wanamaker's retail stores in Philadelphia.

4. Following the success of her first Mother's Day, Jarvis—who remained unmarried and childless her whole life—resolved to see her holiday added to the national calendar. Arguing that American holidays were biased toward male achievements, she started a massive letter writing campaign to newspapers and prominent politicians urging the adoption of a special day honouring motherhood.

5. By 1912 many states, towns and churches had adopted Mother's Day as an annual holiday, and Jarvis had established the Mother's Day International Association to help promote her cause. Her persistence paid off in 1914 when President Woodrow Wilson signed a measure officially establishing the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

6. Anna Jarvis had originally conceived of Mother's Day as a day of personal celebration between mothers and families. Her version of the day involved wearing a white carnation as a badge and visiting one's mother or attending church services. But once Mother's Day became a national holiday, it was not long before florists, card companies and other merchants capitalized on its popularity.

7. While Jarvis had initially worked with the floral industry to help raise Mother's Day's profile, by 1920 she had become disgusted with how the holiday had been commercialized. She outwardly denounced the transformation and urged people to stop buying Mother's Day flowers, cards and candies.

8. Jarvis eventually resorted to an open campaign against Mother's Day profiteers, speaking out against confectioners, florists and even charities. She also launched countless lawsuits against groups that had used the name "Mother's Day," eventually spending most of her personal wealth in legal fees. By the time of her death in 1948 Jarvis had disowned the holiday altogether, and even actively lobbied the government to see it removed from the American calendar.

<https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/mothers-day>

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

1. Commonly, Mother's Day celebration involves 1
  - a) presenting moms with flowers and other gifts
  - b) fighting for rights of mothers
  - c) celebrating Mothering Sunday
  - d) enjoying motherhood
2. What was the purpose of the Mother's Day work clubs in the 19th century? 2
3. What event did Anna Jarvis organize in May 1908 to celebrate Mother's Day? 1
  - a) A nationwide parade
  - b) A church service in Philadelphia
  - c) A celebration at a Methodist church in Grafton, West Virginia
  - d) A political rally
4. What is the traditional date of Mother's Day in the United States? 1
  - a) April 15

b) May 10

c) June 20

d) July 4

5. Why did Anna Jarvis start a letter writing campaign to newspapers and politicians? 1

a) To promote reconciliation between Union and Confederate soldiers

b) To establish a national holiday for mothers

c) To advocate for women's suffrage

d) To protest against male achievements

6. Before Anna Jarvis passed away, she had 1

a) spent most of her personal wealth in legal fees

b) disowned the holiday altogether

c) lobbied the government to see this holiday reinstated

d) Both options a) and b)

7. How did Anna Jarvis envision the original celebration of Mother's Day? 1

a) A day for mothers to attend church services

b) A day of personal celebration between mothers and families

c) A nationwide parade to honour mothers

d) A day for women's rights activism

8. The years 1908, 1914 and 1920 are associated with 1

a) Anna Reeves Jarvis

b) Anna Jarvis

c) Coretta Scott

d) Woodrow Wilson

9. Even though the American incarnation of Mother's Day was created by Anna Jarvis, she later denounced the holiday. Why? 2

10. The internationally acclaimed Mother's Day gained popularity when 1

a) it transformed from secular to religious

b) it transcended cross country boundaries

c) it converted from religious to secular

d) it became enfranchised with commercialization

2. Read the following passage:

10 marks

Prime Minister Modi's Independence Day speech reiterated his earlier pitch that India can become a developed nation by 2047. He pointed out that India's uniquely placed to get there, propelled by the world's largest population below 30, the growing number of educated women and its position as the voice of the Global South at a time when a new world order is emerging after the outbreak of the pandemic. But realising opportunities presented by this confluence of positives will need a coherent approach to transform the economy.

The World Bank currently classifies India as a lower middle income country on the basis of per capita gross national income. This measure is inadequate. For example, Bermuda, an offshore financial centre, tops the World Bank list and is six places ahead of the US, the world's most influential nation. Therefore, a better measure is the expansion of all-round capabilities that offer everyone economic opportunities and improve the quality of life. India's large sub-30 population can uncage the economy only if they have opportunities in more productive sectors. To make it happen, reforms need to directly address India's underemployment problem, which allows youth to transition from farms to industry at too slow a pace.

Today, more girls than boys take up education in STEM. It's a significant marker of social progress and also economic potential. Yet, women's labour force participation rate was 24% in 2022 compared to the global average of 47%. To allow women to use their training, improving the rule of law is essential. Inadequate public safety coupled with poor transport facilities deny women economic opportunities. It leads to a sub-par economic performance.

India has used its G20 presidency to evolve solutions for some pressing problems of the Global South such as the debt crisis. To further expand its sphere of influence, India needs to improve its global ranking of 18 in merchandise export. Trade policy, which has turned protectionist, needs to be reset as no country has become developed without using cross-border trade as a vehicle of economic growth. Modi's pitch is good because it's an ambition grounded in real advantages. He should next put the weight of his office and his personal appeal to championing a new set of internal reforms, aimed at unshackling the productive potential of all sections of the economy. And these reforms will have to be underpinned by better quality human capital. It's tough. But it can be done by 2047.

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

- 1: According to the passage, what did Modi emphasize in his Independence Day speech? 1
- a) The need for India to become a global superpower
  - b) The importance of population control
  - c) The potential for India to become a developed nation
  - d) The challenges of the new world order after the pandemic

2: What factor does Modi believe makes India uniquely positioned for development? 1

- a) Its large elderly population
- b) Its strong military presence
- c) Its dominance in technology
- d) Its young population and global influence

3: What is the significance of the statistic that more girls than boys take up education in STEM? 1

- a) It highlights a global trend in education.
- b) It indicates the need for greater gender equality.
- c) It is a marker of social and economic progress.
- d) It reflects a lack of opportunities for boys in STEM.

4: What is one factor contributing to the sub-par economic performance of women in India? 1

- a) Inadequate public safety and poor transport facilities
- b) Lack of access to STEM education
- c) The debt crisis in the Global South
- d) Protectionist trade policies

5: What is suggested as a way for India to improve its global ranking in merchandise export? 1

- a) Increase protectionist trade policies
- b) Focus on domestic industries
- c) Reset its trade policy to encourage cross-border trade
- d) Reduce trade relations with other countries

6: What is the main idea of the passage? 1

- a) The vision for India's economic growth by 2047
- b) The need for population control in India
- c) The importance of women's education in STEM fields
- d) The challenges of global trade policies

7: According to the passage, what is the timeline for achieving India's transformation into a developed nation? 1

- a) By 2022
- b) By 2047

c) By 2050

d) By 2030

8: How does the passage suggest that India's economic growth can be achieved? 1

a) By focusing solely on protectionist trade policies

b) Through increased government control over industries

c) Through a combination of internal reforms and better human capital

d) By relying on offshore financial centres

9: How does the World Bank currently classify India in terms of income? 1

a) High income

b) Upper middle income

c) Lower middle income

d) Low income

10: What role does India play in addressing the debt crisis of the Global South, as mentioned in the passage? 1

a) It contributes significant financial resources to address the crisis.

b) It uses its G20 presidency to propose solutions.

c) It advocates for a reduction in global trade barriers.

d) It provides humanitarian aid to countries in need.

### SECTION--B CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

3. Your school AVB Bal Vidyalaya, Sirsa has completed 50 years of meritorious service to the society. As Ram / Radhika, President of the Student Council of your school, write a notice in not more than 50 words, informing about the event, chief guest, etc and inviting the name of the students to participate in the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the School. 4

OR

Your school has planned an excursion to Lonavala, near Mumbai during the autumn holidays. Write a notice in not more than 50 words for your school notice board, giving detailed information and inviting the names of those who are desirous to join. You are Naresh/ Namita, Head Boy/ Girl, DV Public School, Mumbai.

4. You are Rajnish/Rajni Mehta, an eminent educationist. You have been invited to Nav Nirmaan School, Kolkata to attend and speak at a workshop on the topic 'The Importance of Time

Management'. Draft a letter of acceptance of the invitation to the Cultural In-Charge, in about 50 words. 4

OR

You are Mohan/Mohini, a noted speaker. You have been invited by Rotary Club to act as one of the judges for an Elocution Competition for students of class XI and XII. But due to a previous engagement you cannot accept this invitation. Write a formal reply to the President of the Club regretting your inability to accept the invitation

5. You are Prakriti/Prabhat, a resident of College Road, Bhopal. You see the following advertisement, in the newspaper, for the job of a 'Marketing Officer' in Chaitanya Enterprises, Mumbai. Write an application with detailed bio-data in about 120-150 words to the Public Relations Officer of the firm. 5

**SITUATION VACANT**

Chaitanya Enterprises requires an experienced Marketing Officer for its Mumbai branch. The applicant must have B.Sc./B.A. in Marketing, 6+ years experience. Additional skills preferred- Effective written and communication skills, thorough understanding of marketing techniques and principles, knowledge of MS Office, social media and web analytics. Apply to Sunil Baweja, Public Relations Officer.

OR

You are Vikas/Vanika of Lok Vihar, Delhi. You find it concerning that the menstruation stigmas continue to be a huge part of the society. Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper generating awareness about this natural phenomenon that has been stigmatized since generations, in 120-150 words.

6. The Ministry of Transport, New Delhi organised a one day 'Auto-Mela' at the Institute of Driving, Saket to motivate women drivers to take up commercial driving. The day long event was inaugurated by the Commissioner of Police and included an introduction to commercial driving — its rules and regulations, a basic training session in self-defence, a run through of the licensing procedures and a sale of second-hand cars. You are Anita/Anil, Staff Reporter of 'The Daily News'. Write a report in 120-150 words mentioning date, main features, purpose and response of the participants. 5

OR

Choice of course/stream after clearing Senior School Examination, produces a great deal of stress in the minds of our students. Counselling can be of great help to them. Write an article in 120-150 words on the topic "Role of counselling in choice of course". You are Mohini/ Manav.

**Use the following clues-** deciding a career goal important -discover their potential and interests -the pressure starts building up- at the threshold -counselling can help-decide your career based on your aptitude, skills, interests, performance and personality- strengths and weaknesses - counsellor identifies qualities and guides informed choice.

### **SECTION--C: LITERATURE TEXT BOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READER TEXT**

7. Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow: 6X1=6

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

- i. Which poetic device is used in the last line of the extract.
  - a. simile
  - b. metaphor
  - c. repetition
  - d. alliteration
- ii. What does the phrase 'a bower quiet' indicate?
  - a. serenity
  - b. morality
  - c. superiority
  - d. diversity
- iii. The benefits of a thing of beauty for humans include :
  - a. health and calm mind
  - b. tiredness
  - c. struggle-free life
  - d. better relationships
- iv. Complete the sentence:  
When the poet says that 'a thing of beauty' will never pass into nothingness, he means that it is \_\_\_\_\_
- v. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.
  1. We are surrounded by beautiful things.

2. Beautiful things provide us joy.
- (1) can be inferred from the extract but (2) cannot.
  - (2) can be inferred from the extract but (1) cannot.
  - Both (1) and (2) can be inferred from the extract.
  - (2) is the reason for (1) and can be inferred from the extract.

vi. Explain: A flowery band to bind us to the earth

OR

What I want would not be  
confused with inactivity.  
Life is what it is about;  
I want no truck with death.  
If we were not so single-minded about keeping our lives moving,  
and for once could do nothing,  
Perhaps a huge silence  
might interrupt this sadness  
Of never understanding ourselves  
And of threatening ourselves with death.

i. Name the poem and the poet

ii. Identify the phrase from the extract, that suggests the following:

The poet wants to have no association with death as death is the end of life.

iii. The poem discusses the need of

- having conversation with each other.
- maintaining peace and silence.
- maintaining social relations.
- Fulfilling the generation gap

iv. According to Neruda, what are we so single-minded about?

v. On the basis of extract, choose the correct option with reference to 1 and 2 given below.

1. Neruda asks to maintain peace and remain silent in the poem.

2. He stresses upon being quiet and harmless to the human beings, animals and environment

- 1 is true but 2 is false.
- 2 is true but 1 is false.
- Both 1 and 2 can be inferred from the extract.
- 2 is the reason of 1.

vi. Find a word from the lines which means the same as 'stopping the continuous progress'

8. Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow: 4X1=4

A. 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 fulfilment. 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.

- i. 1. Why did the narrator go to a psychiatrist?
- ii. 2. What is Waking dream wish fulfilment; according to the psychiatrist in the lesson?
  - a. Charley's finding a Third Level at Grand Central Station and his realisation of his wish to visit Galesburg, Illinois
  - b. Charley's Stamp collecting hobby
  - c. Charley's reaching home late from office
  - d. Charley's escapism
- iii. Select the option that signifies the condition of people of the 'modern world' mentioned in the extract
  - a. anxious
  - b. nostalgic
  - c. happy
  - d. excited
- iv. Why did Sam's explanation make Charley's wife 'mad'?
  - a) It seemed to her that she was not a good wife.
  - b) It seemed to suggest to her that the cause of Charley's unhappiness was their marriage.
  - c) It made her aware of Charley's bad habits.
  - d) It offended her that Sam was accusing her for the present situation.

OR

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 it be the end of the world as we know it? Maybe. Maybe not. Either way, Antarctica is a crucial element in this debate not just because it's the only place in the world, which has never sustained a human population and therefore remains relatively "pristine" in this respect; but more importantly, because it holds in its ice-cores half-million-year-old carbon records trapped in its layers of ice.

- i. According to the extract, which of the following is a strongly debated topic?
  - a. Price change
  - b. Oil change
  - c. Climate change

- d. Road change
- ii. Which of the following is not a correct meaning of 'pristine'?
  - a. Original
  - b. Natural
  - c. Inadequate
  - d. Pure
- iii. Why is Antarctica a crucial element in this debate?
- iv. Which of the following possibility has not been indicated in the extract?
  - a Melting of entire ice sheet
  - b Disruption in Gulf Ocean Current
  - c End of the world
  - d Beginning of a new era

9. Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow: 6X1=6

A. The instructor put a belt around me. A rope attached to the belt went through a pulley that ran on an overhead cable. He held on to the end of the rope, and we went back and forth, back and forth across the pool, hour after hour, day after day, week after week. On each trip across the pool a bit of the panic seized me. Each time the instructor relaxed his hold on the rope and I went under, some of the old terror returned and my legs froze. It was three months before the tension began to slack. Then he taught me to put my face under water and exhale, and to raise my nose and inhale. I repeated the exercise hundreds of times. Bit by bit I shed part of the panic that seized me when my head went under water.

- i. The given lines show that the author overcame his fear with
  - a. courage and determination
  - b. with love and care
  - c. with motivation derived from mother's words
  - d. with fear and panic
- ii. Select the option that lists the correct inference based on the information in the extract.
  - a. Douglas hired an instructor to learn different skills of swimming
  - b. Douglas hired an instructor to help him get over his fear and learn how to swim
  - c. Douglas hired an instructor to handle the ropes and cables that would help him swim.
  - d. Douglas hired an instructor to save him from any mishaps related to his fear.
- iii. How did the instructor make Douglas a good swimmer? (Any one point)
- iv. What does the 'panic' refer to in the extract?
- v. Douglas says that with the instructor's methodology and his practice, his fear began to slack. He means that his fear
  - a. became his strength

- b. started to reduce
- c. had left him
- d. became inconsequential for him

- vi. When did the panic seize the narrator?
- a. when he was in the middle of the water
  - b. after the instructor finished his training
  - c. when his head went under water
  - d. when his wits left him

OR

Some might make quite extravagant claims for it as being, in its highest form, a source of truth, and, in its practice, an art. Others, usually celebrities who see themselves as its victims, might despise the interview as an unwarranted intrusion into their lives, or feel that it somehow diminishes them, just as in some primitive cultures it is believed that if one takes a photographic portrait of somebody then one is stealing that person's soul. V. S. Naipaul 'feels that some people are wounded by interviews and lose a part of themselves,' Lewis Carroll, the creator of Alice in Wonderland, was said to have had a just horror of the interviewer' and he never consented to be interviewed.

i. What contrasting views about interviews are highlighted in the passage?

- a) Interviews are universally beneficial for everyone.
- b) Interviews can be seen as both enlightening and invasive.
- c) Interviews are solely despised by celebrities.
- d) Interviews are like stealing souls in primitive cultures.

ii. Who among the mentioned personalities expressed a strong aversion to interviews?

- a) V. S. Naipaul
- b) Mukund Padmanabhan
- c) All Celebrities
- d) Umberto Eco

iii. According to the passage, why did Lewis Carroll avoid interviews?

- a) He despised all forms of media attention.
- b) He believed interviews were soul-stealing.
- c) He felt horrified by interviews.
- d) He considered interviews an art form.

iv. What analogy is drawn between interviews and a belief in primitive cultures?

- a) Both are forms of soul-stealing.
- b) Both are considered unwarranted intrusions.

- c) Both are regarded as a source of truth.
- d) Both are admired by celebrities.

v. How does V. S. Naipaul perceive the impact of interviews on individuals?

- a) He believes interviews enhance one's personality.
- b) He feels interviews cause wounds and a loss of self.
- c) He perceives interviews as enriching the soul.
- d) He considers interviews an art form.

vi. What general perception of interviews is conveyed in the passage?

**10.** Answer any five out of the following six questions in 40-50 words each: 5X2=10

- a) In what way is the children's perspective towards garbage different from adults?
- b) He knew well that he was never a Captain, still the peddler signed himself as Captain Von Stahle. Why?
- c) Why was Sophie jealous of her brother George's silence?
- d) How does Aunt Jennifer's artwork serve as a form of self-expression in the poem "Aunt Jennifer's Tigers" by Adrienne Rich?
- e) Why does the poet smile, and what does she say while bidding goodbye to her mother?
- f) What did Gandhi do to improve the health conditions in Champaran?

**11.** Answer any two out of the following three questions in 40-50 words: 2X2=4

- a) Why did the clerk refuse to accept the money that Charlie gave him?
- b) How did the Maharaja's hand become seriously infected?
- c) Why did the servants leave Dr. Sadao's house instead of complaining against him?

**12.** Answer any one of the following two questions in about 120-150 words: 1X5=5

“His visit remained an unexplained mystery.” Elaborate upon the lack of communication between the Englishman and the people at Gemini Studios?

OR

Within a few years the British planters gave up their estates. Thus indigo sharecropping disappeared. How did Gandhi's foresight help to achieve freedom for the fear-stricken peasants of Champaran?

**13.** Answer any one of the following two questions in about 120-150 words: 1X5=5

How did the prediction of the chief astrologer come true, even though the Tiger King had killed the hundred tigers?

OR

Both Zitkala Sa and Bama recount their childhood experiences in vastly different cultural settings, yet both narratives are imbued with a sense of resilience and the struggle for identity. Discuss.

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