SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER (2023-24) ENGLISH CORE (Code No. 301) CLASS-XII

Time allowed: 3 Hrs.

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

- 1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
- 2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION A : READING SKILLS (22 marks)

Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages

1.	Read the following text. 12 m
	Arthur lay in his cabin, still trying to piece together the events of the last few hours. He had watched
	his home planet of Earth be demolished to make way for a hyperspace bypass, been saved by his
	friend Ford, and then whisked away on a ship that was powered by an "infinite improbability drive."
	It was all too much for him.
5	Just then, Ford stuck his head around the door.
	"Hey, Earthman," he said, "come and have a look at this."
	Arthur stumbled after him down a corridor and into the ship's control room. He gazed in amazement
	at the banks of controls and flashing lights. In the center of the room was a large console covered in
10	buttons and switches, and in the middle of the console was a small, white mouse.
10	"What's that?" asked Arthur.
	"That's the ship's computer," said Ford.
	Arthur stared at the mouse. "That's a computer?" he said.
	"Yup," said Ford. "Five-dimensional, biologically-based, super intelligent, and in the form of a white
	lab mouse. Pretty neat, huh?"
15	"I don't know," said Arthur. "I don't think I really understand anything anymore. Why is a mouse the
	ship's computer?"
	"It's a long story," said Ford. "But the short version is that the mice built the Earth as a giant computer
	to figure out the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything. Then they ran out of money
	and had to destroy it to make way for a hyperspace bypass. So now they're using the Heart of Gold to
20	finish the calculation."
	Arthur was about to say something, but at that moment the ship's intercom crackled to life.
	"Good evening, Heart of Gold," said a smooth, computerized voice. "This is Eddie, your shipboard
	computer. I'm feeling a bit depressed today. Would you like me to sing you a song?"
	"Oh, not again," groaned Ford.
25	"Eddie, would you mind shutting up?" said Arthur.
	Arthur sighed and leaned back against the console, trying to make sense of everything. But as he
	closed his eyes, he heard a voice inside his head.
	"Hello?" it said.
	Arthur jumped, startled. "Who's there?" he said.
	"It's me," said the voice. "Marvin."
30	

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	"Marvin?" said Arthur. "Who's Marvin?"	
	"The Paranoid Android," said the voice.	
	Arthur looked around, but he didn't see anyone. "Where are you?" he said.	
	"I'm down here," said the voice.	
35	Arthur looked down and saw a small, metal figure shuffling across the floor. It was about thr	ree feet
55	tall, with a round head and a body that looked like it had been cobbled together from spare p	
	eyes were a dull red, and its voice was a monotone.	
Adapt	"I've been waiting for someone to talk to me for over two million years," said Marvin. ed - An excerpt from "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" by Douglas Adams / 444 words	
	ver the following questions, based on the passage above.	
i	Select the option that classifies Arthur's confusion about drastic events such as the	1
_	destruction of his home planet and the introduction of new technologies, correctly.	_
	A. Routine and boredom	
	B. Adventure and excitement	
	C. Loss and change	
	D. Calm and relaxation	
ii	What is the significance of the white lab mouse in the control room of the Heart of Gold	1
	spaceship?	
	A. It is the captain of the ship	
	B. It serves as the ship's computer	
	C. It is a pet of the crew	
	D. It is used for scientific experiments	
iii	Share evidence from the text, in about 40 words to support the view that the writer's writing	2
	style is descriptive and humourous.	4
iv	Complete the sentence appropriately with a characteristic or its description.	1
	Based on the information given in the excerpt, one can infer that the mice who built the Earth are	
v	Select the option that is similar in meaning to Ford's expression , "Pretty neat, huh?".	1
v	A. Easy , isn't it?	T
	B. Could be worse, no?	
	C. Impressive, yes?	
	D. Too difficult for you?	
vi	Explain, in about 40 words, why the name "The Paranoid Android" is considered ironic.	2
vii	In the line, "a body that looked like it had been cobbled together from spare parts", what	1
	comparison does the word "cobbled" refer to?	
viii	How does the following, impact the reader, even though they know Marvin is just an android?	2
	"I've been waiting for someone to talk to me for over two million years," said Marvin.	
	Answer in about 40 words.	
ix	Read the five headlines (a) -(e), given below:	1
	(a) HUMANITY'S JOURNEY WITNESSED BY A DEPRESSED ROBOT	
	(b) HITCHHIKING THROUGH SPACE: A COMICAL TAKE ON THE END OF THE WORLD	
	(c) NEW STUDY FINDS ALIENS LIVING AMONG US	
	(d) GROUNDBREAKING TECHNOLOGY WILL SOON ENABLE TIME TRAVEL	
	(e) INTERGALACTIC TRAVEL VIA NEW INFINITE IMPROBABILITY DRIVE	
	Identify the option that displays the headline/s that DOES/ DO NOT correspond with	
	occurrences in the passage.	

	A. Only (a)	
	B. (b) (c) and (d)	
	C. Only (e)	
	D. (a) and (e)	
2.	Read the following text.	10 m
(1)	In recent years, there has been a surge in both group and solo travel among young adults in	
(1)	survey conducted among young adults aged 18-25 aimed to explore the reasons behind their	
	preferences and recorded the percentage variation for 10 common points that influence	e travel
	choices.	
(2)	Among those who prefer solo travel, the most common reason cited was the desire for indepe	
(2)	and freedom (58%), followed closely by the opportunity for introspection and self-discovery	
	Additionally, solo travellers appreciated the ability to customize their itinerary to their prefe	erences
	(44%) and the chance to meet new people on their own terms (36%).	_
(2)	On the other hand, those who prefer group travel often cited the desire for socializing and	making
(3)	new friends (61%) as their primary reason. Group travel also provided a sense of security and	d safety
	in unfamiliar places (52%) and allowed for shared experiences and memories with others	(48%).
	Additionally, group travellers enjoyed the convenience of having pre-planned itinerari	ies and
	organized transportation (38%).	
(4)	Interestingly, both groups had similar levels of interest in exploring new cultures and tryi	-
(4)	experiences (40% for solo travellers, 36% for group travellers). Similarly, both groups value	
	opportunity to relax and escape from the stresses of everyday life (36% for solo travellers, 3	32% for
	group travellers).	
(5)	However, there were also some notable differences between the two groups. For examp	
	travellers placed a higher priority on budget-friendly travel options (38%) compared to	•
	travellers (24%). Conversely, group travellers were more likely to prioritize luxury and comfort	t during
<u> </u>	their travels (28%) compared to solo travellers (12%).	
(6)	Overall, the survey results suggest that both group and solo travel have their own unique adva	antages
	and appeal to different individuals, based on their preferences and priorities.	
	ed for academic usage / 290 words	
Ans	wer the following questions, based on given passage.	2
I	Infer two possible ways that the survey , mentioned in paragraph (1) could be beneficial.	2
	Answer in about 40 words.	1
ii	Which travel choice point of the survey would influence tour operators to incorporate group	1
	dinners, social events, and shared accommodations in their itinerary?	
	A. Freedom to customise itinerary	
	B. Luxury and comfort	
	C. Security and safety	
	D. Desire for making new friends	1
iii	What do the top choices in the survey, for traveling solo and in a group suggest about young	1
	adults?	4
iv	Identify the solo traveller from the following three travellers:	1
	(a) Reshma- I don't want to keep hunting for rickshaws or taxis. A pre-booked vehicle is	
	perfect.	
	(b) Nawaz-I'm happy sharing a room in a hostel. I don't need hotel accommodation.	
	(c) Deepak-I'm not worried about my well-being , even while exploring remote areas.	4
v	Which of the following is an example of an opportunity for self-discovery, as mentioned in	1
	paragraph 2?	

	A. Trying new cuisine	
	B. Hiring a tour guide	
	C. Purchasing local artifacts	
	D. Advance booking travel tickets	
vi	How might the differences in budget priorities between solo and group travellers impact the	2
	types of accommodations and activities offered by the travel industry in India?	
vii	Complete the sentence appropriately.	1
	The similarities in the percentage of both solo and group travellers who are interested in	
	exploring new cultures and trying new experiences may be due to	
viii	State TRUE or FALSE.	1
	The title, "Wanderlust: The Solo Travel Trend Among Young Adults in India", is appropriate	
	for this passage.	

SECTION B : CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 marks)

	Note : All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose .	
3	Attempt ANY ONE of two , in about 50 words.	4
Α	Bali High Public School has recently created CureGreen, a dedicated area for local medicinal	herbs
	and shrubs, adjacent to the flower garden, on campus. As Rachel Tiwari, Captain of the Eco	-Club ,
	draft a notice for the school notice board, informing students of classes XI-XII, about a guide	d walk
	through CureGreen, post assembly, on Friday, 10 July. Invite care-giver applications, for CureC	Green.
	OR	
В	You are the Secretary of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme , Jastinapur, Sector D-3 Society.	
	Draft a notice for the Society notice board, informing residents about the change of	
	personnel, Head Security, Gate 2 and share necessary details. Also, include the news of	
	installation of the much awaited security camera, on the Eastern periphery of the Society.	
4	Attempt ANY ONE of two , in about 50 words.	4
Α	You are the Student Head, Cultural Affairs, at M.K. Sr. Sec. School. Your school is organising a	
	2-day Yoga camp over the weekend, for parents of the school students. Create an invitation,	
	inviting the school parents for this Yoga camp. Share information about the camp organisers	
	and include other necessary details.	
	OR	
В	Smt. Leelavati Khatri, your grandmother, has received an invitation from her childhood friend	
	, residing at a distance in the same city. The invite is for the blessing ceremony and celebratory	
	dinner, marking the birth of her granddaughter. Your grandmother wishes to attend the event	
	but would need to be accompanied by a family member to assist her with her wheelchair.	
	Create an appropriate reply, accepting this invitation, on behalf of your grandmother.	
5	Attempt ANY ONE of two , in about 120-150 words.	5
Α	You are Damanjit Singh, a fresh graduate of film-making (BFA), from JTTI, Chandigarh. You sa	aw the
	given advertisement in the newspaper and wish to apply for the position advertised. Write a	
	to Mili Johar Arts, along with your bio-data, expressing your interest in the advertised post.	

	Mili Johar ARTS	
	ASSISTANT DIRECTORS	
	wanted	
	For Feature Film Opportunity for aspiring Assistant Directors	
	WHO DO WE NEED? Freshers. Experienced , both welcome	
	REQUIRED -Degree/ Diploma in Film Making	
	Skills : Camera handling, functional knowledge of Marathi, exceptional communication skills and ability to multi-task	
	Please send your resumes to- The Johar House, Offices 05-06, (latest by 23 July 2023) Diyali Hill, Mumbai	
3	OR Despite being an essential component of road safety infrastructure, many people do not resp	
В	Despite being an essential component of road safety infrastructure, many people do not resp zebra crossings and fail to follow traffic rules, which results in hazardous situations on the roads Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, sharing your concern, and examining the reasons such behaviour. Provide suggestions for spreading awareness of rules and etiquettes involved, ways to ensure adherence. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this letter.	s. s for and
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		Importance for personal growth + community development Benefits - For self: new skills, experiences, a sense of purpose For community: positive impact What are the ways one could get involved ?
	·	OR
В	•	Velfare Association), Nandipura -II, launched a volunteer programme for the around the neighbourhood, on 18 January 2023. As Sunitha. J, the local
	correspondent of the	neighbourhood newsletter, write a report, covering this event. Support your given below, to craft your report.
	correspondent of the ideas with outline cue	
	correspondent of the ideas with outline cue	given below, to craft your report.
	correspondent of the ideas with outline cue $\rightarrow \text{ wh}$ $\rightarrow \text{ act}$	given below, to craft your report.
	correspondent of the ideas with outline cue $\rightarrow \text{ wh}$ $\rightarrow \text{ act}$ $\rightarrow \text{ any}$	ch volunteer programme? - purpose of the launch event -it's importance vities that took place -who attended ?
	correspondent of the ideas with outline cue $\rightarrow \text{ wh}$ $\rightarrow \text{ act}$ $\rightarrow \text{ any}$ $\rightarrow \text{ how}$	ch volunteer programme? - purpose of the launch event -it's importance vities that took place -who attended ? key messages delivered?
	correspondent of the ideas with outline cue \rightarrow wh \rightarrow act \rightarrow any \rightarrow hov \rightarrow any	ch volunteer programme? - purpose of the launch event -it's importance vities that took place -who attended ? key messages delivered? v were young adults encouraged to join the volunteer program?

SECTION C : LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40 marks)

7.	Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.	6
Α.	And such too is the grandeur of the dooms	
	We have imagined for the mighty dead;	
	All lovely tales that we have heard or read:	
	An endless fountain of immortal drink,	
	Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.	
	(A Thing of Beauty)	
i	Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract?	1
	A. The beauty of nature	
	B. The power of imagination	
	C. The immortality of art and literature	
	D. The inevitability of death	
ii	State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract.	1
	By referring to the dead as "mighty", the poet emphasizes their importance and the power	
	they exerted on the people.	
iii	Complete the sentence appropriately.	1
	The "endless fountain of immortal drink" is an apt analogy for the tales of the mighty dead	
	because	
iv	The use of the word "brink" in the extract suggests that the immortality that is being poured	1
	onto us is on the verge of overflowing. This creates a powerful image of	
v	Based on the poem rhyme scheme, evident in lines 2-5, of the given extract, which word	1
	would rhyme with line 1?	
	said think tombs	
vi	Select the option that is NOT true about the lack of punctuation at the end of line 1 in the	1
	extract.	
	A. Creates a sense of continuity and flow that connects the line with the second line.	

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	B. Encourages the reader to continue reading seamlessly without any pause.	
	C. Creates a sense of anticipation and expectation for the reader.	
	D. Encourages a revisit to the ideas in the preceding lines.	
	OR	
В.	I looked again at her, wan,	
	pale	
	as a late winter's moon and felt that	
	old	
	familiar ache, my childhood's fear,	
	but all I said was, see you soon,	
	Amma, all I did was smile and smile and	
	smile	
•	(My mother at Sixty-six)	
I	What is the speaker's emotional state when looking at her mother?	1
	A. Confused and disoriented	
	B. Nostalgic and longing	
	C. Empathetic and understanding D. Fearful and apprehensive	
ii	What does the use of the word "but" at the beginning of the line, ' but all I said',	1
11	suggest ?	Ŧ
iii	Select the word that WILL NOT complete the sentence appropriately.	1
	The description of the mother as "wan, pale / as a late winter's moon" creates a vivid image	Ŧ
	of .	
	A. vulnerability	
	B. sensitivity	
	C. frailty	
	D. mortality	
iv	State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE.	1
	The poetic device used in the line, 'pale as a winter's moon' is the same as the one used in	
	the line, 'the winter wind wistfully wailed at night'.	
v	What message do these lines highlight, in the context of familial relationships, and the	1
	speaker's sense of anxiety and fear at the prospect of losing her mother?	
vi	Complete the sentence appropriately.	1
	The repetition of the word, 'smile' suggests that	
8.	Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.	4
Α.	Climate change is one of the most hotly contested environmental debates of our time. Will t	he 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 elemer	
	debate - not just because it's the only place in the world, which has never sustained a	
	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.	
	(Journey to the End of the Earth)	
i	How does the absence of a human population in Antarctica make it significant in the climate	1
••	change debate?	
ii	Why is "climate change" described as a "hotly contested" issue in the extract provided?	1
	This is so, because there	

s universal agreement on the causes and implications of climate change	
s a planned path ahead about how to address climate change	
re differing views on the causes and implications of climate change	
re minimal reports of fresh threats to climate change	
nalogy of a time machine is an appropriate analogy for the role of carbon rec	cords in 1
udy of climate change because	
one reason why the writing style of the extract can be called factual and inforr	mative. 1
OR	
er words, the Tiger King is dead.	
nanner of his death is a matter of extraordinary interest. It can be revealed o	only at the end of
le. The most fantastic aspect of his demise was that as soon as he was born	, astrologers had
old that one day the Tiger King would actually have to die.	
child will grow up to become the warrior of warriors, hero of heroes, champie	on of champions.
' they bit their lips and swallowed hard. When compelled to continue, the astr	ologers came out
t. "This is a secret which should not be revealed at all. And yet we are forced t	to speak out. The
porn under this star will one day have to meet its death."	
Figer King)	
lete the sentence appropriately.	1
uthor's purpose in using foreshadowing, is to	
given extract, what emotion were the astrologers feeling when they "bit the	heir lips 1
wallowed hard"?	
lumiliation	
Disbelief	
Grief	
Inease	
h trait are the astrologers lauding when they say "warrior of warriors, hero of	heroes, 1
pion of champions"?	
s the line, "the most fantastic aspect of his demise", an example of contrast?	1
the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.	
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ly, when school began, there was a great bustle, which could be heard out i	6
	6 in the street, the
ly, when school began, there was a great bustle, which could be heard out in ng and closing of desks, lessons repeated in unison, very loud, with our hands stand better, and the teacher's great ruler rapping on the table. But now it wa	6 in the street, the s over our ears to as all so still! I had
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iv	Pick evidence from the extract that helps one infer that this was not the protagonist's first	1
	time being late to school.	
v	What does the term 'terrible iron ruler' indicate about M. Hamel?	1
vi	Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the extract?	1
	A. The Fears of a Latecomer	
	B. The Importance of Punctuality	
	C. The Rigidity of the School System	
	D. The Anxiety of a Young Student	
	OR	
В	Unaware of what his name represents, he roams the streets with his friends, an army of I	parefoot
	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 ma	tch.
	When I comment on it, he shuffles his feet and says nothing. "I want shoes," says a third boy	who has
	never owned a pair all his life. Travelling across the country I have seen children walking bar	efoot, in
	cities, on village roads. It is not lack of money but a tradition to stay barefoot, is one explana	
	(Lost Spring)	
i	What is the writer's purpose in allowing the boys to speak for themselves via dialogue, as	1
	opposed to only a writer's commentary ?	
ii	The line, "It is not lack of money but a tradition to stay barefoot" can be best classified as:	1
	A. A fact	
	B. An opinion	
	C. A theme	
	D. A plot point	
iii	Explain any one possible inference that can be drawn from the line, "an army of barefoot	1
	boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon".	
v	Identify the line from the text that bears evidence to the fact that the writer's association	1
	with the boys is not a recent one.	
v	Based on the context provided in the extract, select the most likely comment that the writer	1
	would have made, based on the boy's reaction to the mismatched shoes.	
	A. "Why are your shoes mismatched? That's not a good look."	
	B. "Don't worry about your shoes, you can wear a matching pair later."	
	C. "I like your shoes. What matters is that they protect your feet."	
	D. "Have you chosen to mismatch your shoes?	
vi	Complete the sentence with ONE word.	1
	The phrase "he answers simply", suggests that the boy's response to the writer's question	
	about why he wasn't wearing chappals was	
10	Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words.	5x2=10
i	What can be inferred from Rajendra Prasad's recorded upshot of the lawyer consultation	
	Motihari ?	,
	[Reference - The senior lawyer replied, they had come to advise and help him; if he went to jail there would be	nobody
	to advise and they would go home. What about the injustice to the sharecroppers, Gandhi demanded.]	
	(Indigo)	

ii	Douglas uses sensory details to create a vivid image of the unfortunate experience in the pool. might be the impact on the reader if the narration were more informative than sensory?	What
	(Deep Water)	
iii	How does the setting of the remote forest location in ' <i>The Rattrap'</i> contribute to the overall ton mood of the story?	e and
iv	How might the message of the poem, 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' be different, if the following last	t four
	lines were omitted?	
	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, provid and unafraid	
	Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.	mo of
V	Umberto Eco, with reference to "The Name of the Rose" says, "I think if I had written The Nar the Rose ten years earlier or ten years later, it wouldn't have been the same." What could he	
	meant?	
	(The Interview)	- 1:
vi	What does the story of Subbu's success in the film industry reveal about the importance of lo creativity, and versatility in this field?	yalty,
	(Poets and Pancakes)	
11		x2=4
 i	How can we say that the <i>vadai</i> packet incident reveals that the writer lacked the cognitive	
	emotional maturity required to understand the implications of untouchability?	
ii	What does the play 'On the Face of It' suggest about the importance of empathy in overco	oming
	prejudice and stereotypes?	
iii	Answer the question in the context of the following lines from 'The Enemy'.	
	"Stupid Yumi," she muttered fiercely. "Is this anything but a man? And a wounded helpless man!" In the conviction of her own superiority she bent impulsively and untied the knotted rugs that kept the man covered.	white
	Explain the superiority Hana is convinced about.	
12	Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.	5
A	Imagine you are Pablo Neruda, the poet of <i>Keeping Quiet</i> .	5
	What advice might you offer to Robert Frost, the poet of <i>A Roadside Stand</i> , in the context of h	is
	conflicted emotions, as displayed in the given lines-	
	The requisite lift of spirit has never been found,	
	Or so the voice of the country seems to complain,	
	I can't help owning the great relief it would be	
	To put these people at one stroke out of their pain.	
	Pen down your advice , in a letter to Frost.	
	You may begin this way:	
	Dear Robert	
	I recently read your poem, "A Roadside Stand," and	
	You may end this way:	
	I hope this advice is helpful to you. Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to support you. Warmly,	
	Pablo Neruda	
	OR	

В	The different portrayals of women in the texts 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers', 'Going Places', 'Lost Spring',
-	and 'My Mother at Sixty-six', offer insights into the experiences of women in society.
	You have been asked to address your peers and share-
	\rightarrow the ways these portrayals highlight the diversity of the female experience.
	\rightarrow the importance of understanding each individual woman's challenges and experiences.
	Compose this draft, with reference to <u>any three</u> of these prescribed texts. listed above.
	You may begin this way:
	Good morning, everyone.
	As I analysed the allotted texts
	You may end this way.
	To conclude, I'd like to say that
13	Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5
А	In the story, 'The Third Level' by Jack Finney, Charley is obsessed with finding the third level.
	In an attempt to thrash out whether this obsession is a good quality or a harmful one, Charley's wife
	In an attempt to thrash out whether this obsession is a good quality or a harmful one, Charley's wife expresses her thoughts in a diary entry.
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