

UDAYA PUBLIC SCHOOL, AYODHYA
FIRST TERM EXAMINATION 2024-25
Class- XII | Subject- English Core (301)

Time Allowed: 3 hours

M.M.-80

General instructions:

- All questions are compulsory.
- The question paper contains THREE sections: Reading Skills, Creative Writing Skills and Literature.
- Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.
- Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

Section – A | Reading Skills (Marks 22)

1. Read the passage given below:

(12)

- i. Too many parents these days can't say no. As a result, they find themselves raising 'children' who respond greedily to the advertisements aimed right at them. Even getting what they want doesn't satisfy some kids; they only want more. Now, a growing number of psychologists, educators and parents link it's time to stop madness and start teaching kids about what's really important: values like hard work, contentment, honesty and compassion. The struggle to set limits has never been tougher—and the stakes have never been higher. One recent study of adults who were overindulged as children, paints a discouraging picture of their future: when given too much too soon, they grow up to be adults who have difficulty coping with life's disappointments. They also have distorted sense of entitlement that gets in the way of success in the work place and in relationships.
- ii. Psychologists say that parents, who overindulge their kids, set them up to be more vulnerable to future anxiety and depression. Today's parents themselves raised on values of thrift and self-sacrifice, grew up in a culture where 'no' was a household word. Today's kids want much more, partly because there is so much more to want. The oldest members of this generation were born in the late 1980s, just as PCs and video games were making their assault on the family room. They think of MP3 players and flat screen TVs as essential utilities, and they have developed strategies to get them. One survey of teenagers found that when they crave for something new; most expect to ask nine times before their parents give in. By every measure, parents are shelling out record blitz, even parents who desperately need to say no find themselves reaching for their credit cards.
- iii. What parents need to find, is a balance between the advantages of an affluent society and the critical life lessons that come from waiting, saving and working hard to achieve goals. That search for balance has to start early. Children need limits on their behaviour because they feel better and more secure when they live within a secured structure.
- iv. Older children learn self-control by watching how others, especially parents act. Learning how to overcome challenges is essential to becoming a successful adult. Few parents ask kids to do chores. They think their kids are already overburdened by social and academic pressures. Every individual can be of service to others, and life has meaning beyond one's own immediate happiness. That means parents eager to teach values have to take a long, hard look at their own.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. What is challenging for today's parents? | 1 |
| 2. What will be the consequence of over indulging children? | 1 |
| 3. Why do parents get caught in the buying blitz? | 1 |
| 4. How do children learn critical life lesson? | 1 |
| 5. What is the impact of advertisements on children? | 1 |
| 6. Why do children need limits on their behaviour? | 1 |
| 7. How do older children learn self-control? | 1 |
| 8. Find a word in the passage which means 'research'. (Paragraph 2) | 1 |
| 9. Find a word in the passage which means 'wealthy'. (Paragraph 3) | 1 |
| 10. What can be inferred about the relationship between modern technology and children's expectations? | 1 |
| a. Modern technology has no impact on children's expectations. | |
| b. Modern technology encourages children to be more impatient. | |

- c. The availability of modern technology has increased children's sense of entitlement.
 - d. Modern technology makes children appreciate hard work more.
11. Critically evaluate the statement: "Parents who grew up with values of thrift and self-sacrifice are more likely to overindulge their children." 1
- a. The statement is entirely incorrect; these parents are less likely to overindulge.
 - b. The statement is partially true; while they value thrift, societal changes influence their behaviour.
 - c. The statement is accurate; these parents overcompensate for their own upbringing.
 - d. The statement is irrelevant; overindulgence is not related to the parents' upbringing.
12. Which of the following best describes the tone of the passage regarding modern parenting practices? 1
- a. Optimistic and encouraging
 - b. Critical and cautionary
 - c. Neutral and informative
 - d. Sympathetic and understanding

2. Read the passage given below:

(10)

- i. People below the age of 20 and above the age of 50 are more likely to believe fake news. Those relatively new to the use of the Internet still do not grasp the concept of fake information over these platforms, reveals a new survey 'Countering Misinformation in India'. This survey has been conducted jointly by Internet and Mobile Association of India (LAMA).
- ii. At least 40% of the respondents believed in 'misinformation' received over social media if it came with leading backgrounds and evidence, while 34% of them believe the information when it is shared by a trustworthy organisation.
- iii. The dominant factor that drives people to forward such information is their belief that it might benefit others and help in their safety. In fact, that was the response of almost 50% of the respondents. This was compounded by the fact that at least 20% of the respondents expressed their lack of trust in conventional media, thus their faith in contents shared by common people over social media platforms.
- iv. But even then, newspapers still remain the top source of information for most. At least 53% of the respondents trust what is generally perceived as neutral media and only 29% trust technology and social media platforms.
- v. However, what was surprising was that almost 45% of the respondents did not even know about the existence of fact-checking organisation and most did not even know that journalists had to verify data before they let it out. Only 26% of the respondents believe that it is the responsibility of the media to curb or identify fake news. Many respondents also put the responsibility of identifying such fake news on an individual.
- vi. The survey has found that first time or early users of the Internet platforms are more susceptible to fake news than others. There is a need for building capacities and creating a National Civic Digital Literacy Strategic Plan.

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage:

- 1. What platform comes under conventional media? 1
- 2. Select the correct option: 1
 One factor that prompts people to believe fake news is that
 - a. It supports their point of view
 - b. They are biased
 - c. It is from a reliable site
 - d. It has more 'likes' and 'shares'
- 3. What according to the passage are the intentions of people who share information? 1
- 4. Which reason do you infer from the passage is responsible for journalists spreading misinformation? 1
- 5. Complete the sentence appropriately: 1
 The threat faced by the new entrants in social media is _____.
- 6. Explain your understanding of the difference between 'misinformation' and 'fake news'. 1
- 7. What is the blame game that goes on in fixing the onus of identifying fake news? 1

8. What is the significance of the finding that 45% of respondents were unaware of fact-checking organizations? 1
- It suggests that fake news is only a minor problem.
 - It indicates a widespread lack of awareness about the mechanisms to verify information.
 - It shows that most people are unconcerned about the accuracy of news.
 - It implies that fact-checking organizations are not doing their job effectively.
9. Which statement from the passage is most likely to be interpreted differently by different readers? 1
- "At least 40% of the respondents believed in 'misinformation' received over social media."
 - "Only 26% of the respondents believe that it is the responsibility of the media to curb or identify fake news."
 - "The dominant factor that drives people to forward such information is their belief that it might benefit others and help in their safety."
 - "Newspapers still remain the top source of information for most."
10. Complete the analogy: (Paragraph vi) 1
vulnerable : _____ :: resistant : immune

Section – B Creative Writing Skills (18 Marks)

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

A. You are Akhil/Anushka, the Secretary of the History Club of Margaret Public School, Utsavnagar. The Club has decided to conduct an educational tour to the local historical sites for students of class XII. Draft a notice informing the students of the proposed tour. Invent all necessary details.

OR

B. You are Roshni/Rahul, secretary of ABC Colony Welfare Association, Naveenbagh. Write a notice for the society notice board informing residents that there will be no water supply in your colony on 24th and 25th April, 20XX due to maintenance work. Invent all necessary details.

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

A. You are Suresh/Sunita Gupta, the Principal of Goodwill Public School, Akash Nagar. Your school is organising an Inter-School Economics Seminar on Critical Analysis of the Financial Budget, 2023-24. Send a formal letter of invitation to the Finance Secretary of your State to be the Chief Guest. Invent necessary details.

OR

B. You are Mr. Shyam Sundar, Professor of Psychology. You are invited by S.K.M. College, Mahboob Nagar to be the keynote speaker at its Annual Conclave on 'Student Health—The Emotional Impact of Social Media'. Draft a reply letter expressing your inability to accept the invitation and also cite a reason for refusal.

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

A. Divya/Dwakar Awasthi of 24/7, Hill View Apartments, Shrigram has come across an advertisement in Indian News and decides to apply for the post of Sales Executive. Write a letter applying for the post to the Personnel Manager along with resume for the same.

AMARISH AYURVEDA PVT. LTD.

Requires Sales Executives

- Qualification: Graduate in any subject
- Skills: Good communication skills
- Basic computer skills
- Willing to travel
- Knowledge of ayurvedic products

Please send your resume within ten days to the Personnel Manager at manageramrisha@gmail.com

Amarish House 35, Shanti Nagar, Shrigram

- B. You are Sathi/Sanjay of 48-B, Delhi. Write a letter to the editor of the Times of India, Delhi, in about 120-150, addressing the issue of declining values in modern society. Your letter should include examples or evidence to support your arguments and maintain a tone that is both reflective and encouraging. Aim to inspire readers to take action in promoting and upholding important values in their own lives and communities.

Cues:

- decline in core values such as honesty, respect, and responsibility
- impacts on various aspects of society, including relationships, workplaces, and community life.
- schools, families, and community leaders to take to reinforce and promote these essential values among young people and adults alike
- individuals can personally contribute to fostering a culture of strong values and ethical behaviour

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

5

- A. A super speciality hospital was inaugurated in the city by the Health Minister. As a reporter from 'Delhi Times', write a report in not more than 120-150 words on the same to be published in the newspaper. You are Aryaman Saxena, the staff reporter. Use the given cues.

Cues:

- 600-bed hospital
- Fully equipped with ventilators, oxygen supply, life support ambulances, etc.
- In-house blood bank
- 5500 meter square area
- Thirty crore rupees expenditure

OR

- B. There is a lot of talk about saving the environment but we are not doing enough as a society. Things will not change overnight and there is a need for the youth to take charge and bring about the much-needed change. As Aditya/Aditi Malhotra, write an article in about 120-150 words to be published in the local daily on the need to change our approach towards the environment with the help of the given cues.

Cues:

- Nature gives us warnings and reminders
- Youth are the leaders of the future
- Time has come to ensure the protection of the environment

Section – C Literature Text Book & Supplementary Reading Text (40 Marks)

7. Read the given extracts given below and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two. (1x6=6)

A. *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. Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract?

- i. The beauty of nature
- ii. The power of imagination
- iii. The immortality of art and literature
- iv. The inevitability of death

b. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract.

By referring to the dead as "mighty", the poet emphasizes their importance and the power they exerted on the people.

c. Complete the sentence appropriately.

The “endless fountain of immortal drink” is an apt analogy for the tales of the mighty dead because.....

- d. The use of the word “brink” in the extract suggests that the immortality that is being poured onto us is on the verge of overflowing. This creates a powerful image of.....
- e. Based on the poem rhyme scheme, evident in lines 2-5, of the given extract, which word would rhyme with line 1?
said, think, tombs
- f. Select the option that NOT true about the lack of punctuation at the end of line 1 in the extract.
 - i. Creates a sense of continuity and flow that connects the line with the second line.
 - ii. Encourages the reader to continue reading seamlessly without any pause.
 - iii. Creates a sense of anticipation and expectation for the reader.
 - iv. Encourages a revisit to the ideas in the preceding lines.

OR

B. *...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...

- a. What is the speaker’s emotional state when looking at her mother?
 - i. Confused and disoriented
 - ii. Nostalgic and longing
 - iii. Empathetic and understanding
 - iv. Fearful and apprehensive
- b. What does the use of the word “but” at the beginning of the line, ‘but all I said...’, suggest?
- c. Select the word that WILL NOT complete the sentence appropriately.
The description of the mother as “wan, pale/as a late winter’s moon” creates a vivid image of
 - i. Vulnerability
 - ii. Sensitivity
 - iii. Frailty
 - iv. Mortality
- d. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE.
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’.
- e. What message do these lines highlight, in the context of familial relationships, and the speaker’s sense of anxiety and fear at the prospect of losing her mother?
- f. Complete the sentence appropriately.
The repetition of the word, ‘smile’ suggests that

8. Read the given extracts given below and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two. (1x4=4)

A. *Climate change is one of the most hotly contested environment 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.*

- a. How does the absence of a human population in Antarctica make it significant in the climate change debate?
- b. Why is “climate change” described as a “hotly contested” issue in the extract provided?
This is so, because there
 - i. Is universal agreement on the causes and implications of climate change
 - ii. Is a planned path ahead about how to address climate change
 - iii. Are differing views on the causes and implications of climate change
 - iv. Are minimal reports of fresh threats to climate change

- c. The analogy of a time machine is an appropriate analogy for the role of carbon records in the study of climate change because
- d. What is the writing style of the extract?
 - i. Fictional & imaginary
 - ii. Persuasive & opinion-based
 - iii. Factual & informative
 - iv. Descriptive & narrative

OR

B. The chief astrologer placed his finger on his nose wonder. A baby barely ten days old opens its lips in speech! Not only that, it also raises intelligent questions! Incredible! Rather like the bulletins issued by the war office than facts. The chief astrologer took his finger off his nose and fixed his eyes upon the little prince. The prince was born in the hour of the Bull. The Bull and the Tiger are enemies, therefore, death comes from the Tiger," he explained.

- a. Complete the sentence appropriately.
The author's purpose in using exaggeration is to
- b. In the given extract, what emotion was the chief astrologer feeling when he says, 'Not only that, it also raises intelligent questions! Incredible!?'
 - i. Grief ii. Curiosity iii. Excited iv. Disbelief
- c. Which trait is the astrologer lauding when says, 'A baby barely ten days old opens its lips in speech!?'
 - i. Intelligence ii. Courage iii. Strength iv. Wisdom
- d. How is the given extract an example of irony?
 - i. The astrologer's prediction contrasts with the baby's perceived intelligence.
 - ii. The astrologer is surprised by something he predicted.
 - iii. The astrologer believes the baby is strong, but predicts a weak future.
 - iv. The astrologer is impressed by the baby's speech, but predicts a life of silence.

9. Read the given extracts given below and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two. (1x6=6)

A. The next I remember I was lying on my stomach beside the pool, vomiting. The chap that threw me in was saying, "But I was only fooling." Someone said, "The kid nearly died. Be all right now. Let's carry him to the locker room." Several hours later, I walked home. I was weak and trembling. I shook and cried when I lay on my bed. I couldn't eat that night. For days a haunting fear was in my heart. The slightest exertion upset me, making me wobbly in the knees and sick to my stomach. I never went back to the pool. I feared water. I avoided it whenever I could.

- a. Which of the following best describes the narrator's emotional state after the incident?
 - i. Confused and forgetful ii. Angry and resentful iii. Traumatized and fearful
 - iv. Indifferent and detached
- b. What does the phrase "a haunting fear was in my heart" suggest about the narrator's emotional condition?
 - i. The fear was fleeting and temporary.
 - ii. The fear was deeply ingrained and persistent.
 - iii. The fear was irrational and baseless.
 - iv. The fear was easily overcome with time.
- c. Replace the underlined word with its synonym from the extract.
The boy felt unsteady in the knees.
- d. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that chap threw the boy into the pool just for fun.
- e. Complete the analogy.
Vomiting : Physical reaction :: Crying : _____
- f. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.
Statement 1: The boy did not know how to swim.
Statement 2: The boy took a long time to recover from his fear.

- i. Statement 1 can be inferred but statement 2 cannot.
- ii. Statement 1 cannot be inferred but statement 2 can.
- iii. Statement 1 is true but statement 2 is false.
- iv. Both statements 1 and 2 are true.

OR

B. Usually, when school began, there was a great bustle, which could be heard out in the street, the opening and closing of desks, lessons repeated in unison, very loud, with our hands over our ears to understand better, and the teacher's great ruler rapping on the table. But now it was all so still! I had counted on the commotion to get to my desk without being seen; but, of course, that day everything had to be as quiet as Sunday morning. Through the window I saw my classmates, already in their places, and M. Hamel walking up and down with his terrible iron ruler under his arm.

- a. Did Franz succeed in entering the class without getting noticed? Explain briefly.
- b. How would you judge the atmosphere of the school on the day of the last lesson?
- c. in the extract means 'clamour'.
 - i. Commotion
 - ii. Unison
 - iii. Rapping
 - iv. Terrible
- d. What does the phrase "loud, with our hands over our ears to understand better" suggest about the classroom environment?
- e. What was observed when the school began?
- f. What does the narrator's reaction to the quiet classroom reveal about their expectations?
 - i. The narrator expected the class to be calm and uneventful.
 - ii. The narrator hoped that the quiet would make the class more enjoyable.
 - iii. The narrator was caught off guard and felt more self-conscious than usual.
 - iv. The narrator anticipated that the quiet would help them focus better.

10. Attempt ANY FIVE of the following questions, in 40-50 words. (5x2=10)

- i. Describe the metaphor of 'lost spring' used by Anees Jung in the story 'Lost Spring'. What does it signify?
- ii. A mistaken identity led to a discovery of a new one for the rattrap peddler. How did this impact him?
- iii. Explain the significance of the line "A thing of beauty is a joy forever" in the context of the poem.
- iv. What does the expression 'polished traffic' refer to? What does it reveal about city people?
- v. How do symbols 'tigers', 'ring' and 'wedding band' in the poem, 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' help us understand her plight?
- vi. What handicap did Douglas suffer from? How did he overcome that?

11. Attempt ANY TWO out of the three questions given below, in 40-50 words each. (2x2=4)

- i. What does Charley's search for the third level reveal about his desires and concerns?
- ii. What forced Dr. Sadao to be impatient and irritable with his patient during operation?
- iii. How did the Maharaja please a high-ranking British officer?

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 120-150 words. (1x5=5)

- i. 'A Roadside Stand' and 'Lost Spring' depict two contrasting worlds existing in society. Justify this statement with reference to the poem 'A Roadside Side' and the text 'The Lost Spring'. You may begin like this:
Social satire in the two texts portrays two contrasting worlds that exist in society.
- ii. Franz in "The Last Lesson" realizes the importance of going to school while Saheb in "Lost Spring" yearns to go to school. Write 3-4 paragraphs exploring the different perspectives of these two young boys on learning and education. You may begin like this:

In Alphonse Daudet's "The Last Lesson," Franz's realization of the value of education comes too late.

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 120-150 words. (1x5=5)

- i. "that if the man were whole I could turn him over to the Police..... . But since he is wounded..." The above statement clearly displays Dr. Sadao's commitment to his profession and compassion. Write an article in appreciation of Dr. Sadao's professional ethics and his ability to rise above prejudices.

You may begin like this:

Dr. Sadao proved himself to be a man with great humanitarian values.....

- ii. Imagine you are one of the close friends of the Maharaja of Pratibandapuram. Write a letter to the Maharaja, expressing your thoughts on his obsession with hunting tigers and suggesting him to have faith in destiny.

You may begin like this:

Dear Maharaja of Pratibandapuram,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing to you as a close friend, deeply concerned about your recent obsession with hunting tigers. While I understand and respect your position.....

.....

.....

With deepest respect and sincere wishes,

[Your Name]