

Roll No.

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ENGLISH (Core)
[For all Groups I, II, III]

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Maximum marks : 80

- Please make sure that the printed pages in this question paper are 17 in number and it contains 13 questions.
- The Code No. and Set on the right side of the question paper should be written by the candidate on the front page of the answer book.
- Before beginning to answer a question, its Serial Number must be written.
- Don't leave blank page/pages in your answer-book.
- Except answer-book, no extra sheet will be given. Write to the point and do not strike the written answer.
- Candidates must write their Roll No. on the question paper. Except Roll No. do not write anything on question paper and do not make any mark on answers of objective type questions.
- Before answering the questions, ensure that you have been supplied the correct and complete question paper, no claim in this regard, will be entertained after examination.

General Instructions:

- (I) This question paper is divided into four sections : A , B, C and D
- (ii) All the sections are compulsory.
- (iii) Attempt all the parts of a question together.
- (iv) Stick to the word limit wherever prescribed.

Reading Skills

1 Attempt any one from (A) and (B) given below:

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow; 10x1 = 10

1. It was decided that I should study. Considering my character as a whole, and especially my temperament, my father decided that the classical subjects studied at the Lyceum were not suited to my natural talents. He thought that the Realschule would suit me better. My obvious talent for drawing confirmed him in that view; for in his opinion drawing was a subject too much neglected in the Austrian Gymnasium.

2. Probably also the memory of the hard road which he himself had travelled contributed to make him look upon classical studies as unpractical and accordingly to set little value on them. At the back of his mind he had the idea that his son should also become an official of the Government. Indeed he had decided on that career for me. The difficulties through which he had to struggle in making his own career led him to overestimate what he had achieved, because this was exclusively the result of his own indefatigable industry and energy.

3. The characteristic pride of the self-made man urged him towards the idea that his son should follow the same calling and if possible rise to a higher position in it. Moreover, this idea, was strengthened by the consideration that the result of his own life industry had placed him in a position to facilitate his son's advancement in the same career.

4. He was simply incapable of imagining that I might reject what had meant everything in life to him. My father's decision was simple, definite, clear and, in his eyes, it was something taken for granted. A man of such a nature who had become an autocrat by reason of his own hard struggle for existence, could not think of allowing 'inexperienced' and irresponsible young fellow to choose their own careers.

5. For the first time in my life - I was then eleven years old- I felt myself forced into open opposition. No matter how hard and determined my father might be about putting his own plans and opinions into action, his son was no less obstinate in refusing to accept ideas on which he set little or no value. I would not become a State Official, not on any account. It nauseated me to think that one

day I might be fettered to an official stool, that I could not dispose of my own time but would be forced to spend the whole of my life filling out forms.

Based on the understanding of the passage, answer the questions that follow:
10x1 = 10 marks

(i) The writer was sent to Realschule _____

- (a) Because of his temperament
- (b) Because of his talent
- (c) Because his father wanted it
- (d) All of the above

(ii) Which trait is shared by both father and son?

- (a) Obedience
- (b) Creativity
- (c) Obstinacy
- (d) Optimism

(iii) On the basis of the passage, study the two statements, I and II given below:

(I) The father had already chosen a career for his son.

(II) It was his son's desire to become a Government Official.

Choose the correct option:

- (a) I is true II is false
- (b) II is true I is false
- (c) Both I and II are true
- (d) Both I and II are false

(iv) Choose the incorrect statement.

- (a) The son defied his father openly .
- (b) The central conflict in the extract is a son's aspiration and a father's ambition.
- (c) The father considered the classical studies impractical.

- (d) The father faced no difficulties in building his career.
- (v) What was the forte of the writer?
- (a) Drawing
 - (b) Music
 - (c) Classical subjects
 - (d) His free will
- (vi) The word “ calling” in paragraph 3 means.
- (vii) Find the antonym of ‘ tired’. (para 2)
- (viii) Complete the following sentence:
- The father can be described as _____
- (ix) At what age did the writer oppose his father?
- (x) The extract is _____ (autobiographical/ biographical) in nature.

OR

(B) Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow;

1. The teaching of universal history in what are called the middle schools is very unsatisfactory. Few teachers realize that the purpose of teaching history is not the memorizing of some dates and facts, that the student is not interested in knowing the exact date of a battle or the birthday of some marshal or other, and not at all- or at least only very insignificantly – interested in knowing when the crown of his fathers was placed on the brow of some monarch. These are certainly not looked upon as important matters.
2. To study history means to search for and discover the forces that are the causes of those results which appear before our eyes as historical events. The art of reading and studying consists in remembering the essentials and forgetting what is not essential.
3. Probably, my whole future life was determined by the fact that I had a professor of history who understood, as few others understand, how to make this viewpoint prevail

in teaching and in examining. This teacher was Dr. Leopold Poetsch. He was the ideal personification of the qualities necessary to a teacher of history in the sense I have mentioned above. An elderly gentleman with a decisive manner but a kindly heart; he was very attractive speaker and was able to inspire us with his own enthusiasm. Even today, I cannot recall without emotion that venerable personality whose enthusiastic exposition of history so often made us entirely forget the present and allow ourselves to be transported as if by magic into the past.

4. He penetrated through the dim mist of thousands of years and transformed the historical memory of the dead past into a living reality. When we listened to him we became afire with enthusiasm and we were sometimes moved even to tears. It was still more fortunate that this professor was not only able to illustrate the past by example from the present but from the past he was also able to draw a lesson for the present. He understood better than any other the everyday problems that were then agitating our minds.

5. The national fervor which we felt in our own small way was utilized by him as an instrument of our education, in as much as he often appealed to our national sense of honour; for in that way he maintained order and held our attention, much more easily than he could have done by any other means. It was because I had such a professor that history became by favourite subject.

Based on the understanding of the passage, answer the questions that follow:

10x1 = 10 marks

- (i) According to the writer, the history teacher should focus on _____
 - (a) facts and dates
 - (b) exact birth dates of marshals
 - (c) Coronation of monarchs
 - (d) Causes and results of historical events
- (ii) Dr. Leopold Poetsch was _____
 - (a) An impressive orator
 - (b) A man having no knowledge of history
 - (c) Both 'a' and 'b'
 - (d) A parson

(iii) On the basis of the passage, study the two statements, I and II given below:

(I) Dr. Leopold Poetsch was an embodiment of a perfect history teacher.

(II) It is the teaching method of the teacher that made him the writer's favourite teacher.

Choose the correct option:

- (a) I is true II is false
- (b) II is true I is false
- (c) Both I and II are true
- (d) Both I and II are false

(iv) How does the writer remember his teacher?

- (a) With emotions
- (b) Without emotions
- (c) With anger
- (d) Without reverence

(v) According to the extract, find the incorrect statement.

(a) Few teachers know how to teach history.

(b) Remembering the important and forgetting the unimportant is the art of reading and studying.

(c) The teacher failed to motivate his students.

(d) The teacher used national fervor to impart education to his students.

(vi) Find the synonym of "zealous" from the paragraph 3 of the text.

(vii) Find the word in paragraph 1 that means "not noticeably."

(viii) Read the following statement and answer.

A good teacher can make even a boring subject interesting. (True/False)

(ix) What is unsatisfactory according to the writer?

(x) How did history become the writer's favourite subject?

2. Read the passage given below

5 marks

1. Effective speaking depends on effective listening. It takes energy to concentrate on hearing and concentrate on understanding what has been heard. Incompetent listeners fail in a number of ways. First they may drift. Their attention may drift from what the speaker is saying. Second, they may counter. They find counter arguments to whatever speaker may be saying. Third, they compete. Then , they filter. They exclude from their understanding those parts of the message which do not readily fit with their own frame of reference. Finally , they react. They let personal feeling about the speaker or the subject override the significance of the message which is being sent.

2. What can a listener do to be more effective? The first key to effective listening is the art of concentration. If a listener positively wishes to concentrate on receiving a message, his chances of success are high. It may need determination. Some speakers are difficult to follow, either because of voice problems , or because of the form in which they send the message. There is then a particular need for the determination of a listener to concentrate on what is being said.

3. Concentration is helped by alertness. Mental alertness is helped by physical alertness. It is not simply physical fitness, but also positioning of the body, the limbs and the head. Some people also find it helpful to their concentration if they hold the head slightly to one side. One useful way for achieving this is intensive note taking, by trying to capture the critical headings and sub- headings the speaker is referring to.

4. Note- taking has been recommended as an aid to the listener. It also helps the speaker. It gives him confidence when he sees the listeners are sufficiently interested to take notes; the patterns of eye contact when the note-taker looks up can be very positive; and the speaker's timing is added – he can see a note-taker is writing hard and then can make effective use of pauses.

5. Posture too is important. Consider the impact made by a less competent listener who pushes his chair backwards and slouches. An upright posture helps a listener's concentration. At the same time, it is seen by the speaker to be a positive figure among his listeners. Effective listening skills have an impact on both the listener and the speaker.

Based on the understanding of the passage, make notes using headings and sub headings or in points. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary, minimum four). Also supply an appropriate title to it.

SECTION –B

10 marks

GRAMMAR

3 Attempt any ten out of the twelve.

3.1 Fill in the blanks with appropriate modals/auxiliaries

(I) After reaching school, I found that I had forgotten my English note book at home. So. I _____ return home to take it. (had to/used to/ought to)

(II) _____ you go to the market, buy me a pair of shoes. (Could/would/should)

3.2 Change the voice.

(III) it is time to say the prayer.

(iv) He made me sing a song.

3.3 Fill in the blank with suitable articles wherever necessary

(V) A rose is _____ rose.

(VI) _____ empty purse is a heavy curse.

3.4 Fill in the blanks with correct form of verb

(VII) This is high time we _____ money from the share market. (withdraw)

(VIII) Sorry, I _____ not able to help you at that time. (be)

3.5 Identify the underlined part of speech.

(IX) Where there is a will, there is a way.

(X) Virat Kohli played well in the last match.

3.6 Fill in the blanks with suitable determiners.

(XI) one must be aware of _____ duties and responsibilities. (his/one's)

(XII) I will surely help you, just give me _____ minutes. (a few/ the few)

SECTION C

Creative Writing Skills

(15 marks)

4 Attempt any one from (A) , (B) and (C) given below: 5

(A) The BIS Club of your school has decided to organize a seminar on the topic “ Role of Artificial Intelligence in Education” on 21st October 2026 in school’s auditorium at 9 A M. As a prominent member of the club, draft a notice in about 50 words to be put up on the school’s notice board inviting the students to attend it with full zeal and enthusiasm. Invent necessary details. Sign yourself as Yogender/ Sushma.

OR

(B) You are the manager of Rao’s Hotel, Narnaul. Your hotel requires a receptionist. Draft an advertisement to be published in a local daily under classified columns. (word limit 50 words)

Clues ;

(Age group, male or female, qualification, skills, experience, language proficiency)

OR

(C) As a responsible citizen, you are concerned about the declining ratio of females to males. The root cause of this is female foeticide. It is not only illegal but also inhuman. Design a powerful and effective poster against the heinous practice of female foeticide. (Word limit- 50)

5 Attempt any one from (A) and (B) given below: 5

(A) You are Sanjay/ Sarita, living in Bhanaram Colony, Bhiwani. There is no electricity pole in your locality. The overhead wires are hanging loosely and may cause accidents, especially during rainy season. Therefore, write an application to the Executive Engineer, Electricity Department, Bhiwani, requesting the installation of an electricity pole and the repair of the hanging wires at the earliest.

OR

You are Priyansh/ Priti, a resident of Rewari. Many private schools prescribe costly books, ignore government guidelines and treat students as mere sources of income rather than nurturing their overall development. Students are subjected to excessive academic pressure and are treated like robots. They are expected only to memorise facts and score high marks. You are concerned about the growing commercialization of education. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily, highlighting these issues and suggesting suitable remedial measures.

6 Attempt any one from (A) and (B) given below: 5

(A) You are Arun/ Archana of Shri Krishna Sr. Sec School, Panipat. Your school recently organized a felicitation programme to honour its meritorious students. Many prominent personalities attended the event as guests. As a member of the school magazine editorial board, write a report on it in 120-150 words.

OR

(B) These days smartphones can be seen in almost every hand, irrespective of age - from a three- year- old child to a seventy- year- old adult, and most of them spend a significant portion of their time on social media platforms such as Facebook, Youtube, X, Instagram, Snapchat and on other similar apps. Some even cannot even answer the call of nature without their smartphones. Some cannot eat without using it. This increasing screen time is not only causing health issues but also affecting social and economic life. You are concerned about it. Write an article expressing your views on “ The Growing Addiction to Smartphones”.

SECTION D

40 marks

Literature

Q 7 Attempt any one from A and B given below;

5 marks

(A) Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow;

In July 1976, my wife Mary, son Jonathan, 6, daughter Suzanne, 7, and I set sail from Plymouth, England, to duplicate the round – the- world voyage made 200 years earlier by Captain James Cook. For the longest time, Mary and I —a 37 – year- old businessman- had dreamt of sailing in the wake of the famous explorer, and for the past 16 years we had spent all our leisure time honing our seafaring skills in British waters. Our boat Wavewalker, a 23 metre, 30 ton wooden-hulled beauty, had been professionally built.

(I) Find the incorrect statement

- (a) The famous explorer was Captain James Cook.
- (b) The narrator started his voyage from Plymouth, England.
- (c) The narrator took his wife, son and daughter with him.
- (d) The narrator undertook the voyage without preparation.

(II) Identify the youngest one who voyaged with the narrator.

- (a) Jonathan
- (b) Mary
- (c) Suzanne
- (d) The narrator himself

(III) Read the following statements and choose the correct option.

- 1 It took the narrator sixteen years to start the voyage
- 2 He started the voyage along with his family in July 1976
- 3 Wavewalker weighed 30 ton
- 4 The narrator is a 37-year-old businessman.

- (a) Statements 1 and 3 are correct
- (b) Statements 2 and 4 are correct
- (c) Statements 2,3 and 4 are correct
- (d) All the statements are correct

(IV) Complete the following sentence

Captain James Cook is famous for_____

- (a) His contribution in getting the Wavewalker built
- (b) His round-the-world voyage
- (c) His business trips to England
- (d) His Marketing skills

(V) What does the narrator do for a living?

- (a) He is in the boat making business
- (b) He works in a factory
- (c) He is a businessman
- (d) None of the above

OR

(B) Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow;

Hor was a grim, miserable place. There was no vegetation whatsoever, just dust and rocks, liberally scattered with years of accumulated refuse, which was unfortunate given that the town sat on the shore of Lake Manasarovar, Tibet's most venerated stretch of water. Ancient Hindu and Buddhist cosmology pinpoints Mansarovar as the source of great Indian rivers: the Indus, the Ganges, the Sutlej and the Brahmaputra. Actually only the Sutlej flows from the lake, but the headwaters of the others all rise nearby on the flanks of Mount Kailash. We were within striking distance of the great mountain and I was eager to forge ahead.

(I) Which statement is not true about Hor?

- (a) It is located in Tibet
- (b) It is located on the shore of Lake Manasarovar
- (c) There is no greenery.
- (d) It is a beautiful place.

(II) The origin of the Indus, the Ganges, the Sutlej and the Brahmaputra is _____

- (a) Lake Manasarovar according to ancient Hindu and Buddhist cosmology.
- (b) Factually only the Sutlej flows from the Lake Manasarovar
- (c) The Indus, the Ganges, and Brahmaputra originates from Mount Kailash
- (d) All are true

(III) “ We were within striking distance of the great mountain.” This sentence suggests

- (a) Tsetan and the writer were very far away from Mount Kailash.
- (b) Tsetan and the writer were close enough to reach Mount Kailash.
- (c) Tsetan and the writer had lost hope to reach Mount Kailash.
- (d) Tsetan and the writer were disappointed to see the distance to the great mountain.

(IV) Complete the following analogy;

Venerated: respected :: Accumulated : _____

- (a) Flanks
- (b) Gathered
- (c) Scattered
- (d) Cosmology

(V) “Heaps of rubbish, dust, rocks, no flora and fauna”. These words describe _____

- (a) Hor
- (b) Mount Kailash
- (c) Hindu and Buddhist cosmology
- (d) All of the above

Q 8 Attempt any one out of the two questions in 120-150 words. 5 Mark

(A) “ king Tut’s mummy was the first mummy to be CT- scanned.” Why do you think the king’s mummy was selected to be scanned before many other mummies. Was it because of his royal status and historical significance, or were there other reasons? Elaborate. (Discovering Tut: The Saga Continuous)

OR

(B) In the lesson “ The Ailing Planet” the population explosion has been described as a curse. Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer and support it with relevant facts.
(The Ailing Planet)

Q 9 Attempt any four out of five questions in 20-30 words. 2X 4 8marks

- (I) How was the grandmother an animal and bird lover? (The Portrait of a Lady)
- (II) Why did the narrator hire two crewmen? (We are not Afraid to Die.....)
- (III) Why did king Tut change his name from Tutankhaten to Tutankhamun? (Discovering Tut: The Saga Continuous)
- (IV) The writer says, “ What goes under the pot now costs more than what goes inside it.” What is meant by this? (The Ailing Planet)
- (V) What was Professor Gaitonde thinking when he met with an accident? (The Adventure)

Q 10 Attempt any one from A and B given below; 1x 5 – 5 Marks

(A) Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow;

Then sleek as lizard, and alert, and abrupt

She enters the thickness, and a machine starts up

Of chitterings, and a tremor of wings, and trillings-

The whole tree trembles and thrills.

It is the engine of her family.

(I) “ Then sleek as lizard”. Choose the option in which the same figure of speech has been used.

- (a) As the monitor of the class, it is my duty to keep the class silent.
- (b) The edible items such as pizzas and burgers are my favourites.
- (c) I wandered lonely as a cloud.
- (d) Everybody likes to meet an honest person.

(II) Apart from the bird who else was present in the tree?

- (a) The bird’s young ones

- (b) A lizard
- (c) A machine
- (d) All of the above

(III) Read the following statements and choose the correct option.

1 The bird has been compared to a lizard.

2 Simile, metaphor, personification and Onomatopoeia have been used in this extract.

3 In this extract 'she' refers to the goldfinch.

4 The bird lacks energy so it enters its nest.

- (a) Statements 1 and 2 are true.
- (b) Statements 1 and 3 are true.
- (c) Statements 1,2 and 3 are true
- (d) Statements 1,2,3, and 4 are true.

(IV) “ and a machine starts up.” What does ‘ machine’ here refer to?

- (a) The goldfinch
- (b) The group of goldfinch’s young ones
- (c) An electric machine
- (d) The tree

(V) Complete the following sentence;

This extract has been taken from the poem _____

- (a) The Laburnum Top, written by Ted Hughes
- (b) The Laburnum Top ,written by William Wordsworth
- (c) The Laburnum Top ,written by Walt Whitman
- (d) The Laburnum Top, written by Shirley Toulson

OR

(B) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow;

And who art thou? Said I to the soft falling shower,

Which, strange to tell, gave me an answer, as here translated:

I am the poem of the Earth, said the voice of the rain,
Eternal I rise impalpable out of the land and the bottomless sea,
Upward to heaven, whence, vaguely form'd, altogether changed, and yet the same.

(I) Which literary device is used in “ said the voice of the rain.”

- (a) Simile
- (b) Metaphor
- (c) Personification
- (d) Alliteration

(II) Read the following statements and choose the correct option.

- 1 The poet has translated the answer of the rain.
- 2 ‘Thou’ and ‘art’ are archaic words.
- 3 The poet asked the rain who it was
- 4 The scientific process of rain has been described in this extract.

- (a) Statements 1 and 2 are correct
- (b) Statements 3 and 4 are correct
- (c) Statements 2 and 3 are correct
- (d) All the statements are correct

(III) Which of the following best describes the rain’s journey in the extract?

- (a) Heaven – Earth- Sea
- (b) Land and sea – Heaven – Earth
- (c) Cloud – Mountains – Rivers
- (d) Sea – Heaven – Earth

(IV) Complete the following analogy;

Strange : ordinary :: vaguely : _____

- (a) Quickly
- (b) Vividly
- (c) Faintly
- (d) Dimly

(V) The poet of the above extract is _____

- (a) Walt Whitman
- (b) Markus Nattan
- (c) Elizabeth Jennings
- (d) Ted Hughes

Q 11 Answer any two questions out of the three in 30-40 words. 3x2 6Marks

- (I) What is the meaning of the line: 'Both wry with the labored ease of loss.' (A Photograph)
- (II) How does the poet expose the hypocrisy of the people? (Childhood)
- (III) How is the father's helplessness brought out in the poem? (Father to Son)

Q 12 Attempt any one question out of the two in 120-150 words. 1x5 5 Marks

(A) Out of the two characters in the play Mother's day, Mrs. Pearson and Mrs. Fitzgerald, whom would you choose and why? (Mother's Day)

OR

(B) Narrate 'The Tale of Melon City' in your own words. (Tale of the Melon City)

Q 13 Attempt any three questions out of the four in 20-30 words. 3x 2 6 Marks

- (I) What are the important traits of the Garoghlanian tribe? (The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse)
- (II) How do you assess Mrs. S? (The Address)
- (III) Why did Joe Morgan not enter his own house with Dr. Andrew Manson? (Birth)
- (IV) Who was George? What did people say about him in the club? (Mother's Day)

