

BRAIN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
Session 2025-26

PRACTICE PAPER 1
Class XII
Subject – English (301)

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. *The paper consists of three sections:*

SECTION A- READING

22 MARKS

SECTION B- WRITING

18 MARKS

SECTION C- LITERATURE

40 MARKS

2. *Attempt all the questions.*
3. *Do not write anything on the question paper.*
4. *All the answers must be correctly numbered as given in the question paper and written in the answer sheets provided*
5. *Attempt all the questions in each section before going to the next section.*
6. *Read the questions carefully and follow all the instructions.*
7. *Adhere to the word limit given with each question.*

SECTION A-READING SKILLS - 22 Mark

1. Read the following text.

12 marks

1. The choices we make on a daily basis-wearing a seatbelt, lifting heavy objects correctly, or purposely staying out of any dangerous situation-can either ensure our safety or bring about potentially harmful circumstances.
2. You and I need to make a decision that we are going to get our lives in order. Exercising self-control, self-discipline, and establishing boundaries and borders in our lives are some of the most important things we can do. A life without discipline is one that's filled with carelessness. We can think it's kind of exciting to live life on the edge.
3. We like the image of "Yeah! That's me! Living on the edge! Woo-hoo!" It's become a popular way to look at life. But if you see, even highways have lines, which provide margins for our safety while we're driving. If we go over one side, we'll go into the ditch. If we cross over the line in the

middle, we could get killed. And we like those lines because they help to keep us safe.

4. Sometimes, we don't even realize how lines help to keep us safe. I'm not proud of this, but for the first 20 years of my life at work, I ignored my limits. I feel horrible, physically, most of the time. I used to tell myself, "I know I have limits and that I've reached them, but I'm going to ignore them and see if or how long I can get by with it." I ran to doctors, trying to make myself feel better through pills, vitamins, natural stuff, and anything I could get my hands-on. Some of the doctors would tell me, "It's just stress." That just made me mad. I thought stress meant you don't like what you do or can't handle life, and I love what I do. But I kept pushing myself travelling, doing speaking engagements, and so on—simply exhausting myself.
5. Finally, I understood I was living an unsustainable life and needed to make some changes in my outlook and lifestyle. You and I don't have to be like everyone else or keep up with anyone else. Each of us needs to be exactly the way we are, and we don't have to apologize for it. We're not all alike, and we need to find a comfort zone in which we can enjoy our lives instead of making ourselves sick with an overload of stress and pressure.

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

12 Marks

1. Choose the option that best captures the Central idea of the passage from the given quotes:

1

1	2	3	4
It's all about quality finding a happy balance between work and	To go beyond is as wrong as to fall short. – Confucius	Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving. -	Balance is not something you find. It's something you create.

friends. - Philip Green		Albert Einstein	- Jana Kingsford
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- a. Option 1
- b. Option 2
- c. Option 3
- d. Option 4

2. How does the author compare life boundaries to the lines on a highway? What message is conveyed through this analogy regarding safety and discipline in life? 2

3. Select the option that makes the correct use of "unsustainable" as used in the passage, to fill in the blank space: 1

- a. In the long run, the _____ officials followed emergency procedures.
- b. Emergency procedures were _____ by the officials.
- c. Officials reported an _____ set of events during the emergency.
- d. Officials admit that the emergency system is _____ in the long run.

4. What are some examples of daily choices mentioned in the passage that can impact personal safety? How do these choices relate to the overall theme of discipline? 2

5. Describe one way the author suggests individuals can create a comfort zone in their lives. 1

6. The author has used colloquial words such as "yeah" and "woo-hoo." Which of the following is not a colloquial word: 1

- a. Hooked
- b. Guy
- c. Stuff
- d. stress

7. What does the author mean when he says "to get our lives in order?" 1

8. Choose the option that correctly states the two meanings of 'outlook' as used in the passage: 1

1. a person's evaluation of life
2. a person's experiences in life
3. a person's point of view towards life
4. a person's regrets in life
5. a person's general attitude to life

- a. 1 & 4
- b. 2 & 3
- c. 3 & 5
- d. 4 & 5

9. According to the author, what were the consequences of ignoring personal limits for the first 20 years of their work life? 2

Read the passage given below:

1. It is generally accepted that leadership development should be a part of the education system's responsibility for preparing individuals to participate in a democratic and progressive society. Many schools, colleges and universities across nations, provide their students with leadership courses, curricular programs and co-curricular programs that are designed to develop students' formal knowledge about leadership as well as opportunities and experiences to develop students as leaders and actually practice leadership. Yet, only a handful of studies have sought to understand leader development from the students' point of view, with students describing their own experiences and what they learned from them in their own words.

2. A 2014 descriptive study sought to understand student leadership with research through key events via the following research questions:

Research Question 1: What key events do student leaders in college, report as significantly impacting their development as a leader?

Research Question 2: What lessons do student leaders in college, report learning as a result of the key events that they have experienced?

Research Question 3: Are certain key events more likely to be linked to particular lessons?

Approximately 130 students were contacted and the 72 interested, were interviewed. Two members of the research team were present for each 15-45 minutes interview. One member served as the primary interviewer, while the second ran the audio equipment. The results for lessons learned (Table), were varied, but there were a few that were frequently quoted.

Lessons Learned	Responses
Identity	
Self-Identity	58
Leadership Identity	54
Professionalism	30
Balancing Riots	19
Individual Competencies	
Delegation	15
Decision Making	38
Adaptability/Flexibility	18
Resilience/Persistence/Hard Work	36

Taking Initiative	29
Accountability/Responsibility	27
Learning to Teach/Learn	18
Support Systems	
Developing and Using Support Systems	36
Being a Support System	28
Working With Others	
Communication	59
Teamwork	26
Conflict	21
Diversity	32
Inspiring and Motivating Others	30
Getting The Job Done	
Task Skills	55
Environment	34

3. This study described the rich array of leadership lessons that students are learning through their experiences. It revealed that student leaders are learning foundational leadership skills and competencies that have positively impacted how to accomplish work. How to work with others and how to be both supported by and support other?

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

10 Marks

1. Does the following statement agree with the information given in paragraph 1: 1

The researcher believes that educational institutions have ideal resources to study the impact of leadership skills on young adults.

Select from the following:

- True - if the statement agrees with the information
 - False - if the statement contradicts the information
 - Not given - if there is no information on this.
2. Do you think the researchers of the study aimed to change the students' outlook towards the development of leadership skills directly or indirectly? Support your answer with reference to the text. 2
3. Select the option that displays the most likely reason for including Research Question 3 in the 2014 study: In order to find out if... 1

- a. learning opportunities shape students' overall personalities.
- b. leadership lessons are the result of the designed learning opportunities.
- c. all learning opportunities cater to a specific lesson.
- d. certain lessons are common in more than one learning opportunity.

4. Select the option that displays the key event designed with "Balancing Roles" (Table) as the objective. 1

- a. Students will be able to debate the issue at hand with different teams.
- b. Students will be able to manage the responsibilities of a mentor, planner, researcher and presenter.
- c. Students will be able to surmount minor problems and focus on the final goal.
- d. Students will be able to explain concepts and clarify them for peers.

5. Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option: 1

The 2014 study attempts to understand student leadership by focusing on _____.

- a. experiences that shaped students overall personality.
- b. lessons gained by students as they grew up.
- c. relationship of key events with particular lessons.
- d. students in leadership roles.

6. The lessons for 'Individual Competencies' had a range of responses. Give one reason why having the least number of responses for 'Decision Making' is a matter that needs attention. 1

7. Complete the sentence appropriately with one/two words: 1

In the context of 'Working With Others' in the Table, the lesson of 'Conflict' refers to _____.

8. Based on the reading of the text, state a point to challenge the given statement: 2

When theoretical knowledge about leadership suffices, it is a waste of funds by educational organizations to organize leadership camps and programs.

SECTION-B WRITING SKILLS (18 Marks)

3. Attempt ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 50 words: 4 marks

- A.** Maruti Public School will be conducting an online course on news reading during the winter vacations for students of Class XI and XII. In this course, students will learn to understand news reports, build the habit of reading the news regularly, and will have a chance to interact with well-known journalists. As Ritwik Sen, Editor of the school magazine, draft a notice in about 50 words for the school notice board, urging students to sign up. Mention any other relevant details required for the notice.

OR

- B. While walking in a park in your neighbourhood, you found a small plastic bag containing some documents and cash. Write a notice for the park notice board, asking the owner to identify and collect it from you. You are Anamika/Anant, 9966554XXX.

4. Attempt ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 50 words: 4 marks

- A. Send an invitation to Prof. Krishna Kumar, noted environment activist and educationist, to speak on the government initiative “ EK PED MAA KE NAAM”. You are Radha/Rahul, Secretary, Eco club, S. S. Public School, Jaipur. Invent all the necessary details.

OR

- B. You have received an invitation to inaugurate the annual cultural fest at your alma mater, Mayur Public School, on 05th November 2024. As a renowned author, you are honored but unable to attend due to a prior engagement. Write a formal reply declining the invitation, expressing gratitude, and offering your best wishes for the event.

5. Attempt ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words: 5 marks

- A. You are Sheena Singh, a recent graduate of New Horizon School. You came across the following advertisement about an internship in editing that you would like to apply for. Write a letter to the Books Galore expressing your interest in the position along with your resume.



Books Galore
We are a non-profit organisation that works with underprivileged children.
Our goal is not only to make reading possible, but also enjoyable!

SEEKING EDITORS
For the children's magazine
Internship for 3 months (May-July 2025) with a monthly pay

Your role:

- Edit children's entries (stories, poems, essays)
- Make sure content is free of grammatical errors
- Meet publishing deadlines for the magazine

Requirements:

- Senior Secondary Education Degree or above (Above 80% in Grade XII English Exam)
- Excellent command over the English language
- Positive attitude and willingness to learn

Send a sample of your writing and your resumé to: internhr@booksgalore.org
Deadline: 14th April, 2025

OR

- B.** The newspapers today have full page advertisements promoting luxury items. With increase in consumerism, people find it difficult to resist and soon find them trapped in a world of social one-upmanship. Write a letter to the editor expressing your views on the control of this habit. You are Bhumi/Bhuvan, resident of 24, Shastri Nagar, Pune.

Use the given cues, along with your own ideas, to compose this letter:

Consequences-

- Trapped in a competitive world
- Social acceptability
- Living beyond budgets
- Mental trauma

Solutions-

- Responsible role of media
- Make informed decisions

6. Attempt ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words: 5 marks

- A.** With the rise of social media platforms and the ease with which information can be shared online, false information can have more dire consequences. Write an article for a local daily, highlighting the problems of the growing menace of fake news and misinformation, analyzing the issue, and providing suggestions to tackle it. You are Kavita Bannerji, from Siliguri, West Bengal.

OR

- B.** You are Mansa/Manzil of class XII, Smarak International School, Chandigarh. Your school has adopted a village as a social responsibility. Students are being taken to teach the children of that village on a regular basis. Inventing all the necessary details, write a report to be published in a newspaper on the various other major programs organized there during the trips throughout the year.

SECTION-C LITERATURE (40 Marks)

- 7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions of ANY ONE of the given two: 6x1=6 marks**

- A.** It is in the news that all these pitiful kin
Are to be bought out and mercifully gathered in
To live in villages, next to the theatre and the store,
Where they won't have to think for themselves anymore, While greedy
good-doers, beneficent beasts of prey,
Swarm over their lives enforcing benefits
That are calculated to soothe them out of their wits,

And by teaching them how to sleep they sleep all day,
Destroy their sleeping at night the ancient way.

(A Roadside Stand)

- i. What is the tone of the poet in the above lines?
 1. aggressive
 2. tolerant
 3. sarcastic
 4. resigned
 5. sentimental
 - a. Only 1
 - b. 2 & 3
 - c. 1, 4 & 5
 - d. Only 3
- ii. Identify the phrase from the extract, that suggests the following:
No one bothers to take 'their' consent before pushing the promise of a better life, their way.
- iii. What quality of the villagers can be inferred through these lines?
 - a. Gullible
 - b. Futuristic
 - c. Hypocritical
 - d. Ambitious
- iv. Complete the following analogy correctly:
Greedy good doers: Alliteration:: _____: Oxymoron
- v. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE:
The city dwellers make promises for the betterment of the villagers.
- vi. Fill in the blank with an appropriate word, with reference to the extract:
'...calculated to soothe them out of their wits' implies that 'them' are being _____.

OR

B. Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,
Bright opal denizens of a world of green.
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.

(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

- i. The tigers are called 'Aunt Jennifer's tigers', because _____.
 - a. She has tamed them

- b. She has trained them
 - c. She has sheltered them
 - d. She has embroidered them
- ii. What does the phrase 'a world of green' suggest?
- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately:
The tigers are completely different from their creator because _____.
- iv. What does the word 'chivalric' mean?
- v. What was Aunt mastered by?
 - a. Her embroidery skills
 - b. Her culinary skills
 - c. Her taming of the tigers
 - d. Her ordeals
- vi. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE:
The main character traits which suit Aunt Jennifer are powerful and bold.

8. Read the following extracts and answer the questions of ANY ONE of the given two:

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 fulfillment. He said I was unhappy. That made my wife kind of mad. (*The Third Level*)

- i. Complete the following with reference to Charley's decision to talk to a psychiatrist:
The usage of the word 'obvious' in "the obvious step" suggests that _____.
- ii. How can we say the psychiatrist's diagnosis of Charley's encounter as a "waking dream wish fulfillment" was insightful, in understanding the complexity of Charley's experience?
- iii. Complete the following with an appropriate option:

If Charley's wife's reaction implies sensitivity to the suggestion of marital unhappiness, then, her becoming "kind of mad" can be viewed as a _____.
 - a. Defensive stance
 - b. Protective measure

- c. Expression of concern
- d. Assertion of privacy

iv. Which textual clue suggests that Charley didn't just consult his psychiatrist friend?

OR

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

- i. Pick the option that uses the same figure of speech as "town slept in peace":
 - a. His actions really flared up my temper, so I walked out.
 - b. She is going through a roller-coaster of emotions.
 - c. My alarm clock yells at me every morning until I get out of bed.
 - d. The children were screaming and shouting in the fields.
- ii. What kind of attitude did the Dewan possess?
- iii. Find a word in the extract that has a similar meaning to the word – petition
- iv. The whole extract is a satire on the _____.

9. Read the following extracts and answer the questions of ANY ONE of the given two: 6x1=6 marks

A. I went to the pool when no one else was there. The place was quiet. The water was still, and the tiled bottom was as white and clean as a bathtub. I was timid about going in alone, so I sat on the side of the pool to wait for others. I had not been there long when in came a big bruiser of a boy, probably eighteen years old. He had thick hair on his chest. He was a beautiful physical specimen, with legs and arms that showed rippling muscles. He yelled, "Hi, Skinny! How'd you like to be ducked?" (*Deep Water*)

- i. What impression do you form about the narrator?
 - a. He is a beginner in swimming lessons

- b. He has made friends during his swimming lessons
 - c. The big boy was well built and handsome
 - d. The narrator lacks courage and confidence to enter the pool alone.
- ii. Complete the given sentence with ONE word:
The description of the big boy by the narrator is one of _____.
 - a. Complaint
 - b. Admiration
 - c. Criticism
 - d. Poise
- iii. Select the option that lists the probable reason for the big boy's behaviour towards the narrator:
 - a. His intention to frighten the narrator
 - b. His desire to give him a surprise
 - c. The place was quiet and odd
 - d. The narrator was skinny and alone
- iv. The figure of speech in the expression "as white and clean as a bath tub" is _____.
- v. Explain any one possible inference that can be drawn from the line, "I was timid about going in alone".
- vi. The writing style of the narrator indicates that the passage can be classified under a/an _____.

OR

- B.** A girl from the countryside, she hadn't gone through all the stages of worldly experience that generally precede a position of importance and sophistication that she had found herself catapulted into. She never quite recovered from the terror she felt that day. That was the end of a brief and brilliant acting career — the legal adviser, who was also a member of the Story Department, had unwittingly brought about that sad end. While every other member of the Department wore a kind of uniform — khadi dhoti with a slightly oversized and clumsily tailored white khadi shirt — the legal adviser wore pants and a tie and sometimes a coat that looked like a coat of mail. Often he looked alone and helpless.

(Poets And Pancakes)

- i. Select the option that completes the given sentence appropriately:
'Stages of worldly experience' in the given context would refer to _____.
 - a. Good education to gain knowledge

- b. Situations that require one to be street smart
 - c. Smaller, not so important roles in acting
 - d. Training in soft skills
- ii. Select a suitable word from the extract to complete the following analogy: sealed: closed:: propelled: _____.
- iii. Select the correct option to fill in the blank:
The harm done to the actress was a/an _____.
 - a. Well-planned act
 - b. Unintentional act
 - c. Act of jealousy
 - d. Act of male dominance
- iv. Based on the above extract, choose the statement that is TRUE for the legal advisor:
 - a. He disliked the actress from the countryside
 - b. He acted after thinking through things carefully
 - c. He did not get well with others in the Department
 - d. He was always dressed smartly
- v. Identify the textual clue (phrase) that allows us to infer that the writer is sympathetic towards the professional fate of the actor.
- vi. Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation, as per the extract:
The writer uses the word 'uniform' to refer to the outfits of the Department members because just like a uniform _____.

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

5x2=10marks

- a. Justify the statement below with reference to the poem "My Mother at Sixty Six":
"Being conscious of our mortality helps us cherish our moments with each other."
- b. In the poem "Keeping Quiet," the poet calls for a moment of silence and introspection. How does this act of quietness contribute to the well-being of both individuals and society?
- c. In the story "The Rattrap", both Edla and the old crofter offer the peddler hospitality, but it is Edla's treatment that changes him. State the reason for why Edla was able to bring about a change in him?

- d. In the text 'Indigo', Gandhi agreed to a refund of 25 percent to the peasants in Champaran. Do you think this was right or wrong of Gandhi to do so?
- e. What does Umberto Eco's approach to writing and knowledge reveal about his perspective on modern interviews and mass media?
- f. Why does Jansie discourage Sophie from living in a world of fantasy?

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

2x2=4 marks

- a. "It is easier to measure and study the effects of climate change in Antarctica." Explain with an example from 'Journey to the end of the Earth'.
- b. Sadao's acceptance of the General's plan to assassinate Tom was counterproductive to having put him on the path of recovery. Substantiate with reasons.
- c. How did the Tiger King meet his end? What is ironic about his fate?

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

5 marks

- A. If Franz meets Saheb-e-Alam, what discussion will both have about schools?

OR

- B. Edla's kindness was instrumental in bringing about a change in the rattrap peddler. Do you think she would have had such success had she interacted with Sophie? How do you think Edla's behaviour would have affected Sophie?

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

5 marks

- A. In the story 'The Third Level', Sam wrote a letter to his friend Charley, describing life in Galesburg in the year 1894. Imagine that you time travel to the year 1894. Write a letter to a friend, describing how life in 1894 is different from what it is now and how you feel about it.

OR

- B. After seeing off the enemy soldier, Dr. Sadao must have felt relieved. He was able to uphold the oath that he had taken as a doctor. Dr. Sadao made an entry into his daily diary explaining the dilemma faced by him and how he resolved it.

Imagine yourself to be Dr. Sadao and express your thoughts.

(You may begin like this :

I was able to uphold the oath that I had taken as a doctor ...

BRAIN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
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PRACTICE PAPER 2
Class XII
Subject – English (301)

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Section A- (Reading Skills-22 Marks)

1. Read the Passage given below. (12 Marks)

1. Like a computer that slows with use, the brain accumulates wear and tear that affects processing. This can be caused by a number of physiological stressors such as inflammation, injury to blood vessels (especially if you have high blood pressure), the buildup of abnormal proteins, and naturally occurring brain shrinkage.

2. The following factors can also affect your concentration.

Underlying conditions. Depression or sleep disorders can undermine your ability to concentrate. So can the effects of vision or hearing loss. You waste precious cognitive resources when you spend too much time trying to make out what's written on a page or just hear what someone is saying.

3. **Medication side effects.** Some drugs, especially anticholinergics (such as treatments for incontinence, depression, or allergies), can slow processing speed and your ability to think clearly.

4. **Excessive drinking.** Having too much alcohol impairs thinking and causes interrupted sleep, which affects concentration.

5. **Information overload.** We are bombarded with information from TVs, computers, and messages such as texts or emails. When there's too much material, it burdens our filtering system and it's easy to get distracted.

6. To improve attention, consider the following strategies.

Mindfulness. "Mindfulness is about focusing attention on the present moment, and practicing mindfulness has been shown to rewire the brain so that attention is stronger in everyday life," says Kim Willment, a neuropsychologist with Brigham and Women's Hospital. She recommends sitting still for a few minutes each day, closing your eyes, and focusing on your breathing as well as the sounds and sensations around you.

7. **Cognitive training.** Computerized cognitive training games aim to improve your response time and attention. Evidence that this works has been mixed. "The goal of playing these games is not to get better at them, but to get better in the cognitive activities of everyday life," Willment says. "But there is evidence that a person's ability to pay attention can be improved by progressively pushing the person to higher levels of performance."

8. **A healthier lifestyle.** Many aspects of a healthy lifestyle can help with attention, starting with sleep and exercise. When you exercise, you increase the availability of brain chemicals that promote new brain connections, reduce stress, and improve sleep. And when we sleep, we reduce stress hormones that can be harmful to the brain, and we clear out proteins that injure it. Aim for seven to eight hours of sleep each night, and 150 minutes per week of aerobic exercise, such as brisk walking.

9. Getting older is out of your control, but healthier living is something you determine, and it may improve concentration.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:

12 marks

i. In the first paragraph, brain is compared to a computer. This figure of speech is called 1M

ii. State TRUE or FALSE. 1M

High blood pressure adversely affects the brain.

iii. What are anticholinergics drugs used for? 1M

iv. How does information play a role in reducing our concentration? 2M

v. Which of the following helps to improve concentration? 1M

a. Medicine

b. Sleep

- c. Sleep disorders
d. Stress
- vi. Statement 1: Computerized Cognitive Games can help improve concentration.
Statement 2: Attention improves as one reaches higher levels. 1M
- a. Only Statement 1 is true.
b. Only Statement 2 is true.
c. Both the statements are true.
d. Both the statements are false.
- vii. How can one practice mindfulness to enhance attention? 2M
- viii. Substantiate from the passage. 2M
- “Sleep and Exercise are essential for good health.”
- ix. What would be the most appropriate replacement for the word ‘impairs’ in paragraph 4? 1M
- a. repairs
b. weakens
c. kills
d. enriches

1. Cricket is a passion for people around the globe. It is played everywhere from test match arenas to village greens, tropical beaches, and dusty backlots. Cricket is the world's second most popular spectator sport after soccer.

3. The oldest surviving set of cricket laws dates to 1744, which was printed on a handkerchief. Naturally, it's now in the MCC Museum at Lord's in London. The oldest permanent fixture is the annual Eton vs. Harrow match, played since 1805. A young Lord Byron turned out for Harrow in the first match, though history doesn't record how poetic - or "mad, bad, and dangerous" - his bowling was.

5. A One Day International (ODI) is a form of limited overs cricket, played between two teams with international status, in which each team faces a fixed number of overs, usually 50. The Cricket World Cup is played in this format. The international one-day game is a late twentieth-century development. The first ODI was played on 5 January 1971 between Australia and England at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

6. Table 1 represents the list of Cricket World cup winning countries as well as the runners-up for every Cricket World Cup played until 2023.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Winner</i>	<i>Runner-Up</i>
2023	Australia	India
2019	England	New Zealand
2015	Australia	New Zealand
2011	India	Sri Lanka
2007	Australia	Sri Lanka
2003	Australia	India
1999	Australia	Pakistan
1996	Sri Lanka	Australia
1992	Pakistan	England
1987	Australia	England
1983	India	West Indies
1979	West Indies	England
1975	West Indies	Australia

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:

(A) Give two points to support that the information mentioned in paragraph (2) could be beneficial. Answer in about 40 words. 2

(B) What would the following be classified as? 1

To explore the historical development of cricket and its cultural significance worldwide.

Select the appropriate response

- (a) Primary purpose
- (b) Secondary objective
- (c) Method of analysis
- (d) Research outcome

(C) Classify the following sentences as 'Test' or 'Ashes':

Sentence 1: The five-day format that tests a team's endurance and skill.

Sentence 2: The term to describe the series between Australia and England following a historic defeat. 1

(D) Read the following: 1

The game of cricket was first recorded in 16th-century England and saw significant development in the 18th century.

Select the option that identifies the correct aspect of cricket's development.

(a) The game's early documentation and its growth among nobles.

(b) The introduction of the ODI format in the late 20th century.

(c) The impact of the Eton vs Harrow match on cricket rules.

(d) The establishment of the Cricket World Cup format.

(E) Although cricket's early history and the establishment of Test matches are well-documented, why is the first ODI match significant? 1

(F) Analyse how the historical evolution of cricket from its early forms to the establishment of the Ashes series reflects its growing global significance. 2

(G) Complete the sentence appropriately:

According to the passage, cricket is played everywhere as it is. 1

(H) What is the ultimate significance of the Cricket World Cup winners and runners up list, based on the passage? 1

(a) It showcases the historical successes and competitive performance of various teams over time.

(b) It details the changes in cricket rules and regulations.

(c) It highlights the origins of cricket's international formats.

(d) It indicates the development of cricket grounds and facilities.

Section B (Creative writing skills -18 marks)

3. A. You are Rakhee/Rishabh, Secretary of the Career Counselling Cell of your school.

Write a notice in about 50 words, informing the students about an upcoming interactive session for students of classes IX to XII on 'How to Succeed as a Digital Content Creator' by Kriti Kumar, a renowned YouTube influencer. **4 Marks**

OR

B. The Student Council of your school has decided to organize an excursion to Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary and Sariska National Park for the students of classes XI & XII during the Winter break. As the President of the council, write a notice informing the students about this excursion and inviting their names. Invent other details like dates, fees and last date for submission of names etc.(50 words)

4. A. Your city, Goa is all set for the winter carnival. The streets are decorated for New Year celebrations. Fairs are being organised and the circus is coming to town. This is also the time for delightful seasonal treats, including local cuisine. Write an invitation, in about 50 words, inviting your pen pal who is visiting from Japan to come and join the merriment with you and your family. You are Shivam/Shivani.

4Marks

OR

B. Sarvodaya Public School, Rohtak is organising its Annual Prize Distribution Ceremony. The Principal wishes to invite MR P.K.Singh, the District Magistrate as the Chief Guest to preside over the function. Draft a formal letter of invitation to be sent out to the parents.

5.A. You are Sonali Rai, and have just completed your undergraduate studies in Music. You saw the given advertisement on a job portal of a music academy, and wish to apply for the open position. Write a letter to the Human Resources Manager at Raga Academy of Music and Dance, 67, 10th Main Road, Mysuru-570009 along with your bio-data, expressing your interest in the advertised post. Answer in 120-150 words.

Wanted

Music Teacher

Raga Academy of Music and Dance is looking for a music teacher for students aged 8-15 years

Experience: 0-2 years

Qualifications: An undergraduate/postgraduate degree in Music and exposure to both Carnatic and Hindustani schools of music

(5 Marks)

OR

B. Many people while travelling do not follow standard norms such as standing in queues, keeping one's surroundings clean, and maintaining a certain level of silence that shows respect for everyone's space. This leads others to have an unpleasant and unsafe experience. In 120–150 words, write a letter to the Editor of a national daily describing the problem and examining the various unfavourable behaviours. Provide suggestions that how such behaviour can be improved. You are Arunima Pankaj, a concerned Indian citizen.

6.A. Choice of course after clearing senior secondary school examination produces a great deal of stress on the mind 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'.

(5Marks)

OR

B. Your school conducted 'Talent Hunt'. Various competitions were held. Many new talented students could display their talent. As a Head Boy/ Head Girl of your school, write a **report** on it to be published in your school magazine.

SECTION C (Literature Text Books-40 Marks)

7. A. Read the extract given below and answer the following questions: (6x1=6 marks)

"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) What does the poet Pablo Neruda want here?

(ii) What is the 'sadness' being talked of here?

- a) Never understanding ourselves
- b) Ever remaining silent
- c) Destroying the environment
- d) Ever keeping our lives moving

(iii) When can a huge silence do us good?

- a) When we threaten ourselves with death

- b) When we advocate for stillness
 - c) When we strive to be victorious
 - d) When we enjoy the unusualness
- (iv) What do you mean by ‘no truck with death’?
- (v) What do people pursue single-mindedly?
- (vi) How would huge silence interrupt sadness?

OR

Aunt Jennifer’s fingers fluttering through her wool

Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.

The massive weight of Uncle’s wedding band

Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer’s hand.”

- (i) Explain the poetic device used in the line ‘fingers fluttering through her wool’?
- (ii). Why does she find it hard to pull the ivory needle?
- a. Mental suppression
 - b. Physical weakness.
 - c. Emotional satisfaction
 - d. Untrained hands
- (iii). In the third line ‘massive weight of Uncle’s wedding band’ refers to
- a. male authority and power.
 - b. Constrains of marriage
 - c. gender oppression.
 - d. All of the above
- (iv). What is the rhyme scheme of these lines?
- (v). What does the ring around her fingers symbolize?
- (vi). What does fluttering fingers indicate?

8. Read the extract given below and answer the following questions : (4x1=4 marks)

The Maharaja and the Dewan held deliberations over this issue. As a result, a telegram was despatched forthwith to a famous British company of jewellers in Calcutta. ‘Send samples of expensive diamond rings of different designs.’ Some fifty rings arrived. The Maharaja sent the whole lot to the British officer’s good lady. The king and the minister expected the **duraisani** to choose one or two rings and send the rest back. Within no time at all the **duraisani** sent her

reply: 'Thank you very much for your gifts.' In two day a bill for three lakh of rupees came from the British jewellers. The Maharaja was happy that though he had lost three lakh of rupees, he had managed to retain his kingdom.

- i. Who is referred to as *Duraisani*?
- ii. The Maharaja and the Dewan held deliberations over the issue of...
 - a. Maharaja's marriage
 - b. the upset British officer
 - c. the astrologer's prediction
 - d. the 100th tiger
- iii. The Duraisani proved to be awoman.
- iv. Why was the Maharaja unconcerned despite losing three lakh rupees?

OR

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow **(1x4=4 marks)**

In the conviction of her own superiority she bent impulsively and untied the knotted rugs that kept the white man covered. When she had his breast bare she dipped the small clean towel that Yumi had brought into the steaming hot water and washed his face carefully. The man's skin, though rough with exposure, was of a fine texture and must have been very blond when he was a child.

- i) Who has unknotted the rugs and washed the white man?
- ii) 'he was a child'. Who is 'he' referred to here?
 - a) Tom
 - b) Tom's father
 - c) Sadao
 - d) Sadao's father
- iii) Explain : ' In the conviction of her own superiority...'
- iv) What was the need to wash the white man?

9. Read the extract given below and answer the following questions .

(Do any one)

(6x1=6 marks)

But the jump made no difference. The water was still around me. I looked for ropes, ladders, water wings. Nothing but water. A mass of yellow water held me. Stark terror took an even deeper hold on me, like a great charge of electricity. I shook and trembled with fright. My arms wouldn't move. I tried to call for help, to call for mother. Nothing happened.

- (i) For the writer, what was the reason in the midst of the terror?
 - a) To jump up when hit the bottom
 - b) To look for ropes, water wings
 - c) To shout for someone's help
 - d) To float like a cork on the surface
- (ii) Who is responsible for the condition that the narrator was caught in?
- (iii) Which one was not one of the reactions of the author when he drowned?
 - a) He was hopeful to survive
 - b) He shook and trembled
 - c) His arms did not move
 - d) He called for his mother
- (iv) What did the author do after this incident?
- (v) Find the word in the passage that means “**fluttered**”?
- (vi) Find the line which brings out the helplessness faced by the author.

OR

His face, I see has lost the carefree look. The steel canister seems heavier than the plastic bag he would so lightly over his shoulder. The bag was his. The canister belongs to the man who owns the tea shop.

- (i) Who is 'He' here?
- (ii) Name the chapter and its author.
- (iii) Steel Canister is a symbol of
 - a) Penury
 - b) Responsibilities
 - c) Money
 - d) Wisdom
- (iv) What does the plastic bag refer to?
- (v) Why does the steel canister seem heavier?
- (vi). Was 'he' happy working at the tea stall? Justify.

10. Answer any five in about 30-40 words:

(5x2 =10 Marks)

1. Justify the statement below with reference to the poem 'My Mother at Sixty Six'. **“Being conscious of our mortality helps us cherish our moments with each other”**
2. What did the ‘greedy good-doers’ plan to do to the poor people? (A Roadside Stand)
3. In 'The Interview', we learn that Kipling strongly condemned interviews, yet he had previously interviewed Mark Twain. State a possible reason for such a contradiction.
4. Language can act as a means to unite a population. Justify through an example from the story 'The Last Lesson'.
5. Why does Asokamitran call Subbu " a Charitable and improvident man"?
6. In the story, 'Going Places', what do Sophie and Geoff's reactions to the United match reveal about each of them?

11. Answer any two in about 30-40 words: (2x2=4 Marks)

1. In 'The Third Level', the author uses a blend of reality and fantasy. While reality makes it relatable for the readers, what impact does fantasy have?
2. Why was ‘Akademik Shokalskiy’ heading towards Antarctica?
3. “The kindest thing would be to put him back into the sea,” Hana said.
Do you think Hana really believed that it would be kind to put the white man back into the sea? Why do you think she said the above line in the story 'The Enemy'?

12. Answer any of the following in about 120-150 words each. (5marks)

Do the following statement about life apply to the peddler in 'The Rattrap'?
Why or why not? Do you think you are similar to the peddler in this regard?

We are responsible for our own lives; every choice we make shapes the life we lead.

OR

Imagine Gandhi were to deliver a speech to the students in present day India showing them the path to becoming responsible world leaders. Based on your understanding of Gandhi's own leadership skills, write a speech, as Gandhi, addressing the students about the qualities that every leader and politician should nurture.

13. Answer the following in about 120-150 words. (5 marks)

Flattery is eating into the roots of our society and polity. ‘Discuss with reference to the lesson ‘The Tiger King’.

OR

Justify how the frequent description of nature and surroundings in the story 'The Enemy' enhance the quality of the narrative.

