BRAIN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
Session 2026-27
PRACTICE PAPER 1 Class XII
Subject – English (301)

General Instructions:

1. All questions are compulsory except where internal choice has been given.
2. Question Nos. I and II in Section A carry 1 mark each. You are expected to answer them as directed.
3. Question Nos. III and IV in Section B are short and long answer type- The questions carry 4 and 5 marks respectively. Check the word limit while answering.
4. Question Nos. V to XI in Section C are very short answer type, short answer type and long answer type questions carrying 1, 2 and 5 marks respectively. Please be mindful of the word limit given for each question.

SECTION-A – Reading (22 Marks)

I. 1. We sit in the last row, bumped about but free of stares. The bus rolls out of the dull crossroads of the city, and we are soon in open countryside, with fields of sunflowers as far as the eye can see, their heads all facing us. Where there is no water, the land reverts to desert. While still on level ground, we see in the distance the tall range of the Mount Bogda, abrupt like a shining prism laid horizontally on the desert surface. It is over 5,000 metres high, and the peaks are under permanent snow, in powerful contrast to the flat desert all around. Heaven Lake lies part of the way up this range, about 2,000 metres above sea-level, at the foot of one of the higher snow-peaks.

2. As the bus climbs, the sky, brilliant before, grows overcast. I have brought nothing warm to wear: it is all down at the hotel in Urumqi. Rain begins to fall. The man behind me is eating overpoweringly smelly goats' cheese. The bus window leaks inhospitably but reveals a beautiful view. We have passed quickly from desert through arable land to pasture, and the ground is now green with grass, the slopes dark with pine. A few cattle drink at a clear stream flowing past moss-covered stones; it is a Constable landscape. The stream changes into a white torrent, and as we climb higher I wish more and more that I had brought with me something warmer than the pair of shorts that have served me so well in the desert. The stream (which, we are told, rises in Heaven Lake) disappears, and we continue our slow ascent. About noon, we arrive at Heaven Lake, and look for a place to stay at the foot, which is the resort area. We get a room in a small cottage, and I am happy to note that there are thick quilts on the beds.

3. Standing outside the cottage we survey our surroundings. Heaven Lake is long, sardine-shaped and fed by snowmelt from a stream at its head. The lake is an intense blue, surrounded on all sides by green mountain walls, dotted with distant sheep. At the head of the lake, beyond the delta of the inflowing stream, is a massive snow-capped peak which dominates the vista; it is part of a series of peaks that culminate, a little out of view, in Mount Bogda itself.

4. For those who live in the resort, there is a small mess-hall by the shore. We eat here sometimes,

and sometimes buy food from the vendors outside, who sell kabab and naan until the last buses leave. The kababs, cooked on skewers over charcoal braziers, are particularly good; highly spiced and well-done. Horse's milk is available too from the local Kazakh herdsmen, but I decline this. I am so affected by the cold that Mr. Cao, the relaxed young man who runs the mess, lends me a spare pair of trousers, several sizes too large but more than comfortable. Once I am warm again, I feel a pre-dinner spurt of energy — dinner will be long in coming — and I ask him whether the lake is good for swimming in.

5. "Swimming?" Mr. Cao says. ——You aren't thinking of swimming, are you?
"I thought I might," I confess. "What's the water like?"

6. He doesn't answer me immediately, turning instead to examine some receipts with exaggerated interest. Mr. Cao, with great off-handedness, addresses the air. "People are often drowned here," he says. After a pause, he continues. "When was the last one?" This question is directed at the cook, who is preparing a tray of mantou (squat, white steamed bread rolls), and who now appears, wiping his doughy hand across his forehead. "Was it the Beijing athlete?" asks Mr. Cao.

1. One benefit of sitting in the last row of the bus was that
(a) The narrator enjoyed the bumps
(b) No one stared at him **1**
(c) He could see the sunflowers
(d) He avoided the dullness of the city.

2. The narrator was travelling to
(a) Mount Bogda
(b) Heaven Lake **1**
(c) A 2,000-metre high snow-peak
(d) Urumqi.

3. On reaching the destination the narrator felt relieved because
(a) He had got away from the desert
(b) A difficult journey had come to an end. **1**
(c) He could watch the snow-peak
(d) There were thick quilts on the beds

4. Mount Bogda is compared to
(a) A horizontal desert surface
(b) A shining prism **1**
(c) A Constable landscape
(d) The overcast sky

5. "their heads all facing us"- Whose heads are being spoken about? **1**
(a) The co-passengers
(b) Animals outside
(c) Sunflowers
(d) The mountain

6. Mount Bogda is contrasted to what?
(a) The desert **1**

(b) The bus journey
(c) The road
(d) The lake

7. Find a word from the passage (para 2) which means gush or strong current. **1**

8. Find a word from the passage (para 3) which means panorama. **1**

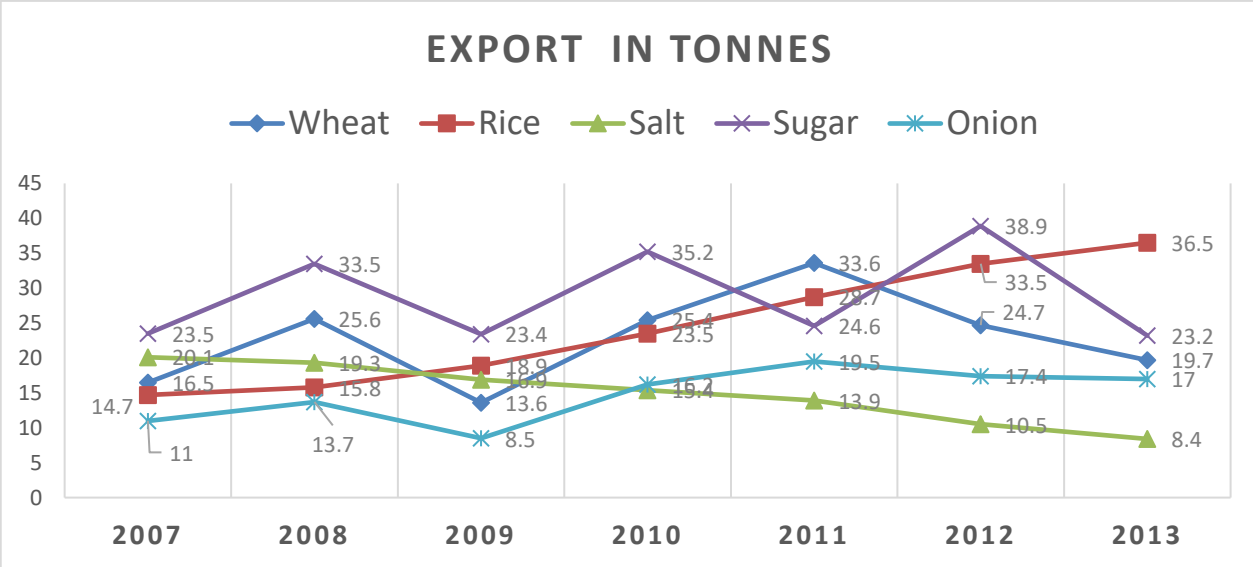
9. Which word from the passage (para 1) is synonymous to intersection? **1**

10. Write the word which is antonym to "start" or "begin" (passage 2, 3) **1**

11. What is ironic about the pair of trousers lent by Mr. Cao? **1**

12. Why did Mr. Cao not like the narrator to swim in the lake? **1**

II. Observe the below chart and data and answer the questions that follow.



	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Wheat	16.5	25.6	13.6	25.4	33.6	24.7	19.7
Rice	14.7	15.8	18.9	23.5	28.7	33.5	36.5
Salt	20.1	19.3	16.9	15.4	13.9	10.5	8.4
Sugar	23.5	33.5	23.4	35.2	24.6	38.9	23.2
Onion	11	13.7	8.5	16.2	19.5	17.4	17

13. Sugar exports have been most inconsistent every year.
a. Cannot Say **1**
b. True
c. False
d. Partially correct

14. Onion has touched the lowest exports in any given year (among all the years)
a. True
b. False **1**

c. Cannot be assessed.
d. Partially correct.

15. The most consistent ascending demand for exports is shown by:
a. Salt
b. Sugar
c. Onion
d. Rice **1**

16. The only ones to have a lower export in 2013 as compared to 2007 are:
a. Salt and Sugar
b. Salt and Rice **1**
c. Sugar and rice
d. Rice and wheat

17. The biggest fall is shown by _____ in the graph. (2013 as compared to 2007)
a. Onion
b. Sugar **1**
c. Salt
d. Wheat

18. In 2010 the closest export to salt is observed by _____.
a. Sugar
b. Wheat **1**
c. Rice
d. Onion

19. In 2008 the following products show a dip in exports as compared to the previous year.
a. Salt and rice
b. Salt and onion **1**
c. Onion and Rice
d. None of the above

20. In 2010 all products show a positive upward movement except salt.
a. True
b. False
c. None of the above. **1**
d. Insufficient information.

21. In 2009 _____shows the opposite trend than all the others.
a. Sugar
b. Rice **1**
c.Wheat
d. Onion

22. Which product touched the highest exports for any of the years.
a. Wheat
b. Rice **1**
c. Sugar
d. None of the above

SECTION-B – Writing Skill (18 Marks)

III. Answer the following questions: (50 Words)

23. A. You have received an invitation to be the judge for a literary competition in St. Ann's School. Send a reply in not more than 50 words, confirming your acceptance. You are Mohan/Mohini. **4**

OR

B. The literary club of your school is putting up the play 'Waiting for Godot'. As secretary of the club, draft an invitation inviting the famous writer Sudeesh Gupta to be the guest of honour at the function. Write the invitation in not more than 50 words. You are Govind/Gauri.

24. A There will be a special program on personality development. Draft a notice to be put in your coaching institute for the students, giving relevant details of fees, enrolling process and why should someone enroll for this course in about 50 words. You are Mary/ Joseph. **4**

OR

B. As Principal of Sardar Patel Vidyalaya, Lucknow, draft notice in not more than 50 words informing students of the change in school timings with effect from the 1st of October. State valid reasons for the change.

IV. Answer the following questions: (150 Words)

25.A You are Aarav/Aarushi Mehta, residing at 24, Shanti Vihar, New Delhi. You have observed that several organisations increasingly rely on AI-powered recruitment systems to shortlist candidates. While these systems improve efficiency, concerns about algorithmic bias, lack of transparency and discrimination against applicants from disadvantaged backgrounds remain largely unaddressed. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily highlighting the issue and suggesting measures to ensure fairness and accountability in AI-driven recruitment. (120–150 words) **5**

OR

B. You are Megha/Manav Kapoor, an MBA in Human Resource Management with five years of experience in corporate training and employee development. You see an advertisement in The Hindustan Times for the post of Learning and Development Executive at Vertex Global Solutions, Gurugram. The organisation seeks a candidate skilled in training-needs analysis, instructional design, performance evaluation and digital learning platforms. Draft a job application with bio-data, demonstrating how your experience and skills make you suitable for the position. (120–150 words)sss

26. A. There has been a huge mishap in one of the factories due the negligence of the staff. A fire broke out during the night time and created a havoc. Write a report giving details about what happened, and information gathered by reporters from the people of the factory. **5**

OR

B. Write an article on the topic "The current world is a reflection of our History"

Section C: LITERATURE (40 Marks)

V. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

27. *The flower of cities from sinking and withering faint.*
The polished traffic passed with a mind ahead.
Or if ever aside a moment then out of sorts
At having the landscape marred with artless paint

i. Name the poem and the poet. **1**

ii. What is the figure of speech in the second line of the extract? **1**
(a) Transferred epithet
(b) Metaphor
(c) Anaphora
(d) Simile

iii. What is the meaning of marred? **1**
(a) Reflection
(b) Shadow
(c) Spoilt
(d) Made colourful

iv. What is the poet talking about in the last line in the extract? **1**

v. What is the meaning of "mind ahead" **1**
(a) Looking excited
(b) Mind their own business
(c) Busy in thinking about their lives
(d) Regretting about the past.

vi. What is the meaning of the phrase "flower of the cities"? **1**
(a) The mindset of the city people
(b) The future of the cities
(c) The people and lifestyle of the cities
(d) The gardens of the city

VI. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

28. *Derry: I thought it was empty… an empty house.*
Mr. Lamb: So it is. Since I'm out here in the garden. It is empty. Until I go back inside. In the meantime, I'm out here and likely to stop. A day like this. Beautiful day. Not a day to be indoors.

i. Why do you think Derry entered the garden knowing or thinking it was empty? **1**

ii. The old man's response "Since I'm out here in the garden, (the house) is empty" shows **1**
_____
(i) His rudeness

(ii) His annoyance the unwelcomed guest
(iii) His anger at the boy
(iv) The truth that the house is indeed empty as he's not inside it

iii. "In the meantime, I am out here and likely to stop." What do you think the sentence means? **1**

iv. Assertion (A): Mr. Lamb states it's a beautiful day to be outdoors.

Reason (R): Derry was trying to steal his crab apples. **1**

(i) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
(ii) Both A and R and true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(iii) A is true but R is false.
(iv) A is false but R is true.

VII. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

29. *Savita, a young girl in a drab pink dress, sits alongside an elderly woman soldering pieces of glass. As her hands move mechanically like the tongs of a machine, I wonder if she knows the sanctity of the bangles she helps make. It symbolises an Indian woman's suhaag, auspiciousness in marriage. It will dawn on her suddenly one day when her head is draped with a red veil, her hands dyed red with henna,and red bangles rolled onto her wrists. She will then become a bride. Like the old woman beside her who became one many years ago.*

i. Pick out the option that best describes Savita.
(i) Young and innocent
(ii) Old and patient **1**
(iii) Young and irritable
(iv) Old and confused

ii. "Savita, a young girl ..., sits alongside an elderly woman, soldering pieces of glass." This means that Savita was____. **1**
(i) Trying to make the bangles all by herself
(ii) Trying to help the old woman
(iii) Hungry and disturbing the old woman in doing the work
(iv) Getting anxious and thus scolding the old woman

iii. The line, "As her hands move mechanically like the tongs of a machine, ..." is an example of
(i) Hyperbole **1**
(ii) Parody
(iii) Simile
(iv) Symbolism

iv. Choose the option that best demonstrates the significance of red colour in Indian Hindu culture.
(i) Aridity and boredom **1**
(ii) Energetic and vibrant
(iii) Auspiciousness and purity
(iv) Calmness and caution

v.	What does "soldering" mean?	**1**
vi.	What is the figure of speech used in the line "Like the old woman beside her"?	**1**
VIII	**Answer the below questions in 40 to 50 words.**	
30.	In the chapter "Deep Water" what was the reason to go to the pool to learn swimming?	**2**
31.	Why did Gandhiji agree on lower settlement amount? What was the reaction of representative of the planters?	**2**
32.	Why are the dooms mentioned in the poem "A Thing of Beauty"? How do we know about the dooms?	**2**
33.	"It seemed almost as if the poor man wanted to give us all he knew before going away" – elucidate the line?	**2**
34.	How did the author discover who had visited the Gemini Studio in the story "Poets and Pancakes"?	**2**
IX.	**Answer the below questions in 40 to 50 words.**	
35.	"Take care of the small things and the big things will fall into place." – what is the example given in the chapter (Journey to the end of the Earth) which connects to this line? Why is the connection made?	**2**
36.	How was the Tiger King raised?	**2**
X.	**Answer the below question in 120 to 150 words.**	
37	The story 'The Rattrap' is both entertaining and philosophical. Discuss.	**5**
XI.	**Answer the below question in 120 to 150 words.**	
38	What is the bond that unites old Mr. Lamb and Derry, the boy? How does the old man inspire the boy?	**5**

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Session 2026-27
PRACTICE PAPER 2 Class XII
Subject – English (301)

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3. Question Nos. III and IV in Section B are short and long answer type- The questions carry 4 and 5 marks respectively. Check the word limit while answering.
4. Question Nos. V to XI in Section C are very short answer type, short answer type and long answer

type questions carrying 1, 2 and 5 marks respectively. Please be mindful of the word limit given for each question.

SECTION-A – Reading (22 Marks)

I. 1. The road to Munsiyari was narrower than I had imagined. It wound through mountains that seemed to rise directly from the river, their slopes covered with pine and oak. Occasionally, the clouds descended so low that the road ahead disappeared into a grey curtain. Our driver, a thin man with a remarkably cheerful disposition, seemed entirely unconcerned. He drove with one hand on the steering wheel and the other resting casually on the window, as though negotiating hairpin bends on the edge of a precipice were an ordinary part of his afternoon routine.

2. We had left the plains early that morning, hoping to reach the village before sunset. The landscape had changed dramatically within a few hours. The warm, dusty air of the foothills had given way to a sharp mountain chill. Small settlements appeared intermittently along the road, their slate-roofed houses clinging to the hillsides. Women carrying bundles of firewood moved along narrow paths, while children watched our vehicle with an expression of mild curiosity. Beyond these settlements, however, the mountains appeared almost uninhabited.

3. At a bend overlooking a deep valley, the driver suddenly slowed down. A wooden signboard, almost entirely hidden behind a cluster of wild bushes, announced the presence of an old village called Dhaar. I asked whether we could stop. He glanced at the sign and shook his head. "There is nothing there now," he said. "The people left years ago." His response was so casual that I initially assumed he was referring to a village that had simply been abandoned. Yet something about the way he avoided looking towards the valley made me curious.

4. We stopped at a roadside tea stall a little further ahead. The owner, an elderly woman with silver hair and an unusually sharp gaze, was preparing tea over a wood-fired stove. When I mentioned Dhaar, she stopped stirring for a moment. "You should have seen it before the river changed its course," she said. Apparently, a landslide several decades earlier had blocked the natural flow of a mountain stream. The water had accumulated behind the obstruction and eventually flooded the lower settlement. Most families had moved to neighbouring villages, carrying with them whatever belongings they could salvage. A few houses, she added, still remained beneath the water.

5. I asked whether anyone had attempted to return. The woman smiled without amusement. "People return every year," she replied. "Not to live, but to remember." She pointed towards a distant ridge where a small temple stood, its faded red flag fluttering in the wind. Once a year, former residents gathered there to perform a ceremony in memory of their ancestors. They could no longer visit the houses in which they had grown up, but they refused to allow the memory of their village to disappear entirely.

6. By the time we resumed our journey, the rain had become heavier. The river below was no longer the quiet silver ribbon I had admired earlier. It had turned a muddy brown, carrying branches and fragments of vegetation at astonishing speed. At one point, we passed a stretch of road where a portion of the hillside had collapsed. Fresh earth lay scattered across the tarmac, and several workers were attempting to clear the debris. Our driver stopped, examined the slope and muttered something about the mountains being unpredictable. We waited nearly forty minutes before the road was declared safe.

7. We finally reached Munsiyari just as daylight was fading. From the balcony of our guesthouse, I could see the distant snow-covered peaks, their outlines gradually dissolving into the evening mist. I thought about Dhaar and the people who returned annually to a place that no longer existed in any recognisable form. It occurred to me that a village was perhaps not merely a collection of houses, roads and fields. It was also a repository of shared experiences, relationships and memories. Buildings could disappear beneath water, roads could be erased by landslides, and familiar landscapes could change beyond recognition. Yet the emotional geography of a place could survive long after its physical existence had been altered.

1. The driver's casual attitude towards the dangerous mountain road primarily serves to:
a. establish his familiarity with the difficult terrain.
b. demonstrate his indifference towards passenger safety. **1**
c. suggest his lack of awareness of mountain conditions.
d. highlight his preference for travelling independently.

2. The driver's reluctance to look towards the valley when mentioning Dhaar most plausibly suggests:
a. his uncertainty about the village's geographical location. **1**
b. his discomfort with recalling the village's unfortunate past.
c. his unwillingness to interrupt the journey unnecessarily.
d. his inability to recognise the abandoned settlement.

3. The elderly woman's statement, "People return every year. Not to live, but to remember," implies that:
a. former residents continue to hope for the village's restoration. **1**
b. ancestral traditions have become more important than survival.
c. emotional attachment can outlast physical displacement.
d. annual ceremonies are intended to attract new inhabitants.

4. Which of the following best describes the contrast between the physical and emotional landscapes presented in the passage?
a. The physical landscape changes, while collective memories endure. **1**
b. The physical landscape deteriorates, while social relationships weaken.
c. The physical landscape remains familiar, while memories gradually fade.
d. The physical landscape recovers, while traditional beliefs disappear.

5. The description of the river changing from a "quiet silver ribbon" to a "muddy brown" current primarily emphasises: **1**
a. the gradual restoration of the mountain ecosystem.
b. the unpredictable force of the natural environment.
c. the seasonal transformation of the mountain landscape.
d. the increasing dependence of villages on river water.

6. The narrator's final reflection suggests that the identity of a place is determined more by:
a. its geographical features and architectural heritage. **1**
b. its economic activities and traditional occupations.

c. its physical appearance and natural surroundings.
d. its collective memories and human associations.

7. Why did the narrator initially misunderstand the driver's statement about Dhaar? **1**

8. What geographical event led to the flooding and eventual abandonment of Dhaar? **1**

9. Why did the former residents gather at the temple despite being unable to return to their ancestral homes? **1**

10. Why did the driver stop when he encountered the damaged stretch of road, rather than continuing his journey? **1**

11. Find a word from paragraph 4 that is antonym of recovered (in the sense of saving something from danger). **1**

12. Find a word from paragraph 1 that means having a great height or appearing extremely steep. **1**

II. Observe the below chart and data and answer the questions that follow.

The table below presents the export performance of five agricultural commodities over a period of seven years. The figures represent the annual export value in ₹ thousand crore. The data reflects fluctuations in international demand, production capacity, market conditions and changing trade patterns.

Study the table carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Annual Export Values (₹ thousand crore)

Commodity	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Wheat	18	22	19	25	29	27	24
Rice	14	16	20	23	26	31	35
Tea	12	15	14	18	17	20	22
Spices	20	18	16	19	23	21	18
Coffee	9	11	13	12	15	18	16

Source: Illustrative data created for this assessment; figures are hypothetical.

Which statement best explains the changing position of Spices in the export market?

13. a. Its exports declined continuously throughout the period.
b. Its exports recovered after an initial decline but weakened again. **1**
c. Its exports remained largely unchanged despite market fluctuations.
d. Its exports increased steadily before reaching a stable level.

14. Consider the following statements:

I. Rice recorded a higher export value than Wheat in every year from 2021 onwards.

II. Rice's cumulative export value exceeded Wheat's cumulative export value over the entire period. **1**

Choose the correct option.

a. Both statements are correct.
b. Only statement I is correct.
c. Only statement II is correct.
d. Both statements are incorrect.

15. A trade analyst concludes that Coffee is the most reliable commodity for long-term export planning because it recorded an overall increase between 2017 and 2023. Which is the most appropriate evaluation of this conclusion?
a. It is valid because overall growth establishes market stability. **1**
b. It is invalid because overall growth alone cannot establish reliability.
c. It is valid because Coffee increased in every alternate year.
d. It is invalid because Coffee recorded a decline in the final year.

16. Which of the following conclusions is NOT supported by the data?
a. Rice maintained continuous growth across all seven years.
b. Wheat achieved its highest export value in 2021. **1**
c. Coffee recorded its lowest export value in 2023.
d. Spices experienced an overall decline between 2017 and 2023.

17. If a country's export strategy prioritises commodities showing both consistent growth and the highest absolute increase, which commodity would be the most suitable choice based on the data? **1**
a. Wheat, due to its strong initial performance
b. Rice, due to its sustained and substantial growth
c. Tea, due to its relatively stable export movement
d. Coffee, due to its consistent market fluctuations

18. The combined export value of Wheat and Spices in 2023 was lower than their combined export value in 2017.
a. True **1**
b. False
c. Cannot be determined
d. Partially correct

19. If the export values of all five commodities in 2017 are treated as the baseline, which commodity contributed the greatest proportion to the total increase in exports by 2023?
a. Rice **1**
b. Coffee
c. Tea
d. Wheat

20. Why is a consistent upward trend more significant than a high export figure in a single year? **1**

21. Absolute growth shows the actual increase in export value, while percentage growth accounts for the initial value and helps compare the relative pace of growth. **1**

22. How can the export figures help policymakers identify commodities that may need additional support? **1**

SECTION-B – Writing Skill (18 Marks)

III. Answer the following questions: (50 Words)

23. A. You are Ananya/Anand, the Head of the Literary Society of Crescent Public School, Jaipur. The school is organising its Annual Literary Festival, Expressions 2026, featuring poetry recitation, **4**

creative writing and a panel discussion. Draft a formal invitation card inviting Ms Meera Nair, an acclaimed author, to inaugurate the festival as the Chief Guest. Include the necessary details. (50 words)

OR

B. You are Arjun/Arpita, residing at 18, Green Park, New Delhi. You have received an invitation from the Principal of Heritage International School to attend its Annual Day celebration as the Guest of Honour on 20 December 2026. Write a formal letter declining the invitation politely, expressing regret and conveying your best wishes for the occasion. (50 words)

24. A You are Riya/Rohan, Secretary of the Eco-Club of your school. Several students have reported that the school canteen generates excessive food waste every day. The Eco-Club plans to launch a "Take What You Can Eat" campaign to encourage responsible consumption. Draft a notice inviting students to participate in the campaign and mentioning its activities, date and venue. (50 words) **4**

OR

B. You are Nisha/Nishant, HR Manager of Apex Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Gurugram. The organisation is launching a "Digital Bridge" initiative to train underprivileged youth in basic digital skills and online safety. Draft a notice inviting employees to volunteer as trainers over the weekends. Mention the purpose, duration, eligibility and registration details. (50 words)

IV. Answer the following questions: (150 Words)

25.A You are Kabir/Kavya Malhotra, residing at 42, Sector 15, Chandigarh. The growing popularity of instant delivery platforms, excessive packaging and one-click purchases has created a culture of convenience that often overlooks environmental and social costs. Write a letter to the Editor of The Tribune drawing attention to the consequences of this consumption pattern and recommending practical measures involving consumers, businesses and policymakers. (120–150 words) **5**

OR

B. You are Ananya/Anirudh Bose, a postgraduate in Journalism and Mass Communication with experience in research, editing and digital content creation. You notice an advertisement in The Indian Express for the post of Senior Research and Content Associate at a reputed educational publishing organisation in New Delhi. The candidate must possess strong analytical writing skills, fact-checking abilities, research aptitude and the capacity to simplify complex information for diverse audiences. Draft a job application with a suitable bio-data, establishing your suitability for the role. (120–150 words)sss

26. A. Write an article on the topic – "Consistency plays a big role in our life" with respect to "habits". **5**

OR

B. The Dubai EXPO was a big failure even after huge investments and attention it got globally. It failed to attract the right people who would actually invest in the development of the country. Number of visitors were close to 50%. Write a report about the expo, focusing on the reasons it failed.

Section C: LITERATURE (40 Marks)

V. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

27. *Life is what is about:*
I want no truck with death.
If we were not so single-minded
About keeping our lives moving,
And for once do nothing,

i. What does single-minded mean here? **1**
(a) Everybody to think alike
(b) To mind our own work and be selfish
(c) Going through the same cyclic days
(d) To be united

ii. What will happen by doing nothing? **1**
(a) We will look at each other
(b) We will know about our sadness.
(c) We will unite
(d) Wear clean clothes

iii. What does the poet mean by the first line in the extract? **1**
(a) We have sadness and happiness
(b) We all need to worry about ourselves
(c) We need to do what is required to be done
(d) None of the above.

iv. Prior to the extract the poet tells us not to confuse introspection with _____. **1**
(i) Inactivity
(ii) Jealousy
(iii) Green wars
(iv) Death

v. Name the poem and the poet. **1**

vi. What is the meaning of "truck" in the extract? **1**

VI. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

28. *The presidents of the New York Central and the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroads will swear on a stack of timetables that there are only two. But I say there are three, because I've been on the third level of the Grand Central Station. 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, but he explained that he meant the modern world*

is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry and all the rest of it, andthat I just want to escape.

i. Pick out the option which is a correct description of the phrase "waking-dream wish fulfillment". **1**

(i) A pleasant wish that makes one forget the past's terrible experiences

(ii) A pleasant wish that takes one to the future

(iii) A pleasant wish that encourages to work

(iv) A pleasant wish that makes one forget the present

ii. What does the 'third level' signify? **1**

iii. Pick out the option that best describes the mental tendency of the narrator. **1**

a. Disappointment

b. Escapism

c. Calm

d. Satisfied

(i) a and b

(ii) b and c

(iii) d and a

(iv) b and d

iv. "The modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry.: signifies that: **1**

(i) The world is full of chaos but at the same time means of happiness also for the narrator.

(ii) The narrator is not at all satisfied with his life.

(iii) The narrator wanted to explore more about the modern world.

(iv) The narrator enjoys the feeling of pain and insecurities in his life.

VII. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

29. *"Just as Doug Corpron used to do. I shouted with joy and Gilbert Peak returned the echo."*

i. Who is the speaker? **1**

ii. What did he do? **1**

(i) Swam the warm lake

(ii) Swam in Wentworth lake

(iii) Swam in Pool

(iv) Met Doug Corpron

iii. The speaker has fear of _____ . **1**

(i) Height

(ii) Water

(iii) Fire

(iv) Death

iv. He went to this place to clear his _____. **1**

(i) Relationship with friends.

(ii) Mind

(iii) Residual doubts about his fear.
(iv) None of the above.

v. "All we have to fear is fear itself" – Who's words were these? **1**
(i) President Garfield
(ii) President Kennedy
(iii) President Roosevelt
(iv) President Cleveland

vi. Name the story and the author? **1**

VIII **Answer the below questions in 40 to 50 words.**

30. Sophie constructs elaborate fantasies about her future, while Jansie remains grounded in practical realities. Why does Sophie's imagination become both a source of emotional satisfaction and a potential obstacle to her maturity? **2**

31. The ironmaster initially mistakes the peddler for an old acquaintance, but Edla recognises his human dignity despite knowing his actual identity. How does this contrast reveal the difference between superficial judgement and genuine compassion? **2**

32. Both Zitkala-Sa and Bama experience discrimination through seemingly ordinary social practices. How do their responses transform personal humiliation into an assertion of identity and resistance? **2**

33. The roadside stand owners seek financial independence rather than charity, but the city dwellers largely ignore their concerns. How does Frost expose the difference between the promise of economic progress and the lived reality of rural deprivation? **2**

34. The visit of the English poet to Gemini Studios created considerable confusion among the employees. How does this incident reveal the gap between intellectual pretension and genuine understanding? **2**

IX. **Answer the below questions in 40 to 50 words.**

35. "It is not quite at the kidney, my friend," Why did Dr. Sadao say this? Who is the friend here and why does he call him a friend? **2**

36. How did 'The World' help Charley to confirm his doubts regarding the existence of a third level? **2**

X. **Answer the below question in 120 to 150 words.**

37. Do you agree that we need to toil for our dreams? How does the chapter "Lost Spring" discuss this aspect about human life? Compare and Contrast the stories of both the protagonists (Saheb and Mukesh) in the chapter to explain. **5**

XI. **Answer the below question in 120 to 150 words.**

38. The story "Tiger King" is a satire on the conceit of those in power. How does the author employ the literary device of dramatic irony in the story? **5**