

**MARKING SCHEME**  
**ENGLISH ELECTIVE-(Code-001)**  
**CLASS XII (2024-225)**

**General Instructions:**

- i. The Marking Scheme carries only suggested value points for the answers. These are in the nature of Guidelines only and do not constitute the complete answer. The students can have their own expression and if the expression is correct, then due marks should be awarded accordingly.*
- ii. If a student has attempted an extra question, answer of the question deserving more marks should be retained and the other answer scored out with a note "Extra Question".*
- iii. If more than one option is mentioned in the answer of multiple choice questions, then no marks to be awarded.*

<b>SECTION A- READING COMPREHENSION</b>		
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>On the basis of your reading of the above excerpt, answer the following questions briefly.</b></p> <p>I B. Distant and aloof            II B. indifferent and uncaring            III C. Her father, brother and many insignificant things            IV A. His heart is longing for love            V C. 1 is correct and 2 is incorrect.            VI C The fragility of life            VII A Metaphor            VIII C It explores the complexities of human connection and dependence.            IX D By emphasizing the isolation and loneliness of the characters            X The postmaster feels an immense sense of emptiness and loneliness            XI Tagore shows this when the postmaster feels an overwhelming sense of isolation and longing for the city, influenced by the rural and natural setting of Ulapur            XII Ratan could not reconcile herself to the postmaster's 'eternal philosophy' and therefore chose to stay in the village, anchored by her memories and heartbreak.            XIII FALSE            XIV Man is a mortal being. Nobody can bond with someone forever on this Earth because eventually death will set them apart.            XV B. pretending to be surprised</p>	<b>12x1=12</b>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Based on your understanding of the poem, answer FOUR of five given questions.</b></p> <p>I B Human soul's search for meaning and purpose in life            (The poet, in this poem, embarks on a philosophical quest which ultimately leads to the question of meaning of life while musing on the vastness and, at the same time, on the short breadth of life.)            II A solitary, detached            III spider's tireless efforts to create a connection between itself and the world around it            IV D. Pensive and sedate            V It suggests that the connection may be fragile and delicate, but still essential to the soul's sense of purpose and belonging in the world.</p>	<b>4x1=4</b>

3.	<p><b>Based on your understanding of the passage, answer ANY FOUR of the given questions.</b></p> <p>I B impetus  II 2003 (lowest literacy rate)  III True (The passage talks about creation of new opportunities with enhancement in literacy rate)  IV 83%  V Rural education will help boost the overall economy. Furthermore, it will also help in reducing migration of people from rural areas to cities of employment and create new opportunities.</p>	4X1=4
<b>SECTION B  APPLIED GRAMMAR &amp; CREATIVE WRITING</b>		
4.	<p><b>Transform the following sentences as per the given instructions. (Any eight)</b></p> <p>I. No sooner did the delegates arrive, that the meeting started.  II. We lost our luggage as well as our ticket. / We lost our ticket as well as our luggage.  III. The actor said that it gave him great pleasure to be there that evening.  IV. If the car doesn't arrive on time, we shall miss the concert.  V. All we cared about was dance and drama.  VI. They were asked to put combination of all their ideas into one document.  VII. It was too hot for the rally to be held.  VIII. Never have I seen, Sumirna losing her temper.  IX. Priya asked her classmate if she would lend her the book the following day.  X. Their dog is so friendly that it can't be an effective guard dog.</p>	8X1=8
5.	<p><b>Attempt any three of the following four questions in 120-150 words each. [Credit to be given to the candidate's creativity in presentation of ideas, appropriate use of language and skills of reasoning. ]</b></p> <p>I. The marks may be divided as  Content – 2 marks  Organisation – 1 mark (fluency, coherence, logical flow)  Expression – 2 marks (vocabulary, originality of ideas, grammatical accuracy)</p> <p>II. The marks may be divided as  Content – 2 marks  Organisation – 1 mark (fluency, coherence, logical flow)  Expression – 2 marks (vocabulary, originality of ideas, grammatical accuracy)</p> <p>III. The marks may be divided as  Content – 2 marks  Organisation – 1 mark (fluency, coherence, logical flow)  Expression – 2 marks (vocabulary, originality of ideas, grammatical accuracy)</p> <p>IV. The marks may be divided as  Content – 2 marks  Organisation – 1 mark (fluency, coherence, logical flow)  Expression – 2 marks (vocabulary, originality of ideas, grammatical accuracy)</p>	3x5=15
6.	<p><b>Read the questions below and attempt ANY ONE of the following-</b></p>	1x5=5

	<p>The marks may be divided as:  Format 1 (heading + name of contributor)  Content –2 marks (inputs from the verbal cues to be used)  Expression – 2 marks (grammatical accuracy, vocabulary, coherence, fluency)</p>	
<p>7. (I)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SECTION C– TEXTBOOK &amp; FICTION</b></p> <p><b>Attempt any one of the two extracts (A) and (B) given below:</b></p> <p><b>(A)</b> Read the extract given below and answer the questions which follow:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. BECAUSE she is abandoning the security of her home and job to run away with a man. She worries that others might view her decision as reckless and unwise, particularly since her place at work would be easily replaced.</li> <li>ii. would be filled by advertisement, implying that the company would quickly find a replacement for her, making her feel replaceable and undervalued.</li> <li>iii. she values security and stability, as evidenced by her concerns about having shelter, food, and familiar surroundings. At the same time, she is apprehensive about how her actions might be perceived by others and the impact on her reputation. This shows that she places importance on societal approval and the opinions of her peers.</li> <li>iv. judge her harshly. The text suggests they might view her as a fool for running away with a man, indicating they would not be supportive or understanding of her decision but rather critical and judgmental.</li> <li>v. Gossipy and judgmental</li> <li>vi D. agreed</li> </ol> <p><b>(B)</b> Read the extract given below and answer the questions which follow:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Frau Frieda</li> <li>ii. The narrator knew her as Frau Frieda as a compatriot, which suggests they shared the same nationality or background.</li> <li>iii. After second world war, Vienna had become a hot bed of Black marketeering and espionage.</li> <li>iv. She wasn't a native of Vienna. The word 'fugitive' shows that.</li> <li>v. She still ate at students' tavern owing to her allegiance to her roots.</li> <li>vi. A. spying</li> </ol>	<p><b>6X1=6</b></p>
<p>7.(II)</p>	<p><b>A) Read the extract given below and answer the questions which follow:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The speaker would use "symphony" and "song" to create their imaginative vision.</li> <li>ii. ii. Metaphor</li> <li>iii. The speaker believes the symphony and song would have such a profound and delightful effect on them that it would inspire them to create a fantastical and imaginative vision, symbolized by the "dome in air."</li> <li>iv. The poet wants to achieve a transcendent, creative vision through music, where they can build an imaginative and wondrous world, represented by</li> </ol>	<p><b>6X1=6</b></p>

	<p>the "sunny dome" and "caves of ice."</p> <p>v. creates a vivid and fantastical vision, highlighting the transformative and imaginative power of music. This imagery helps convey the depth of the speaker's delight and the grandeur of the world they envision through the influence of music.</p> <p>vi. C. kill</p> <p><b>B) Read the extract given below and answer the questions which follow:</b></p> <p>i. The poem is set in the autumn season, as indicated by the falling leaves and the time of year when the swans gather at Coole Park.</p> <p>ii. "The trees" symbolize the changing seasons and the passage of time, as indicated by the leaves falling from them, which serves as a contrast to the swans' apparent timelessness</p> <p>iii. The swans might symbolize beauty, grace, and the constancy of nature amidst the changing seasons. They could also represent a sense of longing or nostalgia, as the speaker reflects on the passage of time.</p> <p>iv. At the beginning of the passage, the speaker perceives the swans as part of a serene and beautiful autumn scene. By the end of the passage, the speaker's perception shifts as the swans suddenly take flight, creating a sense of dynamic movement and perhaps a realization of the fleeting nature of their beauty.</p> <p>v. The swans are initially described as being on the "brimming water among the stones," suggesting a calm and tranquil scene. Then, the speaker observes the swans suddenly mounting and scattering in "great broken rings upon their clamorous wings," indicating a sudden, loud, and energetic movement.</p> <p>vi. D. tranquil</p>	
8.	<b>Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 30-40 words.</b>	<b>1x2=2</b>
	<p>I. Frank wanted Eveline to leave with him for Buenos Aires to start a new life. Despite the opportunity for a better life with Frank, Eveline is torn between her desire to escape and her sense of duty to her family, particularly her father and her deceased mother's memory.</p> <p>II. The swans in "The Wild Swans at Coole" can be seen as multifaceted symbols that represent the complexities of human existence, the passage of time, the beauty and mystery of the natural world, and the enduring power of art and inspiration.</p>	
9.	<b>Answer any one of the following two questions in 40-50 words each.</b>	<b>1x3=3</b>
	<p>I. Marquez characterizes Frau Frieda's dreams as a "stratagem for surviving." This implies that he viewed her dreams not necessarily as accurate prophecies but as a way for her to navigate and cope with the difficulties of life. Her dreams might have served as a psychological and emotional tool to provide her with a sense of purpose, hope, and direction.</p> <p>II. The poem opens with Coleridge describing his vision of the palace and gardens of Kubla Khan, which he envisions in intricate detail. These vivid and fantastical images are a testament to the poet's imaginative capacity to create an entire world within his mind. Rich and sensory descriptions transport the reader into the dreamlike landscape he envisions.</p>	

10.	<p><b>Answer any one of the following two questions in 120-150 words each</b></p>	1x5=5
	<p>I. A K. Ramanujan's poem "Time and Time Again" primarily focuses on the cyclical nature of time and personal contemplation rather than explicitly addressing communal disharmony. Readers may find indirect or symbolic references to social and communal issues in the text.</p> <p>The poet explores themes related to time, memory, and the repetitive nature of existence. The poem's central concerns revolve around personal experiences, emotions, and reflections rather than overtly addressing communal disharmony. Ramanujan's primary intent appears to be the exploration of individual consciousness and the human condition.</p> <p>It's possible for readers to interpret the poem in a broader context and draw connections to themes of communal disharmony indirectly. For example, the cyclical nature of time and the recurrence of certain experiences could be seen as a commentary on the persistent cycles of conflict and division within societies. The idea of feeling trapped in repetitive patterns might metaphorically symbolize the inability of communities to break free from historical conflicts.</p> <p>II. In his essay "Film-Making," Ingmar Bergman, discusses various aspects of filmmaking and the relationship between a filmmaker and their audience. He emphasizes the importance of honesty and authenticity in the filmmaker's communication with the audience.</p> <p>Bergman believes that a filmmaker should use film as a means of genuine self-expression. He argues that filmmakers should create films that are deeply personal and reflective of their own thoughts, emotions, and experiences. In doing so, they establish an intimate connection with the audience by sharing their inner world.</p> <p>A filmmaker's work should emotionally engage the audience. He suggests that films should evoke genuine emotional responses from viewers, whether it be joy, sadness, fear, or introspection. Bergman believes that this emotional engagement is central to the filmmaker's relationship with the audience.</p> <p>He views filmmaking as a form of communication and dialogue between the filmmaker and the audience. He emphasizes that the filmmaker should communicate openly and honestly through their work, treating the audience as intellectual and emotional equals who can understand and appreciate the complexities of the human experience.</p>	
11.	<p><b>Answer any one of the following questions in 30-40 words.</b></p> <p><b>Suggestive Responses</b></p> <p>I. The conflict is primarily about the clash between the human desire for control and exploitation of nature, represented by the characters of Captain and Madan, and the innate wildness and freedom of the tiger.</p> <p>II. Margayya's initial success as a financial expert leads to his downfall primarily through a combination of overconfidence, unethical behaviour, financial mismanagement, and a loss of support and trust from his community. His downfall was a consequence of prioritizing personal gain over ethical values and long-term financial prudence.</p>	1x2=2
12	<p><b>Answer any one of the following questions in 40-50 words.</b></p>	1x3= 3

	<p><b>Suggestive Responses</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Master, as a character, embodies a strong moral compass. He is depicted as a compassionate and ethical individual whose empathy and compassion toward Raja showcases the importance of these qualities in human interactions with animals and the natural world - Master's role as an advocate for nature and wildlife aligns with the author's intention to promote environmental awareness and conservation</li> <li>II. As Margayya rises in society due to his wealth and influence, readers can reflect on the idea of personal integrity versus social acceptance. Margayya gains respect and power through his financial dealings, but he loses his moral compass in the process. Margayya's eventual downfall and the consequences of his unethical actions serve as a cautionary tale. Margayya undergoes a transformation and seeks redemption. This aspect of his character's journey prompts readers to consider the possibility of change and redemption even after a life marked by unethical conduct.</li> </ol>	
13.	<p><b>Answer any one of the following questions in 120-150 words.</b></p> <p><b>Suggestive Responses</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. The novel explores the complex and often fraught relationship between humans and animals, highlighting the cruelty and mistreatment that animals can face at the hands of humans. Through its personification of Raja, the novel validates the experiences and emotions of animals who are too often neglected by their captors, promoting cultures of nonviolence between humans and animals. Tiger's idyllic, natural life is brutally interrupted when hunters kill all of Raja's cubs. By demonstrating Raja's profound grief at the loss of his children, Narayan encourages the reader to think of tigers as creatures with emotions not so different from our own. Through the stark juxtaposition between Raja's life in the wild and in captivity, Narayan encourages the reader to treat animals as fellow creatures with all the wants, needs, and feelings that we have and to ultimately let them be free in the wild.</li> <li>II. In R.K. Narayan's novel "The Financial Expert," the evolution of Margayya's character from his early success as a moneylender to his ultimate downfall is a central narrative arc that explores the consequences of his actions on both a personal and societal level. This transformation is marked by several key factors. Initially, Margayya's character is introduced as an intelligent and ambitious individual living in poverty in the town of Malgudi. His early success begins when he cleverly manipulates the financial transactions of his clients, exploiting their vulnerability and financial need. His acumen as a moneylender leads to rapid financial success, and he becomes a prominent figure in the community. Margayya's downfall is marked by a series of personal and societal consequences. His unethical practices alienate him from the community, eroding the trust and goodwill he initially enjoyed. His obsession with wealth causes him to neglect his family, leading to strained relationships with his wife and son. Margayya faces legal troubles and becomes entangled in legal disputes due to his fraudulent activities. Ultimately, he loses his wealth, social standing, and even his sense of self-worth.</li> </ol>	1X5=5

**SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER**  
**ENGLISH ELECTIVE- CODE 001**  
**CLASS XII - (2024-2025)**

**Total Time: 3 hours**

**Marks: 80**

**General instructions**

- i. This paper is divided in **THREE** sections.
  - A. SECTION A -READING
  - B. SECTION B – GRAMMAR & WRITING
  - C. SECTION C- TEXTBOOK
- ii. Separate instructions are given with each part and question, wherever necessary. Read the instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.
- iii. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

**SECTION A- READING**

**20 Marks**

1.	Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:	12x1=12
(1)	The postmaster's office was located in the village of Ulapur. He was a young man from Calcutta. Stationed here, away from the known limits of civilisation, he often felt like a fish out of water. The plantation workers nearby seemed to have their own community. Social miscegenation between two different classes of people seemed all but impossible.	
(2)	In truth, the boy from the city wasn't good at mixing with people. Uprooted and exiled to a foreign land, his feelings oscillated between arrogance and shame. He rarely met any of the villagers. At times, he tried writing. He wrote poems: poems in which the marrow of life seemed to resonate with the faint tremble of young leaves, where the memory of existence was rejuvenated by the sight of rain clouds—and yet, in his heart of hearts, he knew that the only way he'd welcome the sight of a new life would be if some fantastical djinn from the Arabian Nights arrived at night, unawares, and secretly swept away this maze of maddening vegetation. He longed for the security of metalled roads, of tall houses which blocked the sight of clouds in the open sky. The city was spreading its tentacles, calling him back.	
(3)	The postmaster's salary was meagre. He had to cook his own meals and his housework was under the care of an orphan girl called Ratan. Ratan was thirteen years old and called him dadababu. Her marital prospects seemed bleak. Evenings would arrive with plumes of smoke rising from the cowshed. The postmaster would light his lamp. The flame would sputter as he'd call out, "Ratan?" Ratan would be waiting for this call. But on its arrival, she'd rush into the room, feigning surprise. "You called, dadababu?" "Are you busy?" "Well, I need to go and make the fire . . ." "You can afford to do that later, can't you? Do be a dear and dress my tobacco.."	
(4)	Ratan would enter with the coal-filled hookah, blowing on it feverishly. The postmaster would snatch it from her hands and ask, quite suddenly, "Ratan, do you remember your mother?" Memories would flow back in. Her father, she remembered, loved her more than her mother. She remembered his smile clearly,	

	<p>the smile he'd carry home when he returned every evening. His face would return to her like a revenant, and the little girl, still lost in thought, would proceed to sit on the floor by the postmaster's feet. Looking at the young man, she'd remember how she had a brother once. She'd remember the past like it was only yesterday; how they'd played by that old pond, using a branch as a fishing pole! She'd find herself remembering bits of insignificant things. The larger tragedies of life were murky.</p>	
(5)	<p>There were days of magnetic nostalgia—sitting on the wooden plank by the hut, the postmaster would find himself remembering his own history—as he'd think of his little brother, his sister, of everyone he'd left behind. He was infinite and infinitesimal, engulfed by a gaping emptiness—if only, if only he had someone to share this with!</p> <p>And just like that, all of nature was echoing his abyssal vacancy. My heart is in free fall. Won't anyone catch it?</p>	
(6)	<p>On one afternoon during monsoons, Ratan walked into the postmaster's room and found him lying on his cot under a pile of blankets and was running a fever. Something was happening to Ratan. The pale fire of steady resolution crackled under her skin. In the force of an instant, she assumed the authority of a mother. Rushing out of the hut, she called the local doctor, stayed awake for the entirety of the night, crushing herbs, and feeding them to her patient, punctuating the stillness of this frightening night with the words, "Are you feeling better, dadababu?"</p>	
(7)	<p>It took the postmaster weeks to recover from his illness. When he had completely recuperated, he thought to himself, "Enough is enough!" He had to get out of here. He had to. He immediately wrote a letter to his superiors in Calcutta asking for a transfer on medical grounds. Her duties relieved, Ratan spent her days outside his room, book in hand, waiting for that old call. But the call never arrived. Finally, after weeks of waiting, Ratan was called in one evening. Nursing secret excitement and tender trepidation, she walked into the room.</p> <p>"Dadababu, you called?" "Ratan," he began, "I'm leaving tomorrow." "Where are you going, dadababu?" "I'm going home." "When will you come back?" The postmaster pursed his lips. "I don't think I will." Ratan stood still for a while. Words seemed to be losing their way in the labyrinth of her silence.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"Dadababu, will you take me with you?" The young man stared at the girl and then laughed. "That's ridiculous!" Shaken, she burst into tears.</p> <p>"Listen, Ratan. I never thanked you for everything you did. Now that I'm leaving, I want to give you something. Keep this. It'll make your ends meet for some time at least." The postmaster handed her a pouch. Peering inside, Ratan found that it contained all of her master's earnings. Stunned, the little girl fell onto the floor, clutching the postmaster's feet.</p> <p>"Dadababu!" she stuttered, "I b-beg of you! You don't have to give me anything! Please! Please! I don't want your kindness! No one—no one has to take charge of me!"</p> <p>And she ran out, vanishing into the mist enveloping the hut.</p>	



**(8)** Sighing, the postmaster picked up his bags, and walked to the riverbank where a boat was waiting for him. When the boat finally slid into the current, it was then that the postmaster felt the sudden weight of crushing grief that his heart was gravitating with. "I should turn back," he thought to himself. "Let me take her with me; she, who has always been neglected. She, who has never been welcomed." But by then, the wind had begun pushing the sails. The lukewarm heart of the voyager consoled itself with eternal philosophy: 'life was a river of partings and departings, of death and uprooting, of longing and belonging. What was the use of looking back? Who belonged to whom in this world?' But Ratan's little heart harboured no such philosophy. She had been circling the old hut cradled in the river of her own tears. Perhaps she nursed a tender hope that her dadababu would return one day. Anchored by its roots, she refused to move away from the debris of her own heartbreak. (1155 words)

*'The Postmaster by Rabindranath Tagore' - translated from the Bengali by Utsa Bose*

**On the basis of your reading of the above excerpt, choose the correct option to answer the following questions: (Any twelve)**

**I What was the postmaster's relationship with the villagers?**

- A. Close and friendly
- B. Distant and aloof
- C. Hostile
- D. Collaborative

**II The postmaster's decision to leave reveal about his character shows that he is \_\_\_\_\_**

- A. determined and resolute
- B. indifferent and uncaring
- C. hopeful and optimistic
- D. weak and indecisive

**III What all would Ratan recall while conversing with the postmaster?**

- A. A lot of things about her mother
- B. Large tragedies of her life
- C. Her father, brother and many insignificant things
- D. Her father, brother and many significant things

**IV What does the postmaster mean when he thinks- 'My heart is in free fall.'?**

- A. His heart is aching
- B. His heart is longing for love
- C. His heart is longing to explore
- D. His heart is throbbing at a fast pace

**V Statement 1: Ratan refuses to take the salary offered by the postmaster.**

**Statement 2: Ratan is annoyed at the postmaster's refusal to take her along with him.**

- A. Both 1 & 2 are correct and 2 is the reason for 1.
- B. Both 1 & 2 are correct and 2 is not the reason for 1.
- C. 1 is correct and 2 is incorrect.
- D. Both 1 & 2 are incorrect.

<b>VI</b>	<p>What does the image of the "faint tremble of young leaves" symbolize in the poem?</p> <p>A. The postmaster's longing for the city  B. The beauty of nature  C. The fragility of life  D. The growth and renewal of life</p>	
<b>VII</b>	<p>What literary device is used in the phrase "life was a river of partings and departings"?</p> <p>A. Metaphor  B. Simile  C. Hyperbole  D. Personification</p>	
<b>VIII</b>	<p>The postmaster often felt like a 'fish without water' in Ulapur because:</p> <p>A. His urban background made him a bad mixer in an unfamiliar place like Ulapur.  B. He was always thirsty and hungry.  C. The villagers were cordial with him.  D. He had forgotten his native place.</p>	
<b>IX</b>	<p><b>What does the river symbolize in the final paragraph?</b></p> <p>A. The postmaster's journey to a new life  B. Ratan's grief and isolation  C. The passage of time  D. The inevitability of change</p>	
<b>X</b>	<p>And just like that, all of nature was echoing his abyssal vacancy." What does this tell about the mental condition of the postmaster?</p>	
<b>XI</b>	<p>Tagore seems to be suggesting that the powerful natural world is capable of influencing those who come into contact with it—for better or for worse. Justify it with an example from the story.</p>	
<b>XII</b>	<p>Complete the sentence appropriately.  Ratan could not reconcile herself to the postmaster's 'eternal philosophy' and therefore chose to _____</p>	
<b>XIII</b>	<p>State whether the following opinion is <b>TRUE</b> or <b>FALSE</b>.  When the postmaster fell ill, Ratan took up the role of a dictator and called the doctor.</p>	
<b>XIV</b>	<p>What does the postmaster mean when he thinks, "Who belonged to whom in this world?"</p>	
<b>XV</b>	<p>In paragraph 3, the narrator says, "But on its arrival, she'd rush into the room, feigning surprise. "Which of the following expressions correctly display the meaning of 'feigning surprise'?"</p> <p>A. genuinely surprised  B. pretending to be surprised  C. trying earnestly to be surprised  D. elated at being surprised"</p>	

<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p><b>Read the poem ‘A Noiseless Patient Spider’ by Walt Whitman given below:</b></p> <p>A noiseless patient spider,  I mark'd where on a little promontory it stood isolated,  Mark'd how to explore the vacant vast surrounding,  It launch'd forth filament, filament, filament, out of itself,  Ever unreeling them, ever tirelessly speeding them.  And you O my soul where you stand,  Surrounded, detached, in measureless oceans of space,  Ceaselessly musing, venturing, throwing, seeking the spheres to connect them,  Till the bridge you will need be form'd, till the ductile anchor hold,  Till the gossamer thread you fling catch somewhere, O my soul.</p> <p><b>Based on your understanding of the poem, answer FOUR of five given questions.</b></p> <p><b>I</b>  The poem uses spider as a metaphor for:</p> <p>A. Human beings' tireless efforts for survival.  B. Human soul's search for meaning and purpose in life.  C. Human beings' striving for power.  D. Human soul's search for anarchy.</p> <p><b>II</b>  How has the poet described the existence of both the spider and the soul?</p> <p>A. solitary, detached  B. isolated, gregarious  C. amiable, explorative  D. imaginative, isolated</p> <p><b>III</b>  Complete the sentence appropriately.  The poet's use of Repetition in 'It launch'd forth filament, filament, filament' indicates _____.</p> <p><b>IV</b>  The mood of the poem is:</p> <p>A. Gloomy and baffling  B. Reflective and mocking  C. Poignant and nostalgic  D. Pensive and sedate</p> <p><b>V</b>  What does the image of 'gossamer thread' suggest?</p>	<p><b>4x1=4</b></p>
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Read the passage given below.</b></p> <p><b>(1)</b> Education opens up new opportunities to access new information and technology that enables an individual to make the right decisions in both personal and professional life. It allows children to understand policies, rights, laws from the young age which will be helpful in the future. As 65% of the population of India is situated in rural areas, emphasizing on rural education will help boost the overall economy. Furthermore, it will also help in reducing migration of people from rural areas to cities of employment and create new opportunities.</p> <p><b>(2)</b> And to further increase the literacy and growth rate, the government of India has launched many initiatives and the goal is to increase the enrolment rate and also to encourage the already enrolled students to attend regularly. (125 words)</p>	<p><b>4x1 =4</b></p>

Year	Rural Literacy (as a % of total rural population)
2003	60
2004	61
2006	64
2007	65
2011	69
2014	71

Source: MOSPI

**(3) Comparison of total number of schools in India and rural India (million)**

Year	Number of Schools in Rural India	Total Number of Schools in India
2016-17	1.30	1.54
2017-18	1.31	1.56
2018-19	1.30	1.55
2019-20	1.26	1.51

Source: Department of School Education and Literacy

**Based on your understanding of the passage, answer ANY FOUR of the given questions.**

**I** Fill in the blank by selecting the appropriate option.

It is important for education to reach rural areas as it will give an \_\_\_\_\_ to the Indian economy.

- A. understanding
- B. impetus
- C. caution
- D. alleviation

**II** 'With education, the rural population can apply new knowledge and implement better technology and practices into their businesses.' Considering this statement and according to the data in chart 1 in which year from 2003-2014, Ramnarayan who is a native of a village in Uttar Pradesh, would face the maximum challenge in digitalizing his start-up.

**III** State TRUE or FALSE

The following question could have been a part of the study survey.

*Question: How many job opportunities were created in rural areas between 2003-2014?*

**IV** Complete the sentence appropriately.

The above chart 2 shows the data on schools in rural parts of India. As per this, not less than \_\_\_\_\_ percentage of the total schools are located in rural India.

**V** State a point in support for the given opinion:

*A substantial budget should be allocated to rural literacy in India.*

Adapted from: <https://www.ibef.org/blogs/rural-education-integral-to-india-s-progress>

**SECTION-B**  
**APPLIED GRAMMAR & WRITING**

**28 Marks**

<b>4</b>	<p><b>Transform the following sentences as per the given instructions. (ANY EIGHT)</b></p> <p>I. The delegates arrived. The meeting started immediately. (Start the sentence with No sooner....)</p> <p>II. We lost our ticket. We lost our luggage. (Combine using as well as)</p> <p>III. The sign said, "Do not enter the room." (Begin: The sign stated .....)</p>	<b>8x1=8</b>
	<p>IV. Unless the car arrives on time, we shall miss the concert. (Begin: If.....)</p> <p>V. Dance and drama were all we cared about. (Begin: All .....)</p> <p>VI. They were asked to combine all their ideas into one document. (Re-write using: 'combination')</p> <p>VII. It was so hot that the rally could not be held. (Begin: It was too .....)</p> <p>VIII. I have never seen Sumirna lose her temper. (Begin: Never.....)</p> <p>IX. "Will you lend me the book tomorrow?" Priya asked her classmate. (Begin: Priya asked her classmate if.....)</p> <p>X. Their dog is too friendly to be an effective guard dog. (Begin: Their dog is so.....)</p>	
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Attempt any THREE of the following four questions in 120-150 words each.</b></p> <p><b>I</b> Write an analytical essay discussing the pros and cons of remote work. Analyse how remote work affects productivity, work-life balance, and employee satisfaction. Consider both the benefits and challenges, providing examples to support your discussion.</p> <p><b>II</b> Write an essay interpreting the influence of technology on traditional hobbies. Analyse how advancements in technology have transformed hobbies such as reading, gardening, and crafting. Discuss whether these changes are enhancing or diminishing the value of these activities. Provide examples to illustrate your interpretation</p> <p><b>III</b> Write an essay interpreting the significance of environmental conservation in the modern world. Discuss the importance of protecting natural resources and ecosystems for future generations. Use examples to highlight successful conservation efforts and the consequences of neglecting environmental issues.</p> <p><b>IV</b> In an era characterized by rapid advancement in digital technology and wide spread use of smartphones and social media the nature of human relationships has undergone significant changes. Write a discursive essay in which you critically examine the impact of digital technology on human relationships.</p>	<b>3x5=15</b>

6	<p><b>Read the questions below and attempt ANY ONE of the following-</b></p> <p><b>I</b> Imagine you are a student representative at your school. Write a report on the recently held Science Exhibition at your school.</p>	1x5=5
	<p><b>II</b> Mental health has become a significant public health concern. Write an article discussing the factors contributing to the rising rates of mental health issues, such as stress, social media, and economic inequality.</p>	
<b>SECTION C-TEXTBOOK</b>		<b>32 Marks</b>
7 (I)	<p><b>Attempt any one of the two extracts (A) and (B) given below:</b></p> <p><b>(A)</b> Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.</p>	1x6=6
	<p><i>“She had consented to go away, to leave her home. Was that wise? She tried to weigh each side of the question.”</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Who does ‘she’ refer to in the lines quoted above?</li> <li>ii. What was her dilemma?</li> <li>iii. How would her leaving have an impact on Stores?</li> <li>iv. How was Miss Gavan’s attitude towards her?</li> <li>v. How would people at the Stores judge her?</li> <li>vi. Which word can be a good synonym for ‘consented’</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;">         A. requested                      B. collected          C. complained                      D. agreed       </p>	
<b>OR</b>		
	<p><b>(B)</b> Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.</p> <p><i>“Vienna was still an old imperial city, whose geographical position between the two irreconcilable worlds left behind by the second World War had turned it into a paradise of black marketeering and international espionage. I could not have imagined a more suitable spot for my fugitive compatriot, who still ate in the students’ tavern on the corner only out of loyalty to her origins, since she had more than enough money to buy meals for all her table companions. She never told her real name.”</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Who does ‘her’ refer to here?</li> <li>ii. How did the narrator know ‘her’ as?</li> <li>iii. What new status had Vienna acquired after Second World War?</li> <li>iv. Was ‘her’ a native of Vienna? Pick the word/phrase which shows that.</li> <li>v. Why did ‘her’ still eat at students’ tavern?</li> <li>vi. Which word is a good synonym for ‘espionage’?</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;">         A. spying                      B. esoteric          C. eclectic                      D. espoused       </p>	
7 (II)	<p><b>Attempt any one of the two extracts (A) and (B) given below:</b></p> <p><b>(A)</b> Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:</p>	1x6=6
	<p>Could I survive within me          Her symphony and song,          To such a deep delight, ‘t would win me,</p>	

	<p>That with music loud and long, I would build that dome in air, That sunny dome! those caves of ice!</p> <p>i. Who does 'her' refer to here? ii. What does the poet wish about the song? iii. What does the poet want to achieve through music? iv. How does the poet intend to achieve it? v. Where is the 'sunny dome' located? vi. Which word is a good antonym for 'survive' A. recuperate                      B. flourish C. kill                                      D. restore</p>	
	<b>OR</b>	
<b>(B)</b>	<p>Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:</p> <p><i>The trees are in their autumn beauty, The woodland paths are dry, Under the October twilight the water Mirrors a still sky; Upon the brimming water among the stones Are nine-and-fifty swans.</i></p> <p><i>The nineteenth autumn has come upon me Since I first made my count; I saw, before I had well finished, All suddenly mount And scatter wheeling in great broken rings Upon their clamorous wings.</i></p> <p>i. In which season is the poem set? ii. What is the significance of the number "59" in the context of the poem? iii. What does the phrase "the trees" in the second stanza represent symbolically? iv. What is the state of the sky in the poem? v. For how many years has the poet been counting swans? vi. Which word serves as an antonym of 'clamorous'? A. vociferous                      B. raucous C. boisterous                      D. tranquil</p>	
<b>8</b>	Answer <b>ANY ONE</b> of the following two questions in 30-40 words.	<b>1x2=2</b>
<b>I</b>	What were the dynamics of relationship between Eveline and Frank?	
<b>II</b>	What do the swans in the poem, 'The Wild Swans at Coole' symbolize?	
<b>9</b>	Answer <b>ANY ONE</b> of the following two questions in 40-50 words each.	<b>1x3=3</b>
<b>I</b>	Why did the author think that Frau Frieda's dreams were a stratagem for surviving?	
<b>II</b>	How can the poem Kubla Khan by Coleridge be read as an illustration of the power of imagination?	
<b>10</b>	Answer <b>ANY ONE</b> of the following two questions in 120-150 words each	<b>1x5=5</b>

I	How does 'Time and Time again' reflect the poet's attitude towards communal disharmony.	
II	What according to Bergman, is the relationship between a film-maker and his audience in the essay 'Filmmaking'?	
<b>11</b>	Answer <b>ANY ONE</b> of the following questions in 30-40 words	<b>1x2=2</b>
I	What is the central conflict in 'A Tiger for Malgudi.'	
II	How does Margayya's initial success as a financial expert contribute to his downfall later in the story?	
<b>12</b>	Answer <b>ANY ONE</b> of the following questions in 40-50 words.	<b>1x3=3</b>
I	The creation of the role of Master is intended to serve as an ideal. Justify.	
II	Margayya's rise and fall in life makes the readers introspect on various notions of ethics and integrity. Elaborate.	
<b>13</b>	Answer <b>ANY ONE</b> of the following questions in 120-150 words.	
I	In "A Tiger for Malgudi," how is the theme of the interaction between humans and animals examined?	<b>1x5=5</b>
II	In "The Financial Expert," discuss the evolution of Margayya's character from his early success as a moneylender to his ultimate downfall. Analyze the key factors and decisions that contribute to this transformation, and explain how the novel portrays the consequences of his actions on both a personal and societal level."	



**MARKING SCHEME**  
**ENGLISH CORE (Code No. 301)**  
**CLASS-XII-(2024-25)**

**General Instructions: -**

1. *The Marking Scheme carries only suggested value points for the answers. These are in the nature of Guidelines only and do not constitute the complete answer. The students can have their own expression and if the expression is correct, then due marks should be awarded accordingly.*
2. *If a student has attempted an extra question, answer of the question deserving more marks should be retained and the other answer scored out with a note "Extra Question".*
3. *If more than one option is mentioned in the answer of multiple choice questions, then no marks to be awarded.*

<b>SECTION A: READING SKILLS (22 marks)</b>		
1.	Answer the following questions, based on the passage above. (Descriptive Passage)	<b>12</b>
<b>I</b>	They lead to instant interruptions in conversations. [language / expression may vary but the idea should remain relevant]	1
<b>II</b>	It illustrates how moments are fleeting and unnoticed, lost amid the distractions of digital interactions / it illustrates how easily significant moments can drift away when overshadowed by the focus on technology [language / expression may vary but the idea should remain relevant]	1
<b>III</b>	A. a deep (psychological) dependence on technology for a sense of wholeness or connection	1
<b>IV</b>	reduce the anxiety associated with the need to constantly be connected	1
<b>V</b>	C. It interferes with our ability to engage with meaningful aspects of our life.	1
<b>VI</b>	Yes it does - develop a hunch / mind is constantly alert (any one)	1
<b>VII</b>	The phrase refers to the natural, meaningful, and often quieter moments that make up human existence and relationships—those that occur away from the digital chaos. The writer draws our attention towards the genuine life experiences, such as face-to-face conversations, quiet contemplation, enjoying nature, and real-world interactions, that are overlooked or drowned out by the constant noise of digital activity. [language / expression may vary but the idea should remain relevant]	2
<b>VIII</b>	D. clamour	1
<b>IX</b>	A. Despite the intent to connect more effectively, the result is the opposite. (Option B is satire, C is hyperbole and D is metaphor)	1

X	<p>They are – (2 points to be elaborated for either)</p> <p>Benefits: Survey outcomes can offer a detailed understanding of the specific needs and preferences of various demographic groups, which can enhance the effectiveness of health interventions by making them more targeted and relevant. Additionally, using these data-driven insights can foster a sense of collaboration among stakeholders, promoting a unified approach towards health and sustainability.</p> <p>Challenges: Relying on survey outcomes may present challenges such as the risk of biases in the data collection process, which can twist results and lead to ineffective interventions. There's also the issue of survey fatigue among participants, potentially reducing engagement and the accuracy of the data gathered. Moreover, translating survey findings into practical interventions requires resources and continuous stakeholder commitment, which might not always be feasible.</p>	2
2.	<b>Answer the following questions, based on given passage.</b>	<b>10</b>
I	... how busy daily routines influence people to opt for quick and convenient eating options, often at the expense of nutritional value	1
II	A. Primary purpose	1
III	<p>The TWO points are –</p> <p>a) Health focus, as fruits are widely recognised for their health benefits, and this aligns with the study's goal to analyse snacking habits and their implications for health (making fresh fruits a relevant choice for understanding healthy snacking behaviours).</p> <p>b) Comparative analysis, as the study aims to compare the health implications of seasonal fruits versus packaged snacks. Including fresh fruits allows researchers to directly evaluate preferences between natural, healthier choices and processed, potentially less healthy alternatives.</p>	2
IV	Influence – sentence 1 ; Motivation – sentence 2	1
V	D. Seema - teenager (taste and convenience) ; Mohan - elderly(health, digestive ease) ; Arindam -young adult (health and convenience )	1
VI	Due to their increased health needs and focus on foods that are easier to digest and nutritionally beneficial.	1
VII	Targeted interventions can effectively address specific health needs by focusing on the unique factors influencing each demographic's snacking choices. For example, educational campaigns for parents can foster early healthy eating habits in children, while initiatives for teenagers can reduce the impact of advertising and peer pressure, promoting wiser food choices. Also, ensuring that middle-aged and older adults have access to fresh produce supports ongoing health maintenance, directly contributing to overall improved health outcomes across the lifespan.	2
VIII	B. Building healthier communities.	1

<b>SECTION B-CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 marks)</b>			
3.	Format – 1          Content -2          Accuracy of spelling and grammar -1		4
4.	A- (Card type formal / third person/ centre aligned) B- (Letter type- formal, first/ third person ) Format – 1          Content -2          Accuracy of spelling and grammar -1		4
5.	Format -1   Content -2   Organisation -1   Accuracy of spelling and grammar -1		5
6.	Format – 1   Content -2   Organisation -1   Accuracy of spelling and grammar -1		5
A.	<p>Article -Value points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cultural heritage provides a strong sense of identity, helping young people connect with their roots and understand how historical influences shape their personal and community identities.</li> <li>▪ Exposure to one's own and other cultures promotes tolerance and appreciation, which are vital in today's globalised society. This helps youths navigate diverse social environments with respect and empathy.</li> <li>▪ Engaging with traditional arts, crafts, and practices can inspire creativity and innovation among youths, allowing them to reinterpret cultural expressions in ways that resonate with contemporary life.</li> <li>▪ Active participation in cultural festivals, rituals, and community events strengthens bonds among community members and enhances social cohesion, making cultural heritage a pivotal part of daily life for youths.</li> <li>▪ Incorporating cultural studies in education can increase awareness and pride among young people about their heritage, encouraging them to become advocates and preservers of their traditions.</li> <li>▪ By using technology to create appealing and accessible cultural content, such as virtual museum tours, digital storytelling, and social media campaigns, youths can be engaged with their heritage in formats they find relatable and exciting.</li> </ul>		
B.	Cues lead to the eliciting of relevant response points		
<b>SECTION C-LITERATURE (40 marks)</b>			
<b>7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two-A or B</b>			
A	Poetry (Flamingo)		<b>6</b>
I	Gaining victory with no survivors		1
II	C. A moment of unity and peaceful reflection		1
III	...a potential for change and renewal / a moment of pause and reflection / an act of cleansing of their actions /embracing a peaceful existence/ the possibility of transformation		1
IV	condemns		1
V	B. Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.		1
VI	Global leaders and communities can work toward more sustainable and peaceful solutions – Can be used to advocate for non-violent resolutions / peace		1

	negotiations in contemporary conflicts / Can be used to promote dialogue and understanding over aggression and warfare	
<b>B</b>		
I	enforcing benefits	1
II	A. Coordinated help	1
III	...the traditional and longstanding sleeping patterns and nighttime rituals that have been part of the rural community's lifestyle for generations (deeply rooted cultural practices) [The speaker suggests that the modern practices, possibly influenced by external forces such as urbanisation or industrialisation, disrupt the natural sleep patterns of the rural inhabitants – dilute their time-tested ways.]	1
IV	irony	1
V	D. The assertion is false, but the reason is true. (Correct assertion - The poet criticizes the way the rural poor are treated by benefactors, suggesting it dulls their senses : 'soothe them out of their wits')	1
VI	Be wary of involvements by outsiders that might appear benevolent but could ultimately undermine your autonomy and dull your critical thinking abilities. [language / expression may vary but the idea should remain relevant]	1
<b>8.</b>	<b>Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (A) or (B)</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>A.</b>		
I	... exploring Cordilleran folds, granite shields, and environmental factors like ozone and carbon	1
II	The author does so by linking geological events to Antarctica's environmental conditions, highlighting the significance of geological processes in shaping the planet's history and future trajectories.	1
III	A. Feels overwhelmed by the vastness of geological time scales.	1
IV	By providing insights into how geological events impact polar regions and influence global climate patterns.	1
<b>B</b>		
I	. ...isolation and lack of support / absence of any solace or reassurance from others / being an animal to a herder thereby suggesting a loss of identity	1
II	anguish/ sense of loss/ turmoil ( any other relevant)	1
III	B. manipulated and controlled	1
IV	The imagery symbolises the forced assimilation and suppression of Indigenous culture, portraying the cutting of her hair as an act of cultural violence and the imposition of Western ideals of appearance and behaviour.	1
<b>9.</b>	<b>Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, A or B.</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>A</b>		
I	To emphasise the suddenness and shock of Franz's understanding about the importance of his education./ To conveys the urgency and deep impact of this	1

	moment / To dramatically highlight how unexpected and jarring the realisation was to him – like the startling and instant nature of a thunderclap / To effectively captures the emotional intensity of the moment of deep regret and abrupt awakening experienced by Franz	
II	intense	1
III	...preference for play over study	1
IV	It reflects a newfound respect and appreciation, overshadowing past fears of discipline and strictness.	1
V	B. Why, I hardly knew how to write!	1
VI	A. realisation	1
<b>B</b>		
I	It highlights his precarious economic situation and his dependence on chance finds for small joys and possibly essential income, reflecting the dire poverty and limited opportunities available to him.	1
II	desperate	1
III	...finding valuable items like coins gives them hope of finding more	1
IV	For children, garbage represents a source of wonder and potential treasure, whereas for adults, it is primarily a means of survival.	1
V	B. Rag-picking has evolved into a complex skill that is valued within the community.	1
VI	C. Reminiscing about past findings in the garbage.	1
10.	<b>Answer any five of the following six questions in 40 50 words each :</b> 1-Content            1- Expression            ½ -1 deducted from overall, for Accuracy	<b>10</b>
I	An instance of hope or resilience – Saheb’s continued search in the garbage, driven by the occasional discovery of a rupee or a ten-rupee note, symbolises his hope and resilience against the overwhelming odds of his harsh life. This reflects the theme of enduring hope amidst poverty and destitution - the human spirit’s capacity to dream and hope, even in the terribly dire circumstances -- suggesting that the desire for a better life can exist independent of one's current state of poverty	2
II	(Any one) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The image of her aging mother - ‘pale as a late winter’s moon,’ -- conveys the fragility and the inevitability of aging -- highlights the physical changes brought by time and evokes a sense of gentle, serene decline rather than abrupt decay</li> <li>▪ The image with the vivid, lively description of young trees sprinting and merry children spilling out of their homes --- contrasts sharply with her mother's stillness and silence --- enhances the sense of her mother's isolation in her old age / the relentless passage of time that spares no one -- life’s transient nature</li> </ul>	2
III	Represents -- the tension between local traditions and foreign occupation	2

	<p>The church clock -- symbol of local, everyday life and continuity --- in stark opposition to the Prussian trumpets, which symbolise disruption, military power, and the enforcement of foreign rule</p> <p>Highlights the theme of loss and the struggle to preserve one's cultural heritage against overwhelming odds</p>	
IV	<p>The author's writing style - often blends a conversational tone with introspective moments -- deeply affects the reader's engagement and understanding of the narrative.</p> <p>Use of direct dialogues interspersed with reflective commentary – this approach not only makes the interactions more dynamic and engaging but enhances the reader's insight into the complexities of personalities and themes being explored</p>	2
V	<p>Dual –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The tendency towards greed and deceit - society, driven by wealth and gain, ensnares individuals, reducing their existence to a constant struggle to escape from materialistic enticements</li> <li>▪ The potential for redemption through empathy and kindness –kindness and trust by the ironmaster's daughter, Edla, inspires the peddler to reclaim his essential humanity and escape the identity of a thief - signified by his decision to return the stolen money and leaving a note explaining his thoughts about the world being a rattrap</li> </ul>	2
VI	<p>Largely due to the leadership and advocacy provided by Mahatma Gandhi -- his involvement brought national attention to their plight --highlighted the importance of civil rights and nonviolent resistance</p> <p>Gandhi's strategic approach to negotiations &amp; his insistence on nonviolent protest -- empowered the peasants to stand up against oppressive landlords --- led to their immediate victory -- inspired a broader movement for social and economic justice across India</p>	2
11.	<b>Answer any two of the following three questions in 40 50 words each :</b>	<b>4</b>
I	<p>The significance of the toy tiger lies in its stark contrast to the dangerous live tigers the Maharaja had been hunting throughout his life.</p> <p>Its role in his death brings up the themes of irony and fate central to the story.</p> <p>It illustrates -- despite human efforts to control or escape destiny, it can manifest in the most unexpected and trivial forms.</p> <p>The toy tiger symbolises -- the ultimate futility of the Maharaja's efforts -- points to the folly of those who believe they can master fate through power or violence</p>	2
II	<p>The literal journey involves Charley, discovering a supposed 'third level' at the Grand Central Station--a portal to the year 1894. The metaphorical journey-- Charley's inner longing for a simpler, more reassuring past—a common human desire to retreat to a time perceived as better or less complicated.</p> <p>The significance - their portrayal of the universal quest for happiness and fulfillment -- together, these journeys explore themes of escapism, the subjective nature of reality, and the deep-seated human need for connection and comfort in familiar but idealised, settings.</p>	2
III	<p>Derry is of the pessimistic view whereas Mr. Lamb is of the optimistic view point. Both are disabled but still view life from different perspectives.</p>	2

	Both protagonists challenges with disfigurement are depicted with a stark realism that leans towards pessimism, yet interactions that offer genuine connection hint at underlying optimism -- suggest the possibility of emotional survival despite physical and social barriers	
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12. **Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words** **5**

**A.**  
 'A Roadside Stand' focuses on the economic disparities between rural and urban areas, and 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' delves into the gender-based inequalities within marriage and society.

A Roadside Stand	Aunt Jennifer's Tigers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depicts the struggles of rural individuals facing economic inequality.</li> <li>• Highlights the disparity between urban and rural lifestyles.</li> <li>• Reflects on the exploitation of rural communities by those in power.</li> <li>• Explores the loss of traditional ways of life due to modernisation and industrialisation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illustrates the oppression faced by Aunt Jennifer within her marriage.</li> <li>• Reflects on the expectations and restrictions placed on women, socially.</li> <li>• Explores the theme of domestic suppression and its impact on women's autonomy.</li> <li>• Highlights the contrast between Aunt Jennifer's inner world and her external reality.</li> </ul>

Impact on Bearers:

- A Roadside Stand -- rural folk are portrayed as struggling to make ends meet due to economic disparities, leading to feelings of frustration and helplessness.
- Aunt Jennifer's Tigers – Aunt experiences oppression and suppression within her marriage
- Both sets of bearers face the psychological and emotional toll of their respective inequalities, resulting in a longing for freedom and empowerment.
- Despite their challenges, the bearers in both poems demonstrate a desire to assert themselves through small acts of defiance or dreams of liberation.

**B**  
 While both Sophie and Subbu share aspirations for success in their respective fields, they encounter different constraints and demonstrate distinct approaches in pursuing their dreams.

Sophie	Subbu
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aspiration: Sophie dreams of owning a boutique or becoming a fashion designer.</li> <li>• Constraints: Financial limitations and other expectations, such as her father's disapproval, hinder Sophie's pursuit of her dreams.</li> <li>• Pursuit of Dreams: Despite the challenges, Sophie remains determined to achieve her goals, showing persistence and creativity in her pursuits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aspiration: Subbu aims to succeed in the film industry as a poet, actor, and contributor to Gemini Studios.</li> <li>• Constraints: While Subbu faces challenges, such as criticism for his perceived sycophancy and overshadowing of his literary achievements by his success in films, he navigates these obstacles with grace and humility.</li> <li>• Pursuit of Dreams: Subbu's dedication to his craft and ability to adapt to various roles within Gemini Studios reflect his unwavering commitment to his pursuits.</li> </ul>

13.	<b>Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words</b>	<b>5</b>
<p><b>A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Incorporation of Traditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Religion - how religious beliefs influence character actions and decisions. For example, Sadao's internal conflict may be influenced by his moral beliefs shaped by religious teachings.</li> <li>→ Family Bonds - how relationships in the family impact character interactions and motivations. For example, Hana's concern for the safety of her family and the potential repercussions of harbouring an enemy soldier could drive her actions.</li> <li>→ Patriotism - how national loyalty and patriotism create tension and conflict in the story. For example, Sadao's duty as a citizen and as a doctor may conflict with his compassion towards the wounded soldier, highlighting the complexities of wartime allegiances.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Narrative Techniques: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Setting - how the wartime setting amplifies the moral dilemmas faced by the characters. The backdrop of war intensifies the stakes and adds urgency to their decisions.</li> <li>→ Motivation - how cultural influences shape character motivations and drive the plot forward. The characters' actions may be guided by deeply ingrained cultural values and beliefs.</li> <li>→ Sources of Conflict - the key conflicts stemming from cultural differences, expectations, and wartime circumstances. These conflicts drive the narrative forward and heighten the tension.</li> <li>→ Pacing - how the pacing of the story reflects the characters' internal struggles and external conflicts. The pacing may fluctuate to convey moments of tension, reflection, and resolution.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<p><b>B.</b> (Any two narrative techniques) [The examples may be references and not direct quotes]</p> <p>a) First-Person Narrative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Technique - The story is narrated from the first-person perspective of Charley, which creates an intimate and personal recounting of his experiences and thoughts.</li> <li>→ Effect - This technique allows readers to directly engage with Charley's desires and fears, making his longing for escape and the nostalgia for a simpler past more tangible.</li> <li>→ Textual Evidence - Charley states, "But that's the reason, he said, and my friends all agreed. Everything points to it, they claimed. My stamp collecting, for example; that's a 'temporary refuge from reality.'"</li> </ul> <p>This personal reflection shares his internal justifications and how others perceive his escapism.</p> <p>b) Detailed Descriptive Language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Technique - The use of vivid and specific descriptions of settings and times, particularly Charley's descriptions of the third level of Grand Central Station.</li> <li>→ Effect on Themes - These descriptions not only build a believable world but also vividly paint the past, stressing the theme of nostalgia and the allure of escapism to a seemingly better and simpler time.</li> </ul>		



- Textual Evidence - “Then I saw why; they were open-flame gaslights.” and “everyone in the station was dressed like eighteen-ninety-something; I never saw so many beards, sideburns, and fancy mustaches in my life.”

These details highlight the historical setting Charley escapes to, filled with elements from the past.

c) Symbolism:

- Technique - The story uses the ‘third level’ as a symbol, representing not just a physical place but a mental escape into another time.
- Effect on Themes - The third level serves as a metaphor for the psychological refuge one seeks from the modern world’s anxieties, underlining the theme of escapism.
- Textual Evidence – Charley mentions, “Grand Central has been an exit, a way of escape—maybe that’s how the tunnel I got into.”

This line explicitly connects the physical space of the third level to the concept of escaping reality.

d) Contrast and Irony:

- Technique - The stark contrast between Charley’s mundane, modern life and his adventures on the third level introduces a layer of irony.
- Effect on Themes - This contrast enhances the nostalgic appeal of the third level while ironically pointing out the impracticalities of such escapism.
- Textual Evidence - “The clerk figured the fare—he glanced at my fancy hatband, but he figured the fare—and I had enough for two coach tickets, one way. But when I counted out the money and looked up, the clerk was staring at me.”

This shows how out of place modern elements are in the past, highlighting the nostalgic yet challenging nature of his escape.

**SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER**  
**ENGLISH CORE (Code No. 301)**  
**CLASS-XII-(2024-25)**

**Time allowed: 3 Hrs.**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions**

*Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:*

- i. This question paper has 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.*
- ii. This question paper contains three sections:  
Section A: Reading Skills,  
Section B: Creative Writing Skills  
Section C: Literature.*
- iii. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.*
- iv. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.*
- v. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

**SECTION A**  
**READING SKILLS**

**(22 marks)**

**1. Read the following passage carefully:**

**12**

- (1) In a room filled with people, each face illuminated by the soft glow of their smartphones, moments drift away like autumn leaves in the wind. The constant hum of notifications fills the air, punctuating conversations like an incessant drumbeat. Every vibration or ping sends fingers flying to screens, a response ingrained by years of digital conditioning. The once-reliable tick-tock of analog timepieces has been overshadowed by the constant flicker of notifications on the wrist watch, blurring the boundaries between the virtual and the real.
- (2) Anxiety gnaws at the edges of consciousness when the phone is out of reach, a phantom limb syndrome that leaves us feeling incomplete without our digital appendage. The fear of missing out permeates every moment spent away from the screen, driving us to constantly check for updates and notifications.
- (3) Thumbs move with the speed and precision of skillful pianists, tapping out messages and scrolling through feeds with practiced ease. Yet amidst the flurry of activity, the true rhythm of life remains unheard, drowned out by the dissonance of digital noise. The weight of constant connectivity forms a hunch upon our shoulders, a physical manifestation of the burden we carry in an age of information overload. Our minds are perpetually on high alert, scanning for the next wave of excitement that comes with each like, share, or comment.
- (4) And yet, for all our efforts to stay connected, we find ourselves increasingly isolated in a sea of digital faces. Genuine connections are fleeting, drowned out by the constant clamour for attention. In the pursuit of digital validation, we sacrifice the wealth of lived experience, trading meaningful moments for fleeting glimpses of connection. The true essence of life lies not in the pixels on a screen, but in the depth of human connection and the richness of shared experiences

(5) As we navigate this brave new world of constant connectivity, let us not forget the value of presence and the beauty of being fully engaged in the moments that matter most. For in the end, it is not the number of likes or followers that defines us, but the depth of our connections and the richness of our experiences that truly matter.

Created for Academic Usage / 421 words

**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.**

- I. According to paragraph 1, what effect do smartphone notifications have on the people in the room? 1
- II. How does the author use the metaphor of 'autumn leaves in the wind' to interpret the passing of time in the setting described? 1
- III. Read and complete the following sentence suitably. 1  
The phrase '*a phantom limb syndrome that leaves us feeling incomplete without our digital appendage*' suggests that just as an amputee might feel pain in a limb they no longer have, individuals can feel a sense of loss or incompleteness when they are separated from their digital devices.  
Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence.  
The concern this analogy points towards is about \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. a deep (psychological) dependence on technology for a sense of wholeness or connection
  - B. excessive physical damage that can be caused due to constant use of digital devices
- IV. Complete the following suitably with ONE advantage, with reference to paragraph 2. Designating specific hours each day to intentionally avoid checking digital devices can help \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- V. Why does the writer refer to digital noise as 'dissonance' in paragraph 3? 1  
Because-
- A. It creates a jarring and chaotic environment that disrupts focus.
  - B. It contributes to a sense of overload, overwhelming the senses.
  - C. It interferes with our ability to engage with meaningful aspects of our life.
  - D. It induces stress by interrupting with regular updates about the device.
- VI. Provide ONE textual evidence with reference to paragraph 3, to prove the following: 1  
The need to be perpetually engaged with digital notifications manifests in the body.
- VII. In the line, 'Yet amidst the flurry of activity, the true rhythm of life remains unheard...', what does the phrase 'true rhythm of life' refer to? (Paragraphs 3-4) 2
- VIII. Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph 4. 1  
whisper: quietly: \_\_\_\_\_: loudly
- A. validation
  - B. fleeting
  - C. essence
  - D. clamour

- IX Why is it fair to say that the statement ‘And yet, for all our efforts to stay connected, we find ourselves increasingly isolated in a sea of digital faces’ from paragraph 4, employs irony? 1
- A. Despite the intent to connect more effectively, the result is the opposite.  
 B. The writer mocks the seriousness with which people approach digital connectivity.  
 C. The writer exaggerates the effects of digital connectivity to highlight its impact.  
 D. Use of ‘a sea of digital faces’ to symbolically represent digital platforms.
- X Assess the potential challenges OR benefits of relying on survey outcomes for designing health interventions, as outlined in paragraph 5. 2

**2. Read the following carefully. 10**

- (1) Introduction:  
 In the hasty lifestyle of today’s world, the choice of snacks can greatly impact one's health and well-being. This case study aims to analyse the preference for seasonal fruits compared to packaged snacks among different age groups and the implications for overall health.
- (2) Methodology:  
 A survey was conducted among individuals across various age groups, ranging from children to seniors, to determine their snacking preferences. Participants were asked to indicate their preferred snack choices and provide reasons for their preferences. The data was then analysed to identify trends and patterns among different age demographics.
- (3) Survey Examination:  
 The survey encompassed a comprehensive examination of snacking habits, including not only preferred snack choices but also delving into the underlying motivations and influences guiding these choices. Beyond mere preference, participants were encouraged to articulate the reasons behind their selections, providing invaluable insights into the multifaceted nature of snacking behavior.
- (4) Results:  
 The survey results revealed interesting insights into snacking preferences among different age groups:

Age-group	%	Preferred snack	Reasons for preference
Children	77	Seasonal fruits	Taste, Health benefits, Parental guidance
Teenagers	65	Packaged snacks	Convenience, Taste, Peer influence
Young adults	52	seasonal fruits and packaged snacks	Transitional lifestyle(college, beginning careers, and establishing independence), Health consciousness, Convenience
Middle-aged	83	Seasonal fruits	Freshness, Nutrition, Health consciousness
Elderly	90	Seasonal fruits	Health benefits, Digestive ease

- (5) Implications for Interventions:  
 By discerning the diverse preferences among different age groups, policymakers and health practitioners can tailor interventions to address specific demographic needs. For instance, targeting educational campaigns towards parents could empower them to instill healthy eating habits in their children from an early age. Concurrently, efforts to mitigate the

influence of advertising and peer pressure on teenagers could involve regulatory measures and educational initiatives aimed at promoting critical thinking and informed decision-making. Furthermore, the prominence of seasonal fruits as a preferred snack choice among middle-aged adults and senior's points towards the importance of promoting access to fresh produce and nutritional education across all age demographics.

(6) Conclusion:

The survey outcomes serve as a roadmap for designing targeted interventions that not only cater to diverse demographic needs but also nurture a culture of health and well-being. By harnessing the insights gleaned from this study, stakeholders can collaboratively work towards building healthier communities and promoting sustainable practices for generations to come.

Created for Academic Usage / 315 words

**Answer the following questions, based on given passage.**

- I. Complete the following suitably. 1

In the introduction, the researcher links a hasty lifestyle with the choice of snacks in the study to highlight\_\_\_\_\_.

- II. What would the following be classified as? 1

*To examine snacking preferences across various age groups in detail, and assess health implications.*

Select the appropriate response.

- A. Primary purpose                      B. Secondary objective  
C. Method of analysis                    D. Research outcome

- III. Give **two** points to support why it is likely that fresh fruits were given as an option to the survey participants to choose from in the study on snacking preferences. 2

- IV. Paragraph 3 includes words – 'motivations' and 'influences.' 1

Classify the following sentences as 'influence' or 'motivation':

Sentence 1: Peer pressure leads teenagers to prefer packaged snacks over healthier options.

Sentence 2: The drive to maintain health as one ages makes middle-aged adults to choose seasonal fruits.

- V. **Read the following:** 1

Seema regularly enjoys snacking on chips and cool drinks while watching movies. Mohan, her neighbour, prefers to snack on oranges and also some nuts occasionally. Arindam, who lives across, often tends to eat a mix of carrot sticks and instant noodles, in between meals.

Select the option that identifies the correct demographic Seema, Mohan and Arindam belong to.

- A. Seema – young adult; Mohan – teenager; Arindam -middle-age  
B. Seema - teenager; Mohan – middle-age; Arindam -child  
C. Seema – young adult; Mohan – child; Arindam - teenager  
D. Seema - teenager; Mohan – elderly; Arindam -young adult

- VI. Although children, middle-aged, and elderly groups all prefer seasonal fruits, why is the preference percentage highest among the elderly? 1
- VII. Analyse how targeted interventions based on the diverse snacking preferences of different age groups can lead to improved health outcomes. (Paragraph 5) 2
- VIII. What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders, based on the insights from the study? 1
- A. Increase profitability through enhanced snack marketing
  - B. Building healthier communities
  - C. Reducing the cost of healthcare services
  - D. Expanding the range of available snack product

**SECTION B**  
**CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 marks)**

3. Attempt **any one** of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words **1x4=4**
- A. Your school is planning to conduct an inter-class seminar on the topic–The Importance of Mental Health–to create awareness in adolescents. As the head of the organising committee, write a notice to inform all students about the seminar and invite registrations from classes XI-XII. Include other necessary details. Put your notice in a box.

**OR**

- B. Your school is organising an inter-House webinar on enhancing coding skills, As the President of the Computer Club, write a notice to inform all House members from IX-XII about the webinar and specify the number of registrations invited per House. Include other necessary details. Put your notice in a box.
4. Attempt **any one** of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words. **1x4=4**

- A. Draft an invitation in not more than 50 words from Vani Gopalan, Chief Project Officer of an NGO, for the launch of the 'Each One Teach One' programme, addressed to school Principals and Coordinators. Mention a compelling highlight of the programme along with other necessary details

**OR**

- B. An invitation had been issued by Mr. Cherian, the HR Head of your company inviting you for the company picnic. As Joseph Vijayan, Asst. Manager, Operations, draft a reply in not more than 50 words, consenting to attend.
5. Attempt **any one** of the two, (A) or (B), in 120 150 words **1x5=5**
- A. Financial literacy is increasingly recognised as a crucial 21st-century skill for young individuals. Write a letter to the editor of a local daily discussing the benefits of providing financial literacy education to children. Also, suggest effective ways to raise awareness about the importance of this education among parents and guardians. You may use some of the given cues along with your own ideas to draft the letter. You are a counsellor, Chitra Mahapatra from Puri, Odisha.

- What are the long-term benefits of learning financial independence from a young age?
- Why is understanding the power of finances beneficial for young learners?
- Why skills learned during childhood tend to have a lasting impact.

**OR**

- B.** You are Maya Syiem from Shillong. You read the given advertisement and wish to apply for the post advertised. Write this job application along with your bio-data.

Join our Creative Team!  
A renowned publishing house in Shillong  
–A NEW WORLD–  
is seeking a talented illustrator for children's books.  
Creative individuals with a passion for storytelling through art, welcome.  
Experience, not mandatory.  
Team players with degree/ diploma in Fine Arts/ Graphic Design may apply with 5 samples  
from portfolio illustrating a variety of work.  
Write to the Project Lead, 23-C Rosewood Lane, Shillong-793005

Attempt **any one** of the two, (A) or (B), in 120 150 words

**1x5=5**

- 6.**
- A.** In an era of rapid globalisation and technological advancement, the preservation of cultural heritage remains a vital challenge, particularly for the youth. India continues to navigate the complexities of maintaining tradition alongside modernity. Write an article exploring the role of cultural heritage in shaping the identities of today's Indian youth. Provide examples to illustrate your points wherever necessary. You may use some of the given cues along with your own ideas. You are Arti Nirula of Class XII-A.

- How have global interactions and technologies influenced or changed these traditional practices among today's youth?
- What are the benefits of preserving cultural heritage for young people? How does it contribute to their sense of identity and community?
- Suggest ways in which young people and institutions can work together to ensure the preservation of cultural heritage.

**OR**

- B.** You are Hina Aziz, student of Class XII-D and a member of the school magazine editorial board. Write a comprehensive report detailing the activities undertaken by students as part of the celebrations on Yoga Day. Include descriptions of the events, participation details, and the overall impact of these activities on the school community. You may organise your report by following - Who - What – When – Where – Why – How

## **SECTION C**

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two-A or B 1x6=6

A Those who prepare green wars,  
wars with gas, wars with fire,  
victory with no survivors,  
would put on clean clothes  
and walk about with their brothers  
in the shade, doing nothing.

(poem - *Keeping Quiet*)

- I. What is a common outcome of all the wars described?
- II. What does the imagery of 'walking about with their brothers in the shade' primarily represent?
  - A. The readiness for further conflicts.
  - B. A return to normal activities post-conflict.
  - C. A moment of unity and peaceful reflection.
  - D. The physical environment of a typical war zone.
- III. Complete the following suitably.  
The putting on of 'clean clothes' by the warmongers, symbolises\_\_\_\_\_.
- IV. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.  
  
The excerpt tells us that the speaker \_\_\_\_\_ (condemns / glorifies) the destructive nature of modern warfare.
- V. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.  
Assertion: The poet advocates for 'doing nothing' as a way to prevent the devastation of war.  
Reason: 'Doing nothing' refers to a time for stopping any action for a few moments.  
  
Choose the correct option regarding their relationship.
  - A. Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
  - B. Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.
  - C. The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
  - D. The assertion is false, but the reason is true.
- VI. How can the message in the excerpt, about the outcome of wars be applied to promote peace?

**OR**

B 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.

(poem-*The Roadside Stand*)

- I Select the phrase that suggests the following:  
The so-called aids are not offered out of genuine care or consent but are imposed in a controlling and perhaps unwelcome manner.
- II What does the imagery of 'swarm' NOT represent in the given extract?
- |                         |                                |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| A. Coordinated help     | B. Overwhelming force          |
| C. Discomfort and chaos | D. Neglect of individual needs |

- III Complete the following suitably.

In the line, 'destroy their sleeping at night the ancient way,' the phrase 'the ancient way' refers to\_\_\_\_\_.

- IV. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.

The poet has used phrases like 'greedy good-doers' and 'beneficent beasts of prey' to illustrate the \_\_\_\_\_ (irony/satire) in the situation where those claiming to help the rural poor actually impose self-serving and detrimental actions on them.

- V. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.

Assertion: The poet criticizes the way the rural poor are treated by benefactors, suggesting it instills ambition.

Reason: The interventions are overwhelmingly calming and lead to a loss of critical thinking among the rural poor.

Choose the correct option regarding their relationship:

- |  |
|--|
| A. Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.     |
| B. Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion. |
| C. The assertion is true, but the reason is false.   |
| D. The assertion is false, but the reason is true.   |
- VI. State in one sentence, what cautionary advice your address to the rural poor from the extract, is most likely to include.

- 8. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (A) or (B) 4x1=4**

- A. To visit Antarctica now is to be a part of that history; to get a grasp of where we've come from and where we could possibly be heading. It's to understand the significance of Cordilleran folds and pre-Cambrian granite shields; ozone and carbon; evolution and extinction. When you think about all that can happen in a million years, it can get pretty mind-boggling. Imagine: India pushing northwards, jamming against Asia to buckle its crust and form the Himalayas; South America drifting off to join North America, opening up the Drake Passage to create a cold circumpolar current, keeping Antarctica frigid, desolate, and at the bottom of the world. (*Journey to the End of the Earth*)

- I. Complete the following suitably.

The passage suggests that visiting Antarctica offers insight into geological processes and

Earth's history by \_\_\_\_\_.

- II. How does the author imply the role of geological knowledge in understanding the Earth's past and potential future changes?
- III. The writer says, 'When you think about all that can happen in a million years, it can get pretty mind-boggling.'  
What is the most likely impact on the writer?
  - A. Feels overwhelmed by the vastness of geological time scales.
  - B. Is uneasy about the rapid pace of geological changes.
  - C. Feels indifferent towards geological phenomena.
  - D. Is surprised by the lack of significant geological events over a million years.
- IV. How might understanding the geological processes mentioned in the passage help scientists in predicting and mitigating future environmental changes, particularly in polar regions?

**OR**

- B.** I cried aloud, shaking my head all the while until I felt the cold blades of the scissors against my neck, and heard them gnaw off one of my thick braids. Then I lost my spirit. Since the day I was taken from my mother I had suffered extreme indignities. People had stared at me. I had been tossed about in the air like a wooden puppet. And now my long hair was shingled like a coward's! In my anguish I moaned for my mother, but no one came to comfort me. Not a soul reasoned quietly with me, as my own mother used to do; for now, I was only one of many little animals driven by a herder.  
(*Memories of Childhood: The Cutting of My Long Hair*)
- I. Complete the following suitably.  
Zitkala-Sa's description of her experience at the boarding school conveys a sense of abandonment through her portrayal of \_\_\_\_\_
  - II. List any one emotion that Zitkala-Sa experiences as her hair is being cut.
  - III. Select the suitable option to complete the following.  
The metaphor of being 'tossed about in the air like a wooden puppet' contribute to the reader's understanding of Zitkala-Sa's feelings of being \_\_\_\_\_.
    - A. forced to interact with others
    - B. manipulated and controlled
    - C. preached at and insulted
    - D. made to exist like toy animals
  - VI In what ways does the imagery of her 'long hair shingled like a coward's' symbolise the erasure of Zitkala's cultural heritage and the imposition of Western norms?

- 9. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, A or B.**

**1x6=6**

A. What a thunderclap these words were to me! Oh, the wretches; that was what they had put up at the town-hall! My last French lesson! Why, I hardly knew how to write! I should never learn anymore! I must stop there, then! Oh, how sorry I was for not learning my lessons, for seeking birds' eggs, or going sliding on the Saar! My books, that had seemed such a nuisance a while ago, so heavy to carry, my grammar, and my history of the saints, were old friends now that I couldn't give up. And M. Hamel, too; the idea that he was going away, that I should never see him again, made me forget all about his ruler and how cranky he was. (The Last Lesson)

I. What was the writer's purpose in using the metaphor of a 'thunderclap'?

II. Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank.

The use of exclamatory marks in the first five sentences of the extract serves to express the speaker's \_\_\_\_\_ (hidden/ intense) emotions.

III. Complete the following suitably.

The activities of seeking birds' eggs and sliding on the Saar reveal two things about Franz's character before his change in perspective. First, his youthful carefree nature and second, his preference for \_\_\_\_\_.

IV. What is reflected through the shift in the speaker's perception of Mr. Hamel, conveyed through his readiness to forget the ruler?

V. Select the textual option that is closest to indicating a sense of panic.

A. Oh, how sorry I was for not learning my lessons...

B. Why, I hardly knew how to write!

C. Oh, the wretches; that was what they had put up at the town-hall!

D. And M. Hamel, too;

VI. What does the following line from the extract, showcase?

*My books, that had seemed such a nuisance a while ago, so heavy to carry, my grammar, and my history of the saints, were old friends now that I couldn't give up.*

A. realization

B. confusion

C. expectation

D. affirmation

**OR**

B. And survival in Seemapuri means rag-picking. Through the years, it has acquired the proportions of a fine art. Garbage to them is gold. It is their daily bread, a roof over their heads, even if it is a leaking roof. But for a child it is even more "I sometimes find a rupee, even a ten-rupee note," Saheb says, his eyes lighting up. When you can find a silver coin in a heap of garbage, you don't stop scrounging, for there is hope of finding more. It seems that for children, garbage has a meaning different from what it means to their parents. For the children it is wrapped in wonder, for the elders it is a means of survival.

*(Lost Spring – Stories of Stolen Childhood)*

I. What does Saheb's statement about finding money in the garbage reveal about his daily life and aspirations?

- II. Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank.  
Describing garbage as 'gold' metaphorically elevates its value to the children, helping the reader understand the \_\_\_\_\_ (dynamic / desperate) conditions under which these children live, where even garbage can represent crucial economic resources.
- III. Complete the following with a suitable reason.  
Children continue to scrounge in the garbage because \_\_\_\_\_.
- IV. How does the perception of garbage differ between children and adults in Seemapuri?
- V. What is implied by the description of rag-picking as having 'acquired the proportions of a fine art' in the excerpt?  
A. Rag-picking is an undesirable and simple task that anyone can do without effort.  
B. Rag-picking has evolved into a complex skill that is valued within the community.  
C. Rag-picking is a temporary activity that does not significantly impact the community.  
D. Rag-picking has the status of an artistic hobby that children pursue for enjoyment.
- VI. What is the reason for Saheb's eyes 'lighting up'?  
A. The immediate experience of finding something valuable.  
B. Discussing his findings with others.  
C. Reminiscing about past findings in the garbage.  
D. Planning future scavenging expeditions

10. Answer **any five** of the following six questions in 40 50 words each : **5x2=10**

- I. Identify an instance of hope or resilience in 'Lost Spring' and analyse how it reflects one of the story's themes.
- II. Interpret the use of visual imagery by Kamala Das in her poem to depict the passage of time.
- III. What does the contrasting imagery of the church clock and the Prussian trumpets represent, in 'The Last Lesson'?
- IV. How does the author's writing style in 'The Interview' affect the reader's understanding of the story?
- V. Explain how the rattrap symbolises the dual aspects of human nature. (*The Rattrap*)
- VI. What factor/s were largely instrumental in the victory of the peasants in 'Indigo'?

11. Answer **any two** of the following three questions in 40 50 words each : **2x2=4**

- I. Discuss the significance of the toy tiger in the climax of 'The Tiger King.'
- II. Interpret the significance of both literal and metaphorical journeys in the story, 'The Third Level.'
- III. How does Susan Hill subtly portray a blend of pessimism and optimism in 'On the Face of It'?

12. Answer **any one** of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. **1x5=5**

**A** Analyse the poems, *A Roadside Stand* and *Aunt Jennifer's Tigers* for the theme of inequality and its impact on the bearers.

**OR**

**B** How do the characters of Sophie from 'Going Places' and Subbu from 'Poets and Pancakes' compare and contrast in terms of their aspirations, constraints, and the pursuit of their dreams?

**13.** Answer **any one** of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words **1x5=5**

**A** The influence of belief in traditions such as religion, family bonds, or patriotism can be used to develop narrative techniques like setting, motivation, sources of conflict, and pacing. Analyse how the writer has incorporated such influences to good effect in the story, *The Enemy*. Support your answer with valid textual evidence.

**OR**

**B** Discuss the narrative techniques used by the author in *The Third Level*. How do these techniques effectively convey the themes of escapism and nostalgia? Provide specific examples from the text to support your analysis.