Total No. of Printed Pages:11

POST MID-TERM EXAMINATION (2024-25)
ENGLISH CORE (Code No. 301)
CLASS-XII
Set A2

Time allowed: 3 Hrs. **Maximum Marks: 80**

General Instructions:
1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (22 marks)
Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages

1. Read the following text. **12**

1. For 33-year-old Srivyal Vuyyuri, the inspiration to set up Sphoorti, came about a decade ago. Back then, he was studying for his Master's degree in Economics at the University of Ohio, United states. 'Sphoorti,' which means 'inspiration' in Sanskrit, is an NGO that he started in an old rented house near Cherlapally, on the outskirts of Hyderabad, to take care of forsaken children.

2. One day in 2005, he got chatting with G. Ashok, the driver of an autorickshaw he was in. Ashok told him that his two small children had been thrown out of an English-medium school because he could no longer afford the increased fees. Ashok was now thinking of moving them to a government school. "The poor man was devastated," recalls Srivyal, "and so was I." With three young friends, he decided to sponsor the children's education and help put them back in the English-medium school.

3. Srivyal and his three friends, all very young men at the time, felt they had to do much more. They thought of starting a good English-medium school of their own for underprivileged children-an idea they soon abandoned after realizing they had neither the experience nor the funds. Yet something had to be done. "Why not start a home for kids with no parents?" suggested Srivyal. "We could educate them as well." That's how Sphoorti began. Srivyal gave up his comfortable job and the four friends became Sphoorti's trustees.

4. The first couple of years were challenging. Srivyal got more friends to donate and get things moving. "But it was not easy. People were unsure of our intentions and reluctant to send their wards to us. Even my parents were worried about my ability to take charge of children," recalls Srivyal. "But as more children trickled in and their numbers grew to about 40 by 2008, The Hindu featured us, and it made a difference."

5. As word spread, people were stepping in like angels. By 2009, the JJ Metta Memorial Foundation, a US-registered charity, started to help with some of the fundraising. There are also a few private sponsors. Today all the 108 children are integrated to Sai Model High School, a private English medium establishment. Sphoorti takes care of their fees, stay, food and other needs. About 35 percent of the children have no parents while the rest have either one parent

or both, but are unable to afford a good education for their child. Nine staff, including Srivyal, look after children.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:

i. Choose the correct option: 1

Srivyal's subject of study was.....
a. English
b. Economics
c. Child Psychology
d. Sociology

ii. What was the primary reason Ashok's children were thrown out of the English-medium school? 1

a. Poor academic performance
b. Behavioral issues
c. Increased fees
d. School policy change

iii. Complete the following sentence: 1

Srivyal and his friends initially planned to start _____ for underprivileged children.

iv. Explain in about 40 words, the significant challenge that Srivyal faced in the initial years of running Sphoorti, and how was it overcome? 2

v. How does Sphoorti support the children integrated into Sai Model High School, and what percentage of these children have either one parent or both? 2

vi. State whether the following statement is True or False: 1

Srivyal Vuyyuri started Sphoorti while he was studying in the United States.

vii. Give reason for the three friends abandoning the idea of starting a school. 1

viii. Fill in the blanks with a suitable word from Paragraph 1. 1

After the storm, the once-bustling beach was _____, with no signs of life except for the debris scattered along the shore.

ix. By 2009, which organization started helping Sphoorti with fundraising? 1

a. UNICEF
b. Red Cross
c. JJ Metta Memorial Foundation
d. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

x. Find a word in Paragraph 5, which is the antonym of ‘isolated’. 1

2. Read the following text. **10**

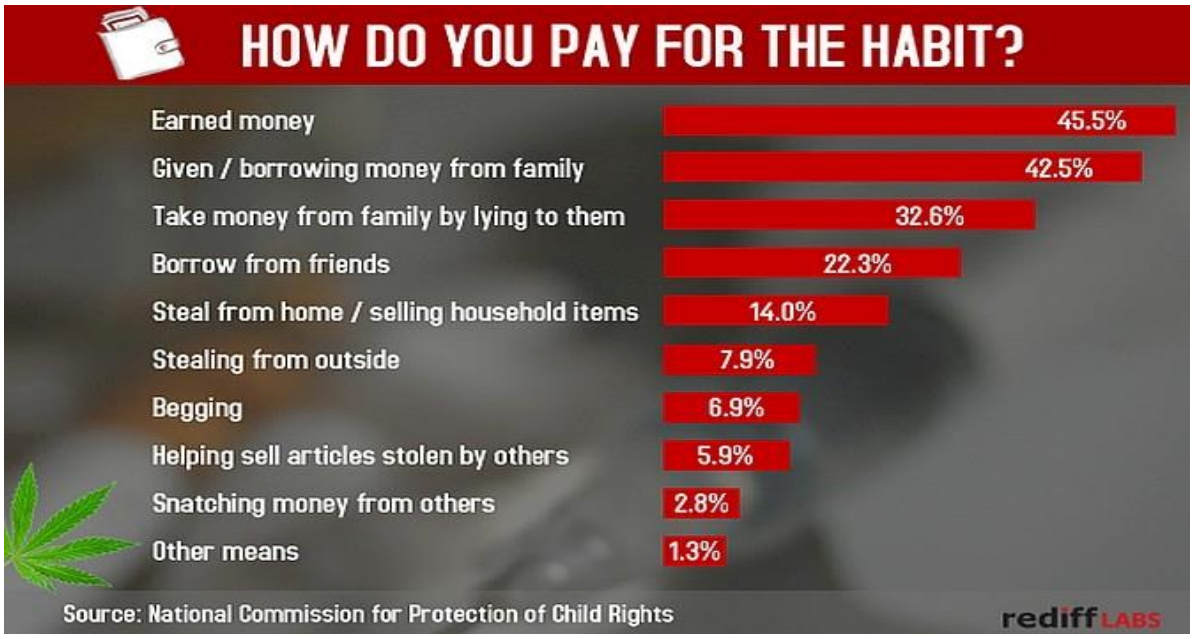
1. Drug abuse in India is an escalating crisis that poses significant challenges to the nation's social fabric, public health, and economic stability. This insidious issue is not confined to any one demographic or region; it permeates urban and rural areas alike, affecting the youth, working-class, and marginalized communities.

2. India, with its vast population and complex social dynamics, is witnessing a disturbing rise in the consumption of narcotics, prescription drugs, and synthetic substances. Cannabis and opioids are among the most commonly abused drugs, while the use of synthetic drugs like methamphetamines and MDMA is also on the rise, particularly in urban centres.

3. The causes of drug abuse in India are multifaceted. Economic hardship, unemployment, and the disintegration of traditional family structures contribute significantly to this growing menace. Peer pressure, curiosity, and the desire to escape from life's stresses further exacerbate the problem, especially among the youth. In some regions, drug abuse is intertwined with cultural practices and rituals, complicating efforts to curb its spread.

4. The consequences of this widespread drug abuse are devastating. It leads to an increase in crime, a deterioration of public health, and a significant burden on the healthcare system. The spread of infectious diseases like HIV/AIDS and hepatitis, due to shared needles, is a pressing concern. Furthermore, drug addiction often results in social ostracization, with families and communities being torn apart.

5. Efforts to combat drug abuse in India include stricter enforcement of drug laws, public awareness campaigns, and the establishment of rehabilitation centres. However, these measures are often hampered by inadequate resources, corruption, and a lack of political will. To effectively address this issue, a comprehensive and sustained approach involving government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and civil society is essential.



Answer the following questions, based on given passage.

i. Select the option which states the demography that is particularly affected by drug abuse in India: 1

a. Only the urban youth
b. Only rural communities
c. Various demographics, including youth, working-class, and marginalized communities
d. Only marginalized communities

ii. Mention two challenges faced while combatting drug abuse in India. 1

iii. Complete the sentence: 1

The rise in the consumption of narcotics, prescription drugs, and _____ is a growing concern in India.

iv. Identify a drug abuser from the following three speakers: 1

Speaker 1: "I feel a lot of stress at my workplace. Sometimes, I just want to forget everything, so I hang out with friends who use something to relax."

Speaker 2: "I don't understand why people even start using drugs. There are better ways to deal with stress, like exercise or talking to someone."

Speaker 3: "I've read about what drug addiction does to families, and it's heartbreaking. We need more awareness about the dangers before it destroys more lives."

v. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below: 1

Statement 1: Drug abuse in India can be combatted by strictly enforcing drug laws.

Statement 2: There is an excessive political will to combat drug abuse in India.

a. Statement 1 can be inferred, but statement 2 cannot be inferred.
b. Both Statements 1 and 2 can be inferred.
c. Statement 1 cannot be inferred, but statement 2 can be inferred
d. Neither Statement 1, nor Statement 2 can be inferred.

vi. With the help of the image given above, complete the following sentence: 1

The most common method of funding the habit is _____, with _____ % .

vii. With reference to the image given above, answer the following: 1

What is the combined percentage of those who steal (from home, outside, or by snatching) to fund their habit?

a. 25.7%
b. 24.7 %
c. 26.7%
d. 7.9%

viii. State whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE: 1

Heroin is the most commonly abused drug in India.

ix. Explain in around 40 words, your understanding of the drug abuse impacting public health and social life. 2

SECTION B: CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 marks)

Note: All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.

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

A. As Kushal/Kashish, Head Boy/Head Girl of your school, write a notice informing students about the upcoming construction of a new auditorium on the school premises. Include details about the start date of construction, safety measures, and any changes to the regular school schedule.

OR

B. You are Madhav/ Madhavi Sinha, the Treasurer of your Residential Society. Write a notice requesting all residents to clear any pending maintenance dues by the end of the month. Include details about the payment methods, due date, and consequences of late payments.

4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4

A. You are Anand/Anandi. You are planning a surprise birthday party for your best friend. Write an informal invitation to a close group of friends, inviting them to the party. (word limit: 50 words)

OR

B. Write a formal letter of refusal to the invite extended by Mrs and Mr Pathak to the engagement of their daughter. You are Mrs and Mr Dixit.

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

A. You are Pragya/ Pranay, staying at Kavi Nagar, Chandigarh. Write a **l**etter to the Editor of Dainik Bhaskar drawing attention of the authorities, to the serious problem of damaged street lights in your colony which leads to poor visibility and causes accidents. Suggest a few possible solutions to the problem.

OR

B. You are Kaveri Verma. You came across the following advertisement about a post of Marketing Executive that you would like to apply for. Write a letter to the Hiring Manager, expressing your interest in the position along with your resume.

Global Enterprises – Job Opportunity

Position: Marketing Executive

Are you a dynamic and motivated individual with a passion for marketing? Global Enterprises, a leading firm in the industry, is looking for a Marketing Executive to join our team. We are seeking candidates who are recent graduates in Business Administration or related fields.

Key Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Marketing, or a related field.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.

Job Responsibilities:

- Assist in developing and implementing marketing strategies.
- Conduct market research to identify trends and opportunities.

How to Apply: Interested candidates are invited to submit their resume along with a cover letter to the Hiring Manager at Global Enterprises, 46, Nehru Place, New Delhi- 110019.

6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5

A. Teenagers often associate fashion with their identity and social status. Many teens feel compelled to adopt certain fashion trends to fit in with their peer groups, thus putting financial burden on their families. Write an article on how changing fashion trends influence their choices, lifestyle, and self-esteem. Suggest ways to promote individuality rather than conforming to trends. You are Aatifa/Aatif.

OR

B. You are a reporter for your local newspaper. Write a report on a recent burglary in your residential society. Support your ideas with outline cues given below, to craft your report. You may organise your report by following – Who- What- When- Where- Why- How.

SECTION C: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40 marks)

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

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

(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

i. List the reason for the tigers being called 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers'.

ii. Why are the tigers described as 'denizens of a world of green'?

a. Because they walk fearlessly like kings
b. Because they are in their natural habitat where they belong.
c. Because they live in a forest.
d. Because they live in grasslands

iii. How were the tigers different from their creator?

iv. Complete the analogy by finding a word from the above passage.

walking in an energetic way: prancing :: polite and kind towards women: _____

v. Correct the following sentence by replacing the underlined part:

The poet of the above lines is John Keats.

vi. Which of the following words would rhyme with the second last line?

a. Community
b. Flee
c. Sheen
d. Scream

OR

B. *A thing of beauty is a joy forever*
Its loveliness increases, it will never
Pass into nothingness; but will keep
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing

(A Thing of Beauty)

i. What is the tone of the poet in the above lines?
1. aggressive
2. tolerant
3. sarcastic
4. sentimental

a. Only 1
b. Both 1 and 2
c. Only 4
d. Both 2 and 3

ii. Identify the phrase from the extract, that suggests the following:

Beauty is a perennial thing which keeps on increasing forever.

iii. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to 1 and 2 given below:

I. We can't live if we don't have beautiful things around us.
II. Beauty adds peace to life.

a. (II) can be inferred from the extract but (I) cannot

b. Both (1) and (II) cannot be inferred from the extract
c. Both (I) and (II) can be inferred from the extract
d. (I) can be inferred from the extract but (II) cannot.

iv. Complete the following sentence with relevant words:
A thing of beauty induces _____ and _____

v. Based on the rhyme scheme evident in the given extract, which word out of the following would rhyme with line 5?

deep seething meeting

vi. Which word in the given lines refers to 'the quality of being pleasing or attractive'?

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

A. *You think....'Here's a boy'. You look at me… and then you see my face and you think. 'That's bad. That's a terrible thing. That's the ugliest thing I ever saw.' You think, 'Poor boy.' But I'm not. Not poor. Underneath, you are afraid. Anybody would be. I am. I look in the mirror, and see it. I'm afraid of me.*

(On the Face of It)

i. Who is the speaker and who is he speaking to?

ii. What does 'the ugliest thing' refer to?

a. face of Derry
b. face of Mr. Lamb
c. face of the mirror
d. face of the author

iii. In Derry's opinion, everyone is afraid of him because of_____

iv. Give one character trait of Derry, based on the above lines

OR

B. *When I was studying in the third class, I hadn't yet heard people speak openly of untouchability. But I had already seen, felt, experienced and been humiliated by what it is. I was walking home from school one day, an old bag hanging from my shoulder. It was actually possible to walk the distance in ten minutes. But usually it would take me thirty minutes at the very least to reach home. It would take me from half an hour to an hour to dawdle along, watching all the fun and games that were going on, all the entertaining novelties and oddities is the streets, the shops and the bazaar.*

(Memories of Childhood)

i. The narrator was humiliated because_____

ii. The narrator 'dawdled along' as she

a. enjoyed looking at the various sights
b. she didn't like going home
c. was getting late for school

d. she enjoyed haggling and shopping

iii. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to statements given below:

I. The distance from school to home was very short.

II. She was feeling upset and was dawdling her way home.

a. (II) can be inferred from the extract but (I) cannot
b. Both (1) and (II) cannot be inferred from the extract
c. Both (I) and (II) can be inferred from the extract
d. (I) can be inferred from the extract but (II) cannot.

iv. Find a word which means nearly the same as unique and interesting items:

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

A. *Seeing me sitting at my desk tearing up newspapers day in and day out, most people thought I was doing next to nothing. It is likely that the Boss thought likewise too. So anyone who felt I should be given some occupation would barge into my cubicle and deliver an extended lecture. The 'boy' in the make-up department had decided I should be enlightened on how great literary talent was being allowed to go waste in a department fit only for barbers and perverts. Soon I was praying for crowd-shooting all the time. Nothing short of it could save me from his epics.*

(Poets and Pancakes)

i. Who does 'I' refer to in the above lines?

a. An office boy of the Gemini Studios
b. The Maharashtrian Head of the Gemini Studios
c. Asokamitran, the author of 'Poets and Pancakes'
d. The lawyer in Gemini Studios

ii. The boy referred to in these lines is_____

iii. Why was 'I' the chosen one to be enlightened?

a. due to the idle appearance of his work
b. as he was the junior of 'the boy'
c. both of them were friends.
d. because 'the boy' thought that the speaker lacked awareness about the events in the Studio.

iv. What prayer did the speaker use to make and why?

v. State whether the following statements are True or False:

The narrator dreaded the long lectures from the boy in the make-up department.

vi. Pick a line which means the same as 'only that could rescue me from his never-ending stories'.

OR

B. *"I met Danny Casey," Sophie said.*
He looked around abruptly. "Where?"
"In the arcade — funnily enough."
"It's never true."
"I did too."
"You told Dad?"
She shook her head, chastened at his unawareness
that he was always the first to share her secrets.
"I don't believe it."
"There I was looking at the clothes in Royce's window when someone came and stood beside me, and I looked around and who should it be but Danny Casey.

(Going Places)

i. Who is Danny Casey?

a. An actor
b. An Irish footballer
c. A famous cricketer
d. An English golf player

ii. Who does 'he' in the above lines refer to?

iii. Why did Sophie share with 'him' the details of the secret meeting with Danny Casey?

a. He was a great fan of Danny Casey.
b. She was confident that he would keep it a secret.
c. She wanted to impress and surprise him.
d. He was her best friend and confidant

iv. According to Sophie, where did she meet Danny Casey?

v. Explain one possible reason why Sophie did not tell her father about meeting Danny Casey.

vi. Identify the line from the text that shows Sophie's excitement and surprise at meeting Danny Casey.

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words. 2x5=10

i. As the host of a talk show, introduce William Douglas, the author of 'Deep Water' to the audience by stating any two of his defining qualities.

You may begin your answer like this: Meet William Douglas, the man who inspires us in many ways.

ii. What might be the significance of setting the events of the story 'The Rattrap' during Christmas? Justify your opinion.

iii. A crisis brings out our true capacity for compassion and kindness. Support the above statement using M. Hamel from 'The Last Lesson' as an example. State any one detail from the text.

iv. What are the different kinds of wars mentioned in the poem 'Keeping Quiet' that the poet is against?

v. What images does Kamala Das use to signify her mother's ageing decay? (My Mother at Sixty-six)

vi. What does the phrase 'soothe them out of their wits' mean, with reference to the poem 'A Roadside Stand'.

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. 2x2=4

i. Why did the Maharaja order the Dewan to double the land tax? Which character trait of his gets reflected here? (The Tiger King)

ii. In the story 'The Enemy' why was the General apologetic when Sadao told him that the prisoner had escaped?

iii. Identify Tishani Doshi's writing style in 'Journey to the End of the Earth' and state two aspects that characterise it using examples from the text.

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5

A. In '*Indigo'*, explore how the text highlights the role of corruption and exploitation in perpetuating the oppressive system of indigo cultivation. How does this parallel the themes of corruption and exploitation depicted in '*Lost Spring: Stories of Stolen Childhood'?*

OR

B. Write an article for your school magazine discussing the importance of interview in journalism. In your article, explore both the positive and negative aspects of interviews as a tool for gathering information, citing example from *'The Interview'* by Christopher Silvester.

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5

A. Imagine you are Zitkala-Sa. Write a diary entry expressing your feelings of fear, confusion, and resistance as you face the cultural oppression and loss of identity imposed upon you at the new school. Also mention how the experience impacted your sense of self.

(Memories of Childhood)

OR

B. Imagine you are Louisa, Charley's wife from the story '*The Third Level'*. Write a letter to your sister describing Charley's obsession with the Third Level and how it is affecting both of you. Express your concerns about his growing preoccupation with this imagined place.