CLASS-XII
PRE- MID TERM EXAMINATION (2025-26)
ENGLISH CORE (CODE: 301)
SET B1

Time Allowed: 2hrs. **Maximum Marks: 50**

General Instructions:
- The Question Paper contains THREE sections – READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
- Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.
- Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A- READING SKILLS (10 marks)

I. Read the following text. **10**

1. A Russian proverb advises us not to buy a house, but the neighbourhood. While till some years ago, it was impossible to dictate who lived with you in the same quarters, today when you think of buying a home, you could actually create your own dream neighbourhood – thanks to the Internet and the group buying model.

2. The group buying model has been applied in different industries, from cars to baby merchandise to pet care products. Now, the trend is catching on in the real estate sector, with many sites as well as broking firms offering group deals on real estate projects in India.

3. The way it works is simple. Take abc.com for example. This is an online and offline integrated platform which showcases property. It uses social media networks to let buyers know about possible good deals, and allows them to do some viral marketing. Once a large group of buyers connect with the developer, it helps negotiate a suitable discount. Since, the developer doesn't have to pay for the marketing, he is willing enough to pay these companies a transaction fee which is a percentage of the total value of the deal. For the buyers, it offers the rates at no fee, thus making it a win-win proposition for all involved.

4. The developers also benefit by getting substantial cash flow, giving them a good amount of working capital. "In today's real estate scenario, bulk buying could be the answer to the market slump and the long awaited cash flow," says the Founder of abc.com. Sometimes, the discount size is not to be sneered at. Discounts on group buying vary from 5-30 percent, the average divergence from market rate being 25-30 percent.

5. Customer 'buy-in' is the model. But is it a temporary fad? In a way, the online group buying set-up is similar to the model developers share with speculators, who buy in bulk even before the project gets kick-started and get discounts of 30-40 percent. They pay 50 percent of the property value upfront. Group buying companies prove more beneficial for developers as they get away with providing lesser discounts than to speculators.

6. Some sound a note of caution on the trend. Present conditions are conductive for this business model as group buying works well in a situation where stocks are moving slowly, markets are jittery and there is ample supply. It may not work in a seller's market. Another caution is very often the builders do not offer the best inventory to the group in terms of location and utility. The buyers have to use their astute judgement to avoid such traps.

I. On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions:

i. The discount size on group buying, compared to usual discount to speculators is usually- **1**

(a) less (b) more (c) equal (d) unpredictable

ii. State the objective of the passage. **1**

iii. The group buying model certainly did not start with real estate. (**True** / False) **1**

iv. Which of the following best describes the meaning of the Russian proverb being quoted? **1**

(i) It is better to rent a house than to buy it.
(ii) Don't buy a single flat, buy multiple flats
(iii) Fools build houses wise people live in them
(iv) None of these

v. How does the group buying model leverage technology to benefit both buyers and developers? (40 words) **2**

vi. Which of the following is **not true** in the context of the passage? **1**

a) The speculators also buy in bulk
b) Social media network is used for marketing group buying
c) The group buying companies take a transaction fee from both Buyers as well as Developers
d) The speculators get a better deal in terms of discounts as compared to that of other group buying companies

vii. Choose the word which is opposite in meaning to the word 'integrated' as used in paragraph 3: **1**

(i) inorganic (ii) refreshed (iii) isolated (iv) volatile

viii. One needs to be cautious when going for group buying projects. Justify. (40 words) **2**

SECTION B
CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (9 marks)

2. Attempt any one of the two, (A) OR (B), in about 50 words. 4

A. Your school is successfully running the Business Blaster Programme and is organizing an exhibition of the products prepared by the students. The School Managing Committee members are going to be the guests of honour. Write a notice on behalf of Class XII students inviting the school students to enjoy the exhibition. You are Anshika / Akshay monitor of Class XII A.

OR

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

3. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in 120- 150 words. 5

A. You are Saurabh Sindhi, a student of Panchavati High School in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Many of your peers have been complaining about back aches and neck pains while preparing for exams. Students often spend many hours studying without

any physical breaks to stretch or move, sometimes even skipping meals and not consuming an adequate amount of water. All these adversely affect physical health.
Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily explaining the issue, its causes and urging students to pay attention to the problem before it becomes a medical condition.

OR

B. Body shaming refers to the act of making inappropriate and negative comments about another person's body shape or size. Body shaming is much more prevalent than we realise and can have adverse effects on a person's self-confidence and growth. Write an article on the topic 'Stop Body Shaming' to be published in a leading magazine.

SECTION C
LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT
(31 MARKS)

4. **Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two – A or B.** (1x6=6)

A.

I looked again at her wan, pale
as a late winter's moon
and felt that old
familiar ache, my childhood fear
but all I said was,
see you soon, Amma
all I did was smile
and smile and smile.

(My Mother at Sixty- six)

i. The parting words of the poet, "See you soon, Amma" suggest her _____

ii. Select the word that WILL NOT complete the sentence appropriately.

The description of the mother as “wan, pale/as a late winter’s moon creates a vivid image of _____ .

(a) vulnerability (b) sensitivity (c) frailty (d) mortality

iii. State which statement is true in relation to the following clause:
The mother has been compared to the late winter's moon as this
(a) refers to her pale and wan appearance
(b) emphasizes that the mother is inching closer to death
(c) emphasizes the mother is old at the age of sixty-six
(d) refers to the dark clouds which hide the moon

iv. 'felt that old familiar ache'. The poet has used the word 'old' here. What phase of the poet’s life is being referred to?

v. Complete the sentence appropriately.
The repetition of the word, ’smile’ suggests that _____

vi. Why does the poet’s childhood fear resurface at this juncture?

OR

B. *Perhaps the earth can teach us*
as when everything seems dead
and later proves to be alive.

Now I'll count up to twelve
and you keep quiet and I will go. (Keeping Quiet)

i. What can human beings learn from nature?

ii. The poet uses conversational style and personal pronouns as 'you', 'we' and 'I' because:

1. He wants to be involved with his readers
2. He tries to read out to the readers
3. He doesn't want to establish contact easily
4. Third person is ineffective

iii. Complete the following suitably.

The poet advocates the balance of nature to be _____.

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

The essence of the poem is to _____. (retrospect / introspect)

v. Assertion: The poet wants everyone to remain quiet for sometime.
Reason: Silence will allow to listen to the voices of quiet and serene nature.

a) Both Assertion and Reason are correct and Reason is the correct explanation of Assertion.
b) Both Assertion and Reason are correct but Reason is not the correct explanation of Assertion.
c) Assertion is true and Reason is false.
d) Assertion is false and Reason is true.

vi. How will silence benefit man and nature?

5. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (A) or (B). (1x4=4)

A. *Students on Ice, the programme I was working with on the Shokalskiy, aims to do exactly this by taking high school students to the ends of the world and providing them with inspiring educational opportunities which will help them foster a new understanding and respect for our planet. It's been in operation for six years now, headed by Canadian Geoff Green, who got tired of carting celebrities and retired, rich, curiosity-seekers who could only 'give' back in a limited way. With Students on Ice, he offers the future generation of policy-makers a life-changing experience at an age when they're ready to absorb, learn, and most importantly, act.*

(Journey to the End of the Earth)

i. Complete the sentence appropriately, with reference to the extract.
The writer refers to the educational opportunities as 'inspiring' because _____

ii. What was the objective of the programme?

iii. Which of the following would NOT be 'a life changing experience'?
(a) Being given the lead role in a play.
(b) Going on an adventure trip.
(c) Playing a video game.
(d) Meeting a great leader, you admire.

iv. Why does the writer refer to 'act' as more important than 'absorb' or 'learn'?

OR

B. *Thus the Maharaja was sunk in gloom. But soon came the happy news which dispelled that gloom. In his own state sheep began to disappear frequently from a hillside village. It was first ascertained that this was not the work of Khader Mian Saheb or Virasami Naicker, both famed for their ability to swallow sheep whole. Surely, a tiger was at work. The villagers ran to inform the Maharaja. The Maharaja announced a three-year exemption from all taxes for that village and set out on the hunt at once.* (The Tiger King)

i. What was the cause of the Maharaja's gloom before he received the happy news?
   (a) He was concerned about the state's finances.
   (b) He was facing criticism from the villagers.
   (c) He was troubled by an unresolved personal issue.
   (d) He was not able to find the hundredth tiger.

ii. Complete the sentence appropriately, with reference to the extract.

   The initial suspicion about the disappearance of the sheep was that they were consumed by **_____.**

iii. The Maharaja's decision to exempt the village from taxes for three years suggests that he…
   (a) …was indifferent to the villagers' problems.
   (b) …was trying to punish the village for the loss of the sheep.
   (c) … made hasty decisions based on short term vision
   (d) …was concerned only about his wealth.

iv. Why did the villagers report to the Maharaja?

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

A. "*I will learn to drive a car," he answers, looking straight into my eye. His dream looms like a mirage amidst the dust of streets that fill his town Firozabad, famous for its bangles. Every other family in Firozabad is engaged in making bangles. It is the centre of India's glass-blowing industry where families have spent generations working around furnaces, wielding glass, making bangles for all the women in the land it seems. Mukesh's family is among them. None of them know that it is illegal for children like him to work in the glass furnaces with high temperatures, in dingy cells without air and light; that the law, if enforced, could get him and all those 20,000 children out of the hot furnaces where they slog their daylight hours, often losing the brightness of their eyes. Mukesh's eyes beam as he volunteers to take me home, which he proudly says is being rebuilt.* (Lost Spring – Stories of Stolen Childhood)

i. '*His dream looms like a mirage amidst the dust of streets.' Name the device used.*

ii. Select the correct option from the bracket to fill in the blanks.

   'I will learn to drive a car,' he answers, looking straight into my eyes.

   This sentence highlights that Mukesh was _____ . (determined / valiant)

iii. Complete the following using the word from the above extract.
   The farmers _____ the entire season for a better yield.

iv. Why is every family in Firozabad engaged in bangle making?

v. Which of the following statements is NOT TRUE with reference to the extract?

a) Children work in badly lit and inadequately ventilated furnaces.
b) The children are not aware that it is forbidden by law to work.
c) Children work in the furnaces for hours, which poorly affects their eyesight.
d) Firozabad has emerged as a budding producer of bangles in the country.

vi. The phrase 'dream looms like a mirage amidst the dust of streets' indicates than his dream was:

1. a reality, yet seemed distant.
2. lost in the sea of dust.
3. illusory and indistinct.
4. hanging in the dusty air.

OR

B. *And then from one thing to another, M. Hamel went on to talk of the French language, saying that it was the most beautiful language in the world - the clearest, the most logical; that we must guard it among us and never forget it, because when a people are enslaved, as long as they hold fast to their language it is as if they had the key to their prison. Then he opened a grammar book and read us our lesson. I was amazed to see how well I understood it. All he said seemed so easy, so easy!* (The Last Lesson)

i. How did M Hamel display his love for the French language?

ii. Select the option correct option to fill in the blank.
M. Hamel's declaration about the French language is the attribute of _____ .
(nostalgic pride / patriotic magnification)

iii. Franz was able to understand the grammar lesson easily because he was prepared for the rules for participles. (True / False)

iv. Why does M. Hamel call one's native language a key to one's prison?

v. Read the quotes given below. Choose the option that might best describe M. Hamel's viewpoint.

A. Those who know nothing of foreign languages know nothing of their own.
- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

B. Language is the road map of a culture. It tells you where its people come from and where they are going. - Rita Mae Brown

C. A poor man is like a foreigner in his own country - Alt Ibn Abi Talib

D. The greatest propaganda in the world is our mother tongue, that is what we learn as children, and which we learn unconsciously, that shapes our perceptions for life.
- Marshal McLuhan

vi. *"I was amazed to see how well I understood it."*
Select the option that does NOT explain why Franz found the grammar lesson "easy".

a) Franz was paying careful attention in class this time.
b) M. Hamel was being extremely patient and calm in his teaching.
c) Franz was inspired and had found a new meaning and purpose to learning.
d) Franz had realized that French was the clearest and most logical language.

7. Answer any five of the following six questions in 40- 50 words each. (2x5=10)

i. How did William Douglas demonstrate resilience in overcoming his fear of water, and how can this be applied in real-life situations? (Deep Water)

ii. "You realise the true value of a thing only on losing it." Comment on this statement in the light of the story, 'The Last Lesson'.

iii. How do you think the author's life might have been impacted after her interactions with the children and their families mentioned in 'Lost Spring'?

iv. The peddler comes out as a person with a subtle sense of humour. How does this serve in lightening the seriousness of the theme of the story and also endear him to us? (The Rattrap)

v. How does the author's personal journey to Antarctica reflect the larger environmental message in the story? (Journey to the End of the Earth)

vi. Comment on any one aspect of the writing style of the author, Kalki in *The Tiger King.*

8. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. (5x1=5)

A. In *The Last Lesson* by Alphonse Daudet, how does the author depict the emotional and psychological impact of war on the people of Alsace and Lorraine, particularly through the experiences of Franz, the protagonist? In what ways does the story highlight the importance of language and education in preserving cultural identity?

OR

B. Compare and contrast the lives of Mukesh and Saheb, focusing on their personal circumstances, attitudes towards life, and how their dreams reflect the larger social and economic issues they face. (Lost Spring – Stories of Stolen Childhood)