

CLASS-XI
ENGLISH CORE (301)
SAMPLE PAPER- 2025-26

TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS

MAXIMUM MARKS: 80

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. This question paper has 16 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. This question paper comprises 3 sections-
 - Reading Comprehension (26 marks)
 - Writing Skills & Grammar (23 marks)
 - Literature (31 marks)
3. Attempt all questions based on the specific instructions for each part.
4. Write the correct question number and part number in your answer sheet.
5. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
6. Ensure that questions of each section are answered together.
7. Adhere to the word limit wherever prescribed.
8. Do not write anything on the question paper.

Section –A (Reading Skills)

(26 Marks)

Typology	Reading Skills	Conceptual understanding, decoding, analysing, inferring, interpreting, appreciating literary conventions and vocabulary, summarising and using appropriate format/s
----------	----------------	--

I. Reading Comprehension through Unseen Passages

1. Read the following passage very carefully:

(10)

1. They were from an impoverished family that had a bad reputation throughout the entire village. For every day that he would work, Gheesu would take it easy for three. And Madho was so lazy that for every hour he worked, he would smoke his pipe for another. It was because of this that no one would hire them. If at home they had two handfuls of grain, then they said ‘to hell with work’. When they were out of food entirely, Gheesu would climb into a tree and tear off some wood that Madho would then sell in the market, and as long as the money from that lasted, the two of them would wander about without a care in the world.

2. There was no dearth of work in the village. It was a farming village and, for those willing to work hard, there was an unlimited number of ways to earn some money. But people called on them only when the straits were so dire that they were resigned to hiring two men who did the equivalent of one man’s work. If only they were sadhus! They seemed like they had the natural disposition—they had already mastered renunciation and ascetic indifference! Theirs was an odd life. At home, except for two or three earthenware kitchen items, they owned nothing else. For clothes, torn rags hung from their naked bodies. They lived free from the world’s snares and yet were insolvent beneath numerous debts. Everyone slighted them, but they didn’t care. Madho and Gheesu’s destitution was so great that people lent them money, knowing they would never be repaid.

3. At harvest time they would surreptitiously pick peas or dig potatoes to fry them up to eat. Gheesu had passed sixty years devoted to such roguery, and like a good son, Madho followed in his father's footsteps, believing himself content. Gheesu's wife had died some time before, and Madho had gotten married the previous year. From the time that Madho's wife had come, she had tried to civilize them in some way. From her daily work routine, she was able to secure for them two seers of flour and fill the stomachs of these two shameless men. From the time that she had come, both of them had become even lazier and they began to strut about, flouting their new status.

(Source- Adapted from 'The Shroud' by Munshi Premchand)

1.A) On the basis of your reading the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given options: (1x5=5)

i. Choose an option which describes the roguery of Gheesu.

- a) He outshone his father in his renunciatory ways.
- b) For every day that he would work, Gheesu would take it easy for three.
- c) He would climb into a tree and tear off some wood.
- d) For every hour he worked, he would smoke his pipe for another.

ii. The option that best describes the central idea of the passage is-

- a) Madho and Gheesu's affluent lifestyle
- b) lackadaisical attitude of Madho and Gheesu towards life
- c) Madho's marriage and its impact on their laziness
- d) Madho and Gheesu's mastery in renunciation as sadhus

iii. Which of the following options reflects the tone of the narrator in the statement - '*But people called on them only when the straits were so dire that they were resigned to hiring two men who did the equivalent of one man's work*'.

- a) commending b) nostalgic
- c) sarcastic d) sympathetic

iv. Two statements, Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are given below. Read them and choose the correct answer from the options that follow :

Assertion (A) : Like a good son, Madho followed in his father's footsteps.

Reason (R) : Madho was a dutiful son, who always obeyed his father.

- a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true but R is the incorrect explanation of A.
- c) A is true but R is false.
- d) A is false but R is true.

v. Select the option that uses a synonym of the word '*surreptitiously*' as used in the given excerpt - '*.....they would surreptitiously pick peas or dig potatoes*'.

- a) The hunter used to catch rabbits *cunningly*.
- b) The city people *recklessly* raced their cars on the highway.
- c) She hoped to sign a contract with the music company *secretly*.
- d) The Supreme Court has ordered the High Court to deal with the pending cases *immediately*.

1.B) Answer the following questions:**(1x5=5)**

- vi. Explain the ironic undertone in the statement- 'If only they were sadhus!'
- vii. Madho's wife's reformatory approach towards Gheesu and Madho went futile. Do you agree? Justify.
- viii. The father-son duo's destitution seems to be largely self-inflicted. Illustrate with an example from the passage.
- ix. Cite an example to prove that Gheesu and Madho were thick-skinned.
- x. Inferring from the context clues in paragraph 2, find a word which means the same as 'shortage'.

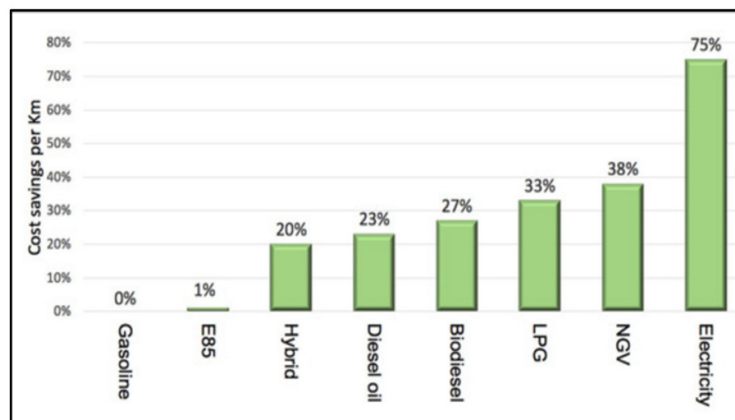
2. Read the following passage carefully:**(8)**

1. Electric Vehicles (EVs) are gaining momentum due to several factors, including price reduction, climate and environmental awareness. The automotive industry is an important world-wide industry in terms of research and development. More technological elements are introduced in the vehicles towards passenger and pedestrian safety. However, the rising number of vehicles has led to a dramatic increase in air pollution levels in urban environments.

2. According to a report by the European Union, the transport sector is responsible for nearly 28% of the total CO₂ emissions, while the road transport is accountable for over 70% of the transport sector emissions. Therefore, the authorities of developed countries are encouraging the use of EVs to avoid the concentration of air pollutants and other greenhouse gases. EVs promote sustainable and efficient mobility through initiatives like tax incentives, purchase aids, free public parking or free use of motorways.

3. EVs offer various advantages over traditional combustion vehicles. Apart from zero emissions, the manufacture processes are more respectful of the environment. The engines are simpler and more compact, leading to cheaper maintenance and fewer breakdowns. EVs do not suffer from the inherent wear and tear produced by engine explosions, vibrations or fuel corrosion. The energy cost per kilometer is lower in EVs and travelling is more comfortable, due to the absence of vibrations or engine noise.

4. EVs are more efficient than traditional vehicles. The overall well to wheel (WTW) efficiency of gasoline vehicles ranges from 11% to 27%, whereas diesel vehicles range from 25% to 37%. In contrast, EVs fed by a natural gas power plant show a WTW efficiency ranging from 13% to 31%, whereas EVs fed by renewable energy show an efficiency up to 70%.



(The image shows a comparison of savings in cost per kilometer offered by vehicles powered by various sources)

5. EVs face significant battery-related challenges. The driving range is typically limited from 200-350 km with a full charge. Large battery packs are expensive, heavy and take up considerable vehicle space. In the coming years, EVs will have an important role in Smart cities. Therefore, more efforts to facilitate the

charging process and improve batteries are needed. However, researchers are working on improved battery technologies to increase driving range and decrease charging time, weight and cost. These factors will ultimately determine the future of EVs.

(Source-MDPI- Journals/Smart Cities/Vol.-4- A Review on Electric Vehicles: Technologies and Challenges)

2.A) On the basis of your reading the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given options: **(1x4=4)**

i. Choose the option which does not give EV an edge over traditional combustion vehicles.

- a. absence of vibrations or engine noise
- b. battery-related challenges
- c. simpler and more compact engines
- d. cheaper maintenance cost

ii. Select the idiom that conveys a similar meaning as ‘gaining momentum’ in para-1.

- a. in the limelight
- b. putting the mockers on
- c. basking in the sun
- d. gathering steam

iii. Identify the odd one out which doesn’t help EVs to promote sustainable mobility.

- a. tax incentives
- b. purchase aids
- c. paid public parking
- d. free use of motorways

iv. Statement-A: EVs seem to rule the day for being eco-friendly

Statement-R: Their manufacture processes boast of zero emissions.

- a. Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b. Both A and R are true but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.
- c. A is true but R is false.
- d. A is false but R is true.

2.B) Answer the following questions:

(1x4=4)

v. In spite of technological elements being introduced in vehicles for safety, the rising number of vehicles is posing a threat. Justify the irony behind the statement.

vi. Comment on the efficiency of EVs over traditional vehicles.

vii. A few redeeming factors to determine the future of EVs are - _____.

viii. Find a word in para-3 which means the same as ‘in-built’.

3. Read the following passage carefully:

(8)

1. *Matricaria chamomilla* L. called German chamomile, has multitherapeutic and cosmetic qualities that have earned it the title of ‘star of medicinal plants’. ‘Chamomile’ originates from two Greek words *Chemos* and *Melos*, that mean ‘ground apple’. Worldwide, it is marketed with its commercial trade name ‘blue oil’.

2. Chamomile was well-known in ancient Egypt, Rome, and Greece and is commercially cultivated in Brazil, Russia, Yugoslavia, France, Germany and Hungary. In India, known as Babuna in Hindi, it is grown in Jammu and Kashmir, U.P., Punjab and Maharashtra. Since, chamomile has a high tolerance to soil alkalinity, it can be grown well on loamy soil with pH ranging from 9 and 9.2. It is capable of withstanding cold temperatures between 2°-20°C. The optimum temperature range for its seed germination is 10°C-20°C.

3. Chamomile is used in numerous medicine preparations. Its flower heads are used as a mild sedative for digestion, in baby massage oils and to treat colds and coughs. The powdered medication is applied externally to haemorrhoids and inflammation of the mouth, eyes and throat. Chamomile is used as a natural treatment for skin dryness, irritation and acne. It helps to brighten and hydrate the skin and is found in a variety of facial creams and hair care serums. Chamomile is used in the food industry primarily as a flavouring agent in herbal teas, baked foods and beverages and as a decorative garnish in candies and jams. The demand for chamomile oil and flower is increasing steadily on a global scale and therefore, its cultivation is emphasized.

(Source- Agri-India TODAY Vol-05, June 2025 By- Anamika Sajwan, Harshita Bora, Mukesh Kumar and V K Rao)

3.A On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary. Suggest a suitable title for the passage. (5)

3.B Write a summary of the above passage in not more than 50 words using the notes made by you. (3)

SECTION – B (GRAMMAR & CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS)

(23 Marks)

Typology	Grammar & Creative Writing Skills	Conceptual understanding, application of rules, analysis, reasoning, appropriacy of style and tone, using appropriate format and fluency, inference, evaluation and creativity
----------	-----------------------------------	--

II. GRAMMAR

(4) A. Fill in the blanks using the correct form of the verbs given in the brackets. Attempt ANY TWO. (1X2=2 marks)

i) If she had studied harder, she _____(would pass/had passed/could pass/would have passed) the exam last month.

ii) He said he _____ (will call/called/would call/will have called) me when he finishes work.

iii) As soon as he _____ (complete/completes/completed/will complete) his assignment, he will go out with his friends.

B. Complete the sentences using suitable clauses-

(1X2=2 marks)

i) I won't go to the beach unless _____.

ii) _____ was surprising.

(5) Transform the following sentences as per the instructions given below: (1X3=3 marks)

i. She said to her mother, "Would you clean my room tomorrow, as I will be late?" (Change to reported speech)

ii. In spite of his illness, he went to school. (Change to compound sentence)

iii. Although she was tired, she continued working. (Rewrite using 'despite')

III. CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

(6). Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 50 words.

3

A. You are the Principal of Sunflower International School, Mumbai. Draft an advertisement for the classified column of the newspaper in not more than 50 words for the post of school estate manager. Mention all qualifications and experience required for the post. **3**

OR

B. Your pet cat named Hazel is missing from the Central Park, Ram Nagar, Gujarat. Draft an advertisement for the 'Kennel and Livestock' column of the newspaper in not more than 50 words. Provide all the necessary information about your pet and other relevant details. **3**

(7). Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 50 words. **3**

A. The vision of Viksit Bharat@2047, celebrating the centenary year of Indian independence, can truly be realized with a fit and healthy youth. Inspired by this idea, your school is going to organize its annual exhibition on the theme – 'Fit Bharat, Vikasit Bharat'. As the Cultural Head of the school, design an informative poster to inspire the students to participate actively. (50 words) **3**

OR

B. You are Abhinav/Anju of Green Valley school, Ajmer. You are participating in the Zonal Poster Designing Competition being held in your school. The theme of the contest is - 'Respect, Inclusion, Acceptance: Let's Build a Better School Community'. Design a poster on the above theme in 50 words. **3**

(8). Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 120-150 words. **5**

A. According to a recent research- staying away from gadgets serves as a booster dose for healthy minds and happy souls. As the school counsellor, write a speech in 120-150 words to be delivered in the special assembly addressing the students on the theme- 'Digital Detox: A Step Towards Mental Health'. **5**

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Digital Detox- Intentional break from technology● Benefits- reduced stress and anxiety, improved sleep, enhanced creativity● How to implement- time management, more time to hobbies, spend time in nature, mindful usage of gadgets |
|--|

OR

B. 'Youth participation in community service is crucial for both the development of young individuals and the well-being of the community'. Promoting the above idea draft a speech to be delivered by you in the school assembly, encouraging students to join hands for social causes. (Word limit 120-150 words) **5**

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Community Service- A way to give back to society, contribute to the well-being of others, sense of social responsibility● Benefits – Addresses community needs, fosters sense of connection, personal growth, gives a sense of purpose |
|---|

(9). Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 120-150 words. **5**

A. In the light of the growing influence of fast fashion and its associated benefits and drawbacks, prepare a debate in about 120-150 words in favour or against the motion- 'Fast Fashion is a Threat to Sustainability'. You may take help from the following cues. **5**

Favour- pollution, waste, carbon emissions, labour exploitation, production requires overconsumption of water and energy, lack of durability, threat to traditional craftsmanship

Against- affordability, access latest trends, variety, convenience, creates jobs in manufacturing and retail industry

OR

B. Delivery of health care from a distance using electronic information and technology like video conferencing, remote monitoring to give mental health services, follow up care, etc. is gaining momentum in the field of medical services. Write a debate in about 120-150 words in favour of or against the motion- 'Telemedicine- A New Horizon in the Field of Health'. You may take help from the following cues. **5**

Favour- increased access, convenience, cost effectiveness, improved efficiency, reduced risk of infection
Against- diagnostic errors, technical challenges, privacy concerns, no personal interaction, limited access

SECTION – C (LITERATURE)

(31 Marks)

Typology	Literature	Recalling, reasoning, appreciating literary conventions, inference, analysis, creativity with fluency and critical thinking
----------	------------	---

IV. Reference to the Context

(10) Read the given extract carefully and answer the questions that follow: (1x3=3 marks)

A. The Laburnum top is silent, quite still
In the afternoon yellow September sunlight,
A few leaves yellowing, all its seeds fallen.
Till the goldfinch comes, with a twitching chirrup
A suddenness, a startlement, at a branch end.

i. The above extract highlights a dramatic shift in the mood of the poem. Select the option that correctly describes the shift. 1

- a. lost to enlightened b. desolate to elated
c. anxious to humorous d. sad to calm

ii. Find a word/phrase from the above extract that the poet uses to describe the autumn season. 1

iii. Identify the poetic device used in the phrase "September sunlight". 1

- a. simile b. repetition
c. allegory d. alliteration

OR

B. I do not understand this child
Though we have lived together now
In the same house for years. I know
Nothing of him, so try to build
Up a relationship from how
He was when small.

i. Choose the option that describes the relationship between father and son as suggested by the speaker's tone. 1

- a) unbreakable b) long
- c) strained d) cordial

ii. As he reflects upon the growing distance between him and his son, the father decides to - 1

- a) go back to his old memories when the child was young
- b) develop physical proximity by living in the same house
- c) share a warm and close family life
- d) teach his son some moral values

iii. Explain the irony in the lines above. 1

(11) Read the given extract carefully and answer the questions that follow: (1x3=3 marks)

A. In the evening a change came over her. She did not pray. She collected the women of the neighbourhood, got an old drum and started to sing. For several hours she thumped the sagging skins of the dilapidated drum and sang of the home-coming of warriors. We had to persuade her to stop to avoid overstraining. That was the first time since I had known her that she did not pray.

(i) Identify what the grandmother's act of singing of the 'homecoming of warriors' symbolizes in the context of the story? 1

- (a) her excitement to see her grandson return
- (b) a metaphor for her own death and spiritual release
- (c) celebration of a festival with villagers
- (d) her attempt to distract herself from illness

(ii) Choose the correct antonym of the word 'dilapidated'. 1

- (a) deteriorated (b) rickety
- (c) worn out (d) spruce

(iii) The grandson did not see his grandmother pray for the first time because she- 1

- a) was angry with the Gods
- b) was busy with neighbours
- c) was feeling uneasy
- d) had forgotten

OR

B. "But no problem, sir", he assured us, "if there is no snow." What was the likelihood of that I asked. "Not knowing, sir, until we get there."

From the gently rolling hills of Ravu, the short cut took us across vast open plains with nothing in them except a few gazelles that would look up from nibbling the arid pastures and frown before bounding away into the void. Further on, where the plains became more stony than grassy, a great herd of wild ass came into view. Tsetan told us we were approaching them long before they appeared. "Kyang," he said, pointing towards a far-off pall of dust. When we drew near, I could see the herd galloping en masse, wheeling and turning in tight formation as if they were practising manoeuvres on some predetermined course. Plumes of dust billowed into the crisp, clean air.

i. Pick out the meaning of the phrase 'practising manoeuvres' in the context of the chapter. 1

- (a) rehearsing military or army movements in the valley
- (b) performing spiritual rituals near to monastery
- (c) practising meditation by Tibetan monks

(d) animals moving playfully in the plains

ii. Which one of the following words can be replaced by 'empty space' without changing its meaning. 1

- a) void b) arid
- c) pall d) pasture

iii. Which of the following options is an accurate comment on the overall tone of the situation reflected by the narrator's determination to reach Mount Kailash. 1

- (a) It reflects a tone of despair and resignation.
- (b) It reflects a tone of calm and acceptance.
- (c) It reflects a tone of courage and resolve.
- (d) It reflects a tone of indifference and detachment.

(12) Read the given extract carefully and answer the questions that follow: (1x4=4 marks)

A. I had remembered it. But I had waited a long time to go there. Initially after the Liberation I was absolutely not interested in all that stored stuff, and naturally I was also rather afraid of it. Afraid of being confronted with things that had belonged to a connection that no longer existed; which were hidden away in cupboards and boxes and waiting in vain until they were put back in their place again; which had endured all those years because they were 'things.' But gradually everything became more normal again. Bread was getting to be a lighter colour, there was a bed you could sleep in unthreatened, a room with a view you were more used to glancing at each day. And one day I noticed I was curious about all the possessions that must still be at that address.

i) The narrator delayed visiting the address for a long time because _____ 1

- (a) She could not remember the address.
- (b) She wanted to give herself time to gather courage.
- (c) She hoped Ms. Dorling would return.
- (d) She felt at home in the surroundings.

(ii) Which emotion is most strongly reflected in the narrator's words? 1

- (a) joy and excitement (b) grief and detachment
- (c) surprise and shock (d) grief and anxiety

(iii) Comment on 'everything became more normal again'. 1

- (a) Life became joyful and celebratory.
- (b) The post war recovery had started.
- (c) People were moving to new cities.
- (d) The war had not affected the town at all.

(iv) Explain the significance 'Bread was getting to be lighter colour'. 1

- (a) It shows that the economy was improving.
- (b) The quality of food was degrading.
- (c) It refers to food wastage.
- (d) It indicates growing inflation.

OR

B. Mourad was considered the natural descendant of the crazy streak in our tribe. Before him was our uncle Khosrove, an enormous man with a powerful head of black hair and the largest moustache in the San Joaquin Valley, a man so furious in temper, so irritable, so impatient that he stopped anyone from talking by roaring. It is no harm; pay no attention to it.

i. Identify the one who is described as the natural descendant of the 'crazy streak' in the family. 1

- (a) Aram (b) Mourad
(c) John Byro (d) Uncle Khosrove

(iii) What does the phrase 'crazy streak' in the context of the Garoghlanian tribe imply? 1
(a) The family was insane. (b) Some members had an eccentric nature.
(c) They suffered from mental illness. (d) They were unpredictable thieves.

iii) Choose the option that shows Uncle Khosrove's reaction to problems. 1
(a) He calmly listens and solves them.
(b) He tells everyone and discusses about them.
(c) He gets scared and cries.
(d) He reacts aggressively.

iv) The theme most reflected in the story is- 1
(a) The struggle for freedom (b) Honour Vs guilt
(c) Cruelty of fate (d) Appearances are deceptive

13. Answer the following questions in about 40-50 words each: (2X3=6 marks)

a. The theme of motherhood has been subtly woven in by Ted Hughes in the poem 'Laburnum Top' primarily through the depiction of the Goldfinch's action. Discuss.

OR

Walt Whitman uses rain as a powerful metaphor for the cyclic nature of life, the interconnection of all things and the creative process. Elucidate. (The Voice of the Rain)

b) Grandmother embodies both cultural tradition and inner resilience in the story 'The Portrait of a Lady'. Elaborate.

OR

Analyse and comment on the reasons behind King Tut's death being a mystery for archaeologists and historians. (Discovering Tut: The Saga Continues)

14. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 40-50 words: (1x3=3 marks)

a) The story 'The Address' depicts the impact of war on human relationships. Explore the emotional and material consequences as discussed in the text.

OR

b) Can humour be a strong means to communicate the underlying role of mothers and their needs for their empowerment within the family? Explain with reference to the play 'Mother's Day'.

15. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 120-150 words: (1x6=6 marks)

a) The journey to Mount Kailash is both a physical and spiritual experience. Describe how the author reflects this duality in his narrative. (Silk Road)

OR

b) Professor Gaitonde's experience in the parallel world highlights the impact of individual decisions on the course of history. Discuss how the story combines scientific theory with imagination to explore this idea. (The Adventure)

16. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 120-150 words: (1x6=6 marks)

a) Vikram Seth presents an ironic account of justice and governance. Expound on the deeper message about power and public perception as conveyed through the poem. (The Tale of the Melon City)

OR

b) Explicate how the story 'Birth' explores the theme of transformation – both personal and professional – in the life of Dr Andrew Manson?