

ENGLISH COMMUNICATIVE - Code No. 101
SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER
CLASS-X-(2025-26)

Time allowed: 3 Hrs.

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions

Read the following instructions carefully and follow them:

- i. This question paper has 12 questions. All questions are compulsory.
- ii. This question paper contains three sections:
Section A: Reading Skills,
Section B: Writing Skills
Section C: Grammar
Section D: 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 Remote, icy and mostly pristine, Greenland plays an outsized role in the daily weather experienced by billions of people and in the climate changes taking shape all over the planet. Think of Greenland as an open refrigerator door or thermostat for a warming world, and it's in a region that is warming four times faster than the rest of the globe, said New York University climate scientist David Holland.
- 2 Locked inside are valuable rare earth minerals needed for telecommunications, as well as uranium, billions of untapped barrels of oil and a vast supply of natural gas that used to be inaccessible but is becoming less so. Many of the same minerals are currently being supplied mostly by an Asian country, so other countries are interested. But more than the oil, gas or minerals, there's ice — a "ridiculous" amount, said climate scientist Eric Rignot. If that ice melts, it would reshape coastlines across the globe and potentially shift weather patterns in a dramatic manner. Greenland holds enough ice that if it all melts, the world's seas would rise by 24 feet.
- 3 Since 1992, Greenland has lost about 182 billion tons of ice each year, with losses hitting 489 billion tons a year in 2019. Greenland will be 'a key focus point' through the 21st century because of the effect its melting ice sheet will have on sea levels, said Mark Serreze, director of the National Snow and Ice Data Center. "It will likely become a bigger contributor in the future." That impact is perhaps unstoppable. Greenland is also changing colour as it melts from the white of ice, which reflects sunlight, heat and energy away from the planet, to the blue and green of the ocean and land, which absorb much more energy.

- 4 Greenland also serves as the engine and on/off switch for a key ocean current that influences Earth's climate in many ways, including hurricane and winter storm activity. It's called the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation, or AMOC, and it's slowing down because more fresh water is being dumped into the ocean by melting ice in Greenland. A shutdown of the AMOC conveyor belt is a much-feared climate tipping point that could plunge Europe and parts of North America into prolonged freezes. "If this global current system were to slow substantially or even collapse altogether — as we know it has done in the past — normal temperature and precipitation patterns around the globe would change drastically," said climate scientist Jennifer Francis of the Woodwell Climate Research Center. "Agriculture would be derailed, ecosystems would crash, and 'normal' weather would be a thing of the past."
- 5 None of that takes into consideration the unique look of the ice-covered island that has some of the Earth's oldest rocks. "I see it as insanely beautiful. It's eye-watering to be there," said Holland, who has conducted research on the ice more than 30 times since 2007. "Pieces of ice the size of the Empire State Building are just crumbling off cliffs and crashing into the ocean. And also, the beautiful wildlife, all the seals and the killer whales. It's just breathtaking."

515 words / Adapted from The Hindu (Environment -January 08, 2025 post)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- I Why is Greenland referred to as 'an open refrigerator door or thermostat for a warming world'? (Paragraph 1) 1
- a) It controls global temperatures directly like a thermostat.
b) It is warming at the same rate as the rest of the globe.
c) It plays a critical role in influencing global weather and climate patterns.
d) It experiences warming but has limited influence on global weather patterns.
- II Complete the following with the correct option from those given in the brackets. 1
- In the line 'Greenland plays an outsized role...', the word 'outsized' indicates ____ (an unusually large impact or importance / a role that exceeds expectations or norms / a disproportionate influence compared to its size). (Paragraph 1)
- III Give two reasons why 'other countries' might be interested in Greenland's rare earth minerals and resources. Answer in 30-40 words. (Paragraph 2) 2
- IV What does Eric Rignot mean by 'ridiculous' in the phrase 'a ridiculous amount'? (Paragraph 2) 1
- Select the correct option to complete the answer.
- It means that the ice is ____.
- a) unnecessary and excessive
b) vast and overwhelming in quantity.
c) beyond what scientists can measure.
d) challenging to fully comprehend.

V Complete the following with the appropriate option.

1

The phrase 'Locked inside' brings up the imagery of a _____. (Paragraph 2)

- a) vault, emphasising security and value
- b) box, symbolising concealment and mystery.
- c) room, highlighting stored abundance.
- d) warehouse, showcasing accessibility and volume.

VI. What would be the most suitable title for paragraph 3?

1

- a) Greenland's Changing Climate and Ecosystem
- b) The Rising Sea Levels and Climate Impact of Greenland
- c) Greenland's Ice Melt: A Threat to Global Energy Balance
- d) Greenland's Melting Ice: A Growing Concern for the 21st Century

VII. Which phrase from paragraph 4 bears evidence to the fact that Greenland plays a critical role in controlling the AMOC?

1

VIII Fill in the blank by choosing the appropriate option from those given in the brackets.

2



Paragraph 4 includes a _____ (viewpoint / warning / speculation) by Jennifer Francis.

IX Why does Holland describe Greenland as 'eye-watering'? Answer in 30-40 words. (Paragraph 5)

2

2. Read the following.

10

 3 Feb 6 Feb	 26 Sep 27 Sep
FAIRS NAGAUER FAIR - 2025 The Nagaur Fair is the second biggest fair in India. Held every year between the months of January and February, it is popularly known as the Cattle Fair of Nagaur as this is where owners gather to trade animals. Approximately 70,000 bullocks, camels and horses are traded every year at this fair. The animals are lavishly decorated and even their owners dress up with colourful turbans. Besides cattle, sheep, horses and even spices are traded. Other attractions include the Mirchi Bazaar (largest red chilli market of India).	FESTIVALS ABHANERI FESTIVAL - 2025 'Abhaneri festival' is named after the village Abhaneri in the Dausa district which is around 90 km from Jaipur on the Agra road. This two-day festival has gained immense popularity amongst the tourists around the globe. It commences with various Rajasthani & local folk performances like Kachhi Ghor, Kalbeliya, Ghoomar, and Bhawai. The village of Abhaneri was originally named Abha Nagri, meaning 'city of brightness'. The place is popular for the Chand Baori-step well, one of the largest step wells built over a thousand years ago.

Source: www.tourism.rajasthan.gov.in / 190 words approx. / MCB theme : Travel & Tourism

Answer the following questions, based on your reading of the above information.

- I. Why is the tag 'A Hub for Livestock Trading' suitable for the Nagaur fair instead of 'Colourful Celebrations'? 2
- II. Complete the following with the correct option. 1
- The Nagaur Fair is held ____.
- a) quarterly
 - b) once in two years
 - c) annually
 - d) twice in a year
- III. State which of the following is True. 1
- a) Chand Baori is referred to as 'Abha Nagri'.
 - b) Chand Baori is a recent construction.
 - c) Chand Baori is an ancient stepwell.
- IV. What does the writer wish to convey by stating that the Abhaneri Festival 'has gained immense popularity among tourists'? 1
- V. What might be the most likely reason for the lavish decorations of animals at the Nagaur Fair? 1
- a) To celebrate the cultural heritage of Rajasthan.
 - b) To attract buyers and showcase the animals for trading.
 - c) To compete for the best-decorated animal.
 - d) To honour the animals as part of a religious ritual.
- VI. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option from those given in the brackets. 1
- The Mirchi Bazaar is most likely an attraction at the Nagaur Fair because it provides a platform for ____ (tourists and organisers / farmers and traders) to display an essential spice.
- VII. If the Nagaur Fair highlights trading as its primary focus, what does the Abhaneri Festival most likely focus on? 1
- a) Promoting local agriculture
 - b) Encouraging community interaction
 - c) Celebrating historical heritage
 - d) Showcasing regional culture
- VIII. What might be the most likely reason why the Nagaur Fair spans across four days while the Abhaneri Festival ends in two days? 2

SECTION B
WRITING SKILLS (22 marks)

All the names and addresses used in the questions are fictitious. Resemblance, if any, is purely coincidental.

3. Write an application, in not more than 50 words, requesting permission to use the school transport to attend a tree plantation volunteering event. You are Lakshit Pandey, Class X-C, Vice-President, Ecology Club. **1x3=3**
4. Write a factual description of your favourite gadget in not more than 100 words, highlighting its key features and functionalities. **1x4=4**
5. Attempt **any one** of the two, (A) or (B), in 120 words **1x7=7**

- A.** The digital divide refers to the gap between those who have access to technology, such as the internet and digital devices, and those who do not. This disparity has significantly impacted education, especially for students from marginalised segments, by limiting their ability to access online resources and virtual classes.

As Sakshi Tripathi, 120 Kailash Nagar, Batanpur, write a letter to the editor of a national daily highlighting the issue, its effects on students and teachers, and suggesting practical measures to bridge this gap.

Use your own ideas along with those from MCB Unit 2: Education, to write this letter.

OR

- B.** India is home to a rich geological heritage, with unique landforms and rock formations like the Lonar Crater, Bhimbetka Rock Shelters etc. that hold immense scientific, educational, and cultural value. However, these sites often face neglect, vandalism, and lack of proper conservation efforts.

As Tanush of 63, Lajpat Nagar, Agra, write a letter to the editor of a national daily highlighting the importance of preserving India's geological heritage, the challenges it faces, and suggesting measures to protect and promote these natural treasures.

Use your own ideas along with those from MCB Unit 4 E: Environment – Geological Heritage, to write this letter.

6. Attempt **any one** of the two, (A) or (B), in 150 words **1x8=8**

- A** Imagine you are Vitthal K of class X. Write an article for your school magazine on the topic 'Achieving Holistic Wellness: The Key to a Happy Life,' emphasising the role of physical health, mental well-being, and positive lifestyle habits and natural remedies. Explain how these factors contribute to a balanced and fulfilling life, and suggest practical steps for incorporating them into daily routines.

You may use your own ideas along with the given cues and your reading of MCB Unit 1: Health and Wellness

holistic wellness - key aspects - simple habits can improve overall wellness - actionable ways needed to integrate wellness into everyday routines

OR

- B** You are Kadambari Rao, class X. Write an article on the topic ‘Space Travel: Accessible Tourism or a Risky Adventure?’ highlighting the potential benefits and challenges of making space travel available to the general public. Discuss whether space tourism should be pursued considering its environmental impact, safety concerns, and accessibility. Conclude with your opinion on whether it is a step forward or a risk not worth taking.
- You may use your own ideas along with the given cues and your reading of the MCB Unit 3: Science.

Potential Benefits - Challenges and Concerns: Environmental impact of frequent rocket launches (carbon emissions, pollution); accessibility opportunities creating inequalities; safety risks - Key Considerations: Should resources be focused on improving conditions on Earth instead?

SECTION C
GRAMMAR (10 marks)

- 7. Fill in the blanks (i) – (iii) with the appropriate option from those in the brackets. 3x1=3**

Therapeutic gardens are a public health measure and key to Singapore’s aim of (i) _____ (become/ becoming/ will becoming) one of the world’s top wellness destinations. In a tourism sense, wellness often (ii) _____ (had referred / refers / referring) merely to spa treatments but Singapore’s approach is more scientific. Singapore now (iii) _____ (have view/ has viewed / views) Therapeutic gardens as a forward-thinking tourism strategy.

- 8. In the following paragraph, one word has been omitted in each line. In your answer sheets, remember to write the missing word along with the word that comes before and after it, as shown below. The first one has been done as an example 4x1=4**

S No.	Text	Word Before	Omission	Word After
e.g.	The environment is most precious resource.	is	our	most
i	We reduce waste, conserve energy, and plant			
ii	more trees to combat pollution. This planet is only			
iii	home we have. Each action, big or small, make a			
iv	significant difference. We act now to safeguard			
	the environment and prevent it from further harm.			

- I Rearrange the following jumbled words/phrases in the given dialogue to create a meaningful sentence. 1

RAVI: Priya! Tell me about Orissa. I've always been curious about your state's culture and traditions.

PRIYA: (i) for our / in the eastern / is a beautiful / state / temple architecture/ rich heritage, part of India / and we are known / vibrant festivals / Orissa / and exquisite

- II. Report the conversation given below by filling in the blanks to complete the following paragraph. 2

Aanya: Hey, Rohan! Did you hear about the new discovery in space announcement yesterday?

Rohan: I heard about finding a planet with water vapour in its atmosphere!

Aanya asked Rohan (i) _____. Rohan exclaimed (ii) _____ in its atmosphere. Then, Aanya added that the new planet was in the 'habitable zone' with life-supporting conditions.

SECTION D: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (26 MARKS)

10. Read the given extract and answer the questions briefly, for any two extracts, 2X4=8 of the three, given.

- A. "I thought you picked fruit for a living," I said.
 "We do many things, sir," Nicola answered seriously. He glanced at us hopefully. "Often we show visitors through the town ... to Juliet's tomb ... and other places of interest."
 Alright, "I smiled. "You take us along."
 As we made the rounds, my interest was again provoked by their remarkable demeanour. They were childish enough, and in many ways quite artless. Jacopo was as lively as a squirrel. Nicola's smile was steady and engaging. Yet in both these boyish faces there was a seriousness which was far beyond their years.

(Two Gentlemen of Verona)

- I What might have been the most likely tone of the statement in 'I thought you picked fruit for a living...'? 1
- II Why did Nicola glance hopefully at the narrator? 1
- III What does the boys' willingness to engage in multiple tasks reveal about their attitude toward life? 1

- IV** What does the narrator's growing interest in the boys suggest about his perception of them? 1
- B.** "My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:
Look upon my works, ye Mighty, and despair!"
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away. (Ozymandias)
- I** How does the phrase 'king of kings' reflect Ozymandias' perception of himself? 1
- II** What does the line 'Look upon my works, ye Mighty, and despair!' imply about Ozymandias' intentions for future rulers? 1
- III** How does the imagery of 'boundless and bare' and 'lone and level sands' challenge Ozymandias' boast? 1
- IV** What message does the phrase "Nothing beside remains" convey about human ambition? 1
- C.** MRS. JORDAN: What bureau was that, Father?
ABEL: Why, my bureau the one I bought
MRS. JORDAN: (pointing to the bureau) Was it that one. Father?
ABEL: Ah, that's it. What's it doing here? Eh? (A pause. The clock on the mantelpiece strikes six. Everyone looks at it.)
Drat me if that isn't my clock too! What the devil's been going on in this house? (A slight pause.)
BEN: Well, I'll be hanged.
MRS. JORDAN: I'll tell you what's been going on in this house. Father. Nothing short of robbery.
MRS. SLATER: Be quiet, Elizabeth.
MRS. JORDAN: (rising) I'll not be quiet. Oh, I call it double-faced.
HENRY: Now now, Elizabeth.
MRS. JORDAN: And you, too. Are you such a poor creature that you must do every dirty thing she tells you?
MRS. SLATER: (rising) Remember where you are, Elizabeth.
HENRY: (rising) Come, come. No quarrelling. (The Dear Departed)
- I** What does the dialogue between Mrs. Jordan and Mrs. Slater reveal about their relationship? 1
- II** What is Mrs. Jordan implying about Henry when she says, "And you, too. Are you such a poor creature that you must do every dirty thing she tells you?" 1

- | | | |
|------------|---|---------------|
| III | How does Mrs. Jordan's accusation of 'robbery' impact the atmosphere of the scene in the extract? | 1 |
| IV | What does Abel's reaction to finding his possessions in the living room suggest about his awareness of his daughters' intentions? | 1 |
| 11. | Answer any five of the following six questions in about 30-40 words each. | 5x2=10 |
| I | Support the view that the villagers were active participants in supporting Mrs. Packletide's ambition in the story 'Mrs. Packletide's Tiger'? | 2 |
| II | Explain briefly how the story 'Patol Babu' portrays the conflict between material rewards and self-satisfaction. | 2 |
| III | How does the mood shift throughout the story, 'The Letter'? | 2 |
| IV | How does the author use technology as a plot device in the story 'Virtually True'? | 2 |
| V | What role does the bog's audience play in the downfall of the nightingale in the poem 'The Frog and the Nightingale'? | 2 |
| VI | How does the structure of a Shakespearean sonnet enhance the impact of the poem, 'Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments'? | 2 |
| 12. | Answer any one of the following two questions in about 150 words. | 1x8=8 |
| I | Discuss how the supernatural is portrayed in the drama excerpt 'Julius Caesar' and 'A Shady Plot' and examine how these portrayals serve to influence the characters' actions and the progression of the plot in each work? | |
| OR | | |
| II | Both poems, 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' and 'Snake', depict the killing or harm of an innocent creature. Compare how the poets use these actions to reflect on human guilt and morality. | |

ENGLISH COMMUNICATIVE -Code No. 101
MARKING SCHEME
CLASS-X-(2025-26)

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.

	SECTION A: READING SKILLS (22 MARKS)	
1.	Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.	12
I	c) It plays a critical role in influencing global weather and climate patterns.	1
II	an unusually large impact or importance	1
III	Because these resources are essential for industries like telecommunications and energy. Additionally, reliance on a single major supplier (the Asian country), makes diversifying resource acquisition crucial for economic and geopolitical stability.	2
IV	b) vast and overwhelming in quantity [Option a) is an obvious incorrect. Options c) and d) are plausible but incorrect: Option c) implies a limitation in scientific measurement, which isn't suggested in the passage. Option d) suggests difficulty in understanding the concept, whereas the passage emphasises the sheer magnitude of the ice, not the inability to comprehend it.]	1
V	a) vault, emphasising security and value [Option a) is correct because it conveys immense worth and inaccessibility. Option b) does not convey the sense of immense value and security. Option c) also lacks the connotation of security and exclusivity. Option d) only suggests easy accessibility and bulk storage, which contrasts with the idea of resources being difficult to obtain]	1
VI	d) Greenland's Melting Ice: A Growing Concern for the 21st Century [Option d) is the best choice because it comprehensively reflects the paragraph's focus on ice melt, rising sea levels, changing energy absorption, and the long-term global implications, making it the most fitting title. Option a) is too broad and doesn't specifically focus on the main issues discussed in the paragraph. While Option b) captures part of the paragraph's focus, it misses the critical detail about Greenland's changing colour and its effect on energy	1

	absorption, making it incomplete. Option c) focuses only on the energy absorption aspect, neglecting the significant discussion about rising sea levels and the long-term impact of ice melt]	
VII	engine and on/off switch	1
VIII	warning [The option 'speculative' is incorrect in this context because Jennifer Francis' statement in paragraph 4 is not a guess or assumption without evidence. The option 'viewpoint' is also incorrect as it typically reflects a personal opinion or belief, which may not necessarily be based on factual or scientific evidence. Jennifer's statement highlights a potential outcome which is not merely her viewpoint but a scientifically supported cautionary message. Thus, 'warning' is the correct choice because it highlights the cautionary and predictive nature of her statement.]	1
IX	Holland uses 'eye-watering' metaphorically to convey the overwhelming beauty and grandeur of Greenland. While it may not literally reduce him to tears, the phrase suggests the emotional intensity and awe-inspiring nature of the experience. It highlights how Greenland's landscapes and wildlife leave a profound visual impact that is hard to fully capture.	2
2.	Answer the following questions, based on given passage.	10
I	The tag 'A Hub for Livestock Trading' is suitable for the Nagaur Fair instead of 'Colourful Celebrations' because the fair primarily focuses on the large-scale trade of livestock, with over 70,000 animals being traded annually, highlighting its economic significance over its festive aspects. It reinforces its role as a center for commerce rather than just a celebration of culture.	2
II	c) annually	1
III	c) Chand Baori is an ancient stepwell.	1
IV	It highlights the increasing recognition and appeal of the Abhaneri Festival, showcasing its success in drawing attention and admiration from visitors worldwide.	1
V	b) To attract buyers and showcase the animals for trading.	1
VI	farmers and traders	1
VII	d) Showcasing regional culture	1
VIII	The Nagaur Fair spans four days because it involves extensive livestock trading, requiring ample time for transactions, negotiations, and showcasing animals. In contrast, the Abhaneri Festival lasts two days as it focuses on cultural performances and celebration, which can be effectively showcased within a shorter timeframe.	2
SECTION B- WRITING SKILLS (22 MARKS)		

3.	Format – 1 Content -1 Accuracy -1	3
	<p>Suggested Content points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight that it is a tree plantation volunteering event and how it aligns with the school's values of environmental awareness and community service • Specify the date, time, and location of the event. • Politely request permission to use school transport for the event and benefit • Assure responsible usage and adherence to any guidelines provided. 	
4.	Content - 1 Organisation - 1 Accuracy -1	4
	<p>Content Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name and type of the gadget. • Brief reason for choosing it as your favourite. • Mention the standout specifications (e.g., sleek design, high performance, durability). • Highlight unique functionalities (e.g., voice commands, AI integration, touch screen) • Describe its primary purpose (e.g., communication, entertainment, productivity). • Additional features that make it versatile (e.g., multi-tasking, connectivity, battery life). • How it enhances your daily life. • Personal satisfaction or convenience provided by the gadget 	
5.	Format -1 Content -3 Organisation -2 Accuracy -1	1x7=7
A.	<p>Content Points:</p> <p>⇒ Impact on Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students without digital access face difficulties in attending online classes and completing assignments. • Lack of exposure to digital tools limits learning opportunities and career readiness. • Emotional toll due to feelings of exclusion and falling behind peers. <p>⇒ Impact on Teachers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers struggle to reach students equitably, especially in rural or low-income areas. • Limited access to digital teaching aids and training hampers their ability to deliver quality education. <p>⇒ Suggested Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governments and NGOs should provide affordable devices and reliable internet connectivity. • Establish community learning centers with shared digital resources. • Encourage public-private partnerships to improve technology access in schools. 	
B.	<p>Content Points:</p> <p>⇒ Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many geological sites face neglect and vandalism, leading to their gradual degradation. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urbanisation, industrial activities, and unregulated tourism are major threats to these sites. • Lack of public awareness and insufficient government action aggravate the problem. <p>⇒ Suggestions for Preservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geological sites should be declared protected areas and maintained with proper security measures. • Establish museums and information centers to promote the importance of these sites. • Introduce educational programmes in schools to foster appreciation for geological heritage. • Encourage responsible tourism and community involvement in conservation efforts. <p>⇒ Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urgent action is needed to protect these natural treasures and ensure they are preserved for future generations. 	
6.	Format - 1 Content - 3 Organisation – 3 Accuracy -1	8
A.	<p>Content points:</p> <p>⇒ Wellness is a holistic concept that includes physical, mental, and emotional health.</p> <p>⇒ A balanced lifestyle is essential for achieving complete wellness and leading a fulfilling life.</p> <p>⇒ Importance of Key Elements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Health - Regular exercise, nutritious food, and adequate hydration are vital for maintaining the body's strength and immunity. • Mental Wellness - Practices like mindfulness, meditation, and maintaining a positive outlook reduce stress and enhance emotional health. • Adequate Sleep - Quality sleep helps the body recover, boosts brain function, and strengthens immunity. • Laughter - Known as the best medicine, laughter reduces stress hormones, improves mood, and fosters better relationships. • Nature's Medicines - Herbal remedies and natural treatments like turmeric, tulsi, and ginger offer safe and effective healing. <p>⇒ Practical Suggestions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include daily exercise and a balanced diet in your routine. • Dedicate time for relaxation and activities that bring joy, like spending time with loved ones. • Sleep for 7-8 hours each night to recharge your body and mind. • Use natural remedies wisely, in consultation with experts, for common ailments. <p>⇒ Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete wellness is not just about physical health but also mental and emotional well-being. • By incorporating small but meaningful changes in daily habits, everyone 	

	can lead a healthier, happier, and more balanced life.	
B.	<p>Content points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Space travel has moved from being a domain for astronauts to a potential avenue for public tourism. ⇒ The idea of space tourism fascinates many, but it comes with significant challenges and ethical concerns. ⇒ Potential Benefits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unique Experiences - Experiencing zero gravity and viewing Earth from space can inspire awe and a deeper connection to the planet. • Economic Benefits - Creation of new jobs in the space industry, tourism, and associated sectors. • Advances in space technology could lead to innovations benefiting life on Earth. ⇒ Challenges and Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Impact - Rocket launches produce significant carbon emissions, contributing to climate change. Pollution from frequent space travel may harm the atmosphere. • Accessibility Issues - High costs make space tourism available only to the wealthy, increasing societal inequalities. • Safety Risks - Space travel involves potential dangers like accidents, equipment failure, and radiation exposure. ⇒ Key Considerations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should humanity invest resources in space tourism when many critical issues like poverty, education, and healthcare on Earth remain unresolved? • Can sustainable practices in space travel be developed to mitigate environmental and ethical concerns? ⇒ Conclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Space tourism offers exciting possibilities, but its risks and impacts cannot be ignored. • While advancements in space technology are commendable, the focus should first be on solving Earth's pressing issues. • Until space travel becomes safer, sustainable, and accessible to all, it may remain a risky luxury rather than a step forward for humanity. 	
	SECTION C-GRAMMAR (10 MARKS)	
7	Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option:	1x3=3
i	becoming	
ii	refers	
iii	views	
8	Identify the missing word in each line	1x4=4

No.	Word Before	Omission	Word After
e.g.	is	our	most
i	we	should	reduce
ii	is	the	only
iii	small	can	make
iv	we	must	act

9	Do as directed.	1X3=3
I		
i	Orissa is a beautiful state in the eastern part of India and we are known for our rich heritage, vibrant festivals and exquisite temple architecture.	1
II		
i	if/ whether he had heard about the new discovery announcement the previous day	1
ii	that he had heard about finding a planet with water vapour	1
10.	Read the given extracts and answer the questions briefly, for any two extracts, of the three, given	2x4=8
A		
I	The tone could be curious / inquisitive or surprised. The narrator might have been genuinely interested in learning more about the boys' work or surprised to discover that they engaged in multiple tasks beyond picking and selling fruit.	1
II	Nicola glanced hopefully at the narrator because he might have been expecting his interest in hiring him and Jacopo as guides. He likely saw it as an opportunity to earn more money, which would contribute to supporting their sister's treatment.	1
III	Displays their adaptability, and determination to overcome their difficult circumstance	1
IV	It suggests that he sees them as remarkable and intriguing, recognising a depth of character and maturity unusual for children of their age.	1
B		
I	It suggests Ozymandias' arrogance and belief in his unparalleled power and superiority over all rulers.	1
II	It implies that Ozymandias wanted future rulers to feel insignificant and awed by his achievements, believing they could never surpass his greatness.	1
III	The imagery emphasises the desolation and emptiness surrounding	1

	the ruins, contrasting sharply with Ozymandias' boastful claim, highlighting the futility of his pride.	
IV	It conveys the message that human ambition and achievements are ultimately transient, as time reduces even the greatest works to insignificance.	1
C		
I	The dialogue reveals a deep-seated rivalry / animosity between Mrs. Jordan and Mrs. Slater. Both women are quick to accuse and belittle each other, indicating underlying tensions and competition, especially regarding the inheritance.	1
II	Mrs. Jordan is implying that Henry is weak-willed and lacks independence, blindly following Mrs. Slater's manipulative and self-serving instructions. Her statement highlights her disdain for Henry's submissiveness and reveals her perception of him as a spineless accomplice in Mrs. Slater's schemes.	1
III	It heightens the tension and drama in the scene. It exposes the selfishness and greed of the characters, creating a chaotic and morally charged atmosphere.	1
IV	Abel's reaction, particularly his question about what the bureau and clock are doing downstairs, suggests that he quickly discerns his daughters' opportunistic behaviour and recognizes their greed and lack of respect.	1
11.	Answer any FIVE of the following SIX questions in 30-40 words each :	5x2=10
I	The villagers actively contribute to Mrs. Packletide's ambition by exaggerating her success in killing the tiger. They help create the illusion that she is a brave and heroic hunter by spreading the story and praising her. The villagers' involvement in this deception reinforces Mrs. Packletide's desire for social recognition and enhances her false sense of accomplishment.	2
II	Initially, Patol Babu is disappointed by the small payment for his acting role, feeling that it doesn't compensate for his years of experience. However, when he immerses himself in his craft, he finds personal satisfaction in the perfect execution of his lines, despite the meagre financial reward. The story portrays how true contentment often arises from self-respect and the joy of doing something well, rather than external recognition or financial gain.	2
III	The mood in the story shifts from melancholy to reflective, and ultimately, to a bittersweet sense of empathy and regret. It begins with a sombre tone as Ali, filled with loneliness and faith, endures the biting cold and mockery at the post office. The mood turns reflective when Ali's story unfolds, and the postmaster, experiencing similar anxiety, gains empathy. The ending blends sadness with realisation, emphasising the human connection through shared suffering.	2

IV	The author uses the concept of advanced virtual reality games to blur the lines between the real and virtual worlds. By integrating Sebastian's consciousness into the psycho-drive games, the author explores the potential and unintended consequences of futuristic technology, creating suspense and an engaging narrative.	2
V	The audience's initial adulation creates a dependency in the nightingale for constant applause, fuelling her need to perform tirelessly to maintain their approval. This relentless pursuit of admiration pushes her to overexert herself under the frog's guidance. Later, their loss of interest in her uninspired performances deepens her despair, as she equates her worth with their appreciation.	2
VI	The Shakespearean sonnet form divided into three quatrains and a concluding rhymed couplet, allows Shakespeare to build his argument progressively. In the quatrains, he contrasts the impermanence of physical monuments with the enduring nature of poetry, while the final couplet delivers a powerful conclusion, highlighting the immortality of the loved one, through verse. The consistent metre and the rhyme scheme provide a rhythm that reinforces the theme of permanence amidst the passage of time.	2
12.	Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 150 words	1x8=8
A. Content points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Supernatural in 'Julius Caesar': <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portents and omens: Calpurnia's dream, the soothsayer's warning ('Beware the Ides of March'), dreams of unnatural phenomena like graves opening etc. • Role: The supernatural heightens tension, foreshadows tragedy, and adds a layer of inevitability to Caesar's fate. It reflects the characters' inner turmoil and the unrest of Rome. ⇒ Supernatural in 'A Shady Plot': <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The humorous take on the supernatural - Ghosts appear as part of a comical narrative, with Helen (the ghost) providing a light-hearted take on the afterlife and her 'Writer's Inspiration Bureau.' • Role: Unlike in 'Julius Caesar', the supernatural in 'A Shady Plot' serves as a satirical device to critique the writing process and human follies rather than a serious narrative. ⇒ Comparison: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 'Julius Caesar', the supernatural reflects the gravity of fate, politics, and human ambition. In contrast, in 'A Shady Plot,' it is a tool for humour and irony. • Both, however, influence the actions of the characters (Caesar ignoring the omens, John in 'A Shady Plot' trying to appease Helen). 		

B.

Content Points:

⇒ Introduction

- Both poems acts disrupt nature and lead to guilt and self-realisation.
- The Mariner's act symbolises arrogance, while the narrator's in 'Snake' reflects conditioning by the society.

⇒ The Mariner's Act and Guilt

- The Mariner impulsively kills the Albatross, a symbol of goodwill and nature's harmony.
- His action brings a curse, leading to suffering of his crew.
- Guilt is externalised as he is condemned share his tale as penance.
- Realisation comes through understanding the sanctity of all life, leading to redemption.

⇒ The Narrator's Act and Guilt in 'Snake'

- The narrator admires the snake's majesty but is driven by conditioning to harm it.
- Unlike the Mariner, his regret is immediate and internal, reflecting personal moral failure.
- He envies the snake's dignity and feels he has betrayed his own values by acting out of fear and external expectation.

⇒ Conclusion

- Both poems highlight the moral and emotional consequences of disrupting the natural order.
- They emphasise guilt as a transformative force, leading to self-awareness and moral growth.
- The poems point to humanity's flawed relationship with nature and the need to respect all living beings.