

ENGLISH ELECTIVE- CODE 001
SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER
CLASS XII - (2025-26)

Total Time: 3 hours

Marks: 80

General instructions

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

SECTION A- READING

20 Marks

- 1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:** **12x1
=12**

Arjun was an architect, renowned for designing modern skyscrapers in bustling cities. His life was a whirlwind of deadlines, meetings, and blueprints, leaving little time for reflection. One Friday evening, while clearing his desk, he stumbled upon an old, faded photograph of his childhood home. The simple cottage nestled in the hills, surrounded by tall oak trees, brought a rush of memories—the sound of chirping birds, the scent of fresh rain, and his grandmother’s stories by the fireplace. Her laughter, warm and contagious, echoed in his mind.

That night, he could no sleep. Tossing and turning, he realized it had been over 20 years since he last visited his ancestral home. On an impulse, he decided to take a break and revisit the place where he had spent his happiest days. This was not just a trip to a physical location but a journey to rediscover parts of himself lost in the chaos of adulthood.

The journey took five hours by car, weaving through highways and narrow mountain roads, followed by a 20-minute trek uphill. The steep path, lined with vibrant wildflowers, contrasted sharply with the grey monotony of the city. When Arjun reached the crest of the hill, the sight of the old cottage took his breath away. Time seemed to have stood still. The wooden structure, though weathered, still held its charm. The red-tiled roof, overgrown shrubs in the garden, and a swing hanging from the oak tree felt like pieces of a puzzle falling into place.

Pushing open the creaky gate, Arjun stepped onto the porch. The door was unlocked, and a faint musty smell greeted him. Dust motes danced in the sunlight streaming through the windows. Inside, furniture was covered in white sheets, and the ticking of an old clock echoed faintly. Each corner seemed to whisper stories of laughter, footsteps, and secrets from the past.

In his grandmother’s room, Arjun found a leather-bound journal on the bedside table. Curious, he opened it and began reading. The diary was filled with entries about her

daily life, hopes, and dreams. One entry caught his attention: “Arjun is a curious child, always asking questions about the world. He dreams of building things that touch the sky. I hope he never loses that wonder.” Tears welled up in his eyes. He had fulfilled his childhood dream of becoming an architect, but in the process, he had forgotten the simple joys of life. His work consumed him, leaving little room for curiosity or connection.

Exploring further, Arjun found a box of childhood treasures—hand-drawn sketches, toy cars, and a model of a treehouse he had designed but never built. Holding the model, he felt a pang of regret. He had promised his grandmother he would build the treehouse, but life had taken him in a different direction. That promise, once so meaningful, had been buried under layers of ambition and responsibility.

Determined to honour his promise, Arjun decided to spend the weekend building the treehouse. He found old tools in the shed, along with planks of wood and nails. Though years had passed since he worked with his hands, the process was strangely therapeutic. The rhythmic sound of hammering, the scent of freshly cut wood, and the rustling leaves transported him to a simpler time.

As he worked, memories of his grandmother’s encouragement and belief in him filled his heart. She had always said the best creations were those made with love and intention. By Sunday evening, the treehouse stood proudly on the oak tree—simple yet sturdy. It wasn’t just a physical structure but a tribute to his grandmother and a testament to their shared dreams.

Climbing up, Arjun sat inside, gazing at the breath-taking view of the valley. The golden hues of the setting sun painted the landscape in shades of orange and pink. For the first time in years, he felt contentment. The weight of deadlines and expectations melted away, replaced by a profound connection to the present.

Before leaving the next morning, Arjun planted a sapling near the treehouse, symbolizing new beginnings. The act felt symbolic, as though he were planting a part of himself back into the soil of his roots. Locking the cottage, he left with a promise to return. The visit had rekindled something within him—a connection to his roots and a sense of purpose beyond deadlines and skyscrapers.

Back in the city, Arjun carried the memories of his weekend like a precious treasure. He made small changes in his life—taking breaks to sketch for pleasure, spending weekends in nature, and reconnecting with old friends. His architectural designs began to reflect a new sensibility, blending modernity with nature, inspired by the harmony he had rediscovered in his ancestral home.

Months later, one of his projects, a community centre surrounded by greenery, won an award for sustainable design. During his acceptance speech, Arjun spoke about the importance of finding balance in life and staying connected to one’s roots. He ended with a quote from his grandmother’s diary: “Never lose your wonder.”

Years passed, but Arjun kept his promise to visit the cottage regularly. The treehouse became a cherished spot, not just for him but also for his children. It stood as a bridge between generations, a place where stories were shared, dreams nurtured, and the spirit of wonder kept alive.

For Academic Usage 994 words

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

- I What triggered Arjun's decision to visit his ancestral home? 1
 - a. Discovering a letter from a family member
 - b. Seeing an old photograph of his childhood home
 - c. Recalling a dream about his grandmother's stories
 - d. Reading about the hills in a magazine article
- II What was Arjun's grandmother's wish for him as written in her diary? 1
 - a. That he would always remain curious about life
 - b. That he would build a large home on the hills
 - c. That he would write books about his childhood
 - d. That he would return one day to the cottage
- III **Assertion (A):** Arjun's work as an architect left him feeling fulfilled and balanced. 1
Reason (R): He had devoted his life to building modern skyscrapers in cities.
 - 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.
- IV State True or False- 1
Arjun's architectural designs after his visit reflected a blend of nature and modernity.
- V What does Arjun's act of planting a sapling near the treehouse symbolize? 1
- VI How does the act of completing the treehouse serve as a turning point in Arjun's personal and professional life? 1
- VII The act of Arjun rediscovering his childhood home is best described as a journey of: 1
 - a. Self-discovery
 - b. Professional growth
 - c. Escaping his current life
 - d. Material success
- VIII The narrator describes his experience of building the treehouse as an attempt to express the growing sense of _____ in his connection with his childhood and nature. 1
- IX What does the word 'rekindled' in the passage suggest about Arjun's emotional state? 1
- X The narrator describes his ancestral home in the hills as a _____, quiet little cottage surrounded by oak trees. 1
- XI What can be inferred from Arjun's shift in his architectural designs after his weekend visit? 1
 - a. He is blending traditional elements with modern architectural styles.
 - b. He is shifting his focus from urban skyscrapers to rural architecture.
 - c. He is prioritizing designs that combine nature with modern architecture.
 - d. He is focusing on extravagant and luxurious designs for wealthy clients.

- XII Why does the passage emphasize the line “Never lose your wonder”? 1
 a. It reminds readers to stay connected to their roots and dreams
 b. It highlights the difficulties of balancing work and family life
 c. It critiques modern society’s focus on material success
 d. It underlines the value of maintaining professional ambition
- XIII What can be inferred about Arjun’s character from his decision to spend the weekend building the treehouse? 1
- XIV What broader message does Arjun’s journey convey about life? 1
 a. Personal fulfilment often outweighs professional goals
 b. Work-life balance requires reconnecting with one’s past
 c. Success is achieved through revisiting long-forgotten plans
 d. Happiness comes from simplifying both work and life
- XV Which literary device is present in “the house seemed to echo with laughter, footsteps, and whispered secrets from the past”? 1
 a. Alliteration
 b. Imagery
 c. Personification
 d. Symbolism

2. Read the poem LOSS AND GAIN by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow given below: 4x1=4

When I compare
 What I have lost with what I have gained,
 What I have missed with what attained,
 Little room do I find for pride.

I am aware
 How many days have been idly spent;
 How like an arrow the good intent
 Has fallen short or been turned aside.

But who shall dare
 To measure loss and gain in this wise?
 Defeat may be victory in disguise;
 The lowest ebb is the turn of the tide.

Source- <https://discoverpoetry.com/poems/12-line-poems/>

Based on your reading of the poem answer any FOUR of the five questions given below.

- I **The tone of the poem can be best described as:** 1
 a) Optimistic and celebratory
 b) Reflective and contemplative
 c) Angry and resentful
 d) Sarcastic and dismissive
- II **What is the significance of the phrase “The lowest ebb is the turn of the tide”?** 1
 a) It suggests that bad times lead to the inevitable downfall of a person.
 b) It conveys the idea that after the worst point, improvement is possible.
 c) It means that the tide will always rise, no matter what, without fail.
 d) It refers to the idea that challenges in life are constant and never change.

III **Assertion:** The speaker expresses a sense of resignation, acknowledging that much of life's time has been wasted or unproductive. 1

Reasoning: The speaker suggests that even moments of failure can eventually lead to positive outcomes, emphasizing a cyclical nature of success and failure.

Choose the correct option:

- a) Both Assertion and Reasoning are correct, and the Reasoning correctly explains the Assertion.
- b) Both Assertion and Reasoning are correct, but the Reasoning does not explain the Assertion.
- c) The Assertion is correct, but the Reasoning is incorrect.
- d) The Assertion is incorrect, but the Reasoning is correct.

IV What is the overall theme of the passage? 1

V The repetition of "what" is an example of _____ poetic device. 1

3. **Read the passage given below :-** 4x1
=4

Mental health comprises our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects our thinking, feelings, perception of the world around us and our actions. It helps us to determine how one handles stress, relationships with others, and making healthy choices.

Individual psychological and biological factors such as emotional skills, substance use and genetics can make people vulnerable to mental health issues.

Millions of people are affected by mental illness each year. Across the country, many people just like you work, perform, create, compete, laugh, love and inspire every day. (88 words)

Following is a table representing the percentage of adults suffering from different types of mental disorder in the U.S. -

Age Group	Year	Percentage	Illness
Adults	2021	22.8%	Mental illness
Adults	2021	5.5%	Serious mental illness
Adults	2021	7.6%	Co-occurring substance use disorder and mental illness
6-17 Youth	2016	16.5%	Mental health disorder

Following is a table of Annual prevalence of mental illness among U.S. adults, by demographic group-

Demographic Group	Percentage
Non-Hispanic Asian	16.4%
Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	18.1%
African American	21.4%
Hispanic or Latino	20.7%
Non-Hispanic White	23.9%
Non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native	26.6%
Non-Hispanic mixed/multiracial	34.9%

Following is a table of Annual prevalence among U.S. adults, by condition:

Condition	Percentage
Schizophrenia	<1%
Obsessive Compulsive Disorder	1.2%
Borderline Personality Disorder	1.4%
Bipolar Disorder	2.8%
Posttraumatic Stress Disorder	3.6%
Major Depressive Episode	8.3%
Anxiety Disorders	19.1%

Source-<https://www.nami.org/about-mental-illness/mental-health-by-the-numbers/>

Based on your reading of the passage answer FOUR of the five questions given below.

- I Which of the following demographic groups has the highest annual prevalence of mental illness in the U.S., according to the data presented? 1
 - a) Non-Hispanic White
 - b) Non-Hispanic mixed/multiracial
 - c) Non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native
 - d) Hispanic or Latino
- II Why is it important to know about mental health disorders? 1
- III State TRUE or FALSE - 1

Mental health impacts our mindset, emotions, view of the world, and behaviours.
- IV Provide evidence for the following- 1

Substance use and genetics is most likely to make individuals vulnerable to mental health issues, as discussed in the passage.
- V What percentage of U.S. youth aged 6-17 experienced a mental health disorder in 2016, according to the data? 1
 - a) 7.6%
 - b) 22.8%
 - c) 16.5%
 - d) 5.5%

SECTION-B APPLIED GRAMMAR & WRITING

28 Marks

- 4 Transform the following sentences as per the given instructions in brackets. 8x1=8 (ANY EIGHT)
 - I The teacher praised Rahul. She also praised Riya. 1
(Combine using as well as)
 - II The music was so loud that we had to cover our ears. 1
(Start with It was too...)
 - III If you do not water the plants, they will die. 1
(Rewrite using unless)

IV	The teacher entered the class. The students became silent. (Start with No sooner...)	1
V	The rain stopped. The children ran outside to play. (Start with Hardly...)	1
VI	He apologized. I forgave him. (Start with Only after...)	1
VII	She is intelligent. She is hardworking. (Combine using not only...but also)	1
VIII	The notice said, "The library will be closed tomorrow." (Start with The notice informed that...)	1
IX	The teacher said, "Submit your assignments before Friday." (Begin: The teacher said that...)	1
X	We can go to the beach. We can go to the park. (Combine using either... or)	1

5 Attempt any THREE of the following four questions in 120-150 words each. 3x5=15

- I "As many experts warn, 'The rise of artificial intelligence could lead to mass unemployment.' Is the advent of AI in our lives a 'threat' to human jobs and employment opportunities?" Write a discursive essay in which you critically examine the impact of artificial intelligence on employment opportunities in future.
- II The significance of school exams has undergone a great transformation due to the rise of entrance exams conducted by colleges for undergraduate courses. Write an essay discussing whether these changes are enhancing or diminishing the value of school exams. Provide examples to illustrate your interpretation.
- III "Does the depiction of violence in TV shows and movies play a role in encouraging real-world violence?" Write an analytical essay interpreting how visual media influences behaviour, where you can explore how movies, video games, news, and social media shape societal attitudes and actions.
- IV The surge in immigration has led to an increase in the number of roadside dwellers who lack access to essential civic facilities like light, public toilets, bathrooms, shelter. It is the responsibility of local authorities to ensure that these individuals' basic needs are met. Write an analytical essay discussing the role of authorities in addressing this issue.

6 Read the questions given below and attempt ANY ONE of the following in 120-150 words each. 1x5=5

- I A glittering musical concert was held in your city during the Diwali season. Many noted and budding musicians were present to grace the occasion. Write a report covering the event.
- II Social media platforms like Instagram and Snapchat have a significant impact on today's youth and often misleads them in terms of undue pressure of following

current fashion trends. Write an article for your school magazine discussing this topic.

SECTION C-TEXTBOOK

32 Marks

7 (I) Attempt any one of the two extracts (A) and (B) given below:

1x6=6

(A) Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.

"She did her job well, and for a long time, above all during the war years, when reality was more sinister than nightmares. Only she could decide at breakfast what each should do that day, and how it should be done, until her predictions became the sole authority in the house. Her control over the family was absolute: even the faintest sigh was breathed by her order. The master of the house died at about the time I was in Vienna, and had the elegance to leave her a part of his estate on the condition that she continue dreaming for the family until her dreams came to an end."
(I Sell My Dreams)

- i. Which 'job' is being talked about in the extract?
 - ii. What did 'she' decide at breakfast each day?
 - iii. How was her authority described in the family?
 - iv. What condition did the master of the house place on 'she' after his death?
 - v. How did the master of the house pay her after his death?
 - vi. Which word is a good synonym for 'sinister'?
- A. Ominous B. Benign
C. Condemnation D. Soldering

OR

(B) Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.

All the seas of the world tumbled about her heart. He was drawing her into them: he would drown her. She gripped with both hands at the iron railing.
'Come!'
No! No! No! It was impossible. Her hands clutched the iron in frenzy. Amid the seas she sent a cry of anguish.
(Eveline)

- i. Who is 'he' in the above extract?
 - ii. What metaphor is used to describe the woman's emotional turmoil in the passage?
 - iii. How does 'he' in the passage affect 'her' emotionally?
 - iv. What emotion does the woman express through her cry in the passage?
 - v. What does the iron railing symbolize in the passage?
 - vi. Which word is a good synonym for 'frenzy'?
- A. Nuances B. Choral
C. Rage D. Tranquillity

7 (II) Attempt any ONE of the two extracts (A) and (B) given below:

1x6=6

(A) Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:

The first time on this shore,
The bell-beat of their wings above my head,
Trode with a lighter tread.
Unwearied still, lover by lover,
They paddle in the cold
Companionable streams or climb the air;
Their hearts have not grown old;
Passion or conquest, wander where they will,
Attend upon them still.

(*The Wild Swans at Coole*)

- i. What sound is heard above the speaker's head?
- ii. What do the creatures do in the cold streams?
- iii. How does the passage describe the creatures' hearts?
- iv. What theme is expressed by the line "Passion or conquest, wander where they will"?
- v. What is the tone of the poet regarding the creatures' journey and energy?
- vi. Choose the antonym for the word "unwearied" from the options below:
A. Trudge B. Fatigued
C. Energetic D. Trod

OR

(B) Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.

To me thou, falsely thine;
And I to thee mine actions shall disguise.
The morning shadows were away,
But these grow longer all the day,
But oh, love's day is short, if love decay.
Love is a growing, or full constant light;
And his first minute, after noone, is night

(*A Lecture Upon The Shadow*)

- i. What does the speaker say about the nature of love?
- ii. What does the speaker want to disguise?
- iii. What does the transition from day to night symbolize about love's duration?
- iv. How is love described after its "first minute"?
- v. What is the tone of the poet in the above lines?
- vi. Choose the antonym for the word "constant" from the options below:
A. Turmoil B. Sojourn
C. Transient D. Soliloquy

8 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 30-40 words each.

1x2=2

- I How does the poet reflect cultural diversity in *Time and Time Again*?
- II How does the play *Chandalika* portray the emotional and psychological toll of caste discrimination on Prakriti?

- 9 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 40-50 words each. 1x3=3**
- I Explain the coexistence of contraries in *Kubla Khan*.
 - II The theme of memory plays a crucial role in *Eveline*. How do Eveline's memories influence her decision at the end of the story?
- 10 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 120-150 words each. 1x5=5**
- I Dr Solomon Margolin demonstrated the life of survivors post holocaust in *A Wedding in Brownsville*. Substantiate with suitable references from the text.
 - II "In *The Argumentative Indian*, Amartya Sen emphasizes the role of public reasoning in the development of a democratic society. How does the Indian tradition of argumentation contribute to the global discourse on democracy and development?"
- 11 Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 30-40 words each. 1x2=2**
- I Captain is a victim of his own ignorance and spiritual inertia in *A Tiger for Malgudi*. Discuss.
 - II How does Margayya's experience challenge conventional ideas of achieving success?
- 12 Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 40-50 words. 1x3=3**
- I In what ways does R.K. Narayan use humour to address serious social and philosophical issues in *A Tiger for Malgudi*? Provide examples from the text.
 - II Bank Manager is instrumental in bringing Margayya's downfall. Discuss.
- 13 Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 120-150 words. 1x5=5**
- I In *A Tiger for Malgudi*, Raja, the wild tiger, transforms into a more subdued version of himself, ultimately reaching a state of balance. What is the significance of this transformation in the novel's ending, and how does it reflect the themes of life, death, and liberation?
 - II In *The Financial Expert*, R.K. Narayan reflects how gender inequality is deeply intertwined with social structures. While *Margayya's* wife and his son's wife may hold different positions within their respective households, both are subject to the same overarching societal norms that limit their autonomy and reduce their roles to that of caretakers and supporters of men's ambitions. Discuss.

ENGLISH ELECTIVE-Code-001
MARKING SCHEME
CLASS XII (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, the 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 COMPREHENSION		
1.	On the basis of your reading of the above excerpt, answer the following questions briefly.	12x1=12
I	b) Seeing an old photograph of his childhood home	1
II	a) That he would always remain curious about life	1
III	d) A is false, but R is true.	1
IV	True	1
V	Arjun's act of planting a sapling near the treehouse symbolizes new beginnings, growth, and his reconnection to his roots.	1
VI	By reconnecting him with his roots, values, and childhood dreams. This shift leads to a more balanced and meaningful approach to both his work and personal life, ultimately influencing his future projects and the way he prioritizes connections to his past.	1
VII	a) Self-discovery	1
VIII	Renewal/wonder	1
IX	This moment marked a turning point in Arjun's life, where he regained a sense of purpose and connection to the simpler, more meaningful joys of life that had once inspired him.	1
X	simple	1
XI	c) He is prioritizing designs that combine nature with modern architecture.	1
XII	a). It reminds readers to stay connected to their roots and dreams	1
XIII	Arjun is a person who values promises and connections to his past. His choice to fulfill the promise to his grandmother, despite the passage of time and his busy life, shows a deep sense of responsibility, nostalgia, and a desire to reconnect with simpler, meaningful moments.	1

XIV	b). Work-life balance requires reconnecting with one's past	1
XV	c) Personification	1
2.	Based on your understanding of the poem, answer FOUR of five given questions.	4x1=4
I	b) Reflective and contemplative	
II	b) It conveys the idea that after the worst point, improvement or change is possible.	
III	a) Both Assertion and Reasoning are correct, and the Reasoning correctly explains the Assertion.	
IV	The subjective nature of loss and gain, and the potential for growth through failure.	
V	Anaphora	
3.	Based on your understanding of the passage, answer ANY FOUR of the given questions.	4X1=4
I	b) Non-Hispanic mixed/multiracial	
II	It helps us to determine how one handles stress, relationships with others, and making healthy choices.	
III	TRUE	
IV	Individual psychological and biological factors such as emotional skills, substance use and genetics can make people vulnerable to mental health issues.	
V	c) 16.5%	
	SECTION B APPLIED GRAMMAR & CREATIVE WRITING	
4.	Transform the following sentences as per the given instructions. (Any eight)	8X1=8
I	The teacher praised Rahul as well as Riya.	1
II	It was too loud a music that we had to cover our ears.	1
III	The plants will die unless you water them.	1
IV	No sooner did the teacher enter the class than the students became silent.	1
V	Hardly had the rain stopped when the children ran outside to play.	1
VI	Only after he apologized did I forgive him.	1
VII	She is not only intelligent but also hardworking.	1
VIII	The notice informed that the library would be closed tomorrow.	1
IX	The teacher said that we should submit our assignments before Friday.	1
X	We can either go to the beach or go to the park.	1

5.	<p>Attempt any three of the following four questions in 120-150 words each.</p> <p>The marks may be divided as</p> <p>Content – 2 marks</p> <p>Organisation – 1 mark (fluency, coherence, logical flow)</p> <p>Expression – 2 marks (vocabulary, originality of ideas, grammatical accuracy)</p>	3x5=15
I	<p>Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Employment Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to AI's influence on modern society and industries. • Pros: AI brings efficiency, reduces human error, and opens new industries. • Cons: AI may lead to job displacement in traditional sectors like manufacturing and customer service. • Importance of reskilling the workforce to adapt to AI-based job roles. • Conclusion: Balancing AI adoption with human jobs and reskilling opportunities for a harmonious future. <p>(Answers may vary)</p>	
II	<p>Transformation of the Significance of School Exams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the traditional significance of school exams. • The shift due to entrance exams for college admissions. • Pros of entrance exams: They provide a focused evaluation of the student's capabilities. • Cons: They may undermine the value of school exams, which assess a broad range of skills. • Conclusion: Both school exams and entrance exams should work hand in hand to provide a holistic evaluation of students. • Bring more skill-based subjects to prepare students for future challenges. <p>(Answers may vary)</p>	
III	<p>The Impact of Visual Media on Behaviour:</p> <p>Repeated exposure to violent content may desensitize viewers, reducing empathy and making them more accepting of violence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violent media may also glamorize violence as a solution to problems, influencing viewers to view aggression as an acceptable conflict resolution method. • Video games, especially violent ones like <i>Grand Theft Auto</i> and <i>Call of Duty</i>, require active participation, which can make the impact of violence more immersive. • The constant portrayal of violence can contribute to "mean world syndrome," where people perceive the world as more violent than it is. • While media exposure may influence behavior, it is not the sole cause of violent actions—social, economic, and psychological factors play significant roles. <p>(Answers may vary)</p>	
IV	<p>Rising Immigration and Urbanization:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased immigration has led to a surge in the population of urban areas. • Roadside dwellers often lack access to essential services such as clean water, sanitation, and electricity. • Authorities are responsible for creating policies that ensure all citizens, including the marginalized, have access to basic facilities. • Local governments should invest in infrastructure and public services, including affordable housing. • Ensuring access to healthcare, education, clean water, and sanitation. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating temporary or permanent shelters for those unable to find housing. • Urban Planning and Development, Social Welfare Programs, Collaboration with NGOs • Conclusion: With proper governance and planning, urban areas can accommodate all citizens, regardless of their background or economic status. (Answers may vary) 	
6.	<p>The marks may be divided as:</p> <p>Format 1 (heading + name of contributor)</p> <p>Content –2 marks</p> <p>Expression – 2 marks (grammatical accuracy, vocabulary, coherence, fluency)</p>	1x5=5
I	<p>Report on a Musical Concert During Diwali Season:</p> <p>Introduction: Overview of the concert during Diwali season.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of notable performances and musicians, including both seasoned and new talent. • Event details: Audience attendance, musical genre, atmosphere. • Conclusion: Reflection on the success and cultural significance of the event. (Answers may vary) 	
II	<p>Article on Social Media's Impact on Youth:</p> <p>Introduction: The widespread influence of social media on today's youth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive impacts: Social media as a tool for communication, creativity, and learning. • Negative impacts: Pressure to follow trends, mental health issues, unrealistic standards. • Conclusion: Advice on finding a balance and using social media responsibly. (Answers may vary) 	
SECTION C–TEXTBOOK & FICTION		
7(I)	Attempt any one of the two extracts (A) and (B) given below:	6X1=6
(A)	<p>Read the extract given below and answer the questions which follow:</p> <p>i. 'She' is The 'job' referred to in the extract is dreaming for the family, which the woman does, controlling the household's actions and decisions.</p> <p>ii. At breakfast each day, she decided what each family member should do and how it should be done.</p> <p>iii. Her authority in the family was described as absolute, meaning she had complete control and influence over everyone's actions.</p> <p>iv. The master of the house conditioned his part of the estate to her continuing to dream for the family until her dreams ended.</p> <p>v. The master of the house left her a part of his estate as a way to pay her off for her dreams.</p> <p>vi. The word that is a good synonym for 'sinister' is A. Ominous.</p> <p>(Explanation: "Sinister" refers to something harmful or ominous, and "ominous" is the best match.)</p>	
	OR	
(B)	<p>Read the extract given below and answer the questions which follow:</p> <p>i. 'He' refers to her boyfriend, Frank.</p>	

	<p>ii. The metaphor used is "All the seas of the world tumbled about her heart," symbolizing her emotional chaos and overwhelming feelings.</p> <p>iii. 'He' causes her emotional distress and turmoil. She feels as though she is being drawn into something that will overwhelm and drown her, symbolizing emotional entrapment.</p> <p>iv. The woman expresses anguish and desperation through her cry, highlighting her emotional conflict and turmoil.</p> <p>v. The iron railing symbolizes resistance that the woman clings to in an attempt to prevent being overwhelmed.</p> <p>vi. C. Rage</p>	
7(II)	Attempt any one of the two extracts (A) and (B) given below:-	6X1=6
(A)	Read the extract given below and answer the questions which follow:	
	<p>i. The sound of the wings of creatures, described as the "bell-beat" of their wings, is heard above the speaker's head.</p> <p>ii. The creatures paddle in the cold streams, suggesting their ongoing, tireless energy.</p> <p>iii. The passage describes the creatures' hearts as somebody who has not grown old, still young and unwearied and full of continued vitality and passion.</p> <p>iv. The line expresses the theme of perseverance and enduring passion, suggesting that the creatures' drive for passion or conquest follows them wherever they go, undeterred by age or circumstance.</p> <p>v. The tone is admiring and celebratory, acknowledging the creatures' undying vitality and energy.</p> <p>vi. B. Fatigued</p>	
	OR	
(B)	Read the extract given below and answer the questions which follow:	6X1=6
	<p>i. The speaker describes love as a constant and growing light, symbolizing its enduring and ever-increasing nature.</p> <p>ii. The speaker wants to disguise their actions or true feelings, possibly suggesting some form of hidden emotion or intent.</p> <p>iii. The transition from day to night symbolizes how love can quickly go from being vibrant and full to fading or ending, emphasizing its fleeting nature.</p> <p>iv. Love is described as turning to "night" after its first minute, implying that it fades or diminishes quickly after the initial passionate experience.</p> <p>v. The tone is reflective and melancholic, contemplating the fleeting nature of love.</p> <p>vi. C. Transient</p>	
8.	Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 30-40 words.	1x2=2
I	The poem "Time and Time Again" reflects cultural diversity by illustrating how human experiences, emotions, and life situations transcend individual cultural boundaries. The poem emphasizes shared aspects of human existence, such as love, struggle, and resilience.	
	OR	

II	In <i>Chandalika</i> , Prakriti faces emotional and psychological torment due to caste discrimination. Her inner conflict and sense of inferiority stem from her lower caste status, affecting her self-worth and relationships.	
9.	Answer any one of the following two questions in 40-50 words each.	1x3=3
I	In <i>Kubla Khan</i> , Samuel Taylor Coleridge vividly illustrates the co-existence of opposites through the depiction of the sacred palace, which is both a symbol of grandeur and an embodiment of mystery. The poem describes the palace as a "stately pleasure-dome," a place of beauty and pleasure, yet it also hints at an underlying darkness, with its construction on "caverns measureless to man." The palace is situated near the "ancestral voices prophesying war," which introduces an element of destruction amidst its splendor.	
	OR	
II	Eveline's memories of her past, especially the promises she made to her mother before her death, her mother's dying words were a plea to Eveline to keep the family together and look after her father. This memory of duty and responsibility weighs heavily on her as she contemplates leaving with Frank. Despite her desire for a better life and escape from her oppressive home, this sense of obligation and guilt for abandoning her family keeps her from boarding the ship with Frank. In the end, Eveline's memory of her mother's words and her fear of the unknown lead her to stay, ultimately feeling trapped in her past.	
10.	Answer any one of the following two questions in 120-150 words each	1x5=5
I	Dr. Solomon Margolin's exploration of the lives of Holocaust survivors highlights the profound psychological and emotional impacts of their experiences. In his work, he delves into how the trauma of the Holocaust continues to shape the lives of survivors long after the physical horrors have ended. Margolin illustrates that the survivors often struggle with feelings of guilt, loss, and isolation, despite having survived such unimaginable suffering. He emphasizes how many survivors carry the burden of "survivor's guilt," feeling responsible for those who perished and haunted by memories of the atrocities they witnessed. Margolin also focuses on the survivors' attempts to rebuild their lives, dealing with the challenge of reconstructing their identities in a world that has irrevocably changed. He discusses how survivors often internalize the trauma, leading to long-term psychological issues, yet also showcases the resilience and strength they display in their efforts to survive and find meaning in their post-Holocaust lives. This exploration gives voice to the continuing struggle of those who lived through the Holocaust and the ways in which they navigated the aftermath.	
	OR	
II	In "The Argumentative Indian," Amartya Sen emphasizes the significance of public reasoning as a cornerstone of democratic societies. Public reasoning, according to Sen, encourages the exchange of ideas, debate, and critical thinking, which strengthens democratic structures by fostering a culture of open dialogue. Indian tradition, with its rich history of debates and discussions, exemplifies the power of argumentation. Ancient Indian texts like the Upanishads and the Mahabharata show how public debates and dialogues were integral to resolving social, philosophical, and ethical questions. This tradition of argumentation encourages	

	<p>individuals to present reasoned arguments, listen to opposing views, and refine their understanding of issues.</p> <p>Sen argues that this tradition of reasoning is essential for democracy and development, as it allows for the participation of all citizens in the decision-making process, ensuring inclusivity and fairness. The Indian tradition thus contributes significantly to the global discourse by promoting a culture of rational discourse and democratic engagement in societal development.</p>	
11.	Answer any one of the following questions in 30-40 words.	1x2=2
I	In <i>A Tiger for Malgudi</i> , Captain is depicted as a character trapped by his own ignorance and lack of spiritual growth. His reluctance to evolve, coupled with his pride and self-deception, prevents him from finding true peace or understanding, making him a victim of his own limitations.	
	OR	
II	Margayya in <i>The Financial Expert</i> challenges conventional ideas of success by focusing on financial manipulation rather than hard work or ethical means. His journey exposes the pitfalls of materialism and the consequences of prioritizing wealth over integrity, ultimately questioning the true definition of success.	
12.	Answer any one of the following questions in 40-50 words.	1x3= 3
I	R.K. Narayan uses humour to address serious social and philosophical issues by blending satire with narrative, which softens the impact of his critiques while still delivering insightful commentary. For example, Raja, the tiger, serves as a vehicle for examining the human condition and societal norms. His thoughts and experiences are often recounted with a certain wry humour, such as his confusion about human behaviors. When Raja is captured and imprisoned, he struggles to understand the paradox of humans' cruelty and kindness, as well as their arbitrary power over animals, which raises questions about the nature of control and freedom.	
	OR	
II	In <i>The Financial Expert</i> , the Bank Manager plays a crucial role in Margayya's fall by exploiting his ambition and financial naivety. He manipulates Margayya into investing his wealth in a risky venture, leading to financial loss. Margayya's trust in the Bank Manager, combined with his blind ambition, ultimately results in his ruin, exposing the dangers of unchecked greed and deception. This highlights Margayya's moral blindness and how external influences exacerbate his downfall.	
13.	Answer any one of the following questions in 120-150 words.	1X5=5
I	<p>In <i>A Tiger for Malgudi</i>, Raja's transformation from a wild, untamed tiger to a subdued and introspective version of himself signifies the journey from chaos to balance, mirroring the broader themes of life, death, and liberation.</p> <p>Initially, Raja is driven by primal instincts, embodying the untamed force of life and survival. However, as he faces human intervention and the inevitability of his captivity, Raja undergoes a gradual process of self-realization and restraint. This transformation reflects the theme of life as a constant struggle between instincts and wisdom, survival and surrender.</p> <p>As Raja approaches death, he finds peace and balance, representing the liberation that comes from accepting one's fate. His final moments show that true</p>	

	freedom lies in self-acceptance and understanding one's place in the world. The novel suggests that liberation is not in escaping death, but in coming to terms with life's cycles and the inevitable nature of existence.	
	OR	
II	<p>In <i>The Financial Expert</i>, R.K. Narayan subtly critiques social disparity and gender inequality through the portrayal of Margayya's wife and his son's wife. The contrasting roles and treatment of these two women highlight the entrenched gender norms and societal inequalities of the time.</p> <p>Margayya's wife is largely portrayed as a silent, subjugated figure in the novel. She represents the traditional role of women in society—restricted to the domestic sphere and expected to manage the household without questioning her husband's decisions. Her lack of voice in the narrative and her dependency on Margayya for her sense of security reflect the limited agency women had in the socio-economic structure of society at the time. Despite being a key part of the household, she does not hold any real power or influence over her husband's financial dealings or decisions. This reflects the social disparity where women were often relegated to passive roles and were not seen as active participants in economic or public life.</p> <p>In contrast to Margayya's wife, his son's wife, a young Brahmin girl, is depicted as someone with more influence within the family dynamic. However, she is still constrained by social expectations and the oppressive norms surrounding her behavior. While she does wield some influence in managing her household, her position is still secondary to that of the male members of the family. Her role is limited to maintaining domestic order and preserving the cultural traditions of the Brahmin community. This disparity between her and Margayya's wife highlights the rigid class-based and gender roles present in the society.</p> <p>These portrayals expose the entrenched social disparity and gender inequality that restricts women's empowerment and reinforces male dominance in economic and social spheres.</p>	