

Class XII Session 2025-26

Subject - English Core

Sample Question Paper - 4

Time Allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:
2. This question paper has **13** questions. **All** questions are **compulsory**.
3. This question paper contains **three** sections - Section A : **Reading Skills**, Section B : **Creative Writing Skills** and Section C : **Literature**.
4. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
5. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
6. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A – READING SKILLS

1. Read the passage given below:

[12]

1. As a form of expression, graffiti is famously characterized by outlaw values; the creation and display of graffiti countered societal rules and was considered by some as vandalism. Not only was it symbolic of rebel values but was also linked to destruction of property. These links between graffiti culture and rebellion were age-old and some say, were popularized by hip-hop culture.
2. Imagine waking up one morning, to see your walls smeared with black paint names, symbols, messages. The most interesting bit is that these wall artists were never caught red-handed. It was all done stealthily. It was almost as though people were marking their territory using painted symbols and slogans. The change was creeping in. Mobile numbers and captivating phrases gradually became marketing tools for free advertising. Catchy phrases tickled the curiosity and calls were made to those numbers.
3. Over a period of time, there was a shift in perception. Blank walls beckoned invitingly and artists saw whitewashed walls as an opportunity to display their work in free and open settings. The city became one large canvas; the illegal 'gang activity' became an art form on display in walking galleries. Graffiti was gradually being replaced and the stigma of illegality was being dropped. There was a move to embrace rather than condemn.
4. The colours, shapes, and subjects became cultural themes. What was once rebellious expression is artistic talent at its vibrant best, rich in images of plants, animals and unspoiled landscapes. The painted walls encouraged by residents and governments have created their own ecosystem a reconciliation of nature with man-made forces.
5. The monotony and uniformity of urban life is today infused with human vitality and beauty. Cities speak proudly about the painted walls and clamour to be the first to preserve culture and history through these. Graphic displays of social awareness issues effectively and economically reach out to the common man.

Silent art speaks volumes. Be it hygiene, conservation, education, or rights and duties the message is conveyed in an animated, colourful manner without being an imposition.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

- i. Complete the sentence by choosing an appropriate option. **(1)**
Graffiti in the earlier years was
 - a. considered a valuable legacy.
 - b. done by prominent artists.
 - c. an expression of rebellion.
 - d. supported by society.
- ii. Comment on the writer's statement, **It was all done stealthily.** **(1)**
- iii. List two reasons why graffiti was not popular among people. **(2)**
- iv. Select the word from para 2 of the passage that conveys the opposite of **boring.** **(1)**
- v. The writer would agree with all of the following EXCEPT: **(1)**
 - a. Graffiti art was a paid activity.
 - b. Wall art was an age-old tradition.
 - c. Graffiti became popular as a marketing tool.
 - d. People were curious by what was scribbled on walls.
- vi. List two ways in which wall art is beneficial to society. **(2)**
- vii. Why does the writer say that the stigma of **illegality** was dropped? **(1)**
- viii. Complete the following sentence with reference to the passage: **(1)**
The city became one large canvas because _____.
- ix. The passage states a shift in attitude. Identify the best option that indicates this shift. **(1)**
 - a. rejection to dismissal
 - b. confusion to clarity
 - c. imposition to acceptance
 - d. dislike to acceptance
- x. How do painted walls and graphic displays in urban areas contribute to city life? **(1)**

2. **Read the following passage carefully :**

[10]

1. Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) are products that sell quickly at relatively low cost. FMCG is the fourth-largest sector in the Indian economy. There are three main segments in the sector - food and beverages, which accounts for 19% of the sector; healthcare, which accounts for 31% of the share; and household and personal care, which accounts for the remaining 50% share. The urban segment contributes to about 55% of the revenue share, while the rural segment accounts for 45%. The rise in rural consumption will drive the FMCG market. The Indian processed food market is projected to expand to US\$470 billion by 2025, up from US\$263 billion in 2019-20.
2. The Indian FMCG industry grew by 16% in 2021, a 9-year high, despite nationwide lockdowns, supported by consumption-led growth and value expansion from higher product prices, particularly for staples. Real household spending is projected to increase 9.1% after 2021, after a decrease of 9.3% in 2020 due to the economic impact of the pandemic. Price increases across product categories will offset the impact of rising raw material prices, along with volume growth and a resurgence of demand for discretionary items.

3. The FMCG sector has received good investments and support from the Government in the recent past. The sector witnessed healthy FDI inflows from April 2000 to March 2022. Furthermore, as per the Union Budget 2022 23, a substantial amount has been allocated to the Department of Consumer Affairs, and an increased amount has been allocated to the Department of Food and Public Distribution. In 2021 22, the Government approved the Production-Linked Incentive Scheme for the Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI) with an outlay of a larger amount to help Indian brands of food products in the international markets.
4. The G Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme gives companies a major opportunity to boost exports. The future outlook of the FMCG rural sector looks on track now. Rural consumption has increased, led by a combination of increasing income and higher aspiration levels. There is an increased demand for branded products in rural India. The growth of organised sector in FMCG is expected to rise with an increased level of brand consciousness, augmented by the growth in modern retail.



Table I. FMCG Products

1. Processed foods: Cheese products, cereals
2. Prepared meals: Ready-to-eat meals
3. Beverages: Bottled water, aerated drinks, and juices
4. Baked goods: Biscuits, bread
5. Fresh foods, frozen foods, and dry goods: Fruits, vegetables, milk, butter, frozen food, and nuts
6. Medicines: Aspirin, pain relievers, and over-the-counter medication that can be purchased without a prescription
7. Cleaning products: Baking soda, washing powder
8. Cosmetics and toiletries: Beauty products, soaps, toothpaste
9. Office supplies: Pens, pencils

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

- i. Does the following statement agree with the information given in para 1? **(1)**
 The food and beverages segment dominates the Global FMCG market and is expected to retain its dominance.
 Select from the following:
 I. True - If the statement agrees with the information
 II. False - If the statement contradicts the information
 III. Not Given - If there is no information on this
- ii. Select the option that displays the most likely reason for the FMCG rural sector being on track. **(1)**
 - a. The FMCG sector has been unable to get investments from the Government.
 - b. PLI schemes don't reach the rural sector.

- c. The Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) of the online grocery segment in India is expected to double in the next five years.
 - d. There is a desire to buy branded products in the villages too.
- iii. Complete the sentence based on the following statement: **(1)**
The Indian FMCG industry grew by 16% in 2021, a 9-year high, despite nationwide lockdowns because _____.
- iv. From the given pie chart, which segment of FMCG accounts for the maximum percentage of the sector? Why? **(2)**
- v. Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option: **(1)**
The combination of increasing income and higher aspiration levels in the rural areas has led to _____.
a. the Government taking a direct interest
b. the demand for branded products
c. price increases across product categories
d. the fall of supply in urban areas
- vi. How is the Government trying to help Indian brands of food products in the international markets? **(2)**
- vii. Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option: **(1)**
The concluding paragraph of the passage makes a clear case _____.
a. that the rural people also want branded products
b. that the FMCG industry will not focus on brand consciousness
c. for the role of data analytics in the FMCG industry
d. for the Government's role by providing incentives
- viii. What will be the impact of the increased level of brand consciousness? **(1)**

SECTION B – CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

3. The local branch of the British Council has agreed to hold a workshop in your school on **Writing Skills in English Language**. Draft a notice in 50 words inviting students to give their names for participation. Mention relevant details of day, date, time and venue. You are Sohail/Suhina, President of the Literary Society of Rise Public School. **[4]**
- OR
- You are Geeta/Gautam, the Head girl/Head boy of Blossom Public School, Khushipur. Write a notice in about 50 words, informing the students of classes XI and XII about an inter-class debate competition to be held in the school in the first week of August. Invite applications for the same. Invent necessary details.
4. You were invited by your friend Shahid to the marriage of his sister, but due to some unavoidable circumstances, you cannot leave station. Write an informal letter of reply in 50 words expressing your inability to attend the function. You are Hamid/Henna of Aliganj, Nashik. Mention day, date, time and venue. **[4]**
- OR
- You are Roshan Khera, a resident of Haryana. Invite your friend Hrishit Arora who lives in old Delhi to spend a part of his summer vacation with you at your farm house near Pinjore.
5. You are Rekha/Rakesh, a student of Bharti Public School Class XII. The students are required to cope up with a lot of stress in today's competitive environment. Write a letter to the editor highlighting the increasing stress faced by students and suggesting ways and means to combat it. **[5]**

Dos and don'ts FOR STUDENTS

➤ Stress has an inverse correlation with studies. **Try to be your best and set realistic goals.**

➤ One cannot master a subject in a few days. **Consult your teachers when you feel you lacking in confidence.**

➤ **Taking periodic breaks is very important.** Allow yourself a break of at least 15 to 20 minutes after each three to four hours of study. **Use that time to do something that relaxes you – listening to music, watching TV, or taking a walk.**

➤ **Proper diet and sleep are crucial** before and during the examination period. **Set a schedule** and try to follow that. Don't cut down on your sleep

➤ Every student has a different method of remembering facts and figures. Some like to read aloud while others write things down. **Stick to what works best for you after consulting your teachers/counsellors.**

➤ Result of an examination is not the end of the road. **Talk about your aspirations** with your parents and peers. **Don't allow negative thoughts**

OR

Apollo International School, Karnal requires sports coaches and some other teachers. Each should be a degree holder in physical education as well as an SAI-certified coach in athletics. You have seen their advertisement and you know that you have these qualifications. Write an application in 120-150 words along with your resume. You are Praveen/Praveena, M-114, Najafgarh, Delhi.

**APOLLO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
VILLAGE DADUPUR, KARNAL**

Invites application from trained and experienced candidates with bright academic career, proficiency in co curricular activities, computer literate, comfortable with technology, good communication skills, for the following posts :-

➤ PRINCIPAL - (Minimum 5 yrs experience required) ➤ TGT - Science, English, Social Science ➤ Pre Primary Teacher - Trained nursery teacher with experience in handling children. ➤ Counselor - M.A / M.Sc in Child Psychology having 2-3 yrs of exp.	➤ PRT - Science, English, Social Science ➤ Music Teacher ➤ Front Desk Executive - Females only ➤ Librarian ➤ Part Time Sports Coaches - Boxing, Skating, Lawn Tennis, Basket Ball, Gymnastic
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Eligibility:-

(1). Post Graduate / Graduate, B.Ed. (2). At least two year of experience in their respective subject.

No constraint of salary for deserving candidates. Accommodation available for outstation candidates

6. You are Vinay/Vijaya, the staff reporter of the Times of India. You are sent to cover the flood-hit areas of Assam. [5]
Write a report in about 120-150 words to be published in the newspaper. Support your ideas with cues given below.

- Areas of destruction
- Loss of life and property
- Evacuation, Rescue Operations
- Measures taken by the government

OR

The student counselling department in your school put up the following poster regarding an event in the community centre.

Be - Do - Live
WELL.
6th, 7th, 8th February
10 am 6:30 pm
A Wellness Workshop
- sharing common concerns
- reducing stress
- motivation strategies

As Rita/Rahul, student editor, write a report on the above workshop for the school magazine.

SECTION C - LITERATURE

7. Read the following text carefully and answer the questions that follow:

[6]

Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.
The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band
sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand
when Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie
still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by,
The Tigers in the panel that she made
will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.
(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

i. 'Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.' Through the above expression the poet indicates: (1)

- A. Aunt Jennifer is happily married.
- B. Aunt Jennifer loves the tigers in the panel.
- C. Aunt Jennifer's unhappy married life.
- D. Aunt Jennifer's rich and luxurious life.

ii. Select the option that has the same literary device as used in **Still ringed with ordeals**. (1)

- A. Leopards cannot hide in the jungle as they are spotted.
- B. Sun smiled happily on us.
- C. Her lovely voice was music to his ears.
- D. Life is like a box of chocolates.

iii. Complete the following sentences with reference to the extract. (1)

The Tigers in the panel symbolize _____.

iv. State whether the statement given below is True or False: (1)

"Find even the ivory needle hard to pull."

The above expression suggests that Aunt Jennifer is dying.

v. Based on the rhyme scheme, evident in lines 1-2, which word would rhyme with line 1? (1)

full sand bye

vi. The use of the word **fluttering fingers** in the extract suggest that the fingers of Aunt Jennifer are trembling.

This creates an image of _____. (1)

OR

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o'er darkened ways
Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,

Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
From our dark spirits.

i. In which of the following options can the underlined words be replaced with **despondence**?

- a. The man paced about the room showing restlessness.
- b. A chat with a close friend can take away our blues.
- c. I was in jitters, seeing the boy trapped in the trench.
- d. Being dogged is what led him to negotiate the challenges.

ii. Pick the option that is NOT an example of **unhealthy and o'er darkened ways**.

- a. A person who is egoistic and looks down upon others.
- b. A person who seeks God's help for all his problems.
- c. A person who uses evil ways to deceive others.
- d. A person who is corrupt and manipulative.

iii. Pick the option that enumerates what **noble natures** would include

- 1. selflessness
- 2. insensitivity
- 3. enthusiasm
- 4. aggression
- 5. meticulousness
- 6. judiciousness
- a. 1, 4 and 5
- b. 2, 3 and 6
- c. 2, 4 and 5
- d. 1, 3 and 6

iv. Based on the poem, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.

Statement 1 The earth without the beautiful things is a place full of despair and unpleasantness.

Statement 2 The ornate band created by human beings; ushers hope in their lives.

- a. Statement 1 is true but Statement 2 is false.
- b. Statement 1 is false but Statement 2 is true.
- c. Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 can be inferred.
- d. Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 cannot be inferred.

v. What is the message conveyed through the poem **A Thing of Beauty**?

- a. Nature is the best healer
- b. We should keep our surroundings clean and green
- c. Dark and gloomy shades of life
- d. We should love animals around us

vi. Answer in one word:

The poet says that we wreath a flowery band that binds us to Earth.

He means to state that nature's beauty fills man with a spirit of _____.

8. **Read the following text carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

[4]

Anyway, here's what happened at Grand Central. One night last summer I worked late at the office. I was in a hurry to get uptown to my apartment so I decided to take the subway from Grand Central because it's faster than

the bus.

Now, I don't know why this should have happened to me. I'm just an ordinary guy named Charley, thirty-one years old, and I was wearing a tan gabardine suit and a straw hat with a fancy band; I passed a dozen men who looked just like me. (The Third Level)

- i. List any two details about how Charley was dressed up. (1)
- ii. Charley decided to use the subway because it was: (1)
 - A. quicker.
 - B. cheaper.
 - C. more fashionable.
 - D. safer.
- iii. Complete the following sentence appropriately. (1)

Landing at the third level was due to Charley's flight of _____.
- iv. Which time frame is represented through the kind of outfit mentioned in the extract? (1)
 - A. pre world war era
 - B. the present times
 - C. the eighteenth century
 - D. in the future

OR

Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

DERRY: I hate it here.

MOTHER: You can't help the things you say. I forgive you. It's bound to make you feel bad things....and say them. I don't blame you.

DERRY: It's got nothing to do with my face and what I look like. I don't care about that and it isn't important. It's what I think and feel and what I want to see and find out and hear. And I'm going back there. Only to help him with the crab apples. Only to look at things and listen. But I'm going.

MOTHER: You'll stop here.

DERRY: Oh no, oh no. Because if I don't go back there, I'll never go anywhere in this world again. And I want the world....I want it....I want it....

- i. What does Derry not care about now? What was Mr. Lamb's contribution to this change?
- ii. Which of the following characteristics of Derry's mother reflects in this extract?
 - a. She is very understanding
 - b. She treats him with a sense of pity
 - c. She treats her son with a sense of dignity
 - d. She contributes to her son's isolation
 - a. a and c
 - b. c and d
 - c. b and c
 - d. b and d
- iii. Which of the following is the correct reason for Derry's mother stopping him to stay with Mr. Lamb?
 - a. She feared that Mr. Lamb would scold him
 - b. Because Mr. Lamb was not well and she didn't want Derry to bother him

- c. She thought Mr. Lamb would influence her son negatively
- d. She was overprotective and didn't want him to stay with a stranger
- a. Option (a)
- b. Option (b)
- c. Option (c)
- d. Option (d)

iv. **And I want the world**, to which **world** Derry wanted to go and why?

9. **Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:**

[6]

My breath was gone. I was frightened. Father laughed, but there was terror in my heart at the overpowering force of the waves. My introduction to the Y.M.C.A. swimming pool revived unpleasant memories and stirred childish fears. But in a little while I gathered confidence. I paddled with my new water wings, watching the other boys and trying to learn by aping them. I did this two or three times on different days and was just beginning to feel at ease in the water when the misadventure happened.

i. Rewrite the sentence by replacing the underlined inference with the phrase in the extract.

When William joined the swimming pool at the Y.M.C.A., the fear of water was brought back to his mind.

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

(1) The author's father laughed to mock his son's inability to swim.

(2) The author gathered confidence by watching and copying other boys' swims.

- a. (1) Can be inferred from the extract but (2) cannot.
- b. (1) cannot be inferred from the extract but (2) can.
- c. (1) is true but (2) is false.
- d. (2) is the reason for (1).

iii. Select the suitable word from the extract to complete the following analogy:

mustered: gathered:: copying: _____

iv. The misadventure that took place right after the author felt comfortable was that

- a. the author slipped and fell into the swimming pool
- b. a bully tossed him into the pool for the sake of fun
- c. his coach forgot to teach him how to handle deep water
- d. his father couldn't help him from drowning into the water

v. Choose the option that describes the equipment used by the author while learning to swim.



- (1)
- (2)
- (3)
- (4)
- a. Option (1)
- b. Option (2)
- c. Option (3)
- d. Option (4)

vi. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that the author began feeling comfortable in the water.

(Clue: a phrase)

OR

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

The news of Gandhi's advent and of the nature of his mission spread quickly through Muzaffarpur and to Champaran. Sharecroppers from Champaran began arriving on foot and by conveyance to see their champion. Muzaffarpur lawyers called on Gandhi to brief him; they frequently represented peasant groups in court, they told him about their cases and reported the size of their fee.

- i. Which of the following purpose of Gandhi's mission can be inferred from the given extract?
 - a. To teach self-dependence
 - b. To start a result
 - c. To help the poor peasants
 - d. To chide the lawyers
- ii. Replace the underlined phrase with a word from the extract which conveys a similar meaning.

Sharecroppers started to visit the **vigorous advocater**.

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

(1) The first phrase is indicative of Gandhi's popularity.

(2) A number of peasants were visiting him.

- a. (1) Can be inferred from the extract but (2) cannot.
- b. (1) cannot be inferred from the extract but (2) can.
- c. (1) is true but (2) is false.
- d. (2) is the reason for (1).

- iv. Select the option that list the feelings and attitudes the sharecroppers attached to Gandhi.

1. Hope
2. Courage
3. Accountability
4. Leadership
5. Fear
- a. 1 and 2
- b. 2 and 4
- c. 3 and 5
- d. 1 and 4

- v. Replace the underlined word with its antonym from the extract.

The news of Gandhi's departure and the purpose of his mission spread through Muzaffarpur.

- vi. Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation, as per the extract.

In the given extract, **their cases** refer to the case that the lawyers were fighting for/against _____.

10. **Answer any five of the following questions in 40-50 words each:** [10]
 - (a) What made the Peddler accept Edla's invitation? [2]
 - (b) What was the thought of the poet when she wrote 'young trees sprinting'? [2]
 - (c) How does Robert Frost portray the pathetic state of the rural folk in his poem A Roadside Stand? [2]
 - (d) What was Sophie's ambition in life? How did she hope to achieve that? [2]
 - (e) Who was Subbu's enemy?(**Poets and Pancakes**) [2]
 - (f) What was Lewis Carroll's opinion on interviews and autographs? [2]
11. **Answer any two of the following questions in 40-50 words each:** [4]
 - (a) What sort of brightness and silence prevailed in Antarctica during summer? (**Journey to the End of**) [2]

the Earth)

(b) What risk did Dr. Sadao run in harbouring the enemy American soldier in his house? (The Enemy) [2]

(c) Describe Gondwana. [2]

12. We find different portrayals of young children in the texts **Going Places**, **Lost Spring**, **Deep Water**, and **Last Lesson**, which offer an assortment of diverse experiences of children in society. It ranges from being a rag-picker like Saheb from **Lost Spring** to a truant schoolboy Franz from **The Last Lesson** and romantic dreamer Sophie in the story **Going Places**. [5]

You have been asked to address your peers and share (any three)-

- the ways these portrayals highlight making the optimum use of their constrained opportunities.
- the cause of our sadness due to our imaginary expectations in our minds.
- not giving up and winning over your fear even after an awful experience.
- the importance of understanding the value of our privileges like coming to school, having someone to share your pain with or having a loving family that we already have without making any effort.

Compose this draft, with reference to any three of these prescribed texts listed above.

You may begin this way:

Good morning, everyone.

As I analysed the allotted texts...

You may end this way.

To conclude, I'd like to say that

OR

In the age of the web world, our existence is now judged by how **active** we are on social networking sites.

Create a conversation between two friends (Rashmi and Rehaan) having different perspectives and trying to establish a relationship between Neruda's reference to total inactivity and Kamala Das's reference to her mother's face *like that of a corpse*.

Support your response with reference poems **Keeping Quiet** and **My Mother at Sixty Six**.

You may begin the conversation like this:

Rashmi: *How can one compare a mother's face to a corpse? And do you really think Rehaan, that in today's world of Instagram story updates one can ever be in a state of total inactivity as urged by Neruda in his poem Keeping Quiet?*

13. "Your Majesty, I have two wives already. If I marry you....." [5]

(Tiger King)

No doubt it adds humour to the story. Humour always captures the mind of readers.

Taking ideas from the story 'Tiger King', write an article on the 'Importance of Humour in Life'.

You may begin like this; Sense of humour helps us deal with problems of life and improves one's mental and physical health.....

OR

Sights of various things were so entertaining for little Bama that it prevented her from going further.

A grown-up Bama recounts her stroll in the marketplace on her way back home from school.

As a grown-up Bama, create a diary entry, describing the sights she enjoyed.

You may begin like this:

I still cherish the stroll from school to home that I enjoyed during my childhood...

Solution

SECTION A – READING SKILLS

1.
 - i. (c) an expression of rebellion.
 - ii.
 - Done secretly without getting noticed.
 - Wall artists were never caught red-handed.
 - Done during nighttime.
 - Done on the sly/quietly.
 - iii. Graffiti was not popular among people because:
 - It was considered as an act of rebellion.
 - It was linked to destruction of property.
 - It countered societal rules.
 - It considered as vandalism.
 - It was characterized by outlaw values.
 - iv. Interesting/Captivating.
 - v. (a) Graffiti art was a paid activity.
 - vi.
 - Wall art helps to preserve cultural history.
 - It creates a social awareness/message conveyed in an animated colorful manner without being an imposition/reaches out to the common man.
 - vii. The stigma of illegality was dropped because over a period of time, there was a shift in perception. Blank walls beckoned invitingly, and artists saw whitewashed walls as an opportunity to display their work in free and open settings. The illegal 'gang activity' became an art form on display in walking galleries. Graffiti was gradually being replaced and the stigma of illegality was being dropped.
 - viii. The illegal 'gang activity' became an art form on display in walking galleries.
 - ix. (d) dislike to acceptance
 - x. Painted walls and graphic displays in urban areas infuse vitality and beauty into the monotony of city life by preserving culture and history. They effectively convey messages about social awareness issues like hygiene, conservation, education, and rights, reaching out to the public in an animated and colorful manner without being imposing.
2.
 - i. False - If the statement contradicts the information.
 - ii. (d) There is a desire to buy branded products in the villages too.
 - iii. The Indian FMCG industry grew by 16% in 2021, a 9-year high, despite nationwide lockdowns because it was supported by consumption-led growth and value expansion from higher product prices, particularly for staples.
 - iv. Household and Personal care segment.
 - v. (b) the demand for branded products
 - vi. In 2021-22, the government approved the Production-Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI) with a greater budget to assist Indian food companies in worldwide markets.
 - vii. (a) that the rural people also want branded products
 - viii. The expansion of the organised sector in FMCG is predicted to accelerate with an increase in brand consciousness, aided by the growth of modern retail.

SECTION B – CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

RISE PUBLIC SCHOOL

NOTICE

WRITING SKILLS WORKSHOP

Date: 11th September 2024

Attention all students! The British Council local branch has kindly agreed to conduct a workshop on 'Writing Skills in English Language' at our school. Interested students may give their names to the undersigned by 15th September 2024. Limited seats are available on a first come first serve basis. Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your writing skills.

Day/Date: Monday, 18th September 2024

Time: 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Venue: School Auditorium

3. Sohail/Suhina
President, Literary Society
Rise Public School

OR

Blossom Public School, Khushipur
NOTICE

Date: 13th September 2024

Subject: Inter-Class Debate Competition

This is to inform all students of Classes XI and XII that an inter-class debate competition will be held in the school during the first week of August. Interested students are invited to submit their applications to the Student Council Office by September 15, 2024.

Head Girl/Head Boy,
Geeta/Gautam

Letter of Regret

Dear Shahid,

Thank you for inviting me to your sister's marriage on 25th September 2024 at 7:00 PM at the Grand Palace Hall.

Unfortunately, due to unavoidable circumstances, I cannot leave Nashik. I regret missing this joyous occasion and wish your sister a wonderful married life.

Best regards,

4. Hamid/Henna

OR

Shivalik Farms,
Raj Pura Village,
Near Pinjore.
2nd April 2019.

Dear Hrishit,

I am planning to spend the summer vacation at my farm-house post examination. I invite you to spend at least a fortnight with me at my farm-house. It is a pollution-free place with lots of trees and greenery all around. The sylvan surroundings will have a refreshing effect on your heart and mind. We shall also visit Pinjore gardens and Kalka hills. Looking forward to your arrival.

Your Loving Friend,
Roshan Khera.

5. Bharti Public School,
Delhi
6 July 2019
The Editor
The Times of India
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg
New Delhi-110002

Subject: Problem of Increasing Stress Faced by Students

Sir,

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I would like to express my views on the problem of increasing stress among the students due to the highly competitive environment.

Today's world is full of competition. Every now and then a child is assessed on different parameters. Parents expect a lot from their children. They want their children to excel in all fields such as studies, sports, and co-curricular activities. Everyone wants their children to be a doctor or an engineer. The result is that children are unduly stressed and burdened. All day long they are indulged in completing their homework and studies and no time is left for games and sports.

It is high time we should ponder upon this problem. Students should be involved in games, sports, and yoga to combat stress. Parents should not pressurize their children for performing excellently in their studies. Meditation can be practised for keeping stress at bay.

Yours sincerely
Rekha/Rakesh

OR

M-114, Najafgarh
New Delhi
March 14, 2022
Apollo International School
Karnal
Dear Sir/Madam

Subject: Job Application for the position of the sports coach

I am Praveena, a SAI certified coach in athletics. I came to know about a vacancy of sports coach in your reputed school through the newspaper "The Times of India" dated 10 March, 2022. I wish to apply for the same.

Please find my resume attached for the purpose. I would like you to know that I am a very hardworking woman with an aim of excelling in the field of athletics. My academic qualifications, age and other eligibility conditions agree to the ones specified by the school for the job.

I thank you in anticipation for an early response.

Yours truly,

Praveena

Resume

Name: Praveena

Father's name: Rampal Singh

Date of birth: 5th April 1985

Address: M-114, Najafgarh, New Delhi

Academic Qualifications:

Degree	Board/ University	Year	Division
Graduation	CBSE	2008	First
Bachelor of Physical Education	Jammu University	2011	First
Master's of Physical Education	Jammu University	2013	First
Diploma Course in Sports Teaching	Netaji Subhas National Institute	2013	First

Experience: Athletics Coach, ABC School, August 2013 – Present

Expected salary: Rs. 35,000 per month

Languages fluency: English, Hindi

Hobbies and Interests: Athletics, traveling

Contact information: 8059XXXXXX / praveenaXX@gmail.com

6. **Devastating Floods Ravage Assam: Relief Measures Pushed in**

By Vinay/Vijaya, The Times of India

Assam reels under the aftermath of devastating floods, leaving a trail of destruction across several districts. The relentless downpour has submerged villages, ravaged infrastructure, and displaced countless families. The state mourns the loss of life and property, with the numbers still rising. Many are missing, and search and rescue operations are underway by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and local authorities. Evacuation efforts are in full swing, with thousands being shifted to temporary relief shelters. The Assam government has announced immediate measures to address the crisis. Relief materials, including food, water, and medicines, are being distributed to the affected areas. Financial assistance has been promised to the affected families. As the state navigates through this crisis, solidarity and support from neighbouring regions and the nation at large will be crucial in aiding its recovery.

OR

Be - Do - Live Well: A Wellness Workshop

By Rita/Rahul, Student Editor

September 11, 2024

The Student Counselling Department recently organized a transformative wellness workshop titled "Be - Do - Live Well" at the Community Centre from the 6th to the 8th of February. This three-day event, running from 10 AM to 6:30 PM each day, aimed to address common concerns, reduce stress, and inspire motivation among students.

The workshop aimed to address common concerns related to mental and emotional well-being. It featured a series of interactive sessions focused on reducing stress, developing motivation strategies, and embracing the joy of living. The sessions were led by experienced counsellors and wellness experts who provided valuable insights and practical tips.

One of the highlights of the workshop was the "Theatre in Action" segment, where participants engaged in role-playing activities to explore and express their emotions. This innovative approach helped attendees to better understand their feelings and develop healthier coping mechanisms.

Throughout the three days, participants had the opportunity to share their experiences and concerns in a supportive environment. The workshop emphasized the importance of self-care and provided tools to enhance overall well-being.

Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing gratitude for the practical advice and supportive atmosphere. The event not only helped reduce stress but also inspired participants to adopt a more positive and proactive approach to life.

In conclusion, the "Be - Do - Live WELL" workshop was a resounding success, fostering a sense of community and well-being among all who attended. The student counselling department deserves commendation for organizing such a meaningful and impactful event.

SECTION C - LITERATURE

7. i. (C) Aunt Jennifer's unhappy married life.
ii. (A) Leopards cannot hide in the jungle as they are spotted.
iii. The tigers in the poem symbolize bravery and freedom. They also reflect Aunt Jennifer's innermost desire to be fearless and break free from her husband's oppression.
iv. False.
v. Full.
vi. Aunt Jennifer's fear and Weakness, also signify her oppressed mental condition due to her unhappy marriage/dominating husband.

OR

- i. A chat with a close friend can take away our blues.
ii. A person who seeks God's help for all his problems.
iii. 1, 3 and 6
iv. Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 can be inferred.
v. Nature is the best healer
vi. living/life
8. i. Charley was wearing a tan gabardine suit and a straw hat with a fancy band.
ii. (A) quicker.
iii. imagination.
iv. (A) pre-world war era.

OR

- i. Derry no more cared about his face or look. This change was the result of Mr. Lamb's company which gave him a positive outlook on life. Now, the important thing for Derry was how he thought and what he saw or heard.
ii. (d)
b and d
iii. (d)
She was overprotective and didn't want him to stay with a stranger.
iv. Derry wanted to go back to Mr. Lamb's garden where he could sit and talk with the old man. Mr. Lamb was successful in restoring the human connection that Derry longed for. Derry lived in the fear of the potential pain of being rejected, which was erased by Mr. Lamb.
9. i. When William joined the swimming pool at the Y.M.C.A., the fear of water revived unpleasant memories.
ii. (1) cannot be inferred from the extract but (2) can.
iii. aping
iv. a bully tossed him into the pool for the sake of fun
v. Option (4)
vi. feel at ease in the water

OR

- i. To help the poor peasants

The primary purpose and nature of Gandhi's mission was to help the poor peasants who were getting exploited in the sharecropping agreement.

- ii. Sharecroppers started to visit the **champion**.

- iii. (2) is the reason for (1).

- iv. 1 and 4

The Sharecroppers had come to visit Gandhi because they hoped that under the leadership of this popular leader they would be able to get justice.

- v. The news of Gandhi's advent and the purpose of his mission spread through Muzaffarpur.

- vi. for the sharecroppers against the tyrannical British landlords.

10. Answer any five of the following questions in 40-50 words each:

- (i) By his frightened look, Edla guessed that the peddler had either stolen something or has escaped prison. She was sympathetic towards him and hinted to him that he would be allowed to leave whenever he wanted. She requested him to stay with them over Christmas Eve. Her friendly disposition won his trust and so on being reassured, he accepted the invitation.
- (ii) When the poet wrote 'young trees sprinting' she was comparing old age with youth. Young sprinting trees reminded her of the energy, vivacity, vibrancy and spirit of endurance as against the lifeless, wearied and drained out energy of her old mother. Sprinting trees symbolize the life in contrast to her mother's approaching death.
- (iii) In his poem 'A Roadside Stand', Robert Frost has quite vividly and sensitively portrayed the plight of the poor rural folk. The poor villagers set up a roadside stand on one side of the road in the hope to sell things and earn some money. But hardly any city cars stop there. The villagers feel disheartened and depressed. The 'greedy good-doers' and 'the beneficent beasts' from cities, the social agencies swarm around them in the name of helping them. Even the 'party in power' i.e., the government has an indifferent attitude to them and they have never fulfilled the promises made to them.
- (iv) Sophie's ambition in life was to have the most amazing boutique in the city. In order to achieve that, she planned to earn a lot of money by becoming either a manager or an actress or a fashion designer.
- (v) Subbu's enemy was the 'boy' at the make-up department. All his anger and frustration were directed against him. The boy was convinced that Subbu was the cause of his woes and miseries. This 'boy' was jealous of Subbu's rising stars, his success, and his intimacy with the boss.
- (vi) Lewis Carroll was the author of the famous book 'Alice in Wonderland.' He had never consented to be interviewed as he had a horror of the interviewer. The horror was that he would be lionized and that made him repel interviews. He was equally against the petitioners who wanted to meet him or take his autograph.

11. Answer any two of the following questions in 40-50 words each:

- (i) The brightness that prevailed in Antarctica was surreal (strange) as the austral summer light remained for 24 hours in the continent. The silence there was ubiquitous (widespread) interrupted only by the occasional avalanche or calving ice sheet.
- (ii) Dr. Sadao could be arrested if someone complained about the family harbouring an enemy in their home. The servants were even worried too when they realized that their master was helping an enemy which would lead them all to prison.
- (iii) Gondwana, an extensive supercontinent situated in the southern hemisphere, comprised diverse flora and fauna without any human inhabitants. Approximately 650 million years ago, India and Antarctica constituted distinct sections of a unified landmass. Over time, these regions gradually drifted apart, leading to the emergence of separate continents and oceans.

12. Good morning, everyone.

As I analyzed the assigned texts, namely "Lost Spring," "The Last Lesson," and "Going Places," I noticed that the portrayals of young children highlight various aspects of their experiences in society. These portrayals shed light on the following themes:

Making the optimum use of constrained opportunities:

In "Lost Spring," Saheb, a rag-picker, exemplifies the ability to make the most of limited opportunities. Despite his challenging circumstances, he shows resilience and resourcefulness by finding ways to earn a living and support his family. This portrayal highlights the importance of seizing even the smallest opportunities and making the best of them.

The cause of our sadness due to imaginary expectations:

In "The Last Lesson," Franz, a truant schoolboy, experiences sadness when he realizes that he took his education for granted. He had imagined that he would always have the opportunity to learn, but the sudden imposition of a new language law shatters his expectations. This portrayal reminds us of the sadness that can arise when our imaginary expectations clash with reality.

Not giving up and winning over fear after an awful experience:

In "Going Places," Sophie, a romantic dreamer, faces disappointment when she realizes that her aspirations of traveling the world are limited by her circumstances. However, she does not give up on her dreams and finds solace in her imagination and the power of books. This portrayal emphasizes the importance of resilience and determination in overcoming setbacks and pursuing our goals.

William Douglas' *Deep Water* shows how he was successful in conquering fear. Even after having a dread of water that haunted him since childhood, he decides to face his. His further attempts to get over the fear, demonstrate his guts and willpower. This gives a message that one must get above their fear.

These portrayals also highlight the importance of **understanding the value of our privileges**. In "Lost Spring," the contrast between the lives of the child laborers and our own privileges, such as education and a loving family, reminds us to appreciate what we have without taking it for granted. It is essential to recognize and acknowledge the advantages we possess and use them to make a positive impact on society.

To conclude, the portrayals of young children in "Lost Spring," "The Last Lesson," and "Going Places" offer diverse experiences and insights. They highlight the significance of making the most of constrained opportunities, the impact of imaginary expectations on our emotions, the importance of not giving up and overcoming fear, and the value of understanding and appreciating our privileges. These themes serve as valuable lessons for us all, encouraging us to navigate life's challenges with resilience, gratitude, and determination.

Thank you.

OR

Rashmi: How can one compare a mother's face to a corpse? And do you really think, Rehaan, that in today's world of Instagram story updates, one can ever be in a state of total inactivity as urged by Neruda in his poem *Keeping Quiet*?

Rehaan: I think Kamala Das's comparison of her mother's face to a corpse is a metaphor for the aging process. It's a reminder that life is fleeting and that we should cherish the moments we have with our loved ones. As for Neruda's poem, I think he's urging us to take a moment of silence and introspection to connect with ourselves and the world around us. In today's world, where we are constantly bombarded with information and distractions, it's more important than ever to take a step back and reflect.

Rashmi: But how can we be in a state of total inactivity when our existence is judged by how "active" we are on social networking sites? We are expected to constantly update our profiles, share our thoughts and opinions, and engage with others. It's like we're always "on," and there's no time for quiet contemplation.

Rehaan: I understand what you're saying, Rashmi, but I think there's a difference between being "active" on social media and being truly engaged with the world around us. We can use social media as a tool to connect with others and share our ideas, but we should also take the time to disconnect and reflect. In Neruda's poem, he talks about the importance of "not doing" and just being present in the moment. It's a reminder that sometimes, the most meaningful experiences come from just being still and observing.

Rashmi: I see your point, Rehaan. Maybe we need to find a balance between being "active" on social media and taking the time to disconnect and reflect. And Kamala Das's poem is a reminder that we should cherish the moments we have with our loved ones, even if they are fleeting.

Rehaan: Exactly. Life is short, and we should make the most of it. We can use social media to connect with others, but we should also take the time to be present in the moment and appreciate the world around us.

Rashmi: Thank you for sharing your perspective, Rehaan. It's given me a lot to think about.

Rehaan: Anytime, Rashmi. It's always good to have a meaningful conversation.

13. *The Importance of Humor in Life*

A sense of humor helps us deal with problems in life and improves one's mental and physical health. The story "The Tiger King" by Kalki is a perfect example of how humor can add a light-hearted touch to serious themes, making them more engaging and memorable. The humorous dialogue, "Your Majesty, I have two wives already. If I marry you..." not only adds comic relief but also captures the readers' attention, making the story more enjoyable.

Mental and Physical Health Benefits

- Laughter triggers the release of endorphins, the body's natural feel-good chemicals. Endorphins promote an overall sense of well-being and can temporarily relieve pain.
- Laughter improves the function of blood vessels and increases blood flow, which can help protect against heart attacks and other cardiovascular problems.
- A good laugh can help reduce anxiety and depression, making you feel happier and more relaxed.

Social Benefits

- Sharing a laugh with others can strengthen relationships by fostering emotional connections and creating a sense of camaraderie.

- Humor can be a powerful tool in communication, helping to break the ice, ease tension, and convey messages more effectively.

Coping with Challenges

Humor provides a way to cope with difficult situations. It allows us to view challenges from a different perspective, making them seem less daunting. In "The Tiger King," the humorous elements help to lighten the narrative, making the serious undertones more palatable and engaging.

Encouraging Creativity and Problem-Solving

Humor encourages creative thinking and problem-solving by allowing us to see things from different angles. It helps us to think outside the box and come up with innovative solutions to problems.

In conclusion, by incorporating humor into our daily lives, we can navigate challenges more effectively and enjoy a happier, healthier existence.

OR

I still cherish the stroll from school to home that I enjoyed during my childhood. My home was hardly a ten-minute walk from my school. But it used to take almost half an hour for me to reach my home because I was riveted by all the fun and games in the streets. I used to see new or sometimes strange things happening there, and then there were the shops and the bazaar that I loved to see. Sometimes there would be a performing monkey or a snake charmer. Other times there would be the cyclist who had not got off his bike for three days. There were the spinning wheels. The Maariyaata temple was a great attraction. There used to be all sorts of shops and stalls. There used to be a hunter gypsy with a lemur in a cage, and people selling needles, clay pots, and instruments for cleaning ears. There used to be some political party arranging mikes. At times there I got to see a puppet or a magic show. There used to be coffee clubs in the bazaar. Some people could be seen sitting in front of the shops, chopping onions. Then, according to the season, there used to be people selling fruits, sweets, tasty fried snacks, payasam, halwa, boiled tamarind seeds, and iced lollies.