

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN JAMMU REGION

PRE-BOARD- 1 (2025-26)

SET - 1

Class: XII

Subject: English Core

Max. Marks: 80

Time Allowed: 03hrs

General Instructions: -

Read the following instructions very carefully and follow them:

1. 15-minutes prior reading time is allotted for Question-paper reading.
2. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, GRAMMAR & WRITING and LITERATURE.
3. Attempt all the questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number in your answer sheet to indicate the option/s being attempted.

SECTION A- READING SKILLS (22 MARKS)

Q.1. Read the passage carefully:

(12 Marks)

1. Can you imagine a college without walls, professors or classrooms? Educator Bunker Roy can. More than 40 years ago, Roy, now 69, founded the Barefoot College in Tilonia, Rajasthan. His school admits rural women, often grandmothers and teaches them the basics of solar engineering and freshwater technology. His efforts have yielded enormous benefits. When the women return to their homes, they are trained enough to provide their communities, some of the world's most lonely places, with electricity and clean water. They also gain something important: a newfound self-confidence. The Barefoot model has already been used to empower women throughout Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Last year, the former President, Bill Clinton presented Roy with a Clinton Global Citizen Award, which honours leaders who are solving the world's problems in effective ways.

2. If you go all over the world, to very remote villages, you will often find only very old people and very young people. The men have already left. So two ideas were put into practice in order to make the Barefoot Model work. First it was declared that men are untrainable, restless, always ready to move, ambitious, and they all want a certificate to show for their efforts. And the moment you give one of them a certificate, he leaves the village looking for a job in the city. That is how, the simple, practical solution of training grandmothers came up. They are sympathetic, tolerant, willing to learn, and patient. All the qualities you need are there. And the second idea was not to give out certificates. Because the moment a certificate is given, a woman, like a man, will see it as a passport for leaving rural areas and going to urban areas to find a job.

3. Barefoot College follows the lifestyle of Mahatma Gandhi: Students eat, sleep, and work on the floor. They can work for 20 years or they can go home the next day. As of today, 604 women solar engineers from 1083 villages in 63 countries have been trained. The engineers have given solar power to 45,000 houses. These were done by women who had never left their

homes before. They hate the idea of leaving their families and getting on a plane. When they reach India, sometimes after 19 hours of travel, they are faced with strange food, strange people, and a strange language. All the training is done in sign language. Yet in six months, they will know more about solar engineering than the most university graduates. Some of the women face problems at home for attending college. Most of the husbands do not like their wives going to these colleges and tell them not to come back if they do so. But, on her return when she is able to help provide her village with solar electricity, her husband wants her to get back home. The respect she now has is enormous and she considers herself no less than solar engineers. Bunker Roy dreams of providing the world's 47 least developed countries with Barefoot College trained grandmothers and solar electrify more than 1,00,000 houses.

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage answer the questions that follow with the help of the given options: (1 x 2 = 2 Marks)

(a) Why did the promoter of Barefoot Model decide to train grandmothers?

- (i) Men do not want to be trained.
- (ii) Grandmothers were patient, willing to learn and tolerant.
- (iii) Men are lazy, want to make money.
- (iv) Men and women are not skilled.

(b) The attitude of the husbands to their wives on their return from training is different because _____

- (i) of the respect they gain from the villagers
- (ii) they were away for a long time
- (iii) they will again be looked after
- (iv) they will not go back

Answer the following questions briefly: (8 marks)

- (c) How is Barefoot College different from other colleges? (1 Mark)
- (d) What did the women gain from the college apart from technology? (1 Mark)
- (e) Why were certificates not given out after training? (1 Mark)
- (f) What are the difficulties the women have to face during their travel and their life in Tilonia, Rajasthan? (2 Marks)
- (g) How do the women consider themselves professional, after their training? (1 Mark)
- (h) What is the narrator's dream about solar electrification? (2 Marks)

Find words from the passage which mean the same as the following: (1 x 2 = 2 Marks)

- (i) many/great in size (para 1)
- (j) far off (para 2)

Q.2 Read the passage and answer the questions that follow: (10 Marks)

(1) Introduction : In the face of rapid urbanization, effective waste management has become a critical issue in Indian cities. This case study aims to analyse the recycling practices among different demographics in urban India and their implications for sustainable urban development.

(2) Methodology : A survey was conducted among residents of various urban areas, ranging from teenagers to elderly citizens, to determine their waste management and recycling habits. Participants were asked to indicate their preferred methods of waste disposal and recycling and provide reasons for their choices. The data was then analysed to identify trends and patterns among different age groups.

(3) Survey Examination : The survey comprehensively examined waste disposal habits. Participants were encouraged to share the reasons for their selections, providing invaluable insight into waste management behaviour.

(4) Results : The survey results revealed interesting insights into waste management and recycling practices among different age groups.

S. No.	Age group for preference	%	Preferred Method	Reasons for Preference
1.	Teenagers	55%	Recycling	Environment awareness, school programme, peer pressure
2.	Young adults	68%	Recycling & Reuse	Sustainability, convenience, social responsibility
3.	Middle-aged	73%	Segregation at source	Health concerns, civic responsibility, easy to manage
4.	Elderly	62%	Traditional disposal	Habit, lack of awareness, convenience

(5) Implications for Interventions: By discerning the diverse preferences among different age groups, policy-makers and environmental activists can not only make interventions to address specific demographic needs, but also delve into the underlying motivations and influences guiding these choices. For instance, targeting educational campaigns towards teenagers and young adults could empower them to adopt sustainable waste management practices. Concurrently, efforts to enhance the infrastructure for segregation at source and provide incentives for recycling could improve overall waste management.

(6) Conclusion : The survey outcomes serve as a roadmap for designing targeted interventions that not only cater to diverse demographic needs but also foster a culture of sustainability. By harnessing the insights gleaned from this study, stakeholders can collaboratively work towards building cleaner and more sustainable urban environments for future generations.

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage :

(i) Complete the following suitably : (1 Mark)

In the introduction, the researcher links rapid urbanization with waste management by highlighting that _____.

(ii) What would the following be classified as? (1 Mark)

To examine waste management practices across various age groups in detail.

Select the appropriate response.

- (A) Primary purpose
- (B) Secondary objective

- (C) Method of analysis
- (D) Research outcome

(iii) Give two points to support why it is likely that recycling was given as an option to the survey participants to choose from, in the study on waste management practices. (2 Marks)

(iv) Classify the following sentences as motivation or intervention. (1 Mark)

- (A) Targeting educational campaigns towards teenagers and young adults could empower them to adopt sustainable waste management practices.
- (B) Efforts to enhance the infrastructure for segregation at source.

(v) Read the following text : (1 Mark)

Radhika actively participates in school programmes that promote recycling. Her neighbour, Ragini, prefers recycling and reusing items for their environmental benefits. However, their neighbour Mrs. Gupta sticks to traditional disposal methods out of habit.

Select the option that identifies the correct demography they belong to :

- (A) Radhika middle-aged; Ragini young adult; Mrs. Gupta elderly
- (B) Radhika teenager; Ragini young adult; Mrs. Gupta elderly
- (C) Radhika young adult; Ragini elderly; Mrs. Gupta middle-aged
- (D) Radhika elderly; Ragini middle-aged; Mrs. Gupta teenager

(vi) Why is the percentage to adopt recycling methods higher among young adults? (1 Mark)

(vii) Analyse how targeted interventions based on the diverse waste management preferences of different age groups can lead to improved environmental outcomes.

(paragraph 5) (2 Marks)

(viii) What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders, based on the insights from the study ? (1 Mark)

- A. Increase profitability through enhanced recycling infrastructure
- B. Build cleaner urban environments
- C. Reduce the cost of waste management
- D. Expand the range of recycling programmes available

SECTION – B (CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS)— (18 MARKS)

Q. 3 You are the General Secretary of the Students' Council, Delhi Public School, Kanpur. The school is organising a three-day International Science & Innovation Exposition, where students will showcase models, research papers, and presentations in collaboration with foreign schools. Draft a notice for the school noticeboard giving details of registration, themes, selection criteria, and deadlines. (Word limit: 50 words) (4 Marks)

OR

As the Cultural Secretary of St. Xavier's Senior Secondary School, Jaipur, draft a notice announcing the auditions for the Annual Inter-School Theatre Festival. Mention eligibility, date, venue, judging panel, important instructions, and the last date for giving names. (Word limit: 50 words)

Q.4 You are Mr. Rajesh Khurana, a renowned environmentalist, who has been invited as the Chief Guest for the Inauguration Ceremony of an International Youth Eco-Summit hosted by Delhi University. Unfortunately, due to a prior international commitment in Geneva, you cannot attend. Draft a formal regret reply (in about 50 words), politely declining the invitation while expressing appreciation and wishing the event great success. (4 Marks)

OR

You are the Principal of Greenfield Public School, New Delhi. The school has recently built a state-of-the-art auditorium with a seating capacity of 1000. The management has decided to organise a Grand Inauguration Ceremony of the auditorium. The Union Minister of Education has kindly consented to inaugurate the auditorium, and several distinguished guests, parents, and alumni are being invited. As the Principal, draft an invitation to be sent to the invitees, giving all necessary details.

Q.5 You are Ananya Sharma, a Class XII Humanities student of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Jaipur. You have recently completed a certified course in Digital Marketing & Content Creation alongside your studies. You come across an advertisement in *The Times of India* by Bright Wave Media Pvt. Ltd., Gurugram, inviting applications for the post of Content Development Intern. As Ananya, draft a job application with a covering letter and a curriculum vitae (CV) in response to the advertisement. Highlight your academic achievements, co-curricular participation, digital skills, and eagerness to gain industry experience. (5 Marks)

OR

You are Nishtha Arora, a Class XII student of St. Mary's Senior Secondary School, Chandigarh. You are deeply concerned about the rising incidents of cybercrime and online fraud targeting teenagers and young adults. Despite strict IT laws, cases of identity theft, financial scams, data breaches, and cyberbullying are rapidly increasing, often leaving victims psychologically scarred and financially ruined.

Write a letter to the Editor of The Indian Express expressing your concern over this alarming issue. Highlight the urgent need for stronger cyber laws, digital literacy campaigns, parental guidance, and stricter monitoring of online platforms. Suggest preventive measures and collective responsibility to safeguard the youth in this digital age.

Q.6 You are Aditi Verma, a student of Class XII, Springdale Public School, Delhi. You have been asked to write an article for your school magazine on the topic: (5 Marks)

“Fast Fashion: A Hidden Menace”

Use the following verbal clues to frame your article in about 120-150 words:

- Changing trends and consumerist mindset of teenagers
- Exploitation of labour and unethical practices by global brands
- Environmental degradation (waste, pollution, microplastics)
- The illusion of affordability vs long-term harm
- Need for sustainable fashion, recycling, and conscious consumer choices
- Role of youth in creating awareness and changing the trend

OR

You are Ritika Sharma, a student reporter of The Horizon, the annual school magazine of St. Joseph’s Senior Secondary School, Bengaluru. Recently, your school hosted a National Level Youth Conclave on “Artificial Intelligence: Boon or Threat for the Future Generations”, attended by more than 50 schools across the country.

The event included:

- Keynote address by eminent AI scientist Dr. Meera Nair
- Panel discussions on AI in Education, Employment, and Ethics
- Student debates and model presentations on responsible AI
- Concerns raised about job losses, privacy, and misuse of technology
- Suggestions for ethical policies, digital literacy, and balanced use of AI

Write a report in 120-150 words for your school magazine, covering the event highlights, student participation, key concerns, and constructive solutions.

SECTION – C (LITERATURE) – 40 MARKS

Q. 7 Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow: (1x6=6Marks)

A. *“Yes, in spite of all,
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
From our dark spirits. Such the sun, the moon,
Trees old, and young, sprouting a shady boon
For simple sheep; and such are daffodils
With the green world they live in...”*

i) What does the phrase “moves away the pall from our dark spirits” suggest? (1 Mark)

ii) How do natural objects like the sun, moon, and trees become a source of joy for humans? (1 Mark)

iii). Assertion–Reason (1 Mark)

Assertion (A): The poet believes that beauty alone has the power to lift human spirits.

Reason (R): Natural beauty is temporary and cannot provide lasting happiness.

Choose the correct option:

- 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) Why does the poet use the phrase “trees old, and young”? (1 Mark)

- a) To highlight the continuity of life across generations
- b) To suggest that beauty exists in all forms of nature, regardless of age
- c) To symbolise wisdom of age and innocence of youth together
- d) To contrast permanence of beauty with transience of human life

v) What central idea about beauty is reinforced by the examples of sun, moon, trees, and daffodils? (1 Mark)

- a) Beauty is eternal and untouched by human corruption
- b) Beauty resides in everyday natural objects, uplifting human spirits
- c) Beauty provides temporary relief but cannot alter life’s harsh realities
- d) Beauty is rare and exists only in moments of poetic imagination

vi) Identify the Poetic Devices in the following lines: (1 Mark)

- “Trees old, and young, sprouting a shady boon”
- “such are daffodils with the green world they live in

- a) Antitheses , imagery
- b) Personification , pun
- c) Anaphora, symbolism
- d) Simile , alliteration

OR

B. Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool (1x6=6Marks)

Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.

The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band

Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.

(i) What is the personification that the speaker employs in the first line of the extract?

- (a) The attribution of human qualities to the wool
- (b) The attribution of human qualities to the wedding band
- (c) The attribution of human qualities to the fingers
- (d) None of the above

(ii) What is the message or theme that the speaker conveys in the extract?

- (a) The conflict between nature and civilization
- (b) The exploitation of the poor by the rich
- (c) The loss of tradition and culture
- (d) The oppression of women by patriarchy

(iii) What is the mood that the speaker creates in the extract?

- (a) Joyful and optimistic
- (b) Gloomy and hopeless
- (c) Curious and adventurous
- (d) Calm and peaceful

(iv) What is the hyperbole that the speaker conveys in the third line of the extract?

- (a) The exaggeration of the weight of the wedding band
- (b) The exaggeration of the size of wedding band
- (c) The exaggeration of the effect of the wedding band
- (d) All of the above

(v) Write the name of the Poem and the Poet.

(vi) How would you describe Aunt Jennifer based on the above extract?

Q.8 Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow: (1x4=4Marks)

(A) He said I was unhappy. That made my wife kind of mad, but he explained that he meant the modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry and all the rest of it, and that I just want to escape. Well, who doesn't? Everybody I know wants to escape, but they don't wander down into any third level at Grand Central Station. But that's the reason, he said, and my friends all agreed. Everything points to it. they claimed. My stamp collecting, for example; that's a 'temporary refuge from reality.' Well, maybe, but my grandfather didn't need any refuge from reality; things were pretty nice and peaceful in his days, from all I hear, and he started my collection.

i. Why did Sam's verdict make Charley's wife 'mad'?

(1 Mark)

- A. It made it difficult for her to accept that Charley would consult a psychiatrist.
- B. It seemed to suggest to her that she was the cause of Charley's unhappiness.
- C. It made her aware of Charley's delicate state of mind.
- D. It offended her that Charley and Sam collectively accused her.

ii. Sam's explanation to the reaction of Charley's wife was _____ in nature (1 Mark)

- A. critical
- B. aggressive
- C. clarifying
- D. accusatory

iii. Select the option that signifies the condition of people of the 'modern world' mentioned in the extract. (1 Mark)

- (1) unsure
 - (2) lazy
 - (3) offensive
 - (4) anxious
 - (5) afraid
- A. (1) and (3)
 - B. (2) and (5)
 - C. (2), (3) and (4)
 - D. (1), (4) and (5)

iv. Select the option that displays a cause-effect set. (1 Mark)

	cause	effect
A.	Charley's stamp collecting	Wandering into the third level

	cause	effect
B.	Everybody wants to escape	Modern world full of insecurity

	cause	effect
C.	Charley's wandering into the third level	Charley's stamp collecting

	cause	effect
D.	Modern world full of insecurity	Everybody wants to escape

OR

(B) "Antarctica, because of her simple ecosystem and lack of biodiversity, is the perfect place to study how little changes in the environment can have big repercussions. Take the microscopic phytoplankton — those grasses of the sea that nourish and sustain the entire Southern Ocean's food chain. These single-celled plants use the sun's energy to assimilate carbon and synthesise organic compounds in that wondrous and most important of processes called photosynthesis. Scientists warn that a further depletion in the ozone layer will affect the activities of phytoplankton, which in turn will affect the lives of all marine animals."

i. Antarctica is a perfect place to study ecological evolution because _____.

ii. Phytoplankton can be defined as :

1. (a) microscopic grasses of the sea.
2. (b) plants at the bottom of the sea.
3. (c) multi-celled plants.
4. (d) small viruses in the ice-covered areas.

iii. What, according to the scientists, will impact the activities of the phytoplankton?

iv. What is the reaction of human beings when they come to Antarctica?

Q. 9 Read the extract below and answer the question that follow: (1x6=6Marks)

A. At last, around four in the afternoon, the poet (or the editor) arrived. He was a tall man, very English, very serious and of course very unknown to all of us. Battling with half a dozen pedestal fans on the shooting stage, The Boss read out a long speech. It was obvious that he too knew precious little about the poet (or the editor). The speech was all in the most general terms but here and there it was peppered with words like 'freedom' and 'democracy'. Then the poet spoke. He couldn't have addressed a more dazed and silent audience — no one knew what he was talking about and his accent defeated any attempt to understand what he was saying.

- i. The Boss's long speech and the visitor's serious demeanour indicates_____.
- ii. The poet addressed _____ (a puzzled/an enthusiastic) audience.
- iii. What, added as a last straw, made the poet's speech difficult to understand?
- iv. Select the textual option that is closest to indicating a sense of unfamiliarity about the poet (or the editor).
 - a. He was a tall man, very English.
 - b. Battling with half a dozen pedestal fans on the shooting stage.
 - c. Very serious and of course very unknown to all of us.
 - d. The Boss read out a long speech.
- v. Why was the speech by The Boss in 'most general terms'?
- vi. Give a brief description of the editor.

OR

B. "It takes longer to build a school." I say, embarrassed at having made a promise that was not meant. But promises like mine abound in every corner of his bleak world. After months of knowing him, I ask him his name. 'Saheb-e-Alam', he announces. He does not know what it means. If he knew its meaning - lord of the universe - he would have a hard time believing it. Unaware of what his name represents, he roams the streets with his friends, an army of bare feet boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon. Over the months, I have come to recognise each of them. "Why aren't you wearing chappals?" I ask one. "My mother did not bring them down from the shelf." He answers simply. "Even if she did he will throw them off," adds another who is wearing shoes that do not match.

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

- i. The intention of the speaker in the first line of the extract is one of _____
(clarification / confusion)
- ii. What is implied by the expression 'he would have a hard time believing it'.
 - a. Saheb is too innocent to believe everything.
 - b. Saheb is living upto his name.
 - c. Saheb's living condition is contrary to the meaning of his name.
 - d. Saheb is not used to anyone calling his name.

- iii. Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank:
 "Promises like mine abound in every corner of his bleak world." The above statement of the speaker reveals the fact that people like Saheb are _____ (deluded / empowered) by such promises.
- iv. State one reason for the boy was wearing shoes that did not match.
- v. The speaker describes Saheb's life as a 'bleak world' because
- he lives in a house without electricity.
 - his world is his friends.
 - his life is devoid of hope.
 - he belongs to the world of illiterates.
- vi. "Why aren't you wearing chappals?" I asked one. The conversation between the speaker and the boys reflects the _____ of the speaker.

Q. 10 Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words. (5x2=10Marks)

- Franz reached school late. Yet, M. Hamel did not scold him. Why? (The Last Lesson)
- What is the childish longing that the poet refers to? Why is it vain? (A Roadside Stand)
- Explain Douglas' statement, "The instructor was finished. But I was not finished:' (Deep Water)
- What do celebrities dislike most about interviews?
- Explain how the rattrap symbolises the dual aspects of human nature. (*The Rattrap*)
- What factors were largely instrumental in the victory of the peasants in 'Indigo'?

Q.11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.

(2x2=4 Marks)

- How can we say that the vadai packet incident reveals that the writer lacked the cognitive and emotional maturity required to understand the implications of untouchability?
- What does the play 'On the Face of It' suggest about the importance of empathy in overcoming prejudice and stereotypes?
- Answer the question in the context of the following lines from 'The Enemy'.
 "Stupid Yumi," she muttered fiercely. "Is this anything but a man? And a wounded helpless man!" In the conviction of her own superiority she bent impulsively and untied the knotted rugs that kept the white man covered.
 Explain the superiority Hana is convinced about.

Q.12 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words: (5 Marks)

Imagine you are Pablo Neruda , the poet of Keeping Quiet.

What advice might you offer to Robert Frost, the poet of A Roadside Stand, in the context of his conflicted emotions, as displayed in the given lines-

The requisite lift of spirit has never been found,
 Or so the voice of the country seems to complain,
 I can't help owning the great relief it would be
 To put these people at one stroke out of their pain.

Pen down your advice , in a letter to Frost. (You may begin this way:)

Dear Robert

I recently read your poem, "A Roadside Stand," and...

(You may end this way)

I hope this advice is helpful to you. Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to support you.

Warmly,

Pablo Neruda

OR

The persistent determination of both Raj Kumar Shukla in Indigo and Douglas in Deep Water reflects a strong will to overcome challenges and achieve one's goal. Elaborate with reference to the texts.

Q.13 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in 120-150 words : (5 Marks)

(a) Imagine you are Derry speaking at the funeral of Mr. Lamb highlighting Mr. Lamb's optimism and the change he brought about in your attitude towards life. (On the Face of it) You may begin like this:

Dear friends,

I will be eternally grateful to Mr. Lamb

OR

B. "Tiger population became extinct in the forest of "Pratibandapuram"

Tiger is typical example of man's dominance over nature. As a member of schools, Eco club, write an article for your school magazine on the topic, "Live and Let Live"

(You may begin like this.)

The noblest principle, a man should follow in his life, is coexistence.....