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PREBOARD EXAMINATION I (2025-26).

ENGLISH CORE (Code No. 301)

CLASS-XII

Time allowed: 3 Hrs.

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions: 1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.

2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

3. Write neatly and mention question numbers correctly.

SECTION A : READING SKILLS (22 marks)

(Reading Comprehension through Unseen Passages)

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

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1. The analysis of handwriting has a long history—some say it goes back to Roman times. Modern graphology began early in the 19th century. Allan Conway, a professional graphologist for 12 years says, “Handwriting says more about you than many chosen words, simply because you cannot hide yourself in your handwriting—it’s not really your hand that’s writing, but your brain. It’s your personality frozen in ink.”

2. Despite public skepticism, graphology plays a covert role in British management. Many companies use it for executive recruitment and analysis. Graphology tells them about the candidates’ temperaments, highlighting both weaknesses and strengths. It is needed to know three things about the writers: their sex, their age and if they are left or right-handed. Then he looks for 16 dominant elements, including the size of the writing, the pressure, the speed and slant of the words, how connected the characters are, the rhythm and regularity of writing. “But there is one golden rule,” Rees says, “No single sign on its own must ever be taken to mean anything.”

3. The principles, according to Conway, are straightforward. The baseline—whether the writing goes straight across the page or slants up and down—helps to determine the writer’s state of mind. A very upward baseline shows a creative, ambitious and outgoing person. A slightly downward one can reveal dissatisfaction or unhappiness though it could simply be a sign of fatigue. “A sharp downward baseline usually indicates serious problems or illness, probably emotional”, says Conway, “while a straight one is an excellent sign of emotional stability. An irregular baseline can mean an excitable writer with poor self- discipline.”

4. The way letters are formed and connected is important: a writer with angular letters, for example, is often persistent and decisive. Arched letters suggest the writer is reluctant to express emotions freely and may appear cold. The more connected the letters, the more co-ordinate the patterns of thought. Character size can also be significant. Larger letters tend to suggest vitality, enterprise and self- reliance, while small letters can reveal a lack of self-confidence, but are also found in fields of research where concentration and exactness are necessary.

5. The slant of a person’s writing indicates their emotional make-up. Where all the letters are vertical the writer is likely to be someone uncomfortable in groups. For right-handers, left-word slant shows introversion while rightward slant reveals someone outgoing, friendly and ambitious. A constantly varying slant betrays an unpredictable personality. The spacing between words points to the writer’s organizational abilities: wide spacing suggests individuality, extravagance, self-confidence and sociability.

A. **Choose the most appropriate option: (1 x 5 = 5)**

1. Graphology is

- (a) Chinese handwriting
- (b) way of handwriting
- (c) analysis of handwriting
- (d) formation of numbers and letters

2. The baseline helps to determine the writer’s

- (a) style of writing

	<p>(b) ability to write (c) state of mind (d) happy mood or contented mood</p> <p>3. The upward baseline proves that the person is.....</p> <p>(a) creative (b) ambitious (c) outgoing (d) all of the above</p> <p>4. The letters small in size reveal that the writer may be.....</p> <p>(a) a researcher (b) confident (c) arrogant and selfish (d) humble and simple</p> <p>5. The spacing between words shows.....</p> <p>(a) the writer's organisational abilities (b) the writer's predicament (c) the writer's grief (e) the writer's delight</p>
B.	<p>B. Answer the following questions briefly: (1 x 5 = 5)</p> <p>(a) What is graphology? How is it more revealing than words? (b) How is graphology used in British management? (c) What helps to determine the writer's state of mind and how? Give two examples. (d) How can we learn one's emotions and patterns of thought through handwriting? Give two examples. (e) How do slant of words and spacing indicate emotional makeup of a person? Give examples.</p>
C.	<p>Find words in the passage similar in meaning as: (1 x 2 = 2)</p> <p>(a) prominent, very important (para 2) (b) continuing without interruption (para 4)</p>

2.	Read the following passage carefully.	10						
<p>1. AI-driven tools have made significant strides in analysing speech, text, and facial expressions to identify early signs of mental health disorders. Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques enable extracting valuable insights from written or spoken words. For example, sentiment analysis can identify nuanced changes in an individual's emotional condition by examining social media posts, chat logs, or written diaries.</p> <p>2. Moreover, voice analysis can detect alterations in speech patterns, encompassing variations in pitch, tone, and rhythm, which might potentially serve as indicators of anxiety, depression, or other mental health conditions. Facial expression analysis, often coupled with computer vision, can provide insights into an individual's emotional state. AI systems can detect micro-expressions and subtle changes in facial features that may indicate underlying psychological conditions.</p> <p>3. This technology benefits remote mental health monitoring through video consultations or mobile apps. The current trend in this domain involves advancing AI algorithms capable of discerning and comprehending these subtle indicators with notable precision. As AI systems continue to improve, they hold the potential to provide early warning signs of mental health disorders, allowing for timely intervention and support. Table below highlights specific AI tools used in current mental healthcare.</p> <p>AI TOOLS IN CURRENT HEALTH CARE:</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>AI tools</th> <th>Chatbot-based therapy</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Woebot</td> <td>-chatbot that provides CBT-based therapy for depression and anxiety. It has been shown to be effective in reducing symptoms of depression and anxiety in clinical trials.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Wysa</td> <td>-chatbot that provides therapy support for a variety of mental health conditions, including depression, anxiety, stress, and loneliness. It uses a</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			AI tools	Chatbot-based therapy	1. Woebot	-chatbot that provides CBT-based therapy for depression and anxiety. It has been shown to be effective in reducing symptoms of depression and anxiety in clinical trials.	2. Wysa	-chatbot that provides therapy support for a variety of mental health conditions, including depression, anxiety, stress, and loneliness. It uses a
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1. Woebot	-chatbot that provides CBT-based therapy for depression and anxiety. It has been shown to be effective in reducing symptoms of depression and anxiety in clinical trials.							
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combination of CBT, mindfulness, and positive psychology to help users improve their mental health.

3. Talkspace - online therapy platform connecting patients with licensed therapists through video, text, and audio messaging. It uses AI to match patients with therapists best suited to their needs.

4. BetterHelp -online therapy platform that connects patients with licensed therapists. It uses AI to match patients with therapists but offers a broader range of therapeutic approaches, including cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) and psychodynamic therapy.

(Created for Academic Usage / 330 words

Courtesy: Journal of Medicine, Surgery, and Public Health, August 2024.)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:

I. Complete the following suitably. 1

_____ techniques enable extracting valuable insights from written or spoken words.

II. Suppose you are offered undesirable food by a host and you were dumbfounded. How would AI driven tools read your feelings? 1

- A. voice analysis
- B. facial expression analysis
- C. written or spoken words
- D. social media posts, chat logs.

III. How does technology benefit remote mental health monitoring? Give two modes.2

IV. Paragraph 3 contains words- ‘precision’ and ‘potential’

Classify the following sentences as: - ‘precision’ and ‘potential.’ 1

Sentence1: AI systems can warn the signs of depression

Sentence 2: AI algorithms are capable of telling the effect of sleeping hours on the person correctly.

V. Name an online therapy that is best suited to the patients’ needs from the AI tool chart. 1

VI. List two cognitive behavioural therapies found effective in reducing depression and anxiety from the AI tool chart given. 1

VII. How do AI systems read facial expressions to link with the person’s mind? 2

VIII. Which of the AI tools in the chart uses CBT as well as psychodynamic therapy. 1

- A. Woebot
- B. Wysa
- C. Talkspace
- D. BetterHelp

SECTION B: CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 marks)

3.	Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words.	4
A.	You are Biju Kalita, Secretary, Rupam Apartments Residents’ Welfare Association, Church Road, Bongaigaon-7. Draft a notice to be circulated to all the members of your association to attend a meeting to discuss and decide the programmes in connection with ‘Bihu’ celebrations.	
OR		
B.	As Sports Secretary of Blue Blood Public School, Pune, draft notice in not more than 50 words for your school notice board informing the students about the sale of old sports goods of your school. You are Romi of Class XII.	
4.	Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words.	4
A.	You are the Principal of Sambhaji Senior Secondary School, Pune. The school has completed 25 years of its meritorious services to the society. The Silver Jubilee Celebrations are to be held on Sunday, the 26th October, 20XX. Mrs M. Kamath, the founder Principal will preside. Draft a suitable invitation to be sent to important dignitaries of the city and the parents of students.	

OR

B.	You are Ranjita Pegu/ Ranjit Pegu. You have been invited by the Youth Club of your locality to act as one of the judges for an inter-school group song competition organized by the club. But unfortunately, you cannot accept this invitation due to your previous engagement. Write to the Secretary of the club regretting your inability to accept the invitation.
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5.	Attempt ANY ONE of two , in about 120-150 words.	5
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A.	Write a letter to the editor of a local daily about the “Importance of Mental Health Awareness among Teenagers”. You are Jenny/Jonathan, a school counsellor, living at 17/235, Sector 5, Tezu. You may use the following cues along with your own ideas to draft the letter. (120-150 words) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The mental health issues among teenagers ● Examples highlighting the problem ● Importance of early intervention ● Role of schools, parents and counsellors. ● Suggestion of awareness programmes and support system
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OR

B.	Study the following advertisement and write a suitable letter of application. Enclose the bio-data and invent all the necessary details. WANTED A MAINTENANCE ENGINEER Power Engineering (India) Pvt. Ltd. requires a maintenance engineer. Qualification: Degree holders in mechanical engineering with 3-5 years of experience. Apply immediately, giving complete bio-data, and all the necessary details. The HR Manager, System Engineering(India) Pvt. Ltd. 33 Sector- 54k, Punjab 121001
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6.	Attempt ANY ONE of two , in about 120-150 words.	5
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A.	With the rise of social media platforms and the ease with which information can be shared online, false information can have dire consequences. Write an article for the local daily, in 120-150 words, highlighting the problem of the growing menace of fake news and misinformation, analysing the issue and provide suggestions to tackle it. You are Tania/Tonmoy of Class XII. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Social Media – source of verified/unverified information ● Social Media – Common platform for sharing information ● Open and accessible to all ● Fake news and misinformation about people ● Suggestions – verified/authentic government information platforms
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OR

B.	You are Annie/Anwar, the Sports Captain of your school R. Bose Public School. The Annual Sports Day was conducted last Monday. As a sports reporter, write a report in about 120- 150 words covering all the details such as day, date, time, venue, Chief Guest, march past, field events, award ceremony, etc.
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SECTION C: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40 marks)

7.	Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given	6
A.	<i>And such too is the grandeur of the dooms</i> <i>We have imagined for the mighty dead;</i> <i>All lovely tales that we have heard or read:</i> <i>An endless fountain of immortal drink,</i>	

	<i>Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink. (A Thing of Beauty)</i>	
i	Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract? A. The beauty of nature B. The power of imagination C. The immortality of art and literature D. The inevitability of death	1
ii	State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract. By referring to the dead as "mighty", the poet emphasizes their importance and the power they exerted on the people.	1
iii	Complete the sentence appropriately. The "endless fountain of immortal drink" is an apt analogy for the tales of the mighty dead because _____.	1
iv	The use of the word "brink" in the extract suggests that the immortality that is being poured onto us is on the verge of overflowing. This creates a powerful image of _____.	1
v	Based on the poem rhyme scheme, evident in lines 2-5, of the given extract, which word would rhyme with line 1?	1
vi	Select the option that is NOT true about the lack of punctuation at the end of line 1 in the extract. A. Creates a sense of continuity and flow that connects the line with the second line. B. Encourages the reader to continue reading seamlessly without any pause. C. Creates a sense of anticipation and expectation for the reader. D. Encourages a revisit to the ideas in the preceding lines.	1
	OR	
B.	<i>...I looked again at her, wan, pale as a late winter's moon and felt that old familiar ache, my childhood's fear, but all I said was, see you soon, Amma, all I did was smile and smile and smile.....(My mother at Sixty-six)</i>	
i	What is the speaker's emotional state when looking at her mother? A. Confused and disoriented B. Nostalgic and longing C. Empathetic and understanding D. Fearful and apprehensive	1
ii	Select the word that WILL NOT complete the sentence appropriately. The description of the mother as "wan, pale / as a late winter's moon" creates a vivid image of _____. A. vulnerability B. sensitivity C. frailty D. mortality	1

iii	State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE. The poetic device used in the line, ‘pale as a winter’s moon’ is the same as the one used in the line, ‘the winter wind wistfully wailed at night’	1
iv	What message do these lines highlight, in the context of familial relationships, and the speaker’s sense of anxiety and fear at the prospect of losing her mother?	1
v	Complete the sentence appropriately. The repetition of the word, ‘smile’ suggests that-----	1
vi	What does the use of the word "but" at the beginning of the line, ‘ but all I said..’, suggest ?	1

8.	Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given:	4
A.	In other words, the Tiger King is dead. The manner of his death is a matter of extraordinary interest. It can be revealed only at the end of the tale. The most fantastic aspect of his demise was that as soon as he was born, astrologers had foretold that one day the Tiger King would actually have to die. “The child will grow up to become the warrior of warriors, hero of heroes, champion of champions. But...” they bit their lips and swallowed hard. When compelled to continue, the astrologers came out with it. “This is a secret which should not be revealed at all. And yet we are forced to speak out. The child born under this star will one day have to meet its death.” (The Tiger King)	
i	Complete the sentence appropriately. The author’s purpose in using foreshadowing, is to -----	1
ii	In the given extract, what emotion were the astrologers feeling when they "bit their lips and swallowed hard"? A. Humiliation B. Disbelief C. Grief D. Unease	1
iii	Which trait are the astrologers lauding when they say "warrior of warriors, hero of heroes, champion of champions"?	1
iv	How is the line, "the most fantastic aspect of his demise", an example of contrast?	1
OR		
B.	<i>“If I am able, are you?” Sadao asked. “No,” Hana said, “But if you can do it alone...” Sadao hesitated again. “The strange thing is,” he said, “that if the man were whole I could turn him over to the police without difficulty. I care nothing for him. He is my enemy. All Americans are my enemy. And he is only a common fellow. You see how foolish his face is. But since he is wounded...”</i> (The Enemy)	
i	What is the “strange thing” Sadao refers to? a. Hana’s fear of the enemy b. His inability to turn in an injured soldier c. The soldier’s foolish face d. His deep concern for an American	1
ii	Complete the sentence appropriately. Sadao’s claim that “he is my enemy” but also expressing hesitation to hand him over, reflects an inner conflict between ---- and -----	1
iii	All Americans are my enemy. Why do you think he says so?	1
iv	With reference to Sadao’s declaration, “All Americans are my enemies”, read the statements given below and choose the option that correctly evaluates Sadao’s belief: Statement 1: Sadao’s declaration reflects the nationalistic conditioning prevalent during wartime. Statement 2: Sadao genuinely hates all Americans and shows no empathy throughout the story. Choose the correct option: a) Statement 1 is true but Statement 2 is false.	1

	b) Statement 1 is false but Statement 2 is true. c) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are true. d) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are false.	
9.	Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given:	6
	<i>“Every day we have said to ourselves, ‘Bah! I’ve plenty of time. I’ll learn it tomorrow.’ And now you see where we’ve come out. Ah, that’s the great trouble with Alsace; she puts off learning till tomorrow. Now those fellows out there will have the right to say to you, ‘How is it; you pretend to be Frenchmen, and yet you can neither speak nor write your own language?’ But you are not the worst, poor little Franz. We’ve all a great deal to reproach ourselves with.”</i>	
1.	What theme is reflected in this line? A. Discipline B. Procrastination and regret C. Language development D. Women Emancipation	
2.	The phrase ‘plenty of time’ highlights: A. Confidence B. Laziness C. Human tendency to delay D. Planning	
3.	This moment triggers in Franz a sense of: A. Victory B. Guilt and realization C. Boredom D. Escape	
4.	“We’ve all a great deal to reproach ourselves with.” What does the speaker convey in this line?	
5.	What is the tone of the speaker in this extract?	
6.	“Ah, that’s the great trouble with Alsace;” What is the trouble with Alsace?	
	OR	
B.	<i>demonstration, in thousands, around the courthouse was the beginning of their liberation from fear of the British. The officials felt powerless without Gandhi’s cooperation. He helped them regulate the crowd. He was polite and friendly. He was giving them concrete proof that their might, hitherto dreaded and unquestioned, could be challenged by Indians. The government was baffled. The prosecutor requested the judge to postpone the trial. Apparently, the authorities wished to consult their superiors.</i>	
1.	The officials felt powerless because of A. Gandhi’s refusal to cooperate with them. B. of Gandhi’s polite and friendly behavior. C. the crowd was listening only to Gandhi. D. the crowd was getting violent.	
2.	. The demonstration proved that the	
3.	Which style, from those given below, is being used by the author, when he says, “Apparently, the authorities wished to consult their superiors.”? A. humourous B. dramatic C. sarcastic D. persuasive	
4.	Gandhiji’s behaviour towards the British prior to the proposal of postponement of the trial was that of A. Indifference. B. calm acceptance and polite helpfulness C. ignorance of consequences. D. Proud and egoistic	
5.	The primary reason the peasants gathered around the courthouse was------(Complete the sentence by referring to the extract.	
6.	Find a word in the given extract which means ‘confused’	

10.	Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words.	5x2=10
a,	The author doesn't lose his wits completely and decides to do something. What is it that he decides to do?	
b.	Why was the make-up room of the Gemini studio called a “fiery misery”?	

c.	Why did Umberto Eco prefer himself to be called an academician than a novelist?	
d.	What are the possible causes for the passing cars to stop near the roadside stand?	
e.	How does Aunt Jennifer express her bitterness and anger against male dominance?	
f.	Do you think the crofter was manipulative in his gesture of kindness?	
11.	Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.	2x2=4
a.	How does the author explore the theme of disillusionment in "The Third Level"?	
b.	What are phytoplankton? How are they important for the oceanic ecosystem?	
c.	Why did Zitkala oppose the cutting of her long hair?	
12.	Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.	5x1=5
a.	The different portrayals of women in the texts ' Aunt Jennifer's Tigers ', ' Going Places ', ' Lost Spring ', and ' My Mother at Sixty-six ', offer insights into the experiences of women in society. Explain.	
OR		
b.	The story "The Rattrap" shows how people often feel lonely and how kindness can completely change someone's life. Based on this idea, write an article on the topic "On Being Kind." You may refer to popular figures from real life like Ratan Tata or Zubeen Garg.	
13.	Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.	5x1=5
a.	Elaborate the depiction of trauma and pain of Derry and children like him in the play, 'On the Face of it'. Do you think inclusive education or New Education Policy 2020 attempts to change the scenario for better? (Hint: You may justify your answer by mentioning the facilities provided for CWSN in your Vidyalaya or in other public places.)	
OR		
b.	Casteism is a great curse that divides and disintegrates a society. However, proper education can repair such damage. Elaborate with reference to the experience of Bama and the man carrying the vadais?	