



ANGEL'S PUBLIC SCHOOL

HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION

(SAMPLE PAPER)

SESSION 2026 – 27

SUBJECT : ENGLISH CORE

GRADE – XI

TIME : 03 HRS

M.M:80

Read the following instructions very carefully and follow them:

- i. This question paper has 15 questions. All questions are compulsory.
- ii. This question paper contains three sections:
Section A: Reading Skills (26 marks)
Section B: Creative Writing Skills and Grammar (23 marks)
Section C: Literature. (31 marks)
- iii. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
- iv. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
- v. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION – A (READING SKILLS)

(26 marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

(10)

Education today is no longer limited to textbooks and classrooms. With the rapid advancement of technology, learning has become more interactive, flexible, and accessible than ever before. Students can attend online classes, watch educational videos, participate in virtual laboratories, and communicate with experts from different parts of the world. This transformation has made learning an exciting experience and has opened new opportunities for students to explore subjects beyond their prescribed curriculum.

One of the greatest advantages of technology in education is personalised learning. Digital platforms can analyse a student's performance and recommend lessons suited to their individual pace and understanding. Students who require additional support can revisit recorded lectures, while advanced learners can move ahead without waiting for the rest of the class. Such flexibility helps learners develop confidence and independence.

However, excessive dependence on technology also has certain drawbacks. Prolonged screen time may lead to health issues such as eye strain, headaches, and reduced physical activity. Moreover, easy access to information sometimes encourages students to rely on copied material rather than developing original ideas and critical thinking skills. Therefore, teachers continue to play a vital role in guiding students to use technology responsibly and ethically.

Another important concern is the digital divide. While many students have access to high-speed internet and modern devices, others still struggle due to financial or geographical limitations. This inequality prevents equal learning opportunities and highlights the need for governments and educational institutions to ensure that quality education reaches every learner.

Ultimately, technology should be viewed as a tool rather than a replacement for traditional teaching. The most effective education combines the strengths of digital resources with the guidance, encouragement, and human interaction provided by teachers. When used wisely, technology has the power to make learning more meaningful, inclusive, and lifelong.

Answer the following questions:

- (a) Which of the following best describes the central idea of the passage? (1)
- (i) Technology should completely replace classroom teaching.
 - (ii) Technology has transformed education but must be used wisely.
 - (iii) Online learning is suitable only for advanced students.
 - (iv) Traditional education is no longer relevant.
- (b) State any two advantages of technology in education mentioned in the passage. (2)
- (c) Why is personalised learning beneficial for students? (2)
- (d) What does the term 'digital divide' mean in the context of the passage? (1)
- (e) Complete the following sentence:
Technology should be considered a tool because
- (f) Find words from the passage that mean the following: (2)
- (i) able to be reached or obtained easily
 - (ii) dependence on someone or something
- (g) Do you think technology alone can provide quality education? Justify your answer in about 30–40 words with reference to the passage. (1)
- (h) Give a suitable title to the passage. (1)

2. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. (8)

In today's fast-moving world, people often believe that being busy is the same as being productive. However, productivity is not measured by how many hours one works but by how effectively one uses those hours. Many successful people plan their day in advance, set clear priorities, and avoid unnecessary distractions. They understand that constant multitasking may create the illusion of efficiency, but in reality, it often reduces the quality of work.

Technology has made communication faster and information more accessible than ever before. Yet, it has also become one of the biggest sources of distraction. Frequent notifications, endless scrolling on social media, and the pressure to respond instantly interrupt concentration and reduce the ability to think deeply. Experts suggest setting aside specific times to check messages instead of responding immediately to every alert.

Developing good habits takes time and patience. Small changes, such as maintaining a daily schedule, taking short breaks between tasks, exercising regularly, and getting enough sleep, can significantly improve both physical and mental well-being. Rather than aiming for perfection, individuals should focus on making consistent progress. Over time, these small efforts lead to lasting success and greater satisfaction.

Answer the following questions:

- (a) Which of the following best expresses the central idea of the passage? (1)
- (i) Technology is harmful and should be avoided.
 - (ii) Productivity depends on effective habits and proper time management.
 - (iii) Successful people never use social media.
 - (iv) Working longer hours always leads to success.

- (b) Why does the writer consider multitasking less effective? (1)
- (i) It saves too much time.
 - (ii) It reduces the quality of work.
 - (iii) It increases physical strength.
 - (iv) It eliminates distractions.

- (c) Select the option that best explains the phrase 'the illusion of efficiency'. (1)
- (i) Actually being highly productive
 - (ii) Appearing productive without achieving better results
 - (iii) Working only during the day
 - (iv) Completing work before time

- (d) According to the passage, what is one effective way to reduce digital distractions? (1)

- (e) State whether the following statement is True or False. (1)

The author believes that perfection is more important than consistent improvement.

- (f) Complete the sentence. (1)

Small habits like regular exercise, proper sleep, and ____ can improve overall well-being.

- (g) Choose the word from the passage that means 'to stop the continuous progress or attention of something'. (1)
- (i) Accessible
 - (ii) Interrupt
 - (iii) Develop
 - (iv) Suggest

- (h) What lesson does the passage convey about achieving success? (1)

3. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: (8)

In recent years, the rapid advancement of technology has brought about a significant transformation in the field of education. Traditional classrooms, once limited to blackboards and textbooks, are now increasingly being replaced or supplemented by smart boards, digital content, and online platforms. This shift has not only changed the way teachers deliver lessons but has also altered how students absorb and process information in their daily academic lives.

One of the most notable advantages of technology in education is accessibility. Students can now access a vast amount of information from anywhere at any time through the internet. Online learning platforms, educational apps, and recorded lectures have made it easier for learners to revisit concepts

and study at their own pace. This flexibility is particularly beneficial for students who may require additional time to understand certain topics or concepts.

Moreover, technology has made learning more interactive and engaging. Multimedia tools such as videos, animations, and simulations help in simplifying complex ideas and making them easier to comprehend. Interactive quizzes and gamified learning experiences further enhance student participation and motivation. As a result, students are more likely to stay focused and develop a genuine interest in their studies.

However, despite its numerous benefits, the integration of technology in education also presents certain challenges. Excessive use of digital devices can lead to distractions, reduced attention spans, and even health issues such as eye strain and poor posture. Additionally, not all students have equal access to technological resources, leading to a digital divide that may widen educational inequalities. Another concern is the reduced emphasis on critical thinking and deep learning. With easy access to information, students may become overly dependent on quick searches rather than developing analytical skills. Teachers, therefore, face the challenge of ensuring that technology is used as a supportive tool rather than a replacement for thoughtful learning and meaningful classroom interaction. In conclusion, while technology has undeniably revolutionized modern education by making it more accessible and engaging, it must be used wisely and in moderation. A balanced approach that combines traditional teaching methods with modern technological tools can help maximize the benefits while minimizing the drawbacks. Ultimately, the goal should be to enhance learning outcomes and prepare students for the challenges of the future.

- (a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes using headings and subheadings. Use recognisable abbreviations wherever necessary. (5)
- (b) Make a short summary of the passage in about 70 to 80 words. (3)

SECTION - B (CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS AND GRAMMAR) (23 marks)

- 4. Attempt any one of the two A or B in around 50 words.** (3)
- A. Design a poster in not more than 50 words to create awareness about 'Say No to Single-Use Plastic'. Include an appropriate slogan and relevant details.
- OR**
- B. Design a poster promoting Road Safety Awareness for the general public.
- 5. Attempt any one of the two A or B in around 50 words.** (3)
- A. You wish to sell your 2019 Maruti Baleno, which is in excellent condition with low mileage. Draft a classified advertisement in not more than 50 words for publication in a local newspaper.
- OR**
- B. You are the Principal of Sunshine Public School. Draft a classified advertisement for the post of a PGT Mathematics Teacher.
- 6. Attempt any one of the two A or B in around 120-150 words.** (5)
- A. You have been selected to speak on 'The Importance of Mental Well-being among Students' during the morning assembly. Write a speech in 120–150 words highlighting the need for emotional health, stress management, and healthy habits.
- OR**
- B. Write a speech on 'Discipline: The Key to Success' to be delivered on the occasion of your school's Foundation Day.

7. Attempt any one of the two debates A or B in around 120-150 words. Choose either you are in favour or against the motion. (5)

A. 'Social Media Does More Harm Than Good.'

OR

B. 'Examinations Should Be Replaced by Continuous Assessment.'

8. Attempt the following questions. (7)

A. Rearrangement of Sentences (3 Marks)

1. environmental / every / protection / citizen / contribute / should / towards
2. technology / has / communication / transformed / modern / greatly
3. reading / develops / vocabulary / and / imagination / one's

B. Gap Filling (4 Marks)

Complete the following passage by filling in the blanks with the most appropriate words.

Education plays an important role in shaping an individual's personality. It (a) _____ us to think critically and act responsibly. A good education (b) _____ confidence and encourages lifelong learning. Every student (c) _____ develop good habits and a positive attitude towards life. These qualities (d) _____ essential for success.

SECTION – C LITERATURE

[31]

9. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow. (3)

A. "...and looked out at young

Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling

Out of their homes..."

- (a) Name the poem and the poet. (0.5)
- (b) What does the expression 'young trees sprinting' suggest? (0.5)
- (c) Identify the poetic device used in the expression. (1)
- (d) How does the poet contrast youth and old age in the extract? (1)

OR

B. "I cannot remember

The first embarrassment

That started me..."

- (a) Name the poem and the poet. (0.5)
- (b) What is the poet trying to discover? (0.5)
- (c) Explain the title Childhood. (1)
- (d) What theme is highlighted in the extract? (1)

10. Read the following extract carefully.

A. "The thought was almost revolting to me that anybody should have deliberately written about me."

- (a) Identify the speaker. (1)
- (b) Why was the speaker uncomfortable with the idea? (1)
- (c) What does this reveal about the speaker's personality? (1)

OR

- B. "I was wondering if I had reached the right place and at the right time."
(a) Who is the speaker? (1)
(b) Why was the speaker confused? (1)
(c) Which scientific theory forms the basis of this chapter? (1)

11. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow. (4)

Attempt either (A) or (B). (4 Marks)

(A) From The Portrait of a Lady

"She had always been beautiful. She was not pretty, but she was beautiful. She hobbled about the house in spotless white, with one hand resting on her waist to balance her stoop and the other telling the beads of her rosary. Her silver locks were scattered untidily over her pale, puckered face, and her lips constantly moved in inaudible prayer."

- (a) Which word best describes the grandmother's appearance? (1)
(i) Fashionable
(ii) Graceful
(iii) Beautiful
(iv) Proud
(b) What does the grandmother keep doing throughout the extract? (1)
(c) What do her white clothes and constant prayers reveal about her character? (1)
(d) Choose the word from the extract that means 'wrinkled'. (1)

OR

(B) From A Photograph

"The cardboard shows me how it was
When the two girl cousins went paddling,
Each one holding one of my mother's hands,
And she the big girl — some twelve years or so."

- (a) What does the word 'cardboard' refer to in the extract? (1)
(i) A diary
(ii) A photograph
(iii) A painting
(iv) A letter
(b) Who are the 'two girl cousins'? (1)
(c) What does the photograph reveal about the poet's mother? (1)
(d) Choose the word from the extract that means 'walking in shallow water'. (1)

12. Answer any two of the following questions in 40–50 words each. (2x3=6)

- (a) Why did the grandmother stop going to school with the narrator in The Portrait of a Lady?

(b) How did Jonathan's leadership help the family survive in *We're Not Afraid to Die... if We Can All Be Together*?

(c) Why was King Tut's mummy re-examined in *Discovering Tut: The Saga Continues*?

13. Answer any one of the following two questions in 40–50 words each. (3)

(a) How does Xuanzang influence the narrative in *Silk Road*?

(b) Why did Mourad believe that stealing a horse was not the same as stealing money?

14. Answer any one of the following in 120–150 words. (6)

The bond between the narrator and his grandmother undergoes many changes, yet remains deeply rooted in love and respect. Discuss with reference to *The Portrait of a Lady*.

OR

Describe how determination, courage and optimism enabled the narrator's family to overcome the crisis in *We're Not Afraid to Die... if We Can All Be Together*.

15. Answer any one of the following in 120–150 words. (6)

Compare the themes presented in *Father to Son* and *Childhood*. How do both poems explore the emotional and psychological conflicts of growing up?

OR

Compare the characters of Mourad (*The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse*) and Mrs Pearson (*Mother's Day*). How do they challenge conventional expectations and leave a lasting impression.