



ANGEL'S PUBLIC SCHOOL

SAMPLE PAPER

HALF YEARLY EXAMS SESSION 2025 – 26

CLASS – XII

TIME : 3 HRS.

SUBJECT –ENGLISH CORE

M.M:80

SUBJECT CODE - 301

General Instructions.

- This question paper contains THREE sections. Section A(Reading Skills)Section B(creative writing skills) Section C (literature)
- You may attempt any section at a time.
- All questions of that particular section must be attempted in the correct order.

SECTION – A (READING SKILLS)

[20]

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

(10)

As Siberia Warms, its Permafrost is Thawing — with Global Consequences

- 1 They used to ride snowmobiles in June in Russkoye Ustya, a Siberian village by the Arctic Ocean coast — but recently, the temperature in the area hit 88 degrees Fahrenheit (over 31 degrees Celsius). The climate has been warming rapidly in the Arctic for years, but a heat wave roasting northern Siberia recently has been shocking.
- 2 Wildfires are spreading. The fishing is meagre, the mosquitoes ravenous. The town of Verkhoyansk recently topped 100 degrees Fahrenheit — over 37 degrees Celsius — possibly the hottest temperature ever recorded above the Arctic Circle. Verkhoyansk was best known for sharing the Northern Hemisphere's cold temperature record — 90 degrees below zero Fahrenheit, set in 1892.
- 3 However, climate change has been transforming Russia's northern reaches — with global implications. "Very strange things are happening," said Roman Desyatkin, a scientist in the Siberian city of Yakutsk who studies perhaps the most far-reaching consequence of the warming climate — the thawing of frozen ground. The frozen ground, or permafrost, lies just below the surface across much of Russia. In some areas, including northeastern Siberia, the permafrost contains ice. With every hot summer, more of it thaws, flooding pastures, twisting roads, destabilising buildings and eroding riverbanks.

HOW PERMAFROST DRIVES GLOBAL WARMING

- Arctic permafrost is ground frozen over millenia, containing animal and plant detritus. Permafrost covers an expanse over twice the USA's size, spread across Siberia, Alaska, etc.
- Permafrost holds about 1,600 gigatons of carbon — twice the amount in the atmosphere
- With climate change, permafrost is thawing, releasing methane — 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide
- For every one degree Celsius rise in Earth's temperature, permafrost can release four to six years' worth of fossil fuel emissions
- Since 2014, Earth's five warmest years have been recorded — and the Arctic is warming twice as fast as the remaining planet
- Permafrost thaw, driven by global warming, can multiply emissions by 41%

Research : National Geographic, The Guardian, NASA

- 4 The thawing permafrost has global consequences because it results in the release of greenhouse gases from the decomposition of frozen organic material. A group of scientists convened by the United Nations said last year that the process could unleash 240 billion tons of carbon by 2100.
- 5 Above the Arctic Circle, there is no escaping the heat because the sun shines around the clock. Acrid smoke from growing wildfires has drifted over Siberian villages. Last year's Siberian fires, accelerated by the dry heat, were the worst in recent memory, consuming over 38,000 square miles. "Only the rain can put these fires out," a villager said. "This year, we have no rain."

The Times of India (Abridged)

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer the following questions :

- Choose the option that lists the statement which is NOT TRUE.
 - The town of Verkhoyansk recently topped 100 degrees Fahrenheit.
 - The town of Verkhoyansk had recorded—90 degrees below zero Fahrenheit in 1892.
 - Thawing permafrost results in the absorption of greenhouse gases.
 - Wildfires are caused due to increasing heat.
- What is shocking in the Arctic region ? And what is possibly the hottest temperature recorded above the Arctic Circle ?
- According to a scientist, Roman Desyatkin the most far reaching consequence of warming climate is :
 - thawing of the frozen ground
 - flooding pastures and destabilising buildings
 - eroding river banks
 - all of these three.
- What do you learn about permafrost from this passage ?
- Write in brief about methane gas.
- Permafrost is expanded as much as :

(a) area of USA's size	(b) twice the area of USA's size
(c) thrice the area of USA's size	(d) none of these three.
- The thawing of permafrost could unleash by 2100.

(a) 1600 gigatons of carbon	(b) 240 billion tons of carbon
(c) 240 billion tons of oxygen	(d) 1600 gigatons of oxygen.
- Which of the following characteristics are apt about the methane gas ? Choose the correct option that lists them.
 - It is 25 times more potent than carbondioxide.
 - It is released by thawing of permafrost.
 - It does not make any impact on green-house effect.
 - It helps in cooling down the earth.
 - It caused glaciers in the Arctic region.
 - Methane gas is not harmful for living things.

(a) i, ii (b) iii, iv (c) v, vi (d) ii, iv.
- What can put the fire in Arctic circle out ?

(a) Sun shine. (b) Acrid smoke. (c) Villagers' efforts. (d) Rain.
- In 2019, Siberian fires consumed over

(a) 38,00 square miles	(b) 38,000 square kilometer
(c) 38,000 square miles	(d) 380 square miles.

1 Air pollution is a major threat to human health. The United Nations Environment Programme has estimated that, globally, 1.1 billion people breathe in unhealthy air. The World Health Organization (WHO) has estimated that urban air pollution is responsible for approximately 800,000 deaths and 4.6 million people lose their lives every year around the globe.

2 Traffic and transportation problems, inadequate drainage facilities, lack of open spaces, carbon emission, and the accumulation of waste aggravate the problem. Air pollution is associated with increased risk of acute respiratory infections (ARI), the principal cause of infant and child mortality in developing countries.

3 Urban air quality in most mega cities has been found to be critical and Kolkata is no exception to this. An analysis of ambient air quality in Kolkata was done by applying the Exceedance Factor (EF) method, where the presence of listed pollutants' (RPM, SPM, NO_2 , and SO_2) annual average concentration are classified into four different categories; namely critical, high, moderate, and low pollution. Out of a total of 17 ambient air quality monitoring stations operating in Kolkata, five fall under the critical category, and the remaining 12 locations fall under the high category of NO_2 concentration, while for RPM, four recored critical, and 13

Pollution in India

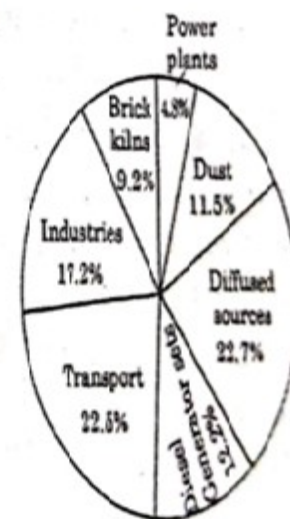


Fig. 1

come under the high pollution category. The causes of high concentration of pollutants in the form of NO_2 and RPM have been identified in earlier studies as vehicular emission (51.4%), followed by industrial sources (24.5%) and dust particles (21.1%).

4 Later, a health assessment was undertaken with a structured questionnaire at some nearby dispensaries which fall under areas with different ambient air pollution levels. Three dispensaries have been surveyed with 100 participants. It shows that respondents with respiratory diseases (85.1%) have outnumbered waterborne diseases (14.9%) and include acute respiratory infections (ARI) (60%), chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases (COPD) (7.8%), upper track respiratory infection (UTRI) (1.2%), Influenza (12.7%), and acid-fast bacillus (AFB) (3.4%).

5 To live a healthy life and have better well-being, practising pollution-averting activities in one's day-to-day activities is needed. These pollution-averting practices can only be possible when awareness among the masses is generated that the air, they-breathe outdoors, is not found to be safe.

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer the following questions :

- What is the main idea of this passage ?
- Select the option that displays the correct 'cause and effect' relationship.

(a)	Cause	Effect
	Traffic and transportation problem	4.6 million deaths

(b)	Cause	Effect
	Lack of open spaces	Mega cities

(c)	Cause	Effect
	Air pollution	Respiratory diseases

(d)	Cause	Effect
	Air quality monitoring stations	Emission of NO ₂

- Read the following statements :
 - Air pollution kills 4.6 million people every year in India.
 - Air pollution is causing health hazards to more people than water pollution.
 - (i) is true and (ii) is false.
 - (i) is false and (ii) is true.
 - (i) is true and is responsible for (ii).
 - Both (i) and (ii) are false.
- What is the author's opinion on the development of Mega cities ?
- Select the option that lists the author's recommendation to the people.
 - He wants people to be aware that air pollution is a major threat.
 - He urges people not to live in mega cities.
 - He advises people to follow pollution averting activities seriously.
 - He wants people to reduce vehicular emissions.
 - i & ii
 - ii & iii
 - i & iii
 - iii & iv
- Select the option that displays the true statement as per fig. 1.
 - Dust and power plants are the causes for maximum pollution.
 - Pollution caused by transport is much more than the pollution caused by industries.
 - The use of diesel generator is responsible for more than 50% of air pollution.
 - Dust stands fourth in the list that causes air pollution.
- As per paragraph 3, select the option that holds true.
 - Only urban air pollution is responsible for deteriorating human health condition.
 - The higher intensity of pollutants in the form of NO₂ and RPM is mainly due to vehicular emissions.
 - Dust particles in air are the major contributors of pollution.
 - Traffic and transport plays a negligible role in increasing pollution.

8. Read the following statements :

- (i) Air quality in Kolkata is less than critical.
- (ii) 12 locations were selected for measuring ambient air quality.
- (iii) Most of the mega cities are suffering from the problem of poor air quality.

- (a) (i) is true and (ii) and (iii) are false.
- (b) (i) and (ii) are true and (iii) is false.
- (c) (i) and (iii) are true and (ii) is false.
- (d) (i) and (ii) are false and (iii) is true.

9. "accumulation of waste aggravates the problem."

Select the option that best describes the 'problem' with reference to the above statement.

- (a) Increase in pollution leads to huge accumulation of waste.
- (b) Lack of space for waste disposal.
- (c) More developments lead to more waste.
- (d) Lack of sustainable and effective waste management.

10. Rewrite the sentence by replacing underlined word with a word from para 4.

The opinion poll was conducted to assess the eating habits of school going children.

SECTION –B (CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS)

[20]

3. Every year in the central part of the city a flower show is held in the month of February. Your school has received a circular from the District Collector inviting your students to visit it. Write a notice in about 50 words informing the students about the show and advising them to go and enjoy it. You are Naveen/Navleen, Head Boy/Head Girl, Sunrise Public School, Sikkim. (5)

OR

An interschool Kabaddi Competition is organized by your school. Write a notice, in not more than 50 words, requesting the students to be present at the venue to encourage the players. Invent all the necessary details. You are Arjun, the sports captain of your school.

4. Sunrise Global School, Agra is going to organize a one – act play competition in the school auditorium. You have decided to invite noted stage artist, Nalini to grace the occasion. Draft a formal invitation for her in about 50 words. You are Karuna/Karan, Cultural Secretary. (5)

OR

You have received an invitation to be the judge for a literary competition in St. Ann's School. Send a reply in not more than 50 words, confirming your acceptance. You are Mohan/Mohini.

5. You are a student of Mahaan University, Indore. The university is not providing proper curriculum and guidance to the students because of which students are unable to learn. Write a letter to the editor of a student magazine, Yuva Chetna to highlight this issue in not more than 100 – 120 words. (5)

OR

Bal Vidya Public School, Bhilai, urgently requires a post – graduate teacher to teach political science for which they have placed an advertisement in 'The Bhilai Express'. You are Sanjay/Sanjana Sharma from 21, Vasant Marg, Bhilai. Draft a letter including a CV/biodata, applying for the advertised post. (120 – 150 words)

6. As compared to the older generation the youth of today are greatly inclined to pursue adventurous activities either for money or for Fun. There is a latest craze for joining reality shows, rafting, rock climbing, mountaineering etc. Write an article in 150 – 200 words on which life you would prefer—safe or adventurous. (5)

SECTION –C (LITERATURE)

7. Read the extract 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.

(a) Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract?

- (i) The maturity of adulthood (ii) The glory of femininity
(iii) Victim of male domination (iv) The superficial beauty

- (b) State whether the following statement is True or False, with reference to the extract.

Aunt Jennifer is nervous and traumatized because of the constraints of her marriage.

(c) Complete the following sentence appropriately :

The fingers fluttering through her wool symbolize _____.

(d) Based on the rhyme scheme in lines 3 and 4, which word would rhyme with 'band' and 'hand'?

- (i)Stand (ii)Wind (iii)bent (iv)Tent

(e)The heavy wedding ring is a source of :

- (i)Joy (ii)Freedom. (iii)Dignity (iv)Burden

(f) Name the poem and the poet.

OR

Read the following extracts and answer the questions :

**If we were not so single – minded
About keeping our lives moving,
And for once could do nothing,
Perhaps a huge silence
Might interrupt this sadness
Of never understanding ourselves with death.
Perhaps the Earth can teach us
As when everything seems dead
And later proves to be alive.
Now I'll count up to twelve
And you keep quiet and I will go.**

(i) Complete the following suitably.

The poet uses the expression 'single minded' to refer to _____.

(ii) Why does the poet refer to silence as a welcoming interruption?

(iii) Read the Assertion and the Reason below, with reference to the given extract.

Assertion: The poet personifies Earth as a teacher.

Reason: We learn from the Earth that pausing doesn't mean the end.

Choose the correct option regarding their relationship.

(a)Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion.

(b) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, but the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion.

(c) He Assertion is true, but the Reason is false.

(d)The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.

(v) Complete the following suitably.

By the expression "keeping our lives moving" the poet refers to _____.

(vi)Choose the correct option.

The intention of the poet in the above extract is

(a)To make us aware of the importance of Earth

(b)To criticize our single mindedness..

(c)To highlight the reason for our sadness.

(d)To highlight the importance of sustaining peace and silence.

8. Read the following extracts and answer the questions :

(6)

For a moment I thought of running away and spending the day out of doors. It was so warm, so bright!

The birds were chirping at the edge of the woods; and in the open field back of the sawmill the Prussian soldiers were drilling. It was all much more tempting than the rule for participles, but I had the strength to resist, and hurried off to school.

- (i) List two sensory details present in the extract.
- (ii) Why is the narrator tempted to spend the day out of doors?
- (iii) Complete the sentence appropriately.
I hurried off to school resisting _____.
- (iv) Why does the narrator want to bunk school?
 - (a) He doesn't like the teachers.
 - (b) He doesn't like his classmates.
 - (c) He wasn't prepared for the test on participles.
 - (d) He had forgotten to complete his homework.
- (v) Which trait of the protagonist is revealed in the sentence 'I had the strength to resist'?
 - (i) Sincerity
 - (ii) determination
 - (iii) bravery
 - (iv) kindness
- (vi) Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the extract?
 - (i) The Drilling of Prussian Soldiers
 - (ii) The Rule of Participles
 - (iii) Strength to Resist
 - (iv) Out of Doors

OR

They have lived here for more than thirty years without an identity, without permits but with ration cards that get their names on voters' lists and enable them to buy grain. Food is more important for survival than identity. "If at the end of the day we can feed our families and go to bed without an aching stomach, we would rather live here than in the fields that gave us no grain," say a group of women in tattered saris when I asked them why they left their beautiful land of green fields and rivers.

Wherever they find food, they pitch their tents.

- (i) The ragpickers have been living there for _____ decades.
 - (a) three
 - (b) four
 - (c) two
 - (d) five
- (ii) Why do these people have ration cards?
- (iii) What do you infer about their lifestyle from the phrase 'pitch their tents'?
- (iv) In spite of the hardships, they are not willing to go back to their homeland because _____.
- (v) The women had a/an _____ approach towards life. The women had a/an _____ approach towards life.
- (vi) What does the term 'go to bed without an aching stomach' indicate?

9. Read the extract carefully and answer the questions that follow.

(4)

"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," 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 ..."

- (a) Complete the sentence appropriately.
The dilemma faced by the couple was _____.
- (b) What does Hana ask Dr. Sadao to do alone?
 - (i) Treat the wounded soldier
 - (ii) Give him shelter in the outhouse

- (iii) Throw him back into the sea
- (iv) Hand him over to the authorities
- (c) Explain the expression : "if the man were whole".
- (d) Dr. Sadao says, "All Americans are my enemy." What character trait of Dr. Sadao does it reflect?

OR

Read the following extracts and answer the questions :

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.

- (i) List any two details about how Charley was dressed up.
- (ii) Charley decided to use the subway because it was :
 (a) quicker (b) cheaper (c) ore fashionable (d) safer

(iii) Complete the following sentence appropriately.
 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?
 (a) Pre world war era (b) The present times
 (c) The eighteenth century (d) In the future

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

- (a) How is the mother tongue important to a person? What does M. Hamel, the teacher say about it?
- (b) How bad were the living conditions in which Mukesh and his family survived?
- (c) Why was Edla happy to see the gift left by the peddler?
- (d) Why was Charley fascinated with Galesburg?
- (e) Why was Sadao not sent to the battlefield?
- (f) Why did the Maharaja have to pay a bill of three lakh rupees to the British jewellers?

11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 120 – 150 words.

How did Gandhiji succeed in getting justice for the Indigo sharecroppers? Explain in detail.

OR

"There was terror in my heart at the overpowering force of the waves." When did Douglas start fearing water? Which experience had further strengthened its hold on his mind and personality? Explain in detail.

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 120 – 150 words.

'Take care of small things and big ones will take care of themselves.' What is the relevance of this statement in the context of Antarctica? Explain in detail.

OR

The Maharaja justified his actions based on the maxim: 'You may kill even a cow in self – defence,' so there would be no objection to killing tigers in self defence.' Do you think it is right to justify our actions in this way? Elaborate.