



ANANDALAYA
PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION
Class : XII

Subject : English Core (301)
Date : 13-12-2024

M.M : 80
Time : 3 hours

General Instructions:

1. The Question Paper contains three sections.
2. Section A-Reading Section has two passages for comprehension.
3. Section B-Writing Section has 4 questions. Adhere to the word limit as given in the instructions with each question.
4. Section C-Literature Section has 7 questions. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit.

SECTION-A

READING SKILLS (22 marks)

1. Read the passage given below. (12)
- a. In the living room the voice-clock sang, Tick-tock, seven o'clock, time to get up, time to get up, seven o'clock! as if it were afraid that nobody would. The morning house lay empty. The clock ticked on, repeating and repeating its sounds into the emptiness. Seven-nine, breakfast time, seven-nine! In the kitchen the breakfast stove gave a hissing sigh and ejected from its warm interior eight pieces of perfectly browned toast, eight eggs sunny side up, sixteen slices of bacon, two coffees, and two cool glasses of milk. *"Today is August 4, 2026,"* said a second voice from the kitchen ceiling, *"in the city of Allendale, California."* It repeated the date three times for memory's sake.
 - b. *"Today is Mr. Featherstone's birthday. Today is the anniversary of Tilita's marriage. Insurance is payable, as are the water, gas, and light bills."* Somewhere in the walls, relays clicked, memory tapes glided under electric eyes. *Eight-one, tick-tock, eight-one o'clock, off to school, off to work, run, run, eight-one!* But no doors slammed, no carpets took the soft tread of rubber heels. It was raining outside. The weather box on the front door sang quietly: *"Rain, rain, go away; umbrellas, raincoats for today. .."* And the rain tapped on the empty house, echoing. Outside, the garage chimed and lifted its door to reveal the waiting car.
 - c. After a long wait the door swung down again. At *eight-thirty*, the eggs were shrivelled and the toast was like stone. An aluminium wedge scraped them into the sink, where hot water whirled them down a metal throat which digested and flushed them away to the distant sea. The dirty dishes were dropped into a hot washer and emerged twinkling dry. *Nine-fifteen*, sang the clock, *time to clean*. Out of warrens in the wall, tiny robot mice darted. The rooms were acrawl with the small cleaning animals, all rubber and metal. They thudded against chairs, whirling their moustached runners, kneading the rug nap, sucking gently at hidden dust.
 - d. Then, like mysterious invaders, they popped into their burrows. Their pink electric eyes faded. The house was clean. *Ten o'clock*. The sun came out from behind the rain. The house stood alone in a city of rubble and ashes. This was the one house left standing. At night the ruined city gave off a radioactive glow which could be seen for miles. *Ten-fifteen*. The garden sprinklers whirled up in golden founts, filling the soft morning air with scatterings of brightness. The water pelted window panes, running down the charred west side where the house had been burned, evenly free of its white paint.

- e. The entire west face of the house was black, save for five places. Here the silhouette in paint of a man mowing a lawn. Here, as in a photograph, a woman bent to pick flowers. Still farther over, their images burned on wood in one titanic instant, a small boy, hands flung into the air; higher up, the image of a thrown ball, and opposite him a girl, hands raised to catch a ball which never came down. The five spots of paint - the man, the woman, the children, the ball- remained. The rest was a thin charcoaled layer.

Source:- This excerpt is taken from Ray Bradbury's 1950 short story "There Will Come Soft Rains" in which he imagines a city in America in the year 2026.

On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the questions that follow.

- (i) What do you think has happened to the city in the story? (1)
- (A) It has not been maintained by the government.
(B) It has been abandoned by its residents.
(C) It has been destroyed by a nuclear attack.
(D) It is being redeveloped.
- (ii) Assertion (A): Technology does not have a brain of its own. (1)
Reason (R): The house runs the sprinklers even when there is no lawn to maintain
- (A) A and R are true and R supports A.
(B) A and R are true but R does not support A.
(C) A is true and R is false.
(D) A and R are both false.
- (iii) Why does the author describe the silhouettes in such detail? (1)
- (A) To impress upon the reader how well-maintained the house is.
(B) To show the readers what the occupants were doing when they died.
(C) To simply show the beautiful exterior of the house.
(D) To prove that technology can maintain a house better than humans.
- (iv) "The garden sprinklers whirled up in golden founts, filling the soft morning air with scatterings of brightness. The water pelted window panes, running down the charred west side where the house had been burned, evenly free of its white paint. The entire west face of the house was black, save for five places." Which figure of speech is being used here? (1)
- (A) Imagery (B) Paradox
(C) Irony (D) Onomatopoeia
- (v) The phrase "one titanic instant" as used in paragraph (e) most likely means _____. (1)
- (A) sudden and unexpected tragic moment
(B) powerful and Magical moment
(C) beautiful and memorable moment
(D) unprecedented and coincidental blissful moment
- (vi) Why does the writer personify the house? (1)
- (A) To make the story haunted and incite fear in the readers.
(B) To make the story humorous and make it lighter to read.
(C) To bring animation into the story and make it enjoyable for children.
(D) To depict that technology has a life of its own.
- (vii) Which word in the paragraph (c) can be replaced with the word "resurfaced"? (1)

- (viii) The automated house shows..... (1)
- (A) the extreme violence that technology brings.
 - (B) the fear of technology in the writer's mind.
 - (C) the extreme dependence of humans on technology.
 - (D) the writer's creativity and futuristic ideas.

(ix) What suggests that the house is unoccupied? (2)

(x) "War claims innocent lives." Support the statement with evidence from the text. (2)

2. Read the passage given below. (10)

- a. Autonomous Weapon Systems raise many questions and concerns. Addressing them requires a multidisciplinary research effort on the one hand, and public discussions on ethical and moral responsibility on the other. While ethical standards for decision-making are to some extent studied in relationship with the research and development of autonomous vehicles and human-operated drones, these have not yet widely been extended to AWS.
- b. In fact, proposing ethical standards for moral judgment or decision-making on the development and/or deployment of AWS requires taking into account ethical rules of warfare as such. In the history of cultures and society, Saint Augustine was the first individual in Christianity to have proposed a theory on war and justice, the so-called 'Just-War Theory'. He referred to the Bible and claimed that some wars are necessary to fight evil.
- c. Saint Thomas Aquinas revised Augustine's theory and proposed several criteria for a just war: it needs to be waged by a legitimate authority, have a just cause, follow the right intentions, have a reasonable probability of success, the nations involved in the war must avoid disproportionate military action, only use the amount of force absolutely necessary, and the use of force must distinguish between the militia and civilians.
- d. This last principle is called the *principle of discrimination* in contemporary military ethics. It is to ensure that innocent citizens do not become the target of war and that the killing of civilians is avoided at all costs. Just-war theory in contemporary ethics builds on these principles as a set of rules for military combat where conventions are meant to serve as guides to human action.
- e. While true blue pacifists reject war in any form as immoral, and thereby imply that all acts within war are immoral and inexcusable and true blue militarists believe that in war "all is fair", just war theorists take the pragmatic stance that, should war break out for one reason or another, considerations relative to its justification are necessary, and rules and procedures need to be followed to ensure that specific sanctuaries from war's dreadful consequences are upheld and protected. Contemporary just war theory concludes that the use of autonomous technologies is neither completely morally acceptable, nor is it morally unacceptable. Any technology of warfare could be just or unjust depending on the situation because what is and is not acceptable in war is ultimately a convention.

Source: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10030838/>

On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions.

(i) Read the conversation between Sanya and Tulika and answer the two questions that follow.

Sanya: Countries are arming themselves with stronger and bigger guns on the name of defence and anticipating wars. But one day these weapons will become the reason for a war that will end all humanity. War and Weaponisation must be stopped.

Tulika: I feel weapons are necessary for a country. We can never be too safe. With the rise in technology, weapons are becoming more and more dangerous and wars will be deadlier than ever before. Sometimes, war is the only way towards justice.

- a. Based on the passage, suggest a solution for this dilemma. (2)
- b. Based on the passage what terms would you use to refer to Sanya and Tulika considering their stance on war and weaponisation? (2)
- (ii) Based on the passage which of the four sentences is true? (1)
- (A) There is a need to make weapons that will not put our soldiers' lives in danger.
- (B) We need to stop making weapons to prevent wars in the future.
- (C) Weaponisation of technology requires special laws based on extensive research and discussion.
- (D) Technology can be dangerous to humanity.
- (iii) Use the word "disproportionate" from paragraph 3 in a sentence to explain its meaning. (1)
- (iv) The main purpose of the text is to..... (1)
- (A) Inform readers about a much-discussed topic that requires attention
- (B) Warn readers against a development that can be catastrophic
- (C) Develop a new idea that has not been paid attention to
- (D) Make readers question the world they are living in
- (v) The text can be categorised as..... (1)
- (A) Argumentative
- (B) Reflective
- (C) Informative
- (D) Satirical
- (vi) Which of the following conditions are necessary for a war to be considered "just"? (1)
- i. It needs to distinguish between militia and civilians
- ii. It must not cause property damage
- iii. Countries need to compensate for the loss of life caused by them
- iv. Only the amount of force absolutely necessary must be used
- v. The war needs to have a just cause
- (A) i, iii, iv (B) ii, iv, v
- (C) i, ii, iv (D) i, iv, v
- (vii) Which word from paragraph 5 can be replaced by the words "current or modern"? (1)

SECTION-B

CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 Marks)

3. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below. (50 words) (4)

A. Your club is going to organise an Inter-school Singing Competition for the students of class IX to XII of CBSE schools of Dehradun. Write a notice inviting the names of the students who want to participate in it. Give all necessary details. You are Navtej/Nameeta Sandhu, Secretary of the SPICMACAY (Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth).

OR

B. Your school Sunshine H.S. School, Imphal is organising Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Memorial Inter-school Debate Competition for the students of class XII of CBSE schools of Imphal on the topic "In 21st Century, war is not a solution to any problem". Write a notice for the students of different CBSE schools of the city. You are Monica/Mijao Ingudam the president of cultural club of your school.

4. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below. (50 words) (4)
- A. Draft a formal reply expressing your inability to attend the inauguration of the showroom 'Royce's Window' on Sunday, the 13th December, 2024 at 11 a.m. at Sarafa Bazar, Jaipur as a Chief Guest. You are Durgadevi/Bhairavsinh Chouhan working as the General Manager of The Central Silk Board (CSB), New Delhi.

OR

- B. You are Srina/Indrisha Paraiyar living at Madurai, Tamilnadu. Your friend from Malaysia is staying in a hotel in your city. Invite him to join Pongal celebration with your family at your residence.
5. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below. (120-150 words) (5)
- A. It gives you a good feeling when you read in the newspaper about how patients from abroad come to hospitals in India and get themselves treated at a fraction of the expenses they would have incurred elsewhere. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily describing the importance of medical tourism for India. Also, suggest the policies which could further increase it. You are Kamakshi/Kamalakar Madhukar a resident of Pune.

OR

- B. Write an application (including a resume) for the post of a content developer advertised in a national newspaper by JKL Publisher, Daryaganj, New Delhi. You are Arjan/Savani Shah a Post-graduate of English Literature from English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad (EFLU). You can take help from the below give advertisement.

JKL PUBLISHERS

Required a content developer, M.A. in English Literature, tech-savvy, having command over creative writing, experience of minimum 5 years working in a renowned publishing house.

Send your application cum resume within 10 days to JKL Publishers, 30, Dariyaganj, New Delhi.

6. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below. (120-150 words) (5)
- A. Cybercrime is a growing threat to individuals in the digital age. With the increasing sophistication of cyberattacks, individuals are becoming more vulnerable to financial loss, identity theft, emotional trauma, and damage to their reputations. As a concerned citizen write an article on the threats related to cybercrime for a newspaper. You may take help from the hints given below.

- Number of victims: In 2023-24, there were more than 343 million victims of cyberattacks.
- Cost of data breaches: In 2024, the average cost of a data breach is \$4.88 million.
- Ransomware: In 2023, the average ransomware payout was \$1,542,333, and the average cost of a ransomware recovery was \$2.73 million.
- Identity theft: Credit card fraud accounted for 40.2% of identity thefts.
- Cybercrime in India: The most common form of cybercrime in India is financial fraud, which accounted for 75% of cybercrime between 2020 and 2023.

To protect yourself from cybercrime, you can:

- Use a strong and different password for your email.
- Turn on 2-step verification and do not share bank details with anyone.
- Be mindful of which website URLs you visit.
- Keep an eye on your bank statements.
- Select online providers and retailers which offer good protection for you and your data.

OR

- B. The Fine Arts Club of your school celebrated its tenth anniversary in a grand manner. Distinguished artists Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia and Zakir Hussain graced the occasion and enthralled the audience with their mesmerising music. Both the artists performed ‘Jugalbandi’ or an instrumental duet which delighted the audience. The students of your school also presented some songs in different choir groups and the function ended with a pure classical song by a talented singer Sambu Devprasad a student of class XII. Write a report to be published in your school magazine ‘Indradhanush’. You are Kala Mahan/Aarif Raza the secretary of the club.

SECTION-C

LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40 marks)

7. Attempt any one of the two extracts. (6x1=6)

A. *The polished traffic passed with a mind ahead,*

Or if ever aside a moment, then out of sorts

At having the landscape marred with the artless paint

Of signs that with N turned wrong and S turned wrong

Offered for sale wild berries in wooden quarts,

Or crook-necked golden squash with silver warts,

Or beauty rest in a beautiful mountain scene,

You have the money, but if you want to be mean,

Why keep your money (this crossly) and go along.

- (i) What is polished traffic referred to? (1)
 (A) The airplanes flying towards city.
 (B) The cars and other vehicles speeding towards outskirts of the city.
 (C) The cars and other vehicles speeding towards city.
 (D) The cars and other vehicles speeding towards villages.
- (ii) What was wrong with the signs? (1)
- (iii) Select the option that displays the attitude of the people in ‘a mind ahead’ (1)
 (A) Callous (B) Compassionate
 (C) Healthy (D) Polite
- (iv) What was said crossly? (1)
 (A) The farmer cursed poor people for not stopping and buying something from the stand.
 (B) The farmer cursed wealthy city people for not stopping and buying something from the stand.
 (C) The farmer cursed middle-class people for not stopping and buying something from the stand.
 (D) The farmer cursed everyone for not stopping and buying something from the stand.
- (v) Which word in the stanza suggests the local quality of the produce? (1)
 (A) Wild berries (B) Wooden quartz
 (C) Artless paint (D) Silver warts
- (vi) Write a suitable word to complete the analogy: (1)
 Wild...wooden : Alliteration :: Polished traffic : _____ .

OR

B. *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.

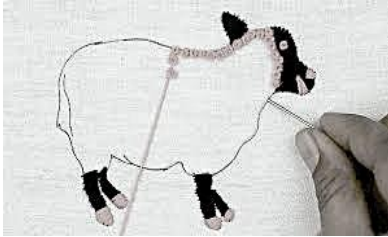
- (i) How would you describe Aunt Jennifer based on the above passage?
- (ii) Uncle's wedding band sits heavily on Aunt Jennifer's hand because
- (iii) Pick the option that displays the image which correctly corresponds to the type of task Aunt is engaged in;



Option (A)



Option (B)



Option (C)



Option (D)

- (iv) Write the example of alliteration from the given stanza.
- (v) Read the statements given below and select the most appropriate option from the given below;
- Statement (a) The poem is a manifesto against the institution of marriage.
- Statement (b) Aunt Jennifer represents all women artists.
- Statement (c) The poem embodies an alternate for women to express their repressed desires through art.
- (A) Statement (a) is true, Statement (b) is false and Statement (c) can't be inferred.
- (B) Statement (a) and Statement (b) are false and Statement (c) can't be inferred.
- (C) Statement (a) and Statement (b) are true and Statement (c) can't be inferred.
- (D) Statement (a) is false, Statement (b) can't be inferred and Statement (c) is true.
- (vi) What is the attitude of the speaker towards Aunt Jennifer?
- (A) She is indifferent to her (B) She loves her
- (C) She sympathises with her (D) She is cruel towards her

8. Attempt any one of the two extracts.

(4x1=4)

A. *But at this moment the door opened and she looked out, a dark-blue woollen haori over her kimono. She came to him affectionately and put her arm through his as he stood, smiled and said*

- (i) Who is 'she' in the above lines? (1)
- (ii) What is a 'kimono'? (1)
- (A) Loose, knee-length Japanese garment (B) Coat like garment
- (C) Japanese robe with wide sleeves (D) Japanese shirt
- (iii) Where were the two standing? (1)
- (A) On the roof (B) In the verandah
- (C) At the clinic (D) In the hotel room
- (iv) Where had they met for the first time? (1)
- (A) Dr. Sadao's clinic (B) Army mess
- (C) In USA at a departmental store (D) In USA at Professor Harley's home

OR

B. *Six hundred and fifty million years ago, a giant amalgamated southern supercontinent — Gondwana — did indeed exist, centred roughly around the present-day Antarctica.*

(i) Complete the given statement with reference to the text (1)

Gondwana was _____.

(ii) Select the appropriate option: (1)

The climate of Gondwana was

(1) Much warmer

(2) Too much cold

(3) Suitable for a huge variety of flora and fauna

(4) Suitable for human beings

(A) (1) & (2)

(B) (1) & (3)

(C) (2) & (3)

(D) (2) & (4)

(iii) How was life different 650 million years ago?

(A) Population of human beings was very dense.

(B) Human hadn't arrived on the global scene.

(C) There wasn't much flora and fauna.

(D) Ice could be seen everywhere.

(iv) Pick up the word, having the same meaning as 'combine to form one organisation or structure'. (1)

(A) Giant

(B) Amalgamated

(C) Supercontinent

(D) Centred

9. Attempt any one of the two extracts. (6x1=6)

A. *The 'boy' in the make-up department had decided I should be enlightened on how great literary talent was being allowed to go waste in a department fit only for barbers and perverts. Soon I was praying for crowd-shooting all the time. Nothing short of it could save me from his epics.*

(i) Who does 'I' refer to in the above lines?

(A) Asokmitran, the author of 'Poet and Pancakes'

(B) Asokmitran, boss of the Gemini Studios

(C) An office boy of the Gemini Studios

(D) The Maharashtrian head of the Gemini Studios

(ii) The 'boy' referred to in these lines is.....

(iii) How would the 'boy' enlighten 'I'?

(A) To give vent to his frustration

(B) To impress him that a great talent remained untapped

(C) To convey to him that his talent was being wasted

(D) All of these

(iv) What prayer 'I' used to make?

(v) The boy in the makeup room was jealous of _____.

(vi) Why was 'I' the chosen one to be enlightened?

(A) Due to the idle appearance of the work.

(B) As he was the junior of the 'boy'.

(C) Both of them were friends.

(D) As 'I' was the boss.

OR

B. *Maybe I give the impression of doing many things. But in the end, I am convinced I am always doing the same thing.....And then I have a secret. Did you know what will happen if you eliminate the empty spaces from the universe, eliminate the empty spaces in all the atoms? The universe will become as big as my fist. Similarly, we have a lot of empty spaces in our lives. I call them interstices. Say you are coming over to my place. You are in an elevator and while you are coming up, I am waiting for you. This is an interstice, an empty space. I work in empty spaces.*

- (i) Read the questions given below. Imagine they were interjections raised by the interviewer based on the above extract. Choose the option that correctly describes the given questions.
- (a) If you are “always doing the same thing”, isn’t your work lacking in originality?
 - (b) Could you elaborate on these larger ethical, philosophical interests that inform your work?
 - (c) All writing happens in empty spaces. In fact, why don’t I tell you all about my experiences?
- (A) (a) is not relevant; (b) is appropriate; and (c) is unnecessary
 (B) (a) is appropriate; (b) is repetitive; and (c) is useful information
 (C) (a) is inappropriate; (b) is relevant; and (c) is not relevant
 (D) (a) is unnecessary; (b) is intrusive; and (c) is extrapolatory
- (ii) Based on your reading of Part II of ‘The Interview’, which one of the following may not be an appropriate title to the above extract?
- (A) The Empty Spaces of Umberto Eco
 (B) Big Expose: Eco’s Secret Revealed!
 (C) “I am always doing the same thing”: Eco’s Echoes
 (D) Umberto Eco, Mr. Prolifics!
- (iii) “I work in empty spaces”. Choose the option that most accurately captures Eco’s idea of empty spaces.
- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| (1) Management of time | (2) Organisation of space |
| (3) Philosophical inclination | (4) Command of thought |
| (A) Option (1) and (2) | (B) Option (3) and (4) |
| (C) Option (1) and (3) | (D) Option (2) and (4) |
- (iv) Umberto Eco states that ‘empty spaces’ actually fill spaces, and without them the universe would be the size of the human fist. He also goes on to say that it is an interstice such as waiting, which the dictionary defines as a time for pause, that actually works. That is, passive waiting is essentially active writing time. Choose the literary device that describes what Eco does with the concepts of ‘empty spaces’ and ‘waiting’.
- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| (A) Juxtaposition | (B) Irony |
| (C) Oxymoron | (D) Symbolism |
- (v) Which period of history do Umberto’s novel deal with?
- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| (A) Renaissance | (B) Dark age |
| (C) Modern era | (D) Medieval period |
- (vi) Why did Umberto Eco start writing novels?

10. Answer any five of the following in about 30-40 words each. (5x2=10)

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (i) The peasants were themselves the most crucial agents in the success of the Champaran civil disobedience. Expand. | (2) |
| (ii) What was the content of the letter written by the peddler to Edla? | (2) |
| (iii) Douglas’s mother (ironically) thought that the Y.M.C.A. pool was safe for learning to swim. What are your views? | (2) |
| (iv) How are Saheb and Mukesh different from each other? | (2) |
| (v) ‘What knitting was to Aunt Jennifer; poetry was for Adrienne Rich’. Do you agree? Comment with reference to the poem ‘Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers’. | (2) |
| (vi) What does the poet’s smile in the poem ‘My Mother at Sixty-Six’ show? | (2) |

11. Answer any two of the following in about 30-40 words each. (2x2=4)
- (i) For the narrator, spending two weeks in Antarctica is a challenge not for the body but also for the mind. Elaborate. (2)
 - (ii) How do we know that the Tiger King was not wise? (2)
 - (iii) Why does Charley say, he (Sam) certainly can't back to his old business? (2)

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words. (1x5=5)
- A. How would you compare the peddler's actions in relation to the crofter and Edla? Would you say kindness doesn't always beget kindness, and that the conditions for receiving kindness are important for it to truly transform people? Elaborate. Provide relevant textual details to support the analysis.

OR

- B. Why is the Champaran episode considered to be the beginning of the Indian struggle for Independence?

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words. (1x5=5)
- A. Apparent illogically sometimes turns out to be a futuristic projection. Discuss with reference to 'The Third Level'.

OR

- B. Imagine that Yumi, the cook and the gardener meet each other after leaving their job at Dr. Sadao's house. Imagine a conversation between the three. Create their exchange with reference to the chapter, 'The Enemy'.