



ANANDALAYA
PERIODIC TEST-1
Class : XI

Subject : English Core (301)
Date : 17-07-2025

M.M : 40
Time : 1 Hr. 30 Min.

General Instructions:

1. The Question Paper contains four sections.
2. Section A-Reading Section has a passage for comprehension.
3. Section B-Grammar Section has two questions. Read the instructions carefully.
4. Section C-Writing Section has two questions. Adhere to the word limit as given in the instructions with each question.
5. Section D-Literature Section has three questions. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION-A

Reading Section (7 Marks)

1. Read the passage given below.

(7)

In recent years, scientists have begun to appreciate the vast and mysterious ecosystem lying just beneath our feet—the soil biome. Though it may appear inert, the soil teems with life, hosting billions of organisms in a single handful. These organisms, ranging from bacteria and fungi to tiny arthropods and nematodes, are responsible for breaking down organic matter, recycling nutrients, and even helping regulate the Earth's climate.

Soil microbes play a critical role in carbon sequestration, the process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide. As plants undergo photosynthesis, they absorb carbon dioxide from the air. Some of this carbon is transferred to the soil through plant roots, where it is consumed by microbes and converted into stable organic matter. This process helps to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Unfortunately, modern agricultural practices, including the excessive use of chemical fertilizers and heavy machinery, have disrupted the delicate balance of the soil ecosystem. These practices often lead to soil compaction, loss of microbial diversity, and degradation of soil structure. In turn, this impairs the soil's ability to retain water, support plant life, and store carbon effectively.

In contrast, regenerative farming techniques like crop rotation, reduced tillage, and the use of cover crops aim to restore soil health. These practices encourage biodiversity, improve soil structure, and enhance resilience to droughts and floods. Around the world, farmers and scientists alike are collaborating to explore innovative ways of farming that prioritize both productivity and sustainability.

Understanding and preserving the soil biome is no longer an option—it is a necessity. As climate change continues to challenge food security and environmental stability, the hidden world beneath our feet may hold the key to a more sustainable future.

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

- (i) What is the main function of soil microbes mentioned in the passage? (1)
(A) Filtering rainwater (B) Absorbing sunlight
(C) Preventing erosion (D) Breaking down organic matter and recycling nutrients
- (ii) What is meant by “carbon sequestration” in the context of the passage? (1)
(A) Planting trees to reduce carbon dioxide (B) Trapping carbon dioxide in icebergs
(D) Using machines to filter air (C) Capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide
- (iii) According to the passage, what is a negative impact of modern agricultural practices? (1)
(A) Increased food production (B) Enhanced soil biodiversity
(C) Improved carbon storage (D) Soil compaction and microbial loss
- (iv) Which of the following is *not* listed as a regenerative farming technique? (1)
(A) Crop rotation (B) Use of cover crops
(C) Heavy tillage (D) Reduced tillage
- (v) How does soil degradation affect the environment? (1)
(A) It reduces carbon storage (B) It improves plant growth
(C) It boosts water retention (D) It encourages biodiversity
- (vi) What does the author suggest is key to a sustainable future? (1)
(A) Growing more crops (B) Preserving the soil biome
(C) Using chemical fertilizers (D) Increasing mechanization
- (vii) Explain how plants and soil microbes work together in the process of carbon sequestration. (1)

SECTION-B

Grammar Section (7 Marks)

2. Complete the following passage by filling in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs, (3x1=3) appropriate voice, and suitable prepositions.
Last evening, a cultural programme (i) _____ (organize + preposition) the students of Class 11. The auditorium (ii) _____ (decorate) beautifully, and the chief guest arrived exactly on time. The event started with a speech (iii) _____ (deliver + preposition) the Head Boy, followed by a series of performances.
3. Do as directed. (4x1=4)
- (i) Change the following sentence into past perfect tense:
She finishes her homework before dinner.
- (ii) Rewrite the following sentence in indirect speech:
Ravi said, “I will meet you at the library tomorrow.”
- (iii) Combine the following sentences using a relative clause:
This is the artist. He painted the mural.

- (iv) Rewrite the sentence using the positive degree of comparison:

Mount Everest is the highest peak in the world.

SECTION-C

Writing Skills (8 Marks)

4. You are the principal of *Sunrise Public School*, Surat. Your school requires a Primary Teacher to teach English and EVS. Draft a Classified Advertisement under the heading Situation Vacant in not more than 50 words. Mention qualifications required, experience, and contact details. (3)
5. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below. (120-150 words) (5)
- A. You are Riya/Rahul, a student of Class 11. Your school is celebrating “Wellness Week”. Prepare a speech to be delivered in the morning assembly on the topic: “Managing Stress and Anxiety Among Students.” Talk about causes, effects, and practical tips to handle academic and personal stress.

OR

- B. You are Anaya/Arjun, a student of Class 11 at Anandalaya School. On the occasion of the Class 12 farewell, you have been asked to deliver a speech expressing how students have benefitted from the school. Write a speech highlighting the school’s academic excellence, supportive teachers, co-curricular opportunities, and nurturing environment.

SECTION-D

Literature Section (18 Marks)

6. Read the excerpts given below and answer the questions that follow after each excerpt.

- A. *“The sea holiday
Was her past, mine is her laughter.
Both wry
With the laboured ease of loss.”* (2x1=2)

- (i) What does the phrase “*the sea holiday was her past*” imply?
- (ii) Explain the meaning of “*the laboured ease of loss*”.

- B. “*He was just a teenager when he died. The last heir of a powerful family that had ruled Egypt and its empire for centuries. He was laid to rest, laden with gold, more than 3,300 years ago*” (2x1=2)

- (i) Why is Tut referred to as “the last heir of a powerful family”?
- (A) He had no children to succeed him. (B) He was the only child of his parents.
(C) He was the final ruler of his dynasty. (D) His family was exiled from Egypt.

- (ii) What does the phrase “laden with gold” suggest about the burial customs of Tut’s time?

- C. “*We were poor. We had no money. Our whole tribe was poverty-stricken. Every branch of the Garoghlanian tribe was living in the most amazing and comical poverty in the world. But we were famous for our honesty.*” (2x1=2)

- (i) Which of the following best describes the contrast presented in the extract?
- (A) The tribe was rich yet dishonest.
(B) The tribe was poor yet proud of their strength.
(C) The tribe lived in poverty but was known for its honesty.
(D) The tribe had many horses but no money.

(ii) What literary device is used in the phrase “*the most amazing and comical poverty in the world*”?

7. Answer the following in about 40-50 words each. (2x3=6)

(i) Describe the transformation of the laburnum tree after the arrival of the goldfinch.

(ii) Why did the narrator decide not to visit Mrs. Dorling again in “*The Address*”?

8. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words each. (1x6=6)

A. The author’s grandmother was a symbol of love, discipline, and spiritual strength. What values do you learn from her character in today’s modern world?

OR

B. If the author’s grandmother had lived in today’s digital age, how might her lifestyle and relationship with her grandson have been different?