

# SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER

## BLUE PRINT

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 80

| Typology  | MCQs<br>(1 mark)                     | SA-I<br>(2 marks)                   | SA-II<br>(3 marks)                 | LA<br>(5 marks)                     | Total     |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Reading Skills  | 20                                   | –                                   | –                                  | –                                   | 20        |
| Writing Skills  | –                                    | –                                   | 2                                  | 2                                   | 16        |
| Literary Text Books<br>and Supplementary Reading Text | 20                                   | 7                                   | –                                  | 2                                   | 44        |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b><math>20 \times 1 = 20</math></b> | <b><math>7 \times 2 = 14</math></b> | <b><math>2 \times 3 = 6</math></b> | <b><math>4 \times 5 = 20</math></b> | <b>80</b> |



# ENGLISH CORE

Time allowed : 3 hours

Maximum marks : 80

## General Instructions :

- (i) This paper is divided into two parts: A and B. All questions are compulsory.
- (ii) Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.
- (iii) Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

## PART - A (40 Marks)

### READING (20 Marks)

1. Read the passage given below.

- (1) What amazing news for a new generation of students – Maths to be optional – is the new mantra from government that will potentially revolutionise the lives of students in grade 10 and upwards. I remember never enjoying Maths and to a degree I blame my poor understanding for many of my trials and tribulations at school and college. The horrors of long division and the dread of algebra. However, are we really going to now ‘educate’ innumerate kids or is there enough practical maths given to survive in the world before grade 10?
- (2) I was an above-average kid in school. There used to be a ranking system, where I always competed to be in the top five. To be there, I’ve had many sleepless nights, long hours of tuition and this never-ending struggle with my least favourite subject that used to always obstruct me from being the first name on the blackboard on the open-house day. I tell you though from these trials and tribulations I got my sense of competitiveness with myself and this is where my drive comes from. Nobody told me to take it easy, that’s how our education system works. The world of sin, cos, tan was making me sad, however, there was no solution to escape from it. I struggled on until graduation. However, I am all too aware of the negative impact that this can and is having on children. The prospect of failing through no fault of your own terrifies most adults and can have serious implication for youngsters. The real danger in sticking with the old system I went through is that kids get a sense of being ostracised from their peers and this can impact how they interact with group later. This move by Bombay HC may prove a blessing to so many mathematically challenged students, thanks in part to the psychiatrist who brought it to the court’s attention. Allowing them to drop maths in grade 10 is sensible because of the huge pressure felt by the students, who fail to progress due to this single subject being impossible for them to comprehend. Dropping maths as one of the compulsory subjects for matriculation –an idea that was first introduced in the 1960’s and is clearly now considered not the best way forward for all. The effect will be felt from 2017 but unfortunately as yet there is no system to retrospectively activate it for kids passing through grade 10 from 2015-2017. Will this create a two tier university entrance system or will it be a fairer way of allowing more students to enter subjects such as the arts or languages? It’s hard to say but there’s no doubt that at the root of the decision is student welfare and rights. This can only be a good thing and having passed through until grade ten everyday maths won’t be a problem for most – the problem is that the more academic subject of maths is not attainable for everyone. One option put forward is the study of Sanskrit. This has raised some eyebrows but there is no doubt as time goes on people will settle to



the idea or there will be more elective subjects put forward. This however may look like a different system so much so that rather than a rigid set of 7 or 8 subjects, students will have the choice from a broader range allowing them to choose whatever they want and drop whatever they want.

**On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the eleven given below.** **(1 × 10 = 10)**

- (i) As a move to revolutionise the Class 10<sup>th</sup> and senior students the government:
  - (a) made scoring easy
  - (b) made maths optional
  - (c) changed exam rules
  - (d) none of these
- (ii) What kind of student was the author?
  - (a) Below average
  - (b) Topper
  - (c) Above average
  - (d) Poor
- (iii) What came in the way for the narrator topping the class?
  - (a) Her lack of confidence
  - (b) Her lack of effort
  - (c) Her lack of affinity with the subject maths
  - (d) The teacher being unfair
- (iv) The narrators criticised the old education system because
  - (a) it created unnecessary pressure for kids who were not good in certain subjects
  - (b) it had less syllabus
  - (c) more emphasis was given to attendance
  - (d) it made students too relaxed
- (v) The court made the new ruling in favour of making maths optional subject because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (a) of teacher's complaints
  - (b) of parents' request
  - (c) mathematically challenged students requested
  - (d) of a psychiatrist's request
- (vi) The idea of dropping maths as the compulsory subject for passing matriculation was first discussed in
  - (a) 2015
  - (b) 2016
  - (c) 2017
  - (d) the 1960s
- (vii) "This has raised some eyebrows" meaning
  - (a) the suggestion was accepted happily
  - (b) the suggestion was received with doubts and disapproval
  - (c) the suggestion was totally discarded
  - (d) the suggestion was paid attention to
- (viii) Which of the words describe the narrator's outlook on the new change in compulsory subject?
  - (a) skeptical
  - (b) optimistic
  - (c) pessimistic
  - (d) bitter
- (ix) In the passage the narrator describes struggling with maths till
  - (a) her school days
  - (b) her graduation
  - (c) all her life
  - (d) her post graduation
- (x) "that kids get a sense of being ostracised from their peers" the word ostracised here means
  - (a) being demonised
  - (b) being blackmailed
  - (c) being shunned
  - (d) being pitied
- (xi) Antonym of rigid is
  - (a) demure
  - (b) timid
  - (c) indulgent
  - (d) stern

**2. Read the passage given below.**

- (1) I felt stupid, being made to stand on the desk while the other kids were bent over their notebooks. I couldn't understand my new school or my new classmates, or their alien language – English – and the fact that they could do sums in their head, while I struggled with a paper and pencil. For me, at age six, the good times had ended. Life seemed a far cry from those days in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh, all thanks to my grandfather's reflected glory. He was a military doctor, a great man, and I lived with him. And so even policemen gave me affectionate salaams, which I learned to acknowledge with a nod, I'd simply lay my head down on the desk and sleep in class, if bored. I was a pampered little prince.



- (2) In early 1971, my parents decided it was time I moved to Bombay where father worked. My first few days were a disaster. No one spoke Tamil or Telugu, the only languages I knew. I couldn't keep pace with their writing or reading. Then one day, a slight plump lady with large spectacles, wearing trousers walked into the classroom. "Hello," she said, "My name is Miss Jean. I am your new class teacher." She'd done her homework. Spotting me in a back corner, she beckoned me to the front. My almost empty notebooks must have given Miss Jean a clue that I needed the extra attention. If the class had to write a page, I'd be made to write two. Even during PT, I had to stay back and write. When I was caught sneaking to the window to watch the others playing, Miss Jean put me in the middle row, far from the window.
- (3) I made some progress and Miss Jean made it a point to praise every little achievement. If I did my work wrong, she'd call me to her desk, hug me and show me how to correct my errors. Mistakes were only human in her eyes, but neglecting home work was a crime-there'd be a terse comment in my diary for mother to see. And I'd be grounded that evening. Meanwhile I was getting possessive and minded if another child got more hugs. By Christmas, I stood fifth in class. "I am very proud of Srikant," she told the class after reading out the marks. I narrated that moment to mother again and again. When I returned after summer vacations, I heard that Miss Jean had got married and was going to Australia.
- (4) Many years went by. I graduated in engineering, then in management, got a job, married and had kids. One day I found myself thinking of Miss Jean. Soon afterwards I found myself in Sydney, Australia, on an official trip. I tried looking up for my teacher in the phone book. But it was of no help as I did not know even her surname. Thank you, Miss Jean wherever you are for the tact and patience with which you taught me.

**On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the eleven that follow.** **(1 × 10 = 10)**

- (i) "I felt stupid, being made to stand on the desk" Here the narrator is :  
 (a) being punished in class (b) copying from his classmate  
 (c) standing on the desk for fun (d) being bullied by his classmate
- (ii) The narrator felt inferior to his classmates because  
 (a) they all wore pretty clothes (b) they could do sums in their head  
 (c) they were better singers (d) they made fun of the narrator
- (iii) The narrator's grandfather's occupation was :  
 (a) Doctor (b) Military doctor (c) Military officer (d) None of these
- (iv) Which line indicates the that the narrator's grandfather was a respected man of the society?  
 (a) I was a pampered little prince. (b) A great man, and I lived with him.  
 (c) Even policemen gave me affectionate salaams. (d) I'd simply lay my head down on the desk.
- (v) The narrators describes the first few days in Mumbai a disaster because  
 (a) the narrator didn't like the food  
 (b) the narrator knew no one  
 (c) the narrator couldn't communicate with anyone due to language barrier  
 (d) the narrator couldn't stand the weather
- (vi) What did Miss Jean do when she caught the narrator sneaking out of the window?  
 (a) Miss Jean gave him twice the amount of homework.  
 (b) Miss Jean shifted him to the middle row away from the windows.  
 (c) Miss Jean complained to his parents.  
 (d) Miss Jean gave him a hug.
- (vii) "Meanwhile I was getting possessive and minded if another child got more hugs" Which words given below can be replaced for "possessive and minded"?  
 (a) Jealous and bothered (b) Jealous and insecure  
 (c) Jealous and unsure (d) Jealous and angered



(viii) Pick some of the attributes that fit Miss Jean.

- |             |             |              |                |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1. Helpful  | 2. Harsh    | 3. Observant | 4. Dogmatic    |
| 5. Lenient  |             |              |                |
| (a) 1 and 2 | (b) 2 and 4 | (c) 4 and 5  | (d) 1, 3 and 5 |

(ix) The word that the narrator feels for Miss Jean is

- |                |               |               |           |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|
| (a) resentment | (b) annoyance | (c) gratitude | (d) guilt |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|

(x) Synonym of pampered is

- |           |               |               |               |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| (a) spoil | (b) pressured | (c) cherished | (d) respected |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|

(xi) Antonym for tact is

- |                  |                   |            |          |
|------------------|-------------------|------------|----------|
| (a) indiscretion | (b) consideration | (c) impact | (d) deft |
|------------------|-------------------|------------|----------|

### LITERATURE (20 Marks)

3. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY TWO of the three given by answering the questions that follow. (4 + 4 = 8)

A. All at once the church clock struck twelve. Then the Angelus. At the same moment the trumpets of the Prussians, returning from drill, sounded under our windows. M Hamel stood up, very pale, in his chair. I never saw him look so tall. "My friends", said he, "I—I—" But something choked him. He could not go on.

(i) What followed right after the church clock striking twelve?

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| (a) uproar from the class | (b) sound of drill   |
| (c) the Angelas           | (d) M Hamel's speech |

(ii) What did Franz listen under their windows ?

- |   |
|---|
| (a) The trumpets of the Prussians, returning from the drill |
| (b) Crowd in protest  |
| (c) People shouting   |
| (d) The Angelas   |

(iii) 'I never saw him look so tall'. What does this mean ?

- |  |
|--|
| (a) Franz finding the teacher intimidating                               |
| (b) Franz' new found respect for the teacher making him raise in stature |
| (c) Franz pitying the teacher  |
| (d) None of these  |

(iv) Which word/words say M Hamel got emotional?

- |                |                          |                  |              |
|----------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| (a) My friends | (b) Something choked him | (c) Look so tall | (d) Stood up |
|----------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------|

B. After that, Christmas Eve at Ramsjo passed just as it always had. The stranger did not cause any trouble because he did nothing but sleep. The whole forenoon he lay on the sofa in one of the guest rooms and slept at one stretch. At noon they woke him up so that he could have his share of the good Christmas fare, but after that he slept again. It seemed as though for many years he had not been able to sleep as quietly and safely as here at Ramsjo.

(i) Why did the stranger not cause any trouble ?

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| (a) He did nothing but sleep the whole day. | (b) He ate their food.             |
| (c) He was scared of the hosts.             | (d) He wanted to escape the place. |

(ii) Where was he sleeping continuously ?

- |                       |                                   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (a) In bed            | (b) On the sofa in the guest room |
| (c) Outside the house | (d) On the floor                  |



- (iii) What happened at noon ?
- They asked him to leave.
  - They gave him his birthday present.
  - They woke him up so that he could have his share of the good Christmas fare.
  - They made him clean the house.
- (iv) Which word/s implies the guest was feeling comfortable at Ramsjo?
- The stranger did not cause any trouble.
  - At noon they woke him up.
  - He slept again.
  - He had not been able to sleep as quietly and safely as here.
- C. "Then the wizard hit her on the head and did not change that little skunk back." "No," he said. "The wizard said 'O.K.' and Roger Skunk did not smell of roses any more. He smelled very bad again." "But the other little amum — oh! — amum —" "Joanne. It's Daddy's story. Shall Daddy not tell you any more stories?" Her broad face looked at him through sifted light, astounded.
- (i) Who did the wizard hit?
- Joanne
  - Wizard's son
  - Roger Skunk
  - No one
- (ii) What happened after the wizard hit Roger Skunk?
- He smelled like roses again.
  - He smelled bad again.
  - He turned into something else.
  - Roger skunk lost his friends.
- (iii) Why did the father said "it's daddy's story"?
- Because Joanne did not like the ending and protested
  - Because Joanne wanted him to stop the story
  - because Joanne was ignoring her father
  - Because the father did not care about Joanne
- (iv) Which word means surprised?
- Sifted
  - Smell
  - Broad
  - Astounded
4. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE of the two given by answering the questions that follow. (1 × 4 = 4)
- A. On their slag heap, these children  
Wear skins peeped through by bones and spectacles of steel  
With mended glass, like bottle bits on stones.  
All of their time and space are foggy slum.  
So blot their maps with slums as big as doom.
- (i) How was the physical condition of the children?
- Thin and weak
  - Fat and strong
  - Plump and happy
  - Slim and fit
- (ii) What kind of spectacles they wear?
- New trendy spectacles
  - Steel spectacle with mended glass
  - Steel spectacles with beautiful designs
  - Sturdy spectacles with new glasses
- (iii) Why does the poet mean by the 4<sup>th</sup> line?
- The poet is saying their maps are only filled with slums.
  - The poet is saying these children and their future are trapped in slums.
  - The poet is saying these children live in foggy cold areas.
  - The poet is saying these children like maps of foggy areas.



- (iv) Which word means fixed?  
(a) Mended (b) Doom (c) Blot (d) Peeped

OR

B. Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,  
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.  
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;  
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.

- (i) Why are the tigers called 'Aunt Jennifer's tigers'?  
(a) Because they are her creation. She has knitted (embroidered) the tigers on a screen.  
(b) Because she imagined them.  
(c) The poet imagined it hers.  
(d) Because the tiger was loyal to her.
- (ii) What does the phrase, 'a world of green' mean?  
(a) The green color of threads used in the embroidery  
(b) The green forest/freedom to which the tigers belong.  
(c) World of jealous people  
(d) World of fake tigers
- (iii) How are the tigers different from their creator?  
(a) The tigers are more beautiful than the creator.  
(b) The tigers are not alive.  
(c) The tigers are brave, chivalric, confident and strong unlike their creator who is weak and oppressed.  
(d) The tigers are yellow in color.

- (iv) Synonym of sleek is  
(a) Anger (b) Meek (c) Smooth (d) Bleak

5. Attempt any eight questions of following from the ten given below. (1 × 8 = 8)

- (i) Derry's attitude towards people and life in general is :  
(a) optimistic (b) pessimistic (c) realistic (d) sentimental
- (ii) Douglas went to YMCA pool for learning how to swim instead of  
(a) California beach (b) Yakima river (c) Lake Wentworth (d) Marine Lakes
- (iii) Evans disguised as \_\_\_\_\_ to escape from the prison.  
(a) the guard (b) Jackson (c) Governor (d) McLeery
- (iv) Which poem deals with the mortality and aging?  
(a) Aunt Jennifer's Tigers (b) My Mother at Sixty six  
(c) A Thing of beauty (d) Keeping Quiet
- (v) The initial quote for refund by placed by Gandhi against the British Landlord was  
(a) 25% (b) 50% (c) 30% (d) 60%
- (vi) In the story of the Rattrap the virtues Elda exhibited are:  
(a) compassion and acceptance (b) humility and shyness  
(c) sturdiness and passion (d) faith and desire
- (vii) "All we have to fear is fear itself." the lines were said by  
(a) Gandhi (b) Charley (c) Douglas (d) Roosevelt
- (viii) Which of the things did John Keats not mention in his poem A Thing of Beauty?  
(a) Daffodils (b) Musk roses (c) Sheep (d) Tiger





- (ix) Who worked at a tea stall?  
 (a) Mukesh (b) Saheb (c) Charley (d) Evans
- (x) The Governor falling for Evans and his elaborate plan makes him a \_\_\_\_\_ person.  
 (a) Shrewd (b) Caring (c) Gullible (d) Skeptical

## PART - B (40 Marks)

### WRITING (16 Marks)

6. Attempt any one of the following : (1 × 3 = 3)

A. You are Rk Sharma writing an advertisement for the newspaper to rent your apartment in Dwarka. Give necessary details.

OR

B. You are Emmy, the president of cooking club. Your school is organising a cooking event for making tacos. Write a notice asking people to join the event with the necessary details.

7. Attempt any one of the following : (1 × 3 = 3)

A. You are English teacher of St. George High School. Draft an invitation to the author, Ms. Karuna K. requesting her to conduct a workshop on creative writing in your school.

OR

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

8. Attempt any one of the following : (1 × 5 = 5)

A. You are Rekha Chauhan of Village Jhalawar in Barmer district of Rajasthan which is in the grip of a severe drought leading to deaths of men and animals due to non-availability of water, food or fodder. Write a letter to the Editor of the Rajasthan Times, Jaipur complaining against administrative apathy and suggesting remedial/relief measures.

OR

B. You are Keith who recently ordered 8 books from Book.Mart.com an online book shop, You haven't received your order. Write a letter enquiring the about your delivery, your order id is SGN99833P.

9. Attempt any one of the following : (1 × 5 = 5)

A. You are Mansi / Manav of St. George Sr. Secondary School, Nainital. Your school has recently organised a Blood Donation Camp on Gandhi Jayanti. Now write a report as an editor for your school magazine on this widely acclaimed activity.

OR

B. Write an article about the drinking problem that plague our society.

### LITERATURE (24 Marks)

10. Attempt ANY FIVE out of the six questions given below, in 30-40 words each. (2 × 5 = 10)

- What is referred to as gold, which the people of Seemapuri so eagerly looked for in the garbage?
- Was Shukla successful in persuading Gandhiji to visit Champaran? How?
- Why was Edla happy to see the gift left by the peddler?
- Whom does the poet appeal to change the life of the children for better in An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum?
- For Franz, what was much more tempting than going to school and why?
- Douglas says "The instructor was finished. But I was not finished." Why?



11. Attempt ANY TWO out of the three questions given below in 30-40 words each. (2 × 2 = 4)
- (i) Why was Dr Sadao impatient and irritable with the wounded American soldier?
  - (ii) What would Stephens see whenever he peeped from the peephole?
  - (iii) Why did Charley run away from the third level?
12. Answer any one of the following questions in about 120-150 words. (1 × 5 = 5)
- A. What values does one learn from 'Deep Water'? How is it relevant in one's daily life?

OR

- B. While giving his last lesson, how was M. Hamel a different teacher than what he used to be?
13. Attempt ANY ONE out of the following questions in 120-150 words (1 × 5 = 5)
- A. What are some of the values we can inculcate from Dr. Sadao? Base your answer on your understanding of story 'The Enemy'.

OR

- B. Reflecting on the story 'Evans Tries an O-Level', what do you feel about Evans having the last laugh at the prison authority and the other officials?

