

Class XI Session 2025-26

Subject - English Core

Sample Question Paper - 7

Time Allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them :

1. This question paper has 15 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. This question paper contains three sections -
Section A : Reading Skills,
Section B : Grammar and Creative Writing Skills
Section C : Literature.
3. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
4. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
5. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A : READING SKILLS (26 marks)

1. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

[10]

Read the passage given below.

1. Very often, we do not take the first step towards a good cause because we say to ourselves, "The task is so big. What can I do alone?" So nothing gets done. There is much talk about environmental protection, air pollution and saving our forests. Do we really care? If we do, here are a few things we can do to make our surroundings more pleasant.
2. It is good to adopt a two-uses-attitude! By putting an article to a second use, we are giving it a longer lease of life and using up less raw material from nature. One of the worst things we do is the abuse of paper. The clean sides of envelopes can be used to write small notes, lists and reminders around the house. The more paper we use, the more trees will have to be cut down. For the same reason, we should avoid the use of paper napkins or paper plates. Cloth napkins are just as good, for they can be washed and used over and over again.
3. The one area which needs the most urgent attention is effective garbage disposal. People who are conscious about it follow rules and laws strictly. As a result, their neighbourhoods are clean and beautiful. A lot of people don't care about the environment because they don't understand the adverse effect that society has on it. It is important to convince people to care about the environment. The first step would be to convince people to change by providing simple alternative solutions and ways of doing things. The Internet is a powerful tool and a group of like-minded people can be formed on social media. People can share environmental stories and issues as well as pool in solutions and alternatives to educate one another. With



the current state that our planet is in, it is imperative that people actively care about the environment and most importantly, act now.

4. Similarly, each one of us can contribute to a cleaner environment. All kitchen waste should be collected separately. Those who have green fingers can turn this into valuable manure. Dig a pit and put the kitchen waste into it. When the pit is a little over half full, cover it up with mud. Let nature do the rest. Within three or six months, we will have a good garden manure. It can also be done as a community project by digging a large pit in the colony. Do take help of all the members, for nothing succeeds like co-operation.

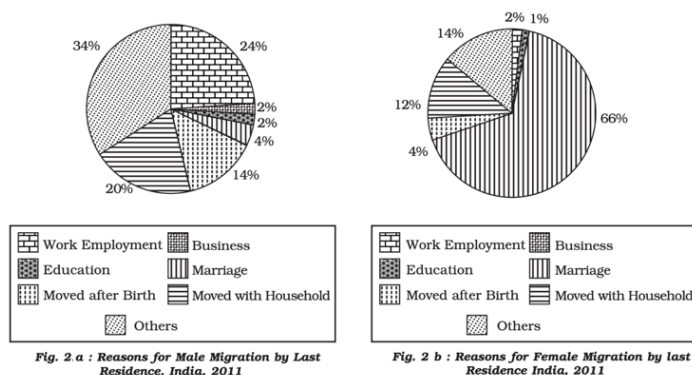
- Why don't we take the first step towards a good cause?
- What is a two-uses-attitude?
- What can we do to avoid the abuse of paper? (Any two points)
- What is the result of an effective way of garbage disposal?
- How can the Internet be a powerful tool in spreading environmental awareness?
- How can the making of garden manure be done as a community project?
- How long does it take to make good garden manure?
- Select a suitable word from the passage which means - something in a bad and undesirable way. (Para 2)
- Pick out the word from the passage which means completely necessary. (Para 3)
- Select a suitable word from the passage which means - being concerned or interested.

2. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

[8]

1. People, generally are emotionally attached to their place of birth. But millions of people leave their places of birth and residence. There could be variety of reasons. These reasons can be put into two broad categories : (i) push factor, these cause people to leave their place of residence or origin; and (ii) pull factors, which attract the people from different places. In India people migrate from rural to urban areas mainly due to poverty, high population pressure on the land, lack of basic infrastructural facilities like health care, education, etc. Apart from these factors, natural disasters such as, flood, drought, cyclonic storms, earthquake, tsunami, wars and local conflicts also give extra push to migrate. On the other hand, there are pull factors which attract people from rural areas to cities. The most important pull factor for majority of the rural migrants to urban areas is the better opportunities, availability of regular work and relatively higher wages. Better opportunities for education, better health facilities and sources of entertainment, etc., are also quite important pull factors.

2. Examine the reasons for migration for males and females separately in the figure below.



On the basis of the figures, it can be seen that the reasons for the migration of males and females are different. For example, work and employment have remained the main cause for male migration (26 percent) while it is only 2.3 percent for the females. Contrary to this, about 67 percent of females move out from their parental houses following their marriage. This is the most important cause in the rural areas of India except in Meghalaya where the reverse is the case. This is because Meghalaya is a female-dominated state. The Khasi and Jaintia



tribes do not follow the patriarchal system of society but they follow the matrilineal system of society. In comparison to these marriage migrations of the male, is only 4 percent in the country.

3. Migration is a response to the uneven distribution of opportunities over space. People tend to move from place of low opportunity and low safety to the place of higher opportunity and better safety. This, in turn, creates both benefits and problems for the areas, people migrate from and migrate to. Consequences can be observed in economic, social, cultural, political and demographic terms.

- (a) Infer one reason for the following, based on information in paragraph 1.

People in India mainly move from rural to urban areas.

- (b) Select the appropriate option to fill in the blanks.

In Paragraph 2, we can infer that male migration is still primarily driven by _____, whereas after _____, females leave their parent's homes.

(1) employment (2) business, (3) education (4) marriage

a. 1 and 4

b. 2 and 3

c. 4 and 1

d. 1 and 3

- (c) Complete the following analogy correctly with a word/ phrase from paragraph 1:

Pull factor: Better wages :: Push factor: _____

(Clue: Just like better wages is the pull factor of migration, similarly _____ is the push factor of migration)

a. Better opportunities

b. Natural disaster

c. Regular work

d. Higher education

- (d) Select the correct option to complete the following sentence:

People frequently relocate _____,

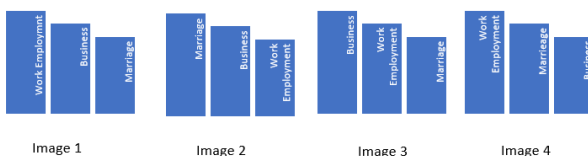
a. from developed and better safety areas to less developed and low safety areas.

b. from greater opportunity and better safety areas to poor opportunity and low safety areas.

c. from sophisticated and greater opportunity areas to less advanced and lower opportunity areas.

d. from poor opportunity and low safety areas to greater opportunity and better safety areas.

- (e) Based on the passage, choose the option that correctly demonstrates the reasons for male migration:



a. Image 1

b. Image 3

c. Image 4

d. Image 2

- (f) Fill in the blank by selecting the correct option.

The _____ across space causes migration.

a. equal distribution of opportunities

- b. uneven distribution of payment
- c. unequal distribution of opportunities
- d. even distribution of land

(g) Substitute the word 'important' with ONE WORD similar in meaning, in the following, sentence from paragraph 1:
Better opportunities for education, better health facilities and sources of entertainment, etc., are also quite important pull factors.

(h) Mention the two main categories of causes of migration.

3. **Read the following passage carefully:**

[8]

The most alarming of man's assaults upon the environment is the contamination of air, earth, rivers, and sea with lethal materials. This pollution is for the most part irrevocable; the chain of evil it initiates is for the most part irreversible. In this contamination of the environment, chemicals are the sinister partners of radiation in changing the very nature of the world; radiation released through nuclear explosions into the air, comes to the earth in rain, lodges into the soil, enters the grass or corn, or wheat is grown there and reaches the bones of a human being, there to remain until his death. Similarly, chemicals sprayed on crops lie long in the soil, entering living organisms, passing from one to another in a chain of poisoning and death. Or they pass by underground streams until they emerge and combine into new forms that kill vegetation, sicken cattle, and harm those who drink from once pure wells.

Although environmental pollution can be caused by natural events such as forest fires and active volcanoes, use of the word pollution generally implies that the contaminants have an anthropogenic source-that is, a source created by human activities. Pollution has accompanied humankind ever since groups of people first congregated and remained for a long time in any one place. Indeed, ancient human settlements are frequently recognized by their wastes-shell mounds and rubble heaps, for instance. Pollution was not a serious problem as long as there was enough space available for each individual or group. However, with the establishment of permanent settlements by great numbers of people, pollution became a problem, and it has remained one ever since. Cities of ancient times were often noxious places, fouled by human wastes and debris. Beginning about 1000 CE, the use of coal for fuel caused considerable air pollution, and the conversion of coal to coke for iron smelting beginning in the 17th century exacerbated the problem. In Europe, from the Middle Ages well into the early modern era, unsanitary urban conditions favoured the outbreak of population-decimating epidemics of disease, from plague to cholera and typhoid fever. Through the 19th century, water and air pollution and the accumulation of solid wastes were largely problems of congested urban areas. However, with the rapid spread of industrialization and the growth of the human population to unprecedented levels, pollution became a universal problem.

By the middle of the 20th century, an awareness of the need to protect air, water and land environments from pollution had developed among the general public.

It took hundreds of millions of years to produce the life that now inhabits the earth and reached a stage of adjustment and balance with its surroundings. The environment contained elements that were hostile as well as supporting. Even within the light of the sun, there were shortwave radiations with the power to injure. Given time, life has adjusted and a balance reached. For time is the essential ingredient, but in the modern world is no time.

The rapidity of change and the speed with which new situations are created follow the heedless pace of man rather than the deliberate pace of nature. Radiation is no longer the bombardment of cosmic rays; it is now the



unnatural creation of man's tampering with the atom. The chemicals to which life is asked to make adjustments are no longer merely calcium and silica and copper and all the rest of the minerals washed out of the rocks and carried in the rivers to the sea; they are the synthetic creations of man's inventive mind, brewed in his laboratories, and having no counterparts in nature.

Research indicates that living in areas of high pollution has serious long term health effects. Living in these areas during childhood and adolescence can lead to diminished mental capacity and an increased risk of brain damage. People of all ages who live in high pollution areas for extended periods place themselves at increased risk of various neurological disorders. Both air pollution and heavy metal pollution have been implicated as having negative effects on central nervous system (CNS) functionality. Pollution can also be the consequence of a natural disaster. For example, hurricanes often involve water contamination from sewage and petrochemical spills from ruptured boats or automobiles. Larger scale and environmental damage are not uncommon when coastal oil rigs or refineries are involved. Some sources of pollution, such as nuclear power plants or oil tankers, can produce widespread and potentially hazardous releases when accidents occur. Adverse air quality can kill many organisms including humans. Ozone pollution can cause respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease, throat inflammation, chest pain, and congestion. Water pollution causes approximately 14,000 deaths per day, mostly due to contamination of drinking water by untreated sewage in developing countries. Oil spills can cause skin irritations and rashes. Noise pollution induces hearing loss, high blood pressure, stress, and sleep disturbance.

1. On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary-minimum four) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it.
2. Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words.

Section B : Grammar (7 Marks)

4. **Answer any SEVEN of the following questions:** [7]
 - (a) Have you _____ (see) the baby? (Fill tense correctly) [1]
 - (b) They _____ (watch) a movie right now. (Fill tense correctly) [1]
 - (c) _____ you learn will help you in the future. (whichever/Whatever/whoever/whenever) [1]
 - (d) Mary had a little lamb _____ fleece was white as snow. (where/when/whose/which) [1]
 - (e) He ate an apple and drank a glass of milk. (use not only ... but also) [1]
 - (f) No other poet is as great as Kalidas. (use superlative degree) [1]
 - (g) they/old/locked/house/the (reorder correctly) [1]
 - (h) fairly/has/me/always/he/treated. (reorder correctly) [1]

Section - B Creative Writing Skills (16 Marks)

5. You are Mohan/Mohini, General Manager of PK Industries, Hyderabad. You need an Accountant for your company. Draft in not more than 50 words an advertisement to be published in 'The Hindu' in classified columns. [3]

OR

You are the Managing Director of Varun Enterprises, a leading garments export house. You need accountants for your Meerut office. Write an advertisement for the Situation Vacant column of a local daily.

6. As the Manager of 'Excellent Coaching Centre' run by you, prepare a poster calling the attention of students desirous of attending IIT, CPMT coaching to join your coaching centre. [3]

OR

Design a poster in not more than 50 words for your school library on the value of "books and good reading habits".



You may use slogans.

7. Today's children are not yet aware of many opportunities awaiting them after they complete their school education. As an academic counsellor give a talk to the students of St Antony's School on the need for career guidance and how knowledge of the available careers can benefit the youth. Write the speech in 150-200 words. [5]

OR

You are Saurabh/Savita, a student of Pinewood School, Shimla. Your school is celebrating **Save Electricity Week**. You have been asked to deliver a speech in the school assembly. Write the speech in 150 – 200 words stressing the importance of saving electricity, making some practical suggestions for the same.

8. "A career counsellor (not you yourself) is the best person to guide you in the choice of a career." Write a debate in 150 - 200 words either for or against the motion. [5]

OR

A number of your classmates (especially those from science and commerce streams) bunk their classes in order to attend coaching centres. Write a debate in 150-200 words on 'Tuition at coaching centres is not essential'.

- School teachers better equipped
- Philanthropic approach
- No infrastructure
- Schools should reorient their teaching process
- Infrastructure much better at schools
- Coaching centres—money minting machines
- Competition oriented education

Section C : Literature (31 Marks)

9. **Read the text carefully and answer the questions:** [3]

When did my childhood go?

Was it the time I realised that adults were not

all they seemed to be,

They talked of love and preached of love,

But did not act so lovingly,

Was that the day!

- (a) According to the given extract, which quality appropriately describes adults?

a) Loving

b) Hypocrites

c) Jealous

d) Religious

- (b) What is the particular quality associated with adults?

a) They do not act lovingly

b) They are liars

c) They say something and do another thing

d) They do not care for others

- (c) The significance of the given extract is that it highlights

a) the true nature of adults

b) the contrast between adulthood and innocence

c) the innocence inherent in children

d) how adulthood changes people

OR

Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

[3]

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 can be associated with **cardboard**?
a) Photo album
b) Both photo frame and album
c) Photo frame
d) Photo printout
- (b) What does the word paddling mean in the given context?
a) Paddleboarding
b) Walking
c) Boat paddling and Paddleboarding
d) Boat paddling
- (c) From the given lines, what could the possible position of the mother as clicked in the photograph?
a) Extreme Left
b) Left
c) Right
d) Middle

10. **Read the text carefully and answer the questions:**

[3]

The world's most famous mummy glided head first into a CT scanner brought here to probe the lingering medical mysteries of this little understood young ruler who died more than 3,300 years ago. All afternoon the usual line of tourists from around the world had descended into the cramped, rock-cut tomb some 26 feet underground to pay their respects.

- (a) Which part of the mummy was first put into the CT scanner?
- a) chest
b) legs
c) hand
d) head
- (b) Which word as used in the extract mean **to investigate**?
- a) understood
b) descended
c) probe
d) lingering
- (c) The tomb was constructed in
- a) gold
b) rock
c) earth
d) wood

OR

Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

[3]

The first indication of impending disaster came at about 6 p.m., with an ominous silence. The wind dropped, and the sky immediately grew dark. Then came a growling roar, and an enormous cloud towered aft of the ship. With horror, I realised that it was not a cloud, but a wave like no other I had ever seen. It appeared perfectly vertical and almost twice the height of the other waves, with a frightful breaking crest.

- (a) Which word in the extract mean **forthcoming**?
- a) impending
b) roaring
c) ominous
d) growing
- (b) What is **the wind dropped**?

- a) speed of wind greatly reduced
 - b) wind fell down
 - c) wind slipped out the hands of author
 - d) wind started coming from below the ship
- (c) Why the sky had become dark?
- a) night was approaching
 - b) a wave was approaching ship
 - c) lights of the ship were switched off
 - d) a cloud was approaching ship

11. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

[4]

- (a) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

[4]

MRS PEARSON: [smiling] Seeing that you don't want to go out, I tell you what I thought we'd do.

MRS FITZGERALD: [giving a final warning] Remember!

MRS PEARSON: [nodding, then looking sharply at the family] No objections, I hope?

GEORGE: [humbly] No, Mother -whatever you say...

MRS PEARSON: [smiling] I thought we'd have a nice family game of rummy -and then you children could get the supper ready while I have a talk with your father...

GEORGE: [firmly] Suits me. [He looks challengingly at the children.] What about you two?

CYRIL: [hastily] Yes - that's all right.

DORIS: [hesitating] Well -I...

MRS PEARSON: [sharply] What? Speak up!

DORIS: [hastily] Oh -I think it would be lovely...

- i. How does humour play a significant role in dealing with a genuine issue in this play?
- ii. Why does Mrs. Fitzgerald say "remember" in the extract provided? This is so, because _____.
 - a. She does not want Annie not to be soft on her family.
 - b. She reminds Mrs Pearson about her instructions to be a little strict.
 - c. She reminds her of Annie's promise of inviting her to the game.
 - d. She wants Mrs Pearson not to forget to ask for her Christmas gift.
- iii. We can conclude that the play ends on a happy note because _____.
- iv. Is Mrs Pearson in the given extract the real one? Explain how the contrasting feature of Mrs. Fitzgerald helps Mrs Pearson to teach her family a lesson.

- (b) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

[4]

At the corner of the road I looked up at the name-plate. Marconi Street, it said. I had been at Number 46. The address was correct. But now I didn't want to remember it any more. I wouldn't go back there because the objects that are linked in your memory with the familiar life of former times instantly lose their value when, severed from them, you see them again in strange surroundings.

- i. Complete the sentence appropriately.
The line, "the objects that are linked in your memory with the familiar life of former times instantly lose their value when, severed from them, you see them again in strange surroundings," reflects _____.
- ii. What was the narrator's tone in the given extract?
- iii. Why does the narrator not want to go back to Number 46 on Marconi Street?
 - a. The address was incorrect.
 - b. The narrator disliked Marconi Street.



c. The narrator no longer values the objects associated with her former life.

d. The narrator was lost and could not find her way back.

iv. "But now I didn't want to remember it any more." What didn't the narrator want to remember?

12. **Answer the questions from either (a) or (b) in 40-50 words:** [6]
- (a) i. What activities were going on at the dry salt lake? Answer in the context of Silk Road. [3]
ii. What does the father mean when he says, 'We both must live on the same globe and the same land.'? **(Father to Son)** [3]
- (b) i. What had Professor Gaitonde not expected in Bombay? [3]
ii. Describe the laburnum top. [3]
13. **Answer ANY ONE of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words** [3]
- (a) How did Andrew assess that night's work? [3]
(b) Why did the king succumb to public demand? [3]
14. **Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.** [6]
- (a) Mention three phases of the author's relationship with his grandmother before he left the country to study abroad. **(The Portrait of a Lady)** [6]
(b) There is a parallel, drawn between rain and music. Which words indicate this? Explain the similarity between the two. **(The Voice of the Rain)** [6]
15. **Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.** [6]
- (a) **One day back there in the good old days, when I was nine and the world was full of every imaginable kind of magnificence, and life was still a delightful and mysterious dream...** The story begins in a mood of nostalgia. Can you narrate some incident from your childhood that might make an interesting story? **(The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse)** [6]
(b) The chapter **The Address** is about an autobiographical note at one level, while at another it portrays how futile war is. What are your views regarding war? Is it fruitful? [6]



Solution

SECTION A : READING SKILLS (26 marks)

1. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

Read the passage given below.

1. Very often, we do not take the first step towards a good cause because we say to ourselves, "The task is so big. What can I do alone?" So nothing gets done. There is much talk about environmental protection, air pollution and saving our forests. Do we really care? If we do, here are a few things we can do to make our surroundings more pleasant.
2. It is good to adopt a two-uses-attitude! By putting an article to a second use, we are giving it a longer lease of life and using up less raw material from nature. One of the worst things we do is the abuse of paper. The clean sides of envelopes can be used to write small notes, lists and reminders around the house. The more paper we use, the more trees will have to be cut down. For the same reason, we should avoid the use of paper napkins or paper plates. Cloth napkins are just as good, for they can be washed and used over and over again.
3. The one area which needs the most urgent attention is effective garbage disposal. People who are conscious about it follow rules and laws strictly. As a result, their neighbourhoods are clean and beautiful. A lot of people don't care about the environment because they don't understand the adverse effect that society has on it. It is important to convince people to care about the environment. The first step would be to convince people to change by providing simple alternative solutions and ways of doing things. The Internet is a powerful tool and a group of like-minded people can be formed on social media. People can share environmental stories and issues as well as pool in solutions and alternatives to educate one another. With the current state that our planet is in, it is imperative that people actively care about the environment and most importantly, act now.
4. Similarly, each one of us can contribute to a cleaner environment. All kitchen waste should be collected separately. Those who have green fingers can turn this into valuable manure. Dig a pit and put the kitchen waste into it. When the pit is a little over half full, cover it up with mud. Let nature do the rest. Within three or six months, we will have a good garden manure. It can also be done as a community project by digging a large pit in the colony. Do take help of all the members, for nothing succeeds like co-operation.
 - (i) Because we don't believe we are capable of completing such a difficult work alone, we fail to take the initial step towards a worthwhile effort.
 - (ii) A two-uses-attitude is a strategy in which an item is reused twice to extend its useful life, which results in removing less raw material from the environment.
 - (iii) Use the clean side of envelopes to scribble brief notes, lists, and reminders around the house to prevent wasting paper. Paper plates and napkins should never be used.
 - (iv) Clean and lovely neighbourhoods are the outcome of efficient rubbish disposal.
 - (v) The Internet is a powerful tool and a group of like-minded people can be formed on social media. People can share environmental stories and issues as well as pool in solutions and alternatives to educate one another.
 - (vi) By constructing a sizable pit in the colony where everyone may contribute their fair portion of kitchen trash, the creation of garden manure can be done as a group effort.
 - (vii) To generate quality garden manure, it takes three to six months.
 - (viii) Abuse
 - (ix) imperative
 - (x) conscious

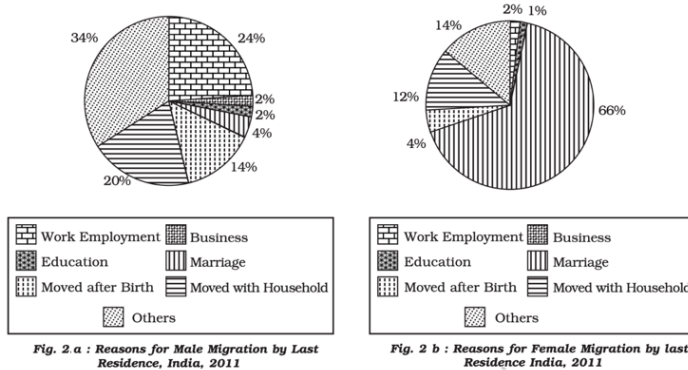
2. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

1. People, generally are emotionally attached to their place of birth. But millions of people leave their places of birth and residence. There could be variety of reasons. These reasons can be put into two broad categories : (i) push factor, these cause people to leave their place of residence or origin; and (ii) pull factors, which attract the people from different places. In India people migrate from rural to urban areas mainly due to poverty, high population pressure on the land, lack of basic infrastructural facilities like health care, education, etc. Apart from these factors, natural disasters such as, flood, drought, cyclonic storms, earthquake, tsunami, wars and local conflicts also give extra push to migrate. On the other hand, there are pull factors which attract people from rural areas to cities. The most important pull factor for majority of the rural migrants to urban areas is the



better opportunities, availability of regular work and relatively higher wages. Better opportunities for education, better health facilities and sources of entertainment, etc., are also quite important pull factors.

2. Examine the reasons for migration for males and females separately in the figure below.



On the basis of the figures, it can be seen that the reasons for the migration of males and females are different. For example, work and employment have remained the main cause for male migration (26 percent) while it is only 2.3 percent for the females. Contrary to this, about 67 percent of females move out from their parental houses following their marriage. This is the most important cause in the rural areas of India except in Meghalaya where the reverse is the case. This is because Meghalaya is a female-dominated state. The Khasi and Jaintia tribes do not follow the patriarchal system of society but they follow the matrilineal system of society. In comparison to these marriage migrations of the male, is only 4 percent in the country.

3. Migration is a response to the uneven distribution of opportunities over space. People tend to move from place of low opportunity and low safety to the place of higher opportunity and better safety. This, in turn, creates both benefits and problems for the areas, people migrate from and migrate to. Consequences can be observed in economic, social, cultural, political and demographic terms.

(i) In India people migrate from rural to urban areas mainly due to poverty, high population pressure on the land, and lack of basic infrastructural facilities like health care, education, etc.

(ii) a. 1 and 4

(iii) b. Natural disaster

(iv) d. from poor opportunity and low safety areas to greater opportunity and better safety areas.

(v) c. Image 4

(vi) c. unequal distribution of opportunities

(vii) vital/crucial/significant

(Any other relevant meaning)

(viii) 1. Push factors

2. Pull factors

3. Title: Pollution-Man's Return Gift to Nature

I. History of pollution

- ancient human settlements freq. recog. by their wastes
- cities of ancient times noxious by human wastes & debris
- 1000 CE-use of coal for fuel exacerbated it
- Europe-unsanitary urban conditions favoured epidemics of disease
- 19th century-pollution became universal problem
- middle of 20th century-awareness to protect env. from pollution developed

II. Causes of pollution

- natural-forest fires, active volcanoes
- anthropogenic-
 - rapidity of change
 - unnatural creation of man's tampering with atom
 - not treating chemicals properly
 - industrialization
 - burning fossil fuels

III. Harmful effects of pollution

- dec. mental capacity & inc. risk of brain damage

- ii. neurological disorders
- iii. nuclear accidents
- iv. ozone pollution-
 - a. respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease, throat inflammation
 - b. chest pain & congestion
- v. water pollution-
 - a. approx. 14,000 deaths per day
 - b. oil spills cause skin irritations & rashes
- vi. noise pollution-hearing loss, high B.P., stress & sleep disturbance

IV. Why worry about pollution?

- i. took hundreds of millions of years to produce livable life
- ii. long term health effects
- iii. pollution's most part irrevocable
- iv. harming nature & humans tremendously in numerous ways

o **Abbreviations used:** -

- freq. - frequently
- recog. - recognized
- & - and
- env. - environment
- dec. - decreased
- inc. - increased
- approx. - approximately
- B.P. - blood pressure

Summary:-

The most alarming thing done by human till date is the contamination of air, earth, rivers, and sea with lethal materials. The history of pollution dates back to ancient human settlements frequently recognized by their wastes. In this contamination of the environment, chemicals are the partners of radiation in changing the very nature of the world; radiation releases through nuclear explosions into the air, comes to the earth in rain, lodges into the soil, enters the grass or corn, or wheat is grown there and reaches the bones of a human being, there to remain until his death. Similarly, chemicals sprayed on crops lie long in the soil, entering living organisms, passing from one to another in a chain of poisoning and death. Or they pass by underground streams until they emerge and combine into new forms that kill vegetation, sicken cattle and harm those who drink from once pure wells. Natural things like forest fires and active volcanoes and anthropogenic ones like not treating chemicals properly, industrialization and burning fossil fuels etc. are the main causes of pollution. The harmful effects of pollution include decreased mental capacity, neurological disorders, nuclear accidents and various diseases. The problem is worth worrying, because it took hundreds of millions of years to produce a livable life on Earth and today pollution is harming the planet tremendously.

Section B : Grammar (7 Marks)

4. Answer any SEVEN of the following questions:

- (i) seen
- (ii) are watching
- (iii) Whatever
- (iv) whose
- (v) He not only ate an apple but also drank a glass of milk.
- (vi) Kalidas is the greatest poet.
- (vii) They locked the old house.
- (viii) He has always treated me fairly.

Section - B Creative Writing Skills (16 Marks)

SITUATION VACANT

P.K. Industries, Hyderabad is looking for an Accountant with at least two years of experience. The candidate must have a degree in Accountancy and sound knowledge of Computers, Finance and related commercial activities. Apply immediately to Mohan, General Manager, PK Industries, Hyderabad, e-mail gmmohan@pkindustries.com. Salary not a constraint for the deserving candidate.

5. Contact . 098436132XX



OR

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Wanted a competent and experienced accountant capable of handling accounts independently. Commerce graduates having at least five years experience in a reputed firm will be preferred. Salary and perks according to the efficiency and performance of the candidate. Apply in confidence to Asst. Manager (HRD) Varun Enterprises, Meerut up to 25th March.

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6.

OR

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7.

The Need for Career Guidance

Good morning everyone. The honourable Principal, teachers, staff members and dear students, I, Sushant, an academic counsellor, stand before all of you to talk about the need for career guidance.

The first and the foremost thing that all of you should realise, if you haven't already, is that the decision regarding your career should be your own. You should and have to decide what you want to do in life and how you want to do that. Do not succumb to peer and parental pressure. At the end of the day, you are going to bear the results of your decision; so the decision should also be yours. Choosing a career is not a serious affair until your high school. However, once you are done with high school, it becomes imperative to choose a definite career goal. At this time you can seek the help of a qualified career counsellor who can assist you in discovering your potential and aptitude and accordingly suggest the right course.

It is really unfortunate that despite the many opportunities that are awaiting you after you complete your school education, many of you are yet not aware about them. Sometimes, in spite of having a clear idea of what you aspire to achieve in life, you are not sure about the career path that you need to follow i.e. you lack guidance. A career counsellor is an expert in his work and can help you clear the doubts that you have regarding the requisite academic qualifications/path for a particular course/job. So students, I would like to reiterate that career guidance provides essential support and boosts the morale of students by helping them to overcome preconceived notions about certain fields.

I would like to conclude on the note that the crux of career guidance is to provide the necessary counselling that is bound to help students in making the right choice about their career. It's your life. So only you should choose and choose wisely.

Thank you!

OR

Save Electricity Week

Without a doubt, the invention of electricity is one of the greatest inventions in the history of mankind. Think about a day without electricity! We can't just imagine it. Ranging from cell phones to electric trains, big and small devices and machines work on electric power.

Electricity is produced from various sources such as wind power, water stored in dams, nuclear power, solar power, etc. A good percentage of electricity is generated in hydroelectric plants, where water stored in dams is used to produce electricity. Electricity is precious as the resources used in its production are scarce. So, it is important to save electricity as much as we can.

It is each one's responsibility to save electricity. People casually keep the lights and fans switched on. They use electrical appliances like television, computer, air conditioner, etc. inordinately. To stop the misuse and wastage of electricity we should take care to switch off electrical appliances when not in use. We should design our houses in such a way that we can use natural light and air to lighten and refresh them.

We should try to save water by using less water for showers and fixing leaky faucets. People have the habit of keeping taps open while shaving, washing hands and brushing. We should use water only when necessary. Thus, we can save electricity used to pump water into overhead tanks. We should also use energy-efficient equipment and LED bulbs. This can save a lot of electricity. With conscious efforts and determination, we can save electricity for the betterment of the environment. Electricity is precious. Let's join hands to save it.

8.

For the Motion

Respected judges, honourable opponents and friends,

I will speak for the motion, "A career counsellor (not you yourself) is the best person to guide you in the choice of a career."

We all are aware about the rising diversity in career options today. I adhere to the fact that career counsellors are the best people to guide any one in choosing the right career. They play a pivotal role in helping individuals to put their talent, interest and aptitude to an appropriate use in job selection. Their work is evident, proven and appreciated all over the world.

A career counsellor has to fulfill many specific duties as a part of his job. He maintains record of each individual student. He, through his experience and ability, identifies the student's desires in context of his career that he wishes to pursue after graduation. A career counsellor is a person who does immense research before suggesting a job to a student based on his personality, aptitude and interest. He also normally has connections with various outside agencies which may provide financial aid to the students, if they need any, while pursuing their profession.

A career counsellor is quite sympathetic. He can provide a sympathetic ear to the student to discuss various issues and also provide moral support to the students if and when they need it.

Thank you!

Against the Motion

Respected Judges, honourable opponents and friends,

I will speak against the motion, "A career counsellor (not you yourself) is the best person to guide you in the choice of a career".

I do not agree with the statement that a career counsellor is the best person to help a student in making the right decision while



choosing his career. The opinions of the parents, who are already more experienced than the students in decision-making, and the students' should influence more than those of a career counsellor while choosing a career. All parents want their children to be happy and successful in life. The right choice of a career will certainly provide happiness and success. Research in this field has indicated that when children feel supported and loved by their parents, they have more confidence in their own ability to find a career that suits them. They, therefore, choose a career that will be in their own interest and provide a livelihood.

An individual should be the best judge of his life and the decisions associated with it. But he can seek guidance from parents and elders when he needs it. Career counsellors do not know the students properly before they suggest a career for him, which may ultimately result in failure or unhappiness, or both.

Thank you!

OR

For the Motion

Honourable judges, my worthy opponents and dear students,

Today I, Saurabh of class XII, will speak in favour of the motion, 'Tuition at coaching centres is not essential'.

The popularity of coaching centres among students, particularly from the science and commerce streams, is not hidden from anyone. One of the major reasons that students take tuition at such coaching centres is that their parents feel that they will perform better in their exams by studying at these coaching centres. However, in reality, this is a big misconception. Most coaching centres are literally nothing but money minting machines for their owners. They have no infrastructure. Many centres employ teachers who have been rejected by the schools. The fees of such centres is way too high for middle-class parents. Thus, most coaching centres are not really useful. Besides, attending coaching classes pile pressure on students, and also take away the few recreational hours that they are left with after school.

In contrast, schools have a better infrastructure with proper classrooms, multimedia facilities and all other requirements needed for proper education. The teachers in schools are well-qualified and better equipped with adequate teaching experience. Many schools, which are run by registered trusts, also have very low fees, because running a school is considered a philanthropic activity by people.

However, the schools should reorient their teaching process to make their education competition oriented. This will ensure that schools are considered essential and prioritised before the coaching centres; the coaching centres are not necessary at all.

Thank you!

Against the Motion

Honourable judges, my worthy opponents and dear students,

Today I, Saurabh of class XII, will speak against the motion, 'Tuition at coaching centres is not essential'.

The schooling system has become increasingly competitive today. Consequently, tuition at coaching centres has become extremely popular among the students and their parents. Parents want their children to excel in every subject, and they strongly believe that a special coaching will help them achieve academic excellence. They are not wrong to a great extent. Some students, despite frequent struggles to learn, often fail to learn. A school classroom today is a large group of 50-65 students, where there is little scope for individual attention. It is also not possible for a teacher to adjust his/her teaching methodology as per the needs of each and every student.

A coaching institute scores above a school classroom in a number of ways. It provides a friendly and cooperative environment according to the needs of the students. A good coaching institute has a team of well-experienced, dedicated, skilled and result-oriented trainers or faculty. It possesses advanced learning tools to tackle the problems faced by the students during learning. The teachers there teach every concept in a simplified way, making the learning process enjoyable for aspirants who lag behind and find difficulty in learning. There are extra sessions for weak candidates. Hence, tuition at coaching centres is essential in order to meet the requirements of today's fierce competition in the field of education.

Thank you!

Section C : Literature (31 Marks)

9. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

When did my childhood go?

Was it the time I realised that adults were not
all they seemed to be,

They talked of love and preached of love,

But did not act so lovingly,

Was that the day!

- (i) (b) Hypocrites

Explanation:



Hypocrites

- (ii) **(c)** They say something and do another thing

Explanation:

They say something and do another thing

- (iii) **(b)** the contrast between adulthood and innocence

Explanation:

the contrast between adulthood and innocence

OR

Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

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.

- (i) **(b)** Both photo frame and album

Explanation:

Both photo frame and album

- (ii) **(b)** Walking

Explanation:

Walking

- (iii) **(d)** Middle

Explanation:

Middle

10. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

The world's most famous mummy glided head first into a CT scanner brought here to probe the lingering medical mysteries of this little understood young ruler who died more than 3,300 years ago. All afternoon the usual line of tourists from around the world had descended into the cramped, rock-cut tomb some 26 feet underground to pay their respects.

- (i) **(d)** head

Explanation:

head

- (ii) **(c)** probe

Explanation:

probe

- (iii) **(b)** rock

Explanation:

rock

OR

Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

The first indication of impending disaster came at about 6 p.m., with an ominous silence. The wind dropped, and the sky immediately grew dark. Then came a growing roar, and an enormous cloud towered aft of the ship. With horror, I realised that it was not a cloud, but a wave like no other I had ever seen. It appeared perfectly vertical and almost twice the height of the other waves, with a frightful breaking crest.

- (i) **(a)** impending

Explanation:

impending

- (ii) **(a)** speed of wind greatly reduced

Explanation:

speed of wind greatly reduced

- (iii) **(b)** a wave was approaching ship

Explanation:

a wave was approaching ship

11. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

- (i) i. The play preaches good values without being preachy. This is achieved using humour. It deals with a genuine issue (of the status of women) and is interspersed with humour and satire.
ii. (b) She reminds Mrs. Pearson about her instructions to be a little strict.
iii. The play ends on a happy note where the children and husband are willing to do whatever Mrs. Annie Pearson suggests.
iv. Yes, here the original Annie Pearson speaks as they get back to their original personalities. Unlike Mrs Pearson, Mrs. Fitzgerald has a strong and sinister personality. Both exchange their bodies to teach a lesson to Mrs Pearson's family. Mrs. Fitzgerald does so by being assertive and firm in the personality of Mrs. Pearson.
- (ii) i. The phrase reflects the narrator's desire to detach herself from the past and the emotional attachments associated with that address. She felt that revisiting or remembering that place would only serve to rekindle painful or unwanted memories.
ii. The tone of the passage can be described as reflective and somewhat melancholic. The idea that familiar objects lose their value when seen in strange surroundings also adds a somewhat bittersweet or introspective tone to the passage.
iii. (c) The narrator no longer valued the objects associated with her former life.
iv. The narrator didn't want to remember the address or the objects associated with her former life at Number 46 Marconi Street. She felt that those objects had lost their value as they were now in unfamiliar surroundings, and so she preferred not to remember them anymore. She decided to forget her past as it brought bitter memories.

12. Answer the questions from either (a) or (b) in 40-50 words:

- (i) i. The shining white lake was dry. It had lot of layers of salt. Workers were busy loading trucks with piles of salt. They carried pickaxes and shovels. They had put on long sheepskin coats and salt-covered boots. They wore sunglasses to avoid the glare caused by a steady stream of trucks.
ii. The father means to say that they must live in the same house and under the same roof. They should not live as strangers to each other.
- (ii) i. Professor Gaitonde was prepared for many shocks, but he had not expected to see the domination of East India Company in Bombay. History books said that the company had been wound up after 1857. But here in Bombay it still seemed to be alive and flourishing. He found a different set of shops and departmental stores and big bank buildings as in England.
ii. The leaves of the laburnum top are turning yellow due to the autumn. Its seeds have fallen and there is a silence prevailing over the tree. There is no movement at all.

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words

- (i) As Andrew left driller's house he felt tired. He kept thinking of the work he had done that night. He realised that at last, he had done something real. For him, it was an achievement.
- (ii) The king noticed that the crowd of spectators had become restless and people were muttering aloud. He judged their mood. He trembled to think of the consequences if they were deprived of the fun of watching someone being hanged. So, in order to save his skin, he ordered that someone be hanged immediately.

14. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.

- (i) The first phase of their relationship is in the village. Grandmother takes care of all the needs of the author. She wakes him up in the morning. She gets him ready for school. She gives him breakfast to eat. She takes him to school. The school is attached to the village temple. While the author is studying, Grandmother sits in the temple and reads scriptures. After school, she brings the author back home. On her way, she feeds the village dogs. The second phase of their relationship begins when the author joins an English school in the city. Now she doesn't go with him to school. The author goes to school in a motor-bus. She can't help him in his studies also.
The third phase comes when she learns that the author is learning music at school. She feels shocked. For her, music is not meant for nice people. Now she rarely talks to the author.
- (ii) The last two bracketed lines of the poem bring out the similarity between rain and music. The music of a song rises from the soul of a poet. After the poet has sung his song, it settles back into its birthplace. It keeps the poet's soul pure and happy. Similarly, rain rises from the earth. After coming down from the sky, it goes back into its birthplace. It makes the earth pure and beautiful.

15. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.

- (i) It was a hot summer day. I went to the canal in the company of my friend. We took off our clothes and placed them on the bank. Then we jumped into the canal. After some time, we came out. We found that someone had taken away my shirt and my friend's pants. We had to walk to our homes half-dressed. I was naked waist-upwards. My friend was naked



thighs downwards. Thank God he had his underwear with him. We laughed and laughed at our plight. None could help to laugh on seeing us. Thus we walked on spreading laughter everywhere. As we entered our street, we made a dash to our homes. This experience gave me an endless store of amusement. I draw from it whenever I like.

- (ii) Undoubtedly, war has futile outcomes. It brings suffering and disasters along. It takes away so many lives, leaving people with empty hands. It completely shatters the life of the survivors. There is both materialistic as well as human loss, the losses incurred are irreparable. After the war ends, everything becomes normal and people get to sleep peacefully. But the wounds given by the war do not heal easily. The crude and cunning nature of human behavior is reflected during the war. People are forced to leave their homes, the place where they spend all their cherished moments. Hence, how can something that causes so much of damage, not only to life and property but also to human emotions and bonds, be called fruitful? War is synonymous with destruction. We must always aim toward establishing peace. Non-violence is the way to form stronger relationships with others. Peace of mind is the ultimate goal of our lives.