

Class XI Session 2025-26

Subject - English Core

Sample Question Paper - 9

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. The art of conversation, like any art, is a skill of elegance, nuance and creative execution. I happen to believe that there is an art to everything we do, and why not? Without flair and panache most things become a drudgery. Why settle for drudgery when you can have art?
2. When it comes to the art of conversation, we've all met people who seem to have the knack for it. They can talk to anybody about anything and they seem to do it with complete ease. And while it's true that there are those who are born with the gift of the gab, luckily for the rest of us, conversation skills can be developed and mastered.
3. Conversation is a form of communication; however, it is usually more spontaneous and less formal. We enter into conversations for purposes of pleasant engagement in order to meet new people, to find out information and to enjoy social interactions. As far as types of conversation, they vary anywhere from intellectual conversations and information exchanges to friendly debates and witty banter.
4. While there is more to having good conversation skills than being a comedian, a dramatic actor, or a great story teller, it is not necessary to become more gregarious, animated, or outgoing.
5. Instead, you can develop the ability to listen attentively, ask fitting questions, and pay attention to the answers - all qualities essential to the art of conversation. With diligent practice and several good pointers, anyone can improve his or her conversation skills.

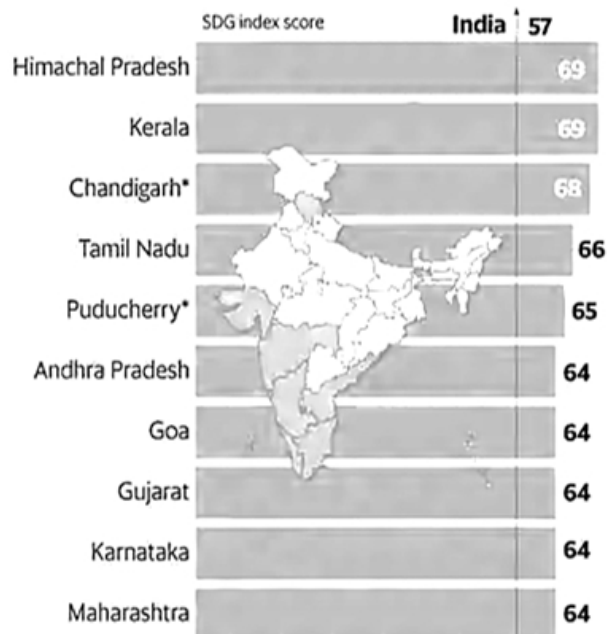


6. People who are genuinely interested in others are usually interesting themselves. Why? Because they are more open to learning about and understanding new things. Showing interest also encourages the other person to be relaxed and share information more freely. Display attentiveness by keeping good eye contact and listening actively.
7. If you happen to be shy and need time to warm up before you share your own views, you can ask open-ended questions or encourage the other person to elaborate on their insights. This kick-starts the conversation and before you know it you are engaged in a good conversational flow.
8. To start a conversation, go up to someone and introduce yourself. It is both polite and necessary to start off things smoothly.
9. When the occasion calls for it, you can offer a handshake and then smile and make eye contact. Being friendly puts the other person at ease and opens the door for him or her to introduce themselves.
10. The art of conversation, like any skill, takes practice. Period. Do not expect to be adept after your first few attempts. It will take practice as well as exposure to many different social situations.
- (a) Complete the sentence by choosing an appropriate option:
The art of conversation is a skill of _____.
- a) uniformity and compatibility b) friendliness and consensus
c) sophistication and creativity d) assertion and ease
- (b) Comment on the writer's reference to conversation skills as something you are **born** with.
- (c) List two reasons why people enter into conversation.
- (d) Select the option that conveys the opposite of **witty**, as used in paragraph 3.
- a) boring b) creative
c) ignorant d) educated
- (e) The writer would **not** agree with the given statements based on paragraphs 3 to 5, except
- a) Attentive listening is important only while debating. b) Conversations are meant only for purposes of research.
c) It is important to be outgoing to be a good conversationist. d) Conversational skills can be improved with regular practice.
- (f) According to the author, showing interest in others leads to interesting conversation. Based on your understanding of paragraphs 5 and 6, list one way how a good listener can make the other person speak more freely.
- (g) How can one warm up before one shares one's views?
- (h) Complete the given sentence with an appropriate inference, with respect to the following:
The writer gives an example of going up to someone and introducing oneself in order to _____.
- (i) How can the ways to start a conversation, as suggested in the passage, be best described?
- a) humbling b) exhausting
c) challenging d) practical
- (j) Select the most suitable title for the above passage.
- a) Conversation vs Communication b) Conversation - A Challenging Pursuit
c) Mastering the Art of Conversation d) Effective Listening



India's SDG Scores

India has crossed the halfway mark in achieving the UN's sustainable development goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015 and to be achieved by 2030, according to the SDG India Index released on Friday by think tank NITI Aayog and the UN. Here are the 10 best-performing states and Union territories according to the index.



- Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu have emerged as the front runners in the race to achieve key sustainable development goals (SDG) like removal of poverty inequality. While Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are the laggards in ranking of states.
- According to the SDG India Index, the nation as a whole has a score of 57, showing the country has reached a little beyond the halfway mark in meeting the sustainable development goals adopted by India and 192 other nations in 2015. The index covers 13 of the 17 sustainable development goals, including healthcare, gender equality, clean energy, infrastructure, education, peace and building strong, accountable institutions.
- For goals, including climate action and sustainable use of marine resources, were left out because of lack of data at the state level. Kerala's overall top rank (69) is attributed to its strong performance in providing good health, reducing hunger, achieving gender equality and providing quality education. The rank shows the distance each state has to cover to reach 100 - the point at which it fully meets the sustainable development goal.
- Himachal Pradesh ranks high with a similar overall score in providing clean water and sanitation, reducing inequalities and preserving the mountain ecosystem. Tamil Nadu has a score of 66. Among Union territories, Chandigarh takes the lead with a score of 68 on account of its track record in providing clean water and sanitation. Performance in providing quality education has also helped Chandigarh achieve high score.
- Tamil Nadu topped the states in poverty reduction, while Kerala topped in providing quality education, closely followed by Chandigarh and Himachal Pradesh.
- Kerala and Tamil Nadu also topped in facilitating good health and well-being. Gender equality, however, is an area all states and the nation as a whole need to improve upon. The toppers in gender equality, Sikkim and Union territories, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Chandigarh, have crossed the halfway mark in reaching the goals.
- The scores represent the current status of achievement in meeting the goals.
 - The other remaining goals left out from SDG India Index because:

- a. of lack of data of the state level
 - b. they have already crossed halfway mark in reaching the goals
 - c. countries have not taken care of the remaining goals
 - d. those goals have not yet officially accepted by the companies
- (b) Among Union Territories _____ takes the lead with a score of 68 on account of its track record in providing clean water and sanitation.
- (c) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option.
According to the survey, _____ topped in providing quality education.
- a. Kerala
 - b. Tamil Nadu
 - c. Chandigarh
 - d. Andhra Pradesh
- (d) How many sustainable goals does index cover?
- (e) What do 100 points mean as per SDG Index?
- a. It means the index has covered 13 goals including healthcare, gender equality clean energy. infrastructure, education, peace and building strong. accountable institutions.
 - b. It means the point at which it fully meets the sustainable development goal.
 - c. It means the removal of poverty and equality.
 - d. It means India has reached a little beyond the halfway mark to meet sustainable development goals.
- (f) Which state has the least SDG score according to the graph?
- (g) The SDG score represents the current status of achievements by the states in meeting the goals. True/false.
- (h) Which state ranks the best in total SDG scores?

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

[8]

- I. Good decoration reflects the personality of the people who live in the home. It should, first of all, be distinctive, just as each person is distinctive. A home should have unity not only within each room but also throughout the house. Rooms should, to some degree, harmonize with each other. The colour and styling of each room, particularly, should fit into the colour and styling of the rooms which run out of it.
- II. Attractive home furnishings set the stage for pleasant living. If they are an expression of yourself, you will have a feeling of satisfaction every time you enter your home, and friends will share your enjoyment.
- III. However, furnishings and surroundings expressive of just the right note of restfulness, gay informality, or elegant simplicity are not often assembled by accident. Even enthusiasm alone is not enough. For most home decorators, it takes poring over plans, trying colour schemes, finding ingenious ways to make the best of what you have, and shopping around to search out just the right purchases at prices you can afford to pay. But there is keen pleasure in striving for the perfect result, and great satisfaction in achieving it.
- IV. A successful house and successful rooms will depend upon the proper relationship of each element in it to the others and to the whole. Therefore, in selecting each piece it is well to consider the background, the usage, the draperies, the floor covering, the upholstering materials, the woods, shapes, colour scheme, and the "feeling" you prefer for the room.
- V. Work and plan to enjoy your house. Limit the expenditures of time, effort and money to the extent of your abilities, so that just running the house doesn't dominate your life. Elegance and delicate things may be a drain you can afford only in a limited way. If you can't afford outside help, select a house and furnishings



that require less care. Plan your activities so that tumult and upset are limited to a few rooms— an activity room or a bedroom, or a corner of the dining room.

VI. You'll get more pleasure out of a house if you have a hobby connected with it— collecting glass or antiques, gardening or indoor flower growing ceramics, art, cooking, decorating, flower arrangements, etc. And you'll get more satisfaction and a great deal of help from studying household activities.

VII. You can select a pleasing combination of colours from a wallpaper, a fabric, an oriental rug, a flower or scene, or even a picture in a magazine. If you don't already have the furniture or rugs, it is a good idea to make up a colour scheme in this way. Let one colour predominate. Limit a colour scheme to two or three colours, with white or grey tones. These points will help you: (1) Always choose colours that please you personally— subtle, calm colours if you prefer a restful atmosphere, intense colours if you like liveliness and cheer. (2) Don't be afraid of colour. Experimenting on paper will give you confidence. (But remember larger batches of colour are more intense.) Try out various colour combinations, then live with them—look at them frequently before you actually start buying. (3) Colours should harmonize with furniture, draperies, carpets.

Questions: (5+3 =8)

A. On the basis of your understanding of the above passage make notes on it using headings and sub-headings.

Use recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary. Give an appropriate title.

B. Write a summary of the above passage in about 80 words.

Section B : Grammar (7 Marks)

4. **Answer any SEVEN of the following questions:** [7]
- (a) Did the child _____ (fall) from the chair? (Fill tense correctly) [1]
 - (b) English is _____ (speak) in many countries. (Fill tense correctly) [1]
 - (c) They went for a walk _____ the sun was still out. (when/while/which/where) [1]
 - (d) This is the book _____ she gave me. (who/what/which/where) [1]
 - (e) There is no other train as fast as the Vande Bharat train. (superlative degree) [1]
 - (f) Has he been living in Meerut since 2006? (Affirmative sentence) [1]
 - (g) the/call/manager/soon. (reorder correctly) [1]
 - (h) on/Rikta/Saturday/came. (reorder correctly) [1]

Section - B Creative Writing Skills (16 Marks)

5. You want to sell your car as you are going abroad. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words to be published in the classified columns of 'The Hindu'. Give necessary details of the car. You are Suman/Sushil, 21 Ram nagar, Delhi. [3]

OR

You are Dr Madhu, MD. You are looking for an independent house in Ghaziabad on a reasonable rent for your residence-cum-clinic. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words to be published in Hindustan Times, New Delhi. Your telephone no. is 12341234.

6. You were very upset about the reports on communal riots in various parts of the country. As a concerned social worker, design a poster in not more than 50 words, highlighting the importance of communal harmony. You are Vinay/Vineeta. [3]

OR

Tourism Department, Government of Uttarakhand has launched an ambitious plan to develop adventure sports and eco-tourism activities in the state. Prepare a suitable poster for display at important public places/publication in newspapers.



7. Every year there are floods or droughts in the country. Victims suffer a lot. The government does a lot to help the people, but it is not enough. Society also must do its bit. Write a speech in 150-200 words to be delivered in the school morning assembly describing how the students can also help by collecting clothes, money and medicines from their neighbourhoods. You are Arun/Aruna. [5]

OR

Academic excellence at the cost of health is certainly not desirable. High scores in the board examination are important for admission to a college but so is good health to lead a happy and successful life. Write a speech in 150 - 200 words for the school morning assembly on the topic, **Balance between academics and sports**. You are Gagan/Ganga of Class XII.

8. 'The Internet cannot replace a classroom teacher'. Write a debate in 150-200 words either for or against the motion. [5]

OR

Write a debate in **150 - 200** words either for or against the motion: Indulgence of the youth in the use of the Internet is a great bane for them.

Section C : Literature (31 Marks)

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

Now she has been dead nearly as many years
As that girl lived. And of this circumstance
There is nothing to say at all.
Its silence silences.

- (a) How many years have passed away since the poet's mother died?
- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| a) Twelve years | b) Eleven years |
| c) Fifteen Years | d) Ten Years |
- (b) What does **this circumstance** refer to?
- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a) Happy memories of the mother | b) Present situation of the poet |
| c) Death of poet's mother | d) Mother's beach holiday |
- (c) Identify the literary device employed in the last line.
- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| a) Alliteration | b) Transferred Epithet |
| c) Metaphor | d) Oxymoron |

OR

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

When did my childhood go?
Was it when I found my mind was really mine,
To use whichever way I choose,
Producing thoughts that were not those of other people
But my own, and mine alone
Was that the day!

- (a) The stanza deals with the realization of _____ of the poet.
- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| a) individuality | b) consciousness |
| c) duality | d) hypocrisy |



- (b) Choose the refrain in the given stanza.
- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a) But my own, and mine alone | b) To use whichever way I choose |
| c) Was that the day! | d) Was it when I found |
- (c) Identify the literary device employed in **To use whichever way I choose**.
- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| a) Inversion | b) Oxymoron |
| c) Antithesis | d) Irony |

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

[3]

They remain the richest royal collection ever found and have become part of the pharaoh's legend. Stunning artefacts in gold, their eternal brilliance meant to guarantee resurrection, caused a sensation at the time of the discovery - and still get the most attention. But Tut was also buried with everyday things he'd want in the afterlife: board games, a bronze razor, linen undergarments, cases of food and wine.

- (a) In the above extract, **they** refers to:
- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| a) things which were found in the tomb. | b) Worker |
| c) scientists | d) ministers of Tut |
- (b) Which of the following was not found at the time of discovery?
- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| a) Both utensil and jewellery | b) Utensils |
| c) Jewellery | d) Gold Artefacts |
- (c) Which among the following is the synonym of **resurrection**?
- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| a) Dispirit | b) Enervate |
| c) Dissuade | d) Rejuvenate |

OR

Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

[3]

Unexpectedly, my head popped out of the water. A few metres away, Wavewalker was near capsizing, her masts almost horizontal. Then a wave hurled her upright, my lifeline jerked taut, I grabbed the guard rails and sailed through the air into Wavewalker's main boom. Subsequent waves tossed me around the deck like a rag doll. My left ribs cracked; my mouth filled with blood and broken teeth.

- (a) Whose name was Wavewalker?
- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| a) the author | b) the enormous wave |
| c) the ship | d) a crew member |
- (b) Which of the following activities had not happened to Wavewalker
1. near capsizing
 2. masts almost horizontal
 3. jumped in the air
 4. became upright
 5. sank in the sea
- | | |
|------------|------------|
| a) 1 and 4 | b) 2 and 5 |
| c) 1 and 3 | d) 3 and 5 |



- ii. Does the poem have a consistent rhyme scheme? (Father to Son) [3]
- (b) i. How did the shops and office buildings along Hornby Road differ from that author knew well? [3]
(The Adventure)
- ii. Describe the movement of the goldfinch in the laburnum tree. [3]
13. **Answer ANY ONE of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words** [3]
- (a) What efforts did Andrew make to revive Susan Morgan? [3]
- (b) What argument did the architect advance in self-defense? How did the king take it? [3]
14. **Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.** [6]
- (a) Write a brief character sketch of the author's grandmother. Answer in the context of The Portrait of a Lady. [6]
- (b) Rain is an eternal process benefiting mankind. Contrast it with human life which is short lived on this Earth. Should we disturb these eternal elements of nature? [6]
15. **Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.** [6]
- (a) Did the boys return the horse because they were conscience-stricken or because they were afraid? [6]
- (b) **Have you come back?** said the woman. **I thought that no one had come back.** Does this statement give some clues about the story? If yes, what is it? (The Address) [6]



Solution

SECTION A : READING SKILLS (26 marks)

1. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

Read the passage given below:

1. The art of conversation, like any art, is a skill of elegance, nuance and creative execution. I happen to believe that there is an art to everything we do, and why not? Without flair and panache most things become a drudgery. Why settle for drudgery when you can have art?
2. When it comes to the art of conversation, we've all met people who seem to have the knack for it. They can talk to anybody about anything and they seem to do it with complete ease. And while it's true that there are those who are born with the gift of the gab, luckily for the rest of us, conversation skills can be developed and mastered.
3. Conversation is a form of communication; however, it is usually more spontaneous and less formal. We enter into conversations for purposes of pleasant engagement in order to meet new people, to find out information and to enjoy social interactions. As far as types of conversation, they vary anywhere from intellectual conversations and information exchanges to friendly debates and witty banter.
4. While there is more to having good conversation skills than being a comedian, a dramatic actor, or a great story teller, it is not necessary to become more gregarious, animated, or outgoing.
5. Instead, you can develop the ability to listen attentively, ask fitting questions, and pay attention to the answers - all qualities essential to the art of conversation. With diligent practice and several good pointers, anyone can improve his or her conversation skills.
6. People who are genuinely interested in others are usually interesting themselves. Why? Because they are more open to learning about and understanding new things. Showing interest also encourages the other person to be relaxed and share information more freely. Display attentiveness by keeping good eye contact and listening actively.
7. If you happen to be shy and need time to warm up before you share your own views, you can ask open-ended questions or encourage the other person to elaborate on their insights. This kick-starts the conversation and before you know it you are engaged in a good conversational flow.
8. To start a conversation, go up to someone and introduce yourself. It is both polite and necessary to start off things smoothly.
9. When the occasion calls for it, you can offer a handshake and then smile and make eye contact. Being friendly puts the other person at ease and opens the door for him or her to introduce themselves.
10. The art of conversation, like any skill, takes practice. Period. Do not expect to be adept after your first few attempts. It will take practice as well as exposure to many different social situations.

- (i) **(c)** sophistication and creativity

Explanation:

The passage emphasizes the elegance, nuance, and creative execution involved in the art of conversation, highlighting its sophisticated nature and the need for creative expression.

- (ii) The writer acknowledges that some individuals seem naturally gifted in conversation. However, they emphasize that conversation skills can be developed and mastered with practice and exposure to social situations.

- (iii) People enter into conversation to meet new people and to enjoy social interactions. Additionally, they engage in conversation to find out information and exchange ideas, fostering intellectual engagement and friendly debates.

- (iv) **(a)** boring

Explanation:

The correct option is "boring". This is because "witty" implies cleverness and humor, while "boring" conveys the opposite, suggesting dullness or lack of interest.

- (v) **(d)** Conversational skills can be improved with regular practice.

Explanation:

The passage emphasizes that conversation skills can be developed and mastered through diligent practice, as indicated by the qualities of listening attentively, asking fitting questions, and paying attention to the answers.

- (vi) A good listener can make the other person speak more freely by displaying attentiveness, maintaining good eye contact, and actively listening, which encourages the other person to share information more openly.



(vii) One can warm up before sharing views by asking open-ended questions, encouraging others to elaborate, and actively listening to initiate and maintain a smooth conversational flow.

(viii) Initiate a conversation and establish a friendly connection, facilitating further interaction and social engagement.

(ix) (d) practical

Explanation:

The ways to start a conversation, as suggested in the passage, can be best described as **practical** because they offer straightforward and applicable methods for initiating conversations in various social situations.

(x) (c) Mastering the Art of Conversation

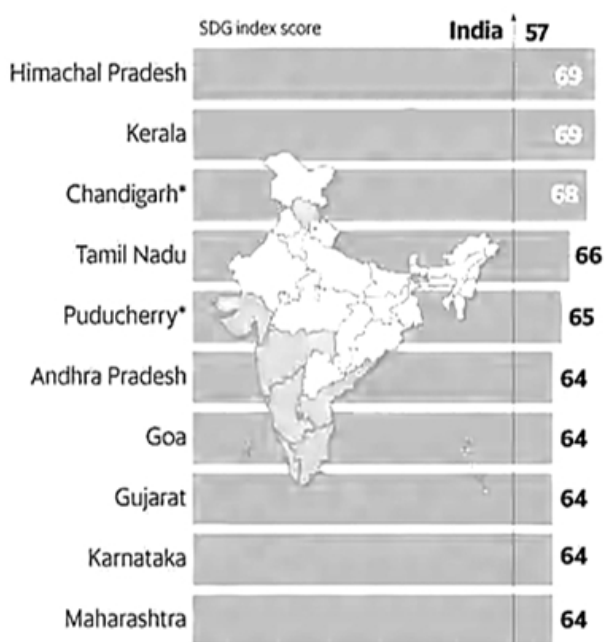
Explanation:

The passage provides insights and tips on developing conversation skills, emphasizing the importance of practice, attentiveness, and engagement in social interactions.

2. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

India's SDG Scores

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4. Himachal Pradesh ranks high with a similar overall score in providing clean water and sanitation, reducing inequalities and preserving the mountain ecosystem. Tamil Nadu has a score of 66. Among Union territories, Chandigarh takes the lead with a score of 68 on account of its track record in providing clean water and sanitation. Performance in providing quality education has also helped Chandigarh achieve high score.
5. Tamil Nadu topped the states in poverty reduction, while Kerala topped in providing quality education, closely followed by Chandigarh and Himachal Pradesh.
6. Kerala and Tamil Nadu also topped in facilitating good health and well-being. Gender equality, however, is an area all states and the nation as a whole need to improve upon. The toppers in gender equality are Sikkim and Union territories. Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Chandigarh, have crossed the halfway mark in reaching the goals.



7. The scores represent the current status of achievement in meeting the goals.

(i) (a) of lack of data of the state level

(ii) Chandigarh

(iii) (a) Kerala

(iv) 13

(v) (b) It means the point at which it fully meets the sustainable development goal.

(vi) Magarashtra

(vii) True

(viii) Himachal Pradesh

3. i. **TITLE: Decorating One's Home**

NOTES:

i. Home reflects personality of home-owner

i. unity & harmony bet. rooms

ii. colour & styling sh'd match

ii. Elements of decoration

i. colour schemes

ii. draperies, rugs, upholstery, woods, shape

iii. Plan to enjoy the House

i. limit time, effort & money

ii. select furnish'gs which require little care

iii. confine hectic activities to a few rooms

iv. hobby connected with house—great pleasure.

iv. Choice of Colours

i. one colour sh'd predominate

ii. one can expt with colours

iii. calm colours for restfulness; intense for liveliness

iv. colours sh'd harmonise with furniture, draperies, carpets

ii. **B. SUMMARY:**

The maintenance of the house reflects the personality of the people who live in that. So the distinctive decoration is as important as one attire in good clothes. Unity in the home can only be seen if the rooms in the house have a degree of harmony, colour and styling. Furniture is a working strategy for pleasant living. If there is an expression of oneself then one will have a mental satisfaction every time one enters one's home. To attain such satisfaction one needs to pore over plants, try colour schemes, window shopping to search the best thing for one's home.

Section B : Grammar (7 Marks)

4. Answer any SEVEN of the following questions:

(i) fall

(ii) spoken

(iii) while

(iv) which

(v) The Vande Bharat train is the fastest train.

(vi) He has been living in Meerut since 2006.

(vii) Call the manager soon.

(viii) Bikta came on Saturday.

Section - B Creative Writing Skills (16 Marks)

CAR FOR SALE

A silver coloured Ford Figo XL 2015 model is available for immediate sale. Excellent condition, done 45,000 kms, giving mileage of 15 kmpl, single-owner driven, Top-end model, all papers clear, 2.5 lacs non-negotiable price. Owner going abroad.

5. Contact Suman, 21, Ram Nagar, Delhi between 3 P.M.- 5 P.M. Mobile No. 98765XXXXX

OR

ACCOMMODATION WANTED



Required approx.150 sqyds. independent house on rent in Ghaziabad to be used as residence-cum-clinic. The house must be double storied, having adequate parking space, near to market with 24X7 water and electric supply.

Contact Dr. Madhu on 12341234 between 10 AM to 3 PM.

**COMMUNAL HARMONY
NEED OF THE HOUR
AVOID DISTINCTIONS OF CASTER, CREED & SEX**



CURB
Communal Speeches/Writing
RESPECT EACH OTHER'S RELIGION
NO RELIGION TEACHES HATRED
Love & Live Together
as
Brethren
Issued in Public Interest by Friends of India Society

OR

**TOURISM DEPARTMENT
GOVT. OF UTTARAKHAND**

launches
its ambitious project
to develop

ADVENTURE SPORTS & ECO-TOURISM

Activities offered:

- Bungee Jumping
- Snow Skiing/Ice Skating
- Aero Sports
- Paragliding - hang gliding
- Para-sailing
- Boating/Other water sports

INSTRUCTORS/GUIDES AVAILABLE

at

APPROVED RATES

Contact
Secretary, Tourism
Government of Uttarakhand

Donate Your Old clothes for Noble Cause

Recently, we have heard the news about floods in one section of our country and an earthquake hitting another part of the country. Both natural disasters have caused wide-scale destruction. Thousands of people have been rendered houseless and stranded in rescue camps.

We buy a lot of clothes throughout the year. And if we notice, a good amount of clothes lie untouched in our wardrobes. Why dump them when there are millions of underprivileged people in this world struggling to get enough bread to live for the next day, enough rag to cover themselves away from humiliation and enough shelter that promises them some hope for tomorrow. Don't dump, rather donate old clothes. There are so many victims of floods and earthquakes whose future can be made by giving your small donation of old clothes. The best way to tidy any clothes and shoe collection is through donating. Donating is an essential and transparent way to help needy people. This is where you can donate your valuable used clothes to victims of floods and earthquakes in different parts of the country. Our school is raising an initiative towards second-hand clothes collection, medicine



collection so that we can also contribute to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.
I urge all of you to be a part of this noble cause.

OR

BALANCE BETWEEN ACADEMICS AND SPORT

By Gagan/Ganga, Class XII

Good morning, respected Principal, teachers, and my dear friends,

Today, I stand before you to discuss a topic that is crucial for our well-being and future success: the balance between academics and sports.

In our pursuit of academic excellence, we often overlook the importance of maintaining good health. High scores in board examinations are indeed vital for securing admission to prestigious colleges. However, what use are these achievements if they come at the cost of our health? A healthy mind resides in a healthy body, and to lead a happy and successful life, we must prioritize both academics and physical well-being.

Engaging in sports and physical activities offers numerous benefits. It not only keeps us fit but also enhances our concentration, reduces stress, and fosters teamwork and discipline. These qualities are essential for academic success as well. By participating in sports, we learn to manage our time effectively, balancing our study schedules with physical exercise.

It is important to remember that academic excellence and good health are not mutually exclusive. We can achieve both by incorporating regular physical activities into our daily routines. Schools should encourage students to participate in sports and provide adequate facilities and time for physical education.

In conclusion, let us strive to maintain a balance between academics and sports. Let us remember that true success lies in achieving academic goals while also nurturing our physical and mental health. Together, we can create a healthier, happier, and more successful future.

Thank you.

8.

For the Motion

Good morning everyone! Respected judges, worthy opponents and the esteemed audience,

Today, I Karuna of class XII, stand before you all to speak in favour of the motion, "The Internet cannot replace a classroom teacher".

The classrooms today differ from the classrooms a decade ago in multitudinous ways. The influx of technology has opened doors, expanded minds and changed the world. However, no matter how advanced and beneficial the technology has got, it can never replace a classroom teacher. There is no denying to the fact that the internet can solve a bulk of problems and provide students all the necessary answers along with illustrations. However, it cannot replace a classroom teacher as it is devoid of any kind of emotion, which is very much required during teaching. A teacher simply does not impart knowledge or information. A teacher leads, guides, facilitates and mentors a student. He understands the emotions and sentiments of the students. He realises the positive as well as the negative feelings of the students.

A teacher faces all types of students with different mental abilities while teaching. He, thus, adjusts his teaching methodology according to them. He helps the weaker students to bloom and motivates his students accordingly. The internet cannot solve all the queries but a teacher can and that too in person. Teachers help the students to remain alert and active in the classroom during teaching, whereas a machine can never do so. Internet would never care about how much concentration, focus and attention the student is learning with. Besides, it can never beat the knowledge of human beings. In addition, it's not necessary that all the information provided by internet is genuine. Have you ever wondered where all the information or knowledge on the internet has come from? It is only we humans who have fed it into the computers.

In conclusion, I would like to say that a machine can never replace a living and breathing knowledgeable person.

Thank you!

Against the Motion

Good morning everyone! Respected judges, worthy opponents and the esteemed audience,

Today, I Karuna of class XII, stand before you all to speak against the motion, "The Internet cannot replace a classroom teacher".

The classrooms today differ from the classrooms a decade ago in multitudinous ways. These days, a modern classroom is defined by technology. Teachers, administrators, parents and students have been told time and again that it is technology alone through which we can sharpen our education system. True personalised tech-infused learning is the future of education. In today's age, the old school method of books and notes is no longer beneficial. Teachers have to keep themselves updated with today's trends and have to equip themselves with the latest technology.

There is constant pressure on teachers and administrators today to implement technology in classroom. In order to fully engage the students and make them learn, a teacher will have to come out of his comfort zone and explore new ways of teaching through the internet. The internet has immense potential to upgrade today's educational system. There may come a time soon when the



role of a teacher in the classroom will considerably be diminished by the internet-based learning environment .
In near future, the teacher will not be able to function without internet and technology. The teacher will have to become a facilitator of imparting trustworthy information from electronic sources. The teachers today need to strike a balance and empower themselves through technology so as to prevent themselves from getting replaced altogether by the internet.
Thank you!

OR

For the Motion: ***Indulgence of the Youth in the Use of the Internet is a Great Bane for Them***

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I stand before you to argue in favor of the motion that "Indulgence of the youth in the use of the Internet is a great bane for them."

While the internet offers numerous benefits, its excessive use has detrimental effects on young people.

Firstly, the internet is a major source of distraction. Students often spend hours on social media, gaming, and browsing non-educational content, which hampers their academic performance and productivity. This constant distraction can lead to poor time management and decreased focus on studies.

Secondly, excessive internet use can lead to health issues such as eye strain, poor posture, and sleep disturbances. The blue light emitted by screens can interfere with sleep patterns, leading to fatigue and reduced cognitive function.

Moreover, the internet can expose young people to inappropriate content and cyberbullying, which can have severe psychological impacts. The anonymity of the internet often emboldens individuals to engage in harmful behaviors, affecting the mental health of the youth.

In conclusion, while the internet is a valuable tool, its overindulgence can be a great bane for the youth, affecting their academic performance, health, and mental well-being.

Thank you.

Against the Motion: ***Indulgence of the Youth in the Use of the Internet is a Great Bane for Them***

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I stand before you to argue against the motion that "Indulgence of the youth in the use of the Internet is a great bane for them."

The internet, when used responsibly, can be a powerful tool for learning and personal growth.

Firstly, the Internet provides access to a vast amount of information and educational resources. Students can use online courses, educational videos, and digital libraries to enhance their knowledge and skills. This access to information can complement traditional learning methods and foster a love for learning.

Secondly, the Internet facilitates communication and collaboration. Students can connect with peers and educators from around the world, participate in online discussions, and work on group projects. This global connectivity broadens their perspectives and helps them develop important social and collaborative skills.

Moreover, the Internet offers numerous opportunities for creativity and self-expression. Platforms like blogs, social media, and video-sharing sites allow young people to share their ideas, showcase their talents, and engage with a wider audience.

In conclusion, the Internet is not inherently a bane for the youth. When used wisely, it can be a valuable resource for education, communication, and personal development.

Thank you.

Section C : Literature (31 Marks)

9. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

Now she has been dead nearly as many years

As that girl lived. And of this circumstance

There is nothing to say at all.

Its silence silences.

- (i) (a) Twelve years

Explanation:

Twelve years

- (ii) (c) Death of poet's mother

Explanation:

Death of poet's mother

- (iii) (a) Alliteration

Explanation:

Alliteration

OR



Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

When did my childhood go?
Was it when I found my mind was really mine,
To use whichever way I choose,
Producing thoughts that were not those of other people
But my own, and mine alone
Was that the day!

- (i) **(a)** individuality

Explanation:

individuality

- (ii) **(c)** Was that the day!

Explanation:

Was that the day!

- (iii) **(a)** Inversion

Explanation:

Inversion

10. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

They remain the richest royal collection ever found and have become part of the pharaoh's legend. Stunning artefacts in gold, their eternal brilliance meant to guarantee resurrection, caused a sensation at the time of the discovery - and still get the most attention. But Tut was also buried with everyday things he'd want in the afterlife: board games, a bronze razor, linen undergarments, cases of food and wine.

- (i) **(a)** things which were found in the tomb.

Explanation:

things which were found in the tomb.

- (ii) **(a)** Both utensil and jewellery

Explanation:

Both utensil and jewellery

- (iii) **(d)** Rejuvenate

Explanation:

Rejuvenate

OR

Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

Unexpectedly, my head popped out of the water. A few metres away, Wavewalker was near capsizing, her masts almost horizontal. Then a wave hurled her upright, my lifeline jerked taut, I grabbed the guard rails and sailed through the air into Wavewalker's main boom. Subsequent waves tossed me around the deck like a rag doll. My left ribs cracked; my mouth filled with blood and broken teeth.

- (i) **(c)** the ship

Explanation:

the ship

- (ii) **(d)** 3 and 5

Explanation:

3 and 5

- (iii) **(c)** His left ribs cracked, mouth filled with blood and broken teeth

Explanation:

His left ribs cracked, mouth filled with blood and broken teeth

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

- (i) i. ...not to do anything that she does not want to do at home, just like the other family members do.

ii. (d) Offended

iii. Annie Pearson behaves coldly with Cyril which is very unusual of her. She was a caring mother who used to attend to her children's requirements on time.

iv. Cyril objects to his mother's way of speaking and asks her how she would feel if all of them talked to her like that but it is a fact that he himself behaves in a same way. Mrs Pearson clarifies that they (family members) already talk to her in an objectionable tone.

(ii) i. (b) Mrs. Dorling's daughter

ii. The narrator revisited the address because she wanted to see her mother's things because she associated them with her mother and the loss of her mother weighed heavily on her.

iii. The narrator's first visit was totally unsuccessful for Mrs. Dorling refused to recognize her. Mrs. Dorling's face gave absolutely no sign of recognition and she kept staring at her without uttering a word.

iv. The author is referring to "Mrs. Dorling's house" as the specific location in the passage. The address as mentioned in the plot was 46, Marconi Road.

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

(i) i. The short-cut would take them south-west, almost directly towards Mount Kailash. Crossing high mountain passes posed breathing problems. Absence of snow meant a fairly good ride.

ii. Yes, the poem has a consistent rhyme scheme. The rhyme scheme in each stanza is:
a b b a b a

(ii) i. The Bombay, author knew had a tower of OCS building. It peeped above the shorter Victorian buildings. There was Handloom House also. There were no such buildings along the Road. Instead there were Boots and Woolworth department stores and offices of Lloyds, Barclays and other British banks.

ii. At first the goldfinch settles at a branch end. Then it watches and suddenly she enters the middle part of the tree. Its movement is as smooth as that of a lizard.

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

(i) He smashed a glass ampule and injected the medicine. After this, he flung down the hypodermic syringe. Then he worked quite hard to restore the soft and weak woman. Her heart strengthened after a few minutes of feverish effort.

(ii) The architect reminded the king that he had made certain amendments to the original plans of the architect he suggested that it was the fault of the king himself. On hearing it, the king became so angry that he nearly lost his ability to act sensibly or calmly.

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

(i) Author's grandmother was a very religious and independent woman. Her energy to walk with a hand on her waist and agility to perform all the tasks made her exuberant. She had a firm belief in God therefore, she always remained busy in telling the beads of her rosary and reciting the prayers. Besides, she had strong will power and ability to overcome her emotions at all the stages of her life. She was a philanthropist as well as an altruist who made stale chapattis every day for the stray dogs. She was a social butterfly who shared her joys and sorrows with all the neighbourhood women of society. In nutshell, she was an impeccable woman with a lot of devotion and selfless attitude.

(ii) The poem 'The Voice of the Rain' beautifully shows the continued process of rain which sounds like music to human ears, as it fulfils our needs.

It is an eternal process which sustains human life and provides us with food, pure air and green cover. On the other hand, human lives are mortal.

We come on this Earth for a short period and then depart without leaving any mark on this planet. Moreover, human beings, for their greed and selfish motives, indulge in destructive activities which may disturb these eternal processes of nature.

We must learn a lesson from nature. If we want peaceful co-existence, we need not disturb the balance of nature, otherwise the whole of humanity will be in danger. We must learn a lesson from such eternal processes and do something good for humanity at large.

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

(i) The story gives no indication that the boys were afraid of anyone or anything. Hence the return of the horse was not directed by fear. Secondly, they were not at all conscience-stricken. They did not feel any pangs of repentance or remorse at their action of stealing a horse solely for the purpose of riding it. The narrator makes it amply clear when he asserts that stealing a horse for a ride was not the same thing as stealing something else, such as money. For him, it wasn't stealing at all as he and Mourad were so crazy about horses. In his opinion, it would become stealing only when they offered to sell the horse, which he knew they would never do.

The last phrase gives a clue to their mental makes up. Mourad had the horse for over a month when farmer John Byro visited the narrator's house. They retained it for two weeks more. Mourad outrightly rejected the narrator's suggestion of keeping the horse any longer. It was his family pride that would not let him steal. He decided that the horse must go back



to its true owner.

The meeting with John Byro proved conclusive. He praised their family for its honesty. He trusted the boys as he knew their parents. Hence in order to uphold the family tradition and reputation, the boys returned the horse to its rightful owner.

- (ii) The given statement shows that the two families knew each other. Some people had left their homes due to the war many years ago. Those who had stayed back thought that the ones who had left would never come back. The woman at the house was therefore surprised to hear that Mrs S's daughter had come back. However, it also depicts an instance of selfishness. The harsh reality that people care more for material things than for human beings had been expressed here. The same can't be said for all human beings though. The narrator and her mother were totally different in their nature. They were trusting and loving human beings. Thus the given statement does give some clue about the story.

