

**Solution**  
**SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER - 1**  
**English Core (301)**  
**Class XI (2024-25)**

**SECTION A : READING SKILLS (26 marks)**

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

Read the passage given below:

1. As a form of expression, graffiti is famously characterized by outlaw values; the creation and display of graffiti countered societal rules and was considered by some as vandalism. Not only was it symbolic of rebel values but was also linked to destruction of property. These links between graffiti culture and rebellion were age-old and some say, were popularized by hip-hop culture.
2. Imagine waking up one morning, to see your walls smeared with black paint names, symbols, messages. The most interesting bit is that these wall artists were never caught red-handed. It was all done stealthily. It was almost as though people were marking their territory using painted symbols and slogans. The change was creeping in. Mobile numbers and captivating phrases gradually became marketing tools for free advertising. Catchy phrases tickled the curiosity and calls were made to those numbers.
3. Over a period of time, there was a shift in perception. Blank walls beckoned invitingly and artists saw whitewashed walls as an opportunity to display their work in free and open settings. The city became one large canvas; the illegal 'gang activity' became an art form on display in walking galleries. Graffiti was gradually being replaced and the stigma of illegality was being dropped. There was a move to embrace rather than condemn.
4. The colours, shapes, and subjects became cultural themes. What was once rebellious expression is artistic talent at its vibrant best, rich in images of plants, animals and unspoiled landscapes. The painted walls encouraged by residents and governments have created their own ecosystem a reconciliation of nature with man-made forces.
5. The monotony and uniformity of urban life is today infused with human vitality and beauty. Cities speak proudly about the painted walls and clamour to be the first to preserve culture and history through these. Graphic displays of social awareness issues effectively and economically reach out to the common man. Silent art speaks volumes. Be it hygiene, conservation, education, or rights and duties the message is conveyed in an animated, colourful manner without being an imposition.

(i) **(c)** an expression of rebellion.

**Explanation:**

an expression of rebellion.

(ii) ■ Done secretly without getting noticed.

- Wall artists were never caught red-handed.
- Done during nighttime.
- Done on the sly/quietly.

(iii) Graffiti was not popular among people because:

- It was considered as an act of rebellion.
- It was linked to destruction of property.
- It countered societal rules.
- It considered as vandalism.
- It was characterized by outlaw values.

(iv) Interesting/Captivating.

(v) (c) Graffiti art was a paid activity.

**Explanation:**

Graffiti art was a paid activity.

(vi) (c) reunion

**Explanation:**

Reunion.

(vii) The stigma of illegality was dropped because over a period of time, there was a shift in perception. Blank walls beckoned invitingly, and artists saw whitewashed walls as an opportunity to display their work in free and open settings. The illegal 'gang activity' became an art form on display in walking galleries. Graffiti was gradually being replaced and the stigma of illegality was being dropped.

(viii) The illegal 'gang activity' became an art form on display in walking galleries.

(ix) (a) dislike to acceptance

**Explanation:**

dislike to acceptance

- (x)
  - Wall art helps to preserve cultural history.
  - It creates a social awareness/message conveyed in an animated colorful manner without being an imposition/reaches out to the common man.

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

1. Millions of tons of small waste from plastic bags, bottles and clothes in the world's ocean present a serious threat to human health and marine environment. This is a warning issued by the U.N. in a report on the most dangerous environmental problem facing the world today. Global plastic production has increased considerably in years nearly by 38%.
2. A poor waste management means when we have finished with our takeaways contains cigarette butts and party balloons, they are worn down into trillions of even small

particles by the waves. Therefore, there is a growing presence of these micro plastic the world's oceans.

3. It was estimated in 2010 that millions of tons of plastic was washed into the sea have since shown up in the stomachs of whales, plankton and other marine life. Richard Thompson, professor of marine biology said that in laboratory experiments the proof that micro plastic can cause harm to organisms.
4. More than a quarter of all fish now contained plastic, according to a recent study which analysed the guts of fish sold in California. Scientists fear that chemicals in plastic and also chemicals which attach themselves to plastic in natural environment could each cause poisoning and many disorders in marine life if consumed in huge quantities.
5. Even humans could be adversely affected by the plastic. People could even be breathing in plastic micro-particles suspended in the air with the risk of harmful effects on the lungs similar to air pollution.
6. Volunteers around the world collect trash and tally up what they find on the annual Ocean's Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup. The result, item-by-item, location-by-location Ocean Trash Index provides the only snapshot of marine debris littering coasts and waterways around the world, according to Ocean Conservancy.



7. Boyance Slat, a Dutch student has developed a technology that could sift dangerous plastic particles out of the ocean and sell them for profit or re-cycling. Richard Thompson recommended that people avoid using products with micro beads and to make sure they dispose of all plastic products in an appropriate way by, if possible.

(i) (a) (1) is the result of (2)

It is clearly given in passages that due to the plastic waste amalgamating in the waters of the oceans, the marine life is risked and contaminated with micro-plastics in them.

Hence, (a) is the right answer.

(ii) Professor in marine biology

(iii) Ocean Trash Index

(iv) Waves

(v) (d) analysing the fish sold in California.

(vi)(d) (III), (IV)

(vii) 298,332

(viii) 339,875

### 3. Title: Listening vs Hearing

#### Notes:

#### I. Difference between hearing and listening

##### i. Hrg

- physical phenomenon
- understanding not necessary
- understood as synonyms but are actually different
- sound waves generated and you hear
- but not necessarily listen

##### ii. Lstg

- paying attention
- applying mind to understand
- avoiding distractions

#### II. Understanding marred due to

- i. prejudices & preconceived notions
- ii. pretend to listen
- iii. judging only speaker's words
- iv. negative mindset to prove speaker wrong
- v. having own version of things

#### III. Ideal listener

- i. listen fully aware
- ii. make judgment or not
- iii. proper communication
- iv. better interpersonal relationship
- v. feeling of ease & tension
- vi. speaks out mind

#### IV. What is real listening

- i. imbibe & understand the unspoken as well
- ii. misunderstandings in family if not listened

#### o Key to Abbreviations

hr	hearing
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phscl	physical
undstdg	understanding
lstg	listening
aplg	applying
undsd	understand
&	and
lstd	listened
-ve	negative
lstr	listener

**Summary:-**

Hearing is just a physical phenomenon, while listening is much more. Both are mistaken to be synonyms but are not actually. Effective listening means paying attention, consciously applying one's mind to what is said and avoiding distractions. Prejudices and preconceived notions mar understanding. One may be judging the words spoken, having a negative mindset or have one's own version of what is said. The ideal listener communicates effectively by being fully aware and speaking his mind. He imbibes and understands even what is left unspoken. Sometimes we are listening but our mind is so filled with other thoughts that it does not get into our mind what actually is being spoken. Not listening to people who matter causes misunderstandings in the families.

**Section B : Grammar (7 Marks)**

4. Answer any SEVEN of the following questions:

- (i) recite
- (ii) waiting
- (iii) when
- (iv) when
- (v) He has been living in Meerut since 2006.
- (vi) Babu is the fastest boy in the class.
- (vii) He made his way back home through the snow.
- (viii) Bikta came on Saturday.

**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

### RECEPTIONIST REQUIRED

Hotel Green Park, Lucknow immediately requires a receptionist, preferably female, below 30 years of age. The candidate must be a graduate, with a charming personality, having good communication skills and knowledge of operating computers. Apply personally before 31st March with complete resume and two colour photographs to Ratan, The General Manager, Hotel Green Park, Lucknow.

Contact 0522-268XXXX, 0983558XXXX

### PHYSICAL FITNESS

#### Importance of Physical Fitness



- Maintains mental and physical fitness
  - Good for the heart
  - Prevents osteoporosis, obesity
  - Lowers high blood pressure
  - Reduces diabetic complications
  - Promotes brain health
  - Excellent de-stresser
  - Improves sleeping patterns
- 6.

OR

### Mere 20 Minutes of Reading



Daily Makes A Huge Difference

**READING HELPS...**



- nourish and broaden minds.
- think outside the box.
- develop vocabulary.
- enhance concentration and discipline.
- sharpen language and communication skills.
- recognise the difference between information and knowledge.

**Reading is food for the mind and soul.**

7. **ENGLISH: EXTREMELY SCORING SUBJECT**

Respected Principal, teachers and friends!

English is an extremely scoring, provided one follows a few rules, such as a good reading habit and the ability to be brief and specific in one's answers. As far as the lessons in the CBSE textbooks are concerned, a thorough reading is essential. Questions asked from these lessons can be from any part of the chapter/story and could be about any minute detail. Remember the complete name of the main characters and the author's name. Your answer has to be in the same tense as the question. Secondly, the answer should be relevant and to the point. In order to get high marks in the comprehension passages and writing tasks, a student must have good communication skills as well as good reading habit. In article/report writing, questions on current affairs are often asked. Reading comes in very handy while writing such compositions. A report should always be written in the passive voice. In note-making, do not give more than five points. Give sub-points for each main point in a logical sequence. On the basis of the points, write a summary and give a title. In letter writing, be brief and accurate. Adopt the block format. Try to be creative while writing advertisements. The phrases/language should be catchy. These are some points that may stand you in good stead.

Thank you.

OR

***Speech on Water is Precious; Use it Wisely***

By Govind/Govindi

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

Today, I want to talk about a critical issue that affects us all: the importance of conserving water. Water will indeed become a scarce commodity soon if we continue to waste it as we do now.

Water is essential for life, yet we are notorious for wasting it. During weddings, we see water being used extravagantly for decorations and other purposes. At home, we often leave taps running while brushing our teeth or washing dishes. Even in schools, we sometimes forget to turn off taps properly, leading to unnecessary waste.

We must understand that every drop of water is precious. Simple actions can make a big difference. For instance, fixing leaking taps, using buckets instead of hoses for washing cars, and taking shorter showers can save significant amounts of water. Schools can install water-saving devices and educate students about the importance of water conservation. Let us also be mindful of our water usage during events and celebrations. By adopting water-efficient practices, we can ensure that future generations have access to this vital resource.

In conclusion, let us pledge to use water wisely and encourage others to do the same. Together, we can make a significant impact and help preserve this precious resource for the future.

Thank you.

8.

### **For the Motion**

Respectable jury members, my fellow opponents and the esteemed audience,  
Today, I Priyanka, will speak in favour of the motion, 'Electronic media will bring about the end of print media'.

Over the last century, the world has seen a paradigm shift in the means of obtaining news from newspapers to television. Today, the reception of news is constant and on the go due to the arrival of the 24-hour news format. The entire news landscape has changed as we are subjected to the concept of breaking news, i.e. receiving news about an event or occurring, immediately as it happens, and without waiting for the newspaper to arrive the next day with an account of events that would have already been telecasted by then.

The power of visuals on TV has a far wider reach and a more direct impact on the audience, whereas, the print media (newspapers) still depends on some amount of education and comprehension on the part of readers. An image being a direct message which does not need to be read or deciphered hints towards the power and influence of the television medium.

TV news strives towards authenticity, covering all vantage points for maximum coverage, and it is delivered fresh and fast. In such a case, it contributes towards the redundancy of the print media.

Thank you!



### **Against the Motion**

Respectable jury members, my fellow opponents and the esteemed audience,  
Today, I Priyanka, will speak against the motion, 'Electronic media will bring about the end of print media'.

I am sure everybody must have read the report on the spread of swine flue across the country in this morning's newspaper. It gave the details of the latest tally of the affected and deaths, besides giving a number of personal stories which are truly heart-rending. Many TV channels, despite covering such items of news, have become repetitive and dull today. All the TV news channels have the same source. There is not enough news to telecast during all the 24 hours of a day. Consequently, some channels of electronic media may even take the liberty to fabricate news on their own, create artificial visuals etc. They even air scandals of Bollywood and politicians to fill their time, labelling them as 'news'. In contrast, the print media will only publish the news that has been verified and analysed. Newspapers and magazines also have editorial comments and quotes from eminent people in the field. Thus, they are able to cater to a spectrum of interests.

Hence, the print media has its own market and will never die out. Besides, it has taken the test of time and has proved its authenticity, reach to wider audience and trust among the audience time and again.

Thank you!

OR

### **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!

### **Section C : Literature (31 Marks)**

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

- (i) i. There is no communication at all between the father and the son. There is complete silence when they are in each other's presence.

- ii. He wants his son to come back to his father's home.
  - iii. He is prepared to accept his son with all his profligacy.
- (ii) i. 'T' here refers to the rain.
- ii. It washes them softly.
  - iii. They would remain unborn and latent as mere seeds.

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

- (i) i. The workcamp was a hive of activity with men using pickaxes and shovels. They were dressed in long sheepskin coats and had salt-encrusted boots. They all wore sunglasses to protect against the glare. Blue trucks loaded with piles of salt were constantly emerging from the blindingly white lake.
- ii. The line suggests that the salt flats and brackish lakes on the plateau are remnants of the former Tethys Ocean, signifying the geological transformation of Tibet due to continental collision.
- iii. The line that provides evidence of the geographical features of the plateau near the dry salt lake and their connection to the ancient Tethys Ocean is: "The plateau is pockmarked with salt flats and brackish lakes, vestiges of the Tethys Ocean which bordered Tibet before the great continental collision that lifted it skyward."
- (ii) i. Because it lacked teachings about God and the scriptures.
- ii. I would explain to her that music and English education can broaden our horizons, enhance creativity, and provide opportunities in the modern world while respecting our traditions.
- iii. The passage indicates that the protagonist's grandmother was unhappy with the content of his school education through the following evidence: "I would tell her English words and little things of western science and learning, the law of gravity, Archimedes' Principle, the world being round, etc." This shows that the mother disapproved of the Western scientific subjects taught at the English school, which made her unhappy.

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

- (i) i. ... a poorly furnished small and clean bedroom, up to a narrow stair. The room was lit only by an oil lamp.
- ii. (d) Irate
- iii. The author described Mrs Morgan's mother as a wise and experienced woman. She offered Andrew tea that he couldn't leave because she anticipated that it was not an ordeal that was going to span over a short time, and it was thus in the best interest to make his stay as comfortable as possible. She was also closely observing him.

- iv. Andrew was mentally and physically exhausted (overwrought) because of the unpleasant meeting with Christine. He knew that if he went home, he could steal an hour's sleep, but he decided to stay at the place till his duty was fulfilled.
- (ii) i. The phrase " he began to roar" suggests that he sang very loudly and cheerfully.
- ii. Two sensory details present in the extract are:
  - I. Sense of smell - The air was new and lovely to breathe.
  - II. Sense of touch - The feel of the horse running was wonderful
- iii. A line from the extract that supports the fact that the narrator and his cousin resided in a rural area is, " Behind our house was the country: vineyards, orchards, irrigation ditches, and country roads."
- iv. (A) A boy's joyful ride with his cousin

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

- (i) i. The mummy of King Tut was scanned from head to toe. The scan revealed astonishing images of King Tut and his entire body on the computer screen. The technician spun Tut's head in every direction. Images of a hand and the neck vertebrae were also seen. Several views of the rib cage and the skull were also seen. It was found that nothing had gone seriously wrong with Tut's body.
- ii. In the afternoon of an autumnal September sunlight, the laburnum top appears silent and quite still. A few leaves of the tree are turning yellow. All the seeds of the tree have fallen.
- (ii) i. The narrator wanted to go on a voyage round-the-world. He wanted to follow the same route which had been followed by Captain James Cook 200 years ago.
- ii. The poet feels that childhood is a period of innocence and simplicity, a time when one trusts others without asking for logic. He does not appear to feel sad or upset at the loss of his childhood. He only seems to be puzzled at the disappearance of childhood and the arrival of adulthood. He expresses his confusion when he asks the questions 'When' and 'Where did my childhood go'?

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

- (i) The narrator became curious about her mother's possessions as normalcy returned in the post-liberation period. She knew that those things must still be at the address her mother told her. She wanted to see them, touch and remember.
- (ii) After being treated very rudely and roughly by Mrs. Fitzgerald, all the family members responded properly to Mrs. Annie Pearson's smile. They decided to stay back and spend time with her. They also responded properly to whatever she said. Finally, they learned to value her love and concern.

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

- (i) Professor Gaitonde was experiencing a different version of the Battle of Panipat. According to this version, the Marathas emerged victorious in the Battle and started extending influence over the entire country. His mind was actually witnessing a different version of the historical reality. Interestingly, he was also witnessing an event that was not conforming to the conventions. The event was a lecture session on the outcomes of the Battle of Panipat. In this lecture session, Prof. Gaitonde observed that the chair of the President was vacant. This again was contrary to the conventions. Prof. Gaitonde rushed to occupy the chair and started explaining the need of a President in a lecture session like this. The public got angry at this point and started throwing objects on him. He had a harrowing experience. This led him to decide not to preside over meetings again.
- (ii) Many writers have paid tributes to their loved ones through beautiful writing. Khushwant Singh gave an adorable description about his grandmother through his story. Shirley Toulson remembered her mother through her heart-touching poem. In my opinion, writing about a loved one is much better than building their statues or drawing their portraits. One can never tell the true personality of a person just by looking at their sculptures or portraits. One can never know about the amazing time someone has spent with them. That magic can only be created by words. Words stand the passage of time whereas sculptures or portraits may get damaged by it. Hence, words are the best way by which anyone can pay a tribute to one's loved ones.

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

- (i) It is a fact that a ruler must possess common sense and intelligence to judge things with the correct perspective. He ought to have the ability to differentiate between right and wrong. People tend to fool others to save themselves, which is very well reflected in the plot 'The Tale of Melon City'. The king was so foolish that he was not able to see through the excuses made by others and eventually paid heavily by losing his own life. The architect or the people who set the noose were far more intelligent than the king and they managed to easily trap him in an unavoidable situation. A king should be witty enough to analyse and rationalise the situation, otherwise, he would land in a difficult situation that might be life-threatening.
- (ii) Today's woman shoulders all the responsibilities, at home as well as outside as she is educated, responsible, and can take independent decisions. But still, the subject of empowerment of women is a burning issue all over the world, including in India. Inequality between the two genders and discrimination against women are age-old

issues. But women are still exploited, as men refuse to accept the rising status of women. They try to find ways to demoralize women and degrade them. People still treat women as a commodity and not as an individual who ought to be respected. Orthodox think that they are good enough for doing domestic chores only. Today's woman is strong enough to handle both fronts. Financial independence has given her the power to take a stand for herself and fight injustice against herself.

Laws are there to protect women. But unless everyone is taught to respect and treat each other equally, woman empowerment seems to be a distant dream.