CLASS 12

SAMPLE PAPER

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Practice Paper (Session: 2023-24)

Class: XII. **Subject: English Core**

Duration:3 hours. **Maximum Marks: 80**

General Instructions:

1. The paper is divided into three sections Section-A: Reading Comprehension, Section-B: Writing Skills and Section-C: Literature. All the sections are compulsory.
2. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.
3. Please write down the serial number of the question in the answer script correctly before attempting it.
4. Separate instructions are given with each question, wherever necessary. Read these carefully.

SECTION--A: READING COMPREHENSION

1. Read the following passage: 12 Marks

1. The National Education Policy (NEP) for India has finally been presented to the public after much consultation. "The democratization of the education" conversation, in itself, is a victory for it sets a precedent for policymaking.

2. NEP leads with three radical changes that will bring much-needed relief from the tunnel vision of restricted student potential. The first is the exit and re-entry of students in universities. We all live with uncertainty — but this should not be a reason to lose out on one's degree. Combined with the ability to transfer credits across universities, this gives true freedom to students to find their best fit.

3. The second is multi-disciplinarity, across schools and higher education. Students can choose any subject, all subjects are equal and the concept of streams has been disbanded. This truly frees up students to work to their talents rather than to an administrator's diktat. The third is the flexibility given in board exams. Again, more choices, more chances to get it right. This is a support to students to be their best selves in a way that had not been enabled before. NEP has also recognised the urgency of foundational learning and upgraded it to a mission.

4. There are many other things that NEP gets right, such as the focus on teacher training for schools, the fund for educating girls, and the freedom for university course length, among others. Creating a framework for teachers to only teach and not be co-opted for other duties is good, as is the emphasis on supporting the less able. The intent is to bridge gaps that have been untended for too long. There is so much to be said and done here, and it is already too little too late — but every effort must be appreciated.

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5. The challenge to get it right is even more so in the troublesome parts of the policy. Language gets quick attention. While we know that home language learning leads to better outcomes, English brings social and economic mobility. The resourcing of multilingual education is highly welcome, while the early learning only in the home language will not be easy — unless they let the teachers have the freedom to use any language that works for their students, not driven by mandate.

Source: https://www.hindustantimes.com/opinion/nep-expands-choice-and-empowers-students

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below:

1. Which victory does the presentation of the National Education Policy (NEP) signify? 1

a) A precedent for policy-making through democratic consultation

b) A victory for the political party in power

c) A complete overhaul of the education system without consultation

d) A victory for the opposition party's demands

2. What significant change has NEP introduced regarding students in universities? 1

a) Limiting the number of students in each university

b) Allowing students to exit and re-enter universities

c) Requiring students to study a specific set of subjects

d) Prohibiting students from transferring credits between universities

3. How does the NEP promote multi-disciplinarity in education? 1

a) It enforces strict subject-specific streams in higher education

b) It emphasizes the importance of a single subject for all students

c) It encourages students to choose any subject without streams

d) It limits students to studying only one subject throughout their education

4. What is one of the benefits of the flexibility in board exams according to the NEP? 1

a) Reducing the number of board exams students need to take

b) Providing students with opportunities to use unscrupulous means

c) Offering students more choices and chances to succeed

d) Increasing the difficulty level of board exams

5. How can the ability to transfer credits across universities benefit students? 2

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6. How does NEP address teacher responsibilities in schools? 2

7. What is the NEP's approach to language learning? 1

a) It promotes home language as the only language for learning

b) It focuses on English language instruction only

c) It supports multilingual education

d) It restricts language options for students

8. What does the author view as the main challenge in implementing the NEP? 1

a) The lack of financial resources for education

b) The resistance from teachers and parents

c) The difficulty in finding qualified teachers

d) Ensuring the successful execution of the policy

9. Find a word similar in meaning to "an order or decree" in para 3 1

10. Find a word opposite in meaning to "rigidity" in para 3 1

2. Read the following passage:

Want to look like a 'snacc' but end up binging on snacks - the struggle is real for Gen Z.

"While they intend to snack healthily, their consumption tells a different story. They snack out of emotions and boredom, and familiar indulgences act as stress relievers and mood boosters. Therefore, indulgence in snacking will remain pivotal, especially for Gen Zs," Tulsi Joshi said.

This trend augurs well for the snacking sector, and companies are making changes to cater to this generation. "The Indian snacking sector is expected to grow at over 7% between 2022 and 2026. Our research shows that Gen Z consumers would be the main drivers of this growth," Joshi said.

Gits, a 60-year-old brand, had limited engagement with Gen Z consumers initially. But now its 'ready-to-eat' lineup has boosted its reach within this segment. "As you move towards a younger generation, culinary skills are diminishing. Hence, ready-to-eat options are preferred over the ready-to-cook ones. Brands now prioritise 'better for you' recipes that balance taste and health, departing from the tasteless 'healthy' trade-off," said Sahil Gilani, director (sales & marketing), Gits Food Products.

"As Gen Z enters the workforce and leads busy lifestyles, they will look for time-saving, convenient snacks that can keep them fuller for longer," Joshi added.

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On the flip-side, dealing with Gen Z may not be a cakewalk for employers. In cognitive behaviour therapy, an intent-action gap is known as 'low frustration tolerance', industry experts say.

"Gen Z struggles to control their urges and spontaneity. They find it hard to tolerate the frustration of choosing a long-term goal over a short-term one. It might be probably 'adulting' in their terms. That's the same reason why even though they intend to reduce their phone or internet use, or gaming, they are unable to do so as they can't stand the discomfort," said Hamsaz Wadhwani, founder & CEO of HR firm The 7th Fold.

An employee well-being survey by The 7th Fold also points to a higher share of Gen Z that binge-eats as compared to Gen X and Gen Y (millennials).

The survey showed that emotional and physical well-being is the lowest in Gen Z. This cohort reported the maximum stress, anxiety, tiredness among all generations. They also exhibited a greater extent of emotions such as anger, leading to depression and burnout. As a result, 67% of Gen Z reported binge-watching video content to deal with stress, leading to poor concentration on work tasks (33% of Gen Z versus 7% in Gen X and Gen Y).

How should workplaces ensure that Gen Z remains engaged? "Gen Z could be a lot more productive if they are able to manage their frustrations better. Organisations that have a large employee base of Gen Zers would do well if they have trained coaches that are dedicated to have one-on-one sessions with the younger employees to help them focus on work and enable them to be more productive.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below:

1. What is the main struggle faced by Gen Z regarding snacking? 1

   a) Lack of appetite

   b) Choosing healthy snacks

   c) Overindulging in snacks

   d) Not finding suitable snacks

2. According to Tulsi Joshi, why do Gen Z individuals tend to snack? 1

   a) Due to lack of self-control

   b) To curb their appetite

   c) Out of boredom and emotions

   d) To maintain a healthy lifestyle

3. What role do familiar indulgences play for Gen Z in terms of snacking? 1

   a) They discourage snacking

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b) They lead to healthier choices

c) They act as stress relievers and mood boosters

d) They have no impact on snacking habits

4. According to Hamsaz Wadhwani, why do Gen Z individuals find it hard to make long-term choices? 1

a) Lack of awareness

b) Inability to set goals

c) Low frustration tolerance

d) Impulsiveness

5. What is the cognitive behavior therapy term for the gap between intent and action? 1

a) Impulsivity gap

b) Intent-action disparity

c) Frustration tolerance gap

d) Low frustration tolerance

6. According to Sahil Gilani, why are ready-to-eat options preferred by younger generations? 2

7. What type of snacks will Gen Z individuals look for as they enter the workforce? 1

a) Snacks that are easy to cook

b) Snacks with complex flavors

c) Time-saving and convenient snacks

d) Snacks high in calories

8. How can workplaces ensure Gen Z's engagement in the workplace? 2

SECTION--B CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

3. You are Mahim/Mahima, Secretary of the CCA Club of Vidya Mandir School, Sector-1, Rohini. Draft a notice in not more than 50 words informing students about Inter- House debate Competition on "Moonlighting in IT sector" in the first week of August. Invent necessary details. 4

OR

After the rains, cases of Dengue, Chikungunya etc are on the rise in your city. As Principal, Sunshine Public School ,Manu Vihar, you have decided to allow your students to wear full sleeve

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shirts and trousers in the school for a period of one month. Write the notice in about 50 words informing the students about the same.

4. While walking in a park in your neighbourhood you found a small plastic bag containing some documents and some cash. Write a notice in about 50 words to be put on the park notice board asking the owner to identify and collect it from you. You are Amar/ Amrita available at 99XXXXXXX. 4

OR

This year, the three day flower festival "Phoolwalon ki Sair" , an annual celebration by the flower sellers of Delhi is to be held in Mehrauli, in the month of November. Your club 'The social' has received an invite from the Tourism Department for your members to visit it. Write a notice in about 50 words informing the members about the show. You are Navtej/ Navita, President of the club.

5. You are Arpit/Arpita of 7, Nagina Road, Delhi. Ministry of Health, Government of Delhi requires specialist doctors with three years' experience for posting in rural hospitals in Outer Delhi. Draft a letter including a Resume and apply as an Eye Specialist stating your qualifications and experience. 5

OR

SITUATION VACANT

Wanted software engineer for Ivy Software Solutions, a leading name in computers. Candidate should possess a Master's Degree in Computer Software Programming and at least 3 years' experience with a known computer concern. Remuneration no constraint for suitable candidate. Apply with detailed resume within ten days to General Manager, Ivy Software Solutions, Agra

You are Akshar/Akshara, living at B - 94 Fort Road, Agra. You have read the advertisement given above and you are qualified for the job. Write an application in 120 – 150 words along with resume to apply for the same.

6. You are Sunit / Sunita, a teacher and social worker. You are happy with the recent developments in the past decade regarding child labour laws in India wherein children below 14 years of age are not only barred from being employed in hazardous employment but also in homes, hotels and *dhabas*. But you feel that this is not enough. Write an article in 120 -150 words on how eradication of child labour requires holistic government policies involving economic and educational back up. 5

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OR

You are Deepak/ Deepika of St. Sebastian High School Delhi and commute to your school every day by the newly started Metro Rail. You notice the benefits of travelling by Metro and decide to write an article in a local newspaper on the same. Write your article in 120 -150 words under the heading 'Metro Rail' a boon for traffic.

SECTION--C: LITERATURE TEXT BOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READER TEXT

7. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: 6X1=6

Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing

A flowery band to bind us to the earth,

Spite of despondence, of the

inhuman dearth Of noble natures,

of the gloomy days,

Of all the unhealthy and o'er darkened ways

Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,

i. In which of the following options can the underlined words be replaced with 'despondence'?

a) The man paced about the room with restlessness.

b) A chat with a close friend can take away our blues.

c) I was in jitters, seeing the trapped in fire couple

d) Being dogged is what led him to negotiate.

ii Pick the option that enumerates what 'noble natures' can include:

a) selflessness

b) insensitivity

c) despondence

d) aggression

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iii Based on the poem, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.

Statement 1: The earth without the beautiful things is a place full of despair and unpleasantness.

Statement 2: The beautiful band created by human beings, brings despair

a) Statement 1 is true but Statement 2 is false

b) Statement 1 is false but Statement 2 is true

c) Both statement 1 and 2 are true

d) Both statement 1 and 2 are false

iv On the basis of the extract, pick the option that is not true about a thing of beauty:

a) it transcends time and doesn't fade away

b) it doesn't dispel darkness

c) it is not only physical but spiritual as well

d) it brings in a ray of hope

v Man binds himself to earth by_____

vi. Find word from the passage which means the opposite of 'cheerfulness'

OR

Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool

Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.

The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band

Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.

i. What is the symbolic significance of Uncle's wedding band?

a) Happiness

b) Burden

c) Commitment

d) Freedom

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ii. What emotion might Aunt Jennifer be experiencing?

a) Joy

b) Frustration

c) Contentment

d) Indifference

iii. The word "massive" used to describe the wedding band implies:

a) Tiny

b) Heavy

c) Delicate

d) Insignificant

iv. Based on the poem, choose the correct option with reference to the Assertion A and Reason R given below.

Assertion: Aunt Jennifer finds the ivory needle hard to pull.
Reason: The delicate and fine nature of the ivory needle, makes it challenging for Aunt Jennifer to pull the needle through the wool.

Select the most appropriate option:

a) Both the assertion and reasoning are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.

b) Both the assertion and reasoning are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.

c) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.

d) Both the assertion and reason are false.

v. Which statement below does NOT accurately reflect the poem's description?

a) Aunt Jennifer's fingers flutter through the wool.

b) Uncle's wedding band is described as light.

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c) Aunt Jennifer finds it difficult to pull the ivory needle.

d) The weight of the wedding band affects Aunt Jennifer's hand.

vi. Explain the significance of the massive weight of Uncle's wedding band

8. Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow: 4X1=4

I'm just an ordinary guy named Charley, thirty-one years old, and I was wearing a tan gabardine suit and a straw hat with a fancy band; I passed a dozen men who looked just like me. And I wasn't trying to escape from anything; I just wanted to get home to Louisa, my wife. I turned into Grand Central from Vanderbilt Avenue, and went down the steps to the first level, where you take trains like the Twentieth Century. Then I walked down another flight to the second level, where the suburban trains leave from, ducked into an arched doorway heading for the subway - and got lost. That's easy to do.

i. What is 'gabardine'?

(a) A firm durable fabric

(b) Brown colour

(c) A tight outfit

(d) a design of suit

ii. What does the speaker mean by 'suburban'?

(a) Place located on the outskirts of the city

(b) Place located in the city

(c) Place located far away from the city

(d) Place located in the centre of the city

iii. Where does the speaker get lost?

(a) at the Grand Central station

(c) at the Railway station

(b) at the Vanderbuilt Avenue

(d) at the first level

iv. What does "duck into' mean?

(a) To move downwards and enter

(b) To move upwards and enter

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(c) To move aside and enter

(d) To swim like a duck

OR

Students on Ice, the programme I was working with on the Shokalskiy, aims to do exactly this by taking high school students to the ends of the world and providing them with inspiring educational opportunities which will help them foster a new understanding and respect for our planet. It's been in operation for six years now, headed by Canadian Geoff Green, who got tired of carting celebrities and retired, rich, curiosity-seekers who could only 'give' back in a limited way. With Students on Ice, he offers the future generation of policy makers a life-changing experience at an age when they're ready to absorb, learn, and most importantly, act.

i Students on Ice is ……. headed by Geoff Green

a) a travelogue

b) an expedition

c) a world tour

d) a cafeteria

ii Pick the option that characterizes Geoff Green based on your understanding of the extract.

1. overachiever

2. visionary

3. miserly

4. impassive

iii The purpose of "Students on ice" for Green's programme :

1. making youngsters realize the gory reality of the planet

2. provoking the youth to think about the future earnestly

3. giving a chance of exploring the north pole to the young generation

4. providing travel opportunities to students that were unfortunate

a) 1 and 2

b) 3 and 4

c) 1 and 3

d) 2 and 4

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iv. Antarctica is crucial because it:

a) stays as it is throughout the year.

b) becomes a perfect place to travel.

c) is an uncorrupted area.

d) abides by the strict laws of nature.

9. Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow: 6X1=6

While I was wondering about it all, M. Hamel mounted his chair, and, in the same grave and gentle tone which he had used to me, said, "My children, this is the last lesson I shall give you. The order has come from Berlin to teach only German in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine. The new master comes tomorrow. This is your last French lesson."

i. What was the tone of M. Hamel when he was addressing his students?

(a) cheerful

(b) excited

(c) heart-broken

(d) angry

ii. M. Hamel was sad after getting the order from Berlin was due to:

(a) his patriotic feeling for his country

(b) his love for his mother tongue

(c) the grief of not being able to teach French in future

(d) He could not go for fishing trips anymore

iii. When would M. Hamel leave?

(a) the same day

(b) the next day

(c) after one week

(d) after two weeks

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iv. What did M. Hamel want from the students on the last day of French lesson?

(a) To give him a farewell

(b) To oppose the order from Berlin

(c) To be very attentive to his lesson

(d) To rectify their mistakes

v. After M Hamel's speech, Franz felt_____

vi The significance of the last lesson was that the people of Alsace learned _____

OR

Savita, a young girl in a drab pink dress, sits alongside an elderly woman, soldering pieces of glass. As her hands move mechanically like the tongs of a machine, I wonder if she knows the sanctity of the bangles she helps make. It symbolizes an Indian woman's suhaag, auspiciousness in marriage. It will dawn on her suddenly one day when her head is draped with a red veil, her hands dyed red with henna, and red bangles rolled onto her wrists. She will then become a bride. Like the old woman beside her who became one many years ago. She still has bangles on her wrist, but no light in her eyes.

i "As her hands move mechanically, like the tongs of a machine, I wonder if I wonder if she knows the sanctity of the bangles she helps make." Identify the literary device used in the sentence.

a. Simile

b. Metaphor

c. Contrast

d. Alliteration

ii "I wonder if she knows the sanctity of the bangles she helps make." The underlined phrase symbolizes:

a. Richness

b. Auspiciousness associated to bangles

c. Bangle making requires purity

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d. Making of bangles requires a sanction

iii Why does the author wonder if Savita knows the sanctity of the bangles she helps make?

a. because she is too young to know that it symbolizes auspiciousness in marriage.

b. because she hasn't seen any sanctity associated to bangles

c. because she is immature and impractical

d. all of the above

iv "She still has bangles on her wrist but no light in her eyes." Why does the author say so?

a. Mukesh's grandmother had seen her husband go blind with the dust from polishing the glass of bangles

b. Like Savita, the young girl, the grandmother also does not know the sanctity of the bangles

c. The grandmother has not enjoyed even one full meal in her entire lifetime

d. The grandmother has grown too old

v The forces responsible for poor condition of bangle makers are_____

vi Find a word from the passage which means "purity"

10. Answer any five of the following six questions in 40-50 words: 5X2=10

(i) How is Rattrap used as a metaphor in the lesson The Rattrap?

(ii) The make up division of the Gemini Studios had the element of national integration. Explain

(iii) There can be life under apparent stillness'. Explain. (Keeping Quiet)

(iv) What made the British realize that the Indians could challenge their hitherto unquestioned might?

v) Why didn't Anna laugh at Bama's description of the funny incident?

(vi) Why were the expectations of the people running the road side stand left unfulfilled?

11. Answer any two out of the following three questions in 40-50 words: 2X2=4

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i. How is man responsible for creating a ruckus on this Earth in a short span of 12 thousand years?

ii. How did Dr. Sadao ensure that the American sailor left his house but he himself remained safe and secure?

iii. What had Zitkala's mother told her about the tradition regarding hair in their tribe?

12. Answer any one of the following two questions in about 120-150 words: 1X5=5

The lesson 'Going Places' explores the aspirations and dreams of the young protagonist, Sophie. How does her journey shed light on societal expectations, individual dreams, and the challenges encountered in pursuing one's aspirations?

OR

Desire, determination and diligence lead to success. Explain the value of these qualities in the light of Douglas' experience in 'Deep Water'?

13. Answer any one of the following two questions in about 120-150 words: 1X5=5

In the final moments of the play 'On the Face of It,' Derry comes to a significant understanding about life and Mr Lamb despite his situation. How does the resolution of their relationship and the closing scene reflect the values portrayed in the play?

OR

The astrologer's prediction about the death of the Tiger King came to be true. Do you agree with this statement? Justify your stance in reference to the lesson.

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