CBSE

Central Board of Secondary Education

Question Paper

2024

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Series &RQPS

SET-4

Q.P. Code 28

Roll No. | | | | | | | | |

Candidates must write the Q.P. Code on the title page of the answer-book.

- Please check that this question paper contains **19** printed pages.
- Please check that this question paper contains **13** questions.
- Q.P. Code given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer-book by the candidate.
- **Please write down the serial number of the question in the answer-book before attempting it.**
- 15 minute time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed at 10.15 a.m. From 10.15 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., the students will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.

ENGLISH (Elective)

Time allowed : 3 hours *Maximum Marks : 80*

General Instructions :

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them :

*(i) This question paper contains **13** questions. **All** questions are **compulsory**.*

*(ii) This question paper has **three** sections – Section A, B and C. Section A : **Reading**, Section B : **Grammar and Writing**, Section C : **Literature and Fiction**.*

(iii) Separate instructions are given with each part and question, wherever necessary.

(iv) Do no exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A

(Reading) **20 Marks**

1. Read the passage given below : *12*

(1) The United States and China are currently involved in an extraordinary standoff over allegations of espionage through high-altitude balloons. Last week, the US downed three unidentified 'objects' flying over its airspace and that of Canada. The downed 'objects' have not yet been recovered, so it is not clear whether these were balloons.

(2) But the first incident involved a Chinese balloon that Beijing claimed was meant for research purposes and was accidentally blown off course by wind. The US has also claimed that Chinese balloons entered its airspace on at least four earlier occasions, remaining undetected at that time. China, in turn, has accused the US of sending surveillance balloons over its airspace at least 10 times since last year.

(3) Balloons have been in frequent use for several decades now, though the first use goes back by at least 200 years. They are used mainly for scientific purposes, but increasingly for tourism and joy rides, surveillance, disaster relief and rescue.

(4) The bigger balloons can be as large as a football stadium, go up to 40 – 50 km from the ground, and carry a few thousand kilograms of payloads. Most of these are built of thin sheets of polyethylene, like the common plastic bags, and are filled mostly with helium gas. Balloons can stay in flight from anywhere between a few hours to a couple of months. Those that are meant to remain in air for long, and go higher up in the atmosphere, are made of more advanced materials for increased sturdiness.

(5) Balloons typically have a basket attached to them, called gondolas, that carry instruments or human beings. In unmanned flights, the gondolas are also attached to a parachute. Once the job of the balloon is done, a device in the gondola is triggered to snap its ties with the balloon as well as create a rupture in the fabric of the balloon. With the help of the parachute, the gondola then glides down to the earth, followed by the ruptured balloon. The possible landing zone is calculated ahead of the flight based on weather conditions.

(6) The most common use of balloons is in scientific research. In a way, balloons equipped with instruments were able to perform the functions of a satellite before the space age dawned. Even in the times of advanced satellites, there are situations in which balloons are considered more suitable. Weather agencies routinely use balloons to make measurements of air temperature, pressure, wind speed, direction and aerosol concentrations.

(7) Because of the high altitudes that today's giant balloons can attain, they are considered useful for astrophysicists and even space agencies. These are relatively clear spaces, much above the heights at which airplanes fly and far below the nearest orbits, about 200 km from earth, where satellites are placed. Very often, they offer better opportunities to observe specific parts of the earth, and are also thousands of times cheaper than satellites.

(8) Moreover, because the balloons are brought down after their job is done, the instruments used are recoverable and resaleable.

(9) NASA has a full-fledged balloon programme that does four-five launches every year. Several universities and research institutions also use balloons for research work.

(10) Balloon-based experiments have resulted in at least two Nobel prizes for Physics in 1936 and 2006.

(11) High altitude balloons are tempting vehicles for espionage operations though their use is not known to be very common. Drones and satellites are used more frequently, and spy planes have been in use since World War I. But here again, balloons have certain advantages. They can hover over an area for a prolonged time. Big balloons can carry a few thousand kilograms of payloads, which means they can be packed with spying instruments.

(12) The biggest advantage is the greater prospect of their remaining undetected. Because of their relatively slow movement, balloons are mostly flagged as birds by defence radars, thus escaping attention. In fact, the US has now said it will recalibrate its radar systems to detect slow-moving objects.

(13) Balloons lack the sophisticated navigation systems of an aircraft, drone or satellite, being largely at the mercy of wind speed and direction. But the balloon that was downed on February 4 seemed to have a solar panel attached to it, which has given rise to the possibility of it powering an onboard propulsion device.

(14) Scientific balloons have been used in India for more than 70 years; the first one having been sent in 1948 by Homi Bhabha for cosmic ray research. The Mumbai-based Tata Institute of Fundamental Research started balloon fabrication work in the 1950s and several balloon flights were launched from Mumbai and Hyderabad. It is regularly used by the space institutions under ISRO and weather institutions like the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune. Institutions like the Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Astrophysics and Hyderabad's Osmania University, as well as some private educational institutions, also have balloon programmes. In 1969, the TIFR opened a full-fledged balloon plant in Hyderabad, which remains India's largest such facility today.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer any ***twelve*** out of the fifteen questions given below : *12×1=12*

(i) Balloons have been used primarily for :

(A) scientific purposes.

(B) tourism and joy rides.

(C) providing disaster relief.

(D) keeping an eye on the enemy installations.

(ii) The advantage of the balloons is that they :

(A) can take off from anywhere.

(B) can carry heavy payloads.

(C) stay in flight for as long as we wish.

(D) are much cheaper in comparison to satellites.

(iii) The basket-like 'gondolas' :

(A) can carry payloads and human beings.

(B) have to be manually ruptured after the job is completed.

(C) need to be refuelled.

(D) have a device which is fixed in the gondola to trigger to snap its ties with the balloon.

(iv) Even after the dawn of the modern space-age, the importance of the balloons has not _____ .

(A) been curtailed

(B) enhanced

(C) become popular

(D) become redundant

(v) As compared to satellites, the balloons are more useful to astrophysicists and space agencies because

(A) balloons can reach greater heights.

(B) they provide better opportunities to observe specific parts of the earth.

(C) they don't need large manufacturing units.

(D) balloons are invisible.

(vi) The balloons are mostly used by institutes and universities for :

(A) comparing the cost of launching balloons as compared to spacecrafts.

(B) research work.

(C) giving training to young scientists.

(D) exploring space.

(vii) A balloon is ruptured _____ .

(A) on landing

(B) when there is a snag in the operations

(C) to snap its ties with the gondolas

(D) when it is sighted by the enemy

(viii) The balloons are a more tempting device for surveillance in comparison to drones and satellites because _____ .

(A) they can be easily maneuvered

(B) they can hover over the area for a longer time

(C) they are light in weight

(D) they are less expensive

(ix) The balloons escape the radars of the enemy as _____ .

(A) they are flagged as slow-moving birds

(B) they fly at higher altitudes

(C) they occupy less space

(D) they are not frequently used

(x) In para 12, the word 'recalibrate' has been used to mean :

(A) remodel

(B) rebuild

(C) readjust

(D) reconstruct

(xi) Unlike drones and satellites, the balloons :

(A) are light.

(B) are at the mercy of wind.

(C) need lesser training.

(D) need no prior research.

(xii) In India, balloons are primarily used :

(A) by defence forces.

(B) by weather research institutes.

(C) for sight-seeing and tourism.

(D) by institutions working under ISRO.

(xiii) The scientists in India are _____ about the future use of balloons.

(A) very enthusiastic

(B) not clear

(C) very wary

(D) exploring a career

(xiv) In para 13 the word 'sophisticated' has been used to mean :

(A) complicated

(B) expensive

(C) complex

(D) delicate

(xv) Do you think the writer is _____ the use of balloons for scientific purposes ?

(A) researching

(B) in favour of

(C) keen to explore

(D) advocating

2. Read the following extract from Wordsworth's poem

"Tintern Abbey" : *4*

..... That time is past,

And all its aching joys are now no more,

And all its dizzy raptures. Not for this

Faint I, nor mourn nor murmur; other gifts

Have followed; for such loss, I would believe,

Abundant recompense. For I have learned

To look on nature, not as in the hour

Of thoughtless youth; but hearing oftentimes

The still, sad music of humanity,

Nor harsh nor grating, though of ample power

To chasten and subdue. — And I have felt

A presence that disturbs me with the joy

Of elevated thoughts; …

Based on your understanding of the above extract, answer any ***four*** out of the five questions given below : *4×1=4*

(i) What is the significance of the expression : "That time is past" ?

(A) There is some event in the past in the life of the poet, which is referred to here.

(B) Life in his previous birth

(C) An incident which has left an indelible imprint on the poet's mind

(D) Suggests how time has passed quietly

(ii) What is suggested by the expression : "Abundant recompense"?

(A) The poet has been amply compensated.

(B) The loss of time is not big enough not to be regained.

(C) The poet has decided not to look back.

(D) The poet is determined to move ahead despite the loss he has suffered in the past.

(iii) What is meant by 'The still, sad music of humanity' ?

(A) Timeless connection between nature and all of humanity.

(B) We should try to find music even in the worst circumstances.

(C) The suffering of humanity is a curse.

(D) We should look on the bright side of things in life which has been bestowed on us by nature.

(iv) What do the 'elevated thoughts' suggest ?

(A) varied ideas

(B) high and sublime thoughts

(C) ideas which are different from the ideas of others

(D) thoughts which lift a man to go to Heaven

(v) The word 'subdue' suggests

(A) impel

(B) persuade

(C) goad

(D) suppress

3. Read the passage given below : *4*

(1) The Shimla hills are as beautiful as before, but the city has become crowded and its traffic messy. The local population has crossed 3 lakh, with more than 70,000 registered vehicles, and on top of that about 40 lakh tourists troop in every year.

(2) The rush is beyond the carrying capacity of Shimla's narrow hill roads, and several proposals have been made in the past to decongest them with better public transport. Those proposals looked good on paper, but did not materialise.

(3) The Himachal Pradesh Government has now decided to lift some of Shimla's traffic load off the ground with a network of ropeways.

(4) The ropeway decision follows from the realisation that some of public transport solutions that work well in the plains, such as Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), monorail and metro, are not feasible in the hills due to geographical and geotechnical limitations. Hence the Himachal Pradesh Government has sent a proposal to the New Development Bank (NDB) for bilateral funding of the ropeway project.

(5) The Centre's Department of Economic Affairs recently gave in-principle approval for the ropeway project that would start from Taradevi and have infrastructure like smart parking, lifts and escalators to integrate it with the existing transport networks.

(6) The ropeway fare would also be more or less at par with conventional transportation to encourage local residents to use it rather than their private vehicles. The fare for journeys of up to 10 km would be ₹ 50.

(7) This project will benefit the public in the real sense. Besides saving travel time, it would also be beneficial from the environmental point of view.

(8) The almost 15 km long ropeway is likely to be built in five years, and it will reduce transport emissions in the city. The improved air quality will also have a positive impact on people's health.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer any ***four*** out of the five questions given below : *4×1=4*

(i) Traffic is messy in Shimla because of :

(A) the narrow roads.

(B) too many crossroads.

(C) increase in registered vehicles.

(D) people who do not follow traffic rules.

(ii) What action has the Himachal Pradesh Government decided to take to reduce some of Shimla's traffic load ?

(iii) State *True* or *False*.
The following question could have been part of the above decision making process.
Would it be better to consider an underground tunnel instead of a ropeway ?

(iv) Complete the following statement :
The ropeway will be popular in Shimla _____ .

(v) State a point in support of the given opinion.
The general public would prefer to travel by ropeway.

SECTION B

Grammar and Writing — 28 Marks

4. Transform the following sentences according to the instructions given against each one. Attempt any ***eight*** out of the ten questions that follow : *8×1=8*

(a) Ashoka was one of the greatest Indian emperors.
(Begin : Ashoka was greater . . .)

(b) Death before dishonour !
(Begin : I prefer . . .)

(c) On condition of your signing this receipt, I shall pay you the money.
(Begin : I shall . . .)

(d) Can this news even be true ?
(Begin : This . . .)

(e) He forcibly made his way through the crowd.
(Begin : He forced . . .)

(f) Only children will enjoy this movie.
(Begin : None . . .)

(g) I love her more than you do.
(Begin: You . . .)

(h) He is so simple that he cannot see through the game.
(Begin : He is . . .)

(i) The boy saw his mistake. He grew nervous.
(Begin : On seeing . . .)

(j) There was no evidence against him. He was acquitted of the charge.
(Begin : There being . . .)

5. Attempt any ***three*** of the following four questions in 120 – 150 words each : *3×5=15*

(a) "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." (Albert Einstein)

There are occasions in life when, instead of moving ahead, we stop moving. The writer says that in order to achieve our goal, we must keep moving despite setbacks. In order to progress, movement is imperative. The issue is whether it is really possible to move when the pressure of movement becomes unbearable. How should we act to keep a fine balance so that our life does not get upset ?

Plan your response and write an essay to explain your views on the issue. Be sure to specifically support your position with examples and points. (You may use examples from your readings, observations and personal inputs)

(b) "Great things never came from comfort zones." (Anonymous)

We can achieve our goal only by endeavouring constantly without caring for the setbacks. Once we relax in our efforts, we risk the achievement of our mission. The issue is : man is by nature out to live in comfort zones. What is it that inspires us to get out of the comfort zone ? Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experience or observations.

(c) "A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way." (John C.)

Leadership qualities are not found in everyone. It is a rare quality. And such an individual alone has the vision and clarity about their goals. Such a person alone can guide others for they know what is the right path. The issue is how difficult it is to have a clear vision. What are the efforts that will make a person such an individual ? Support your views and reasoning with examples taken from your readings, observations or personal experiences.

(d) "Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm." (Winston Churchill)

It is said that failures are the pillars of success. If we get defeated by our failures and are deterred from moving on in life, we will miss the glories of success. Therefore, it is necessary that we don't get disheartened by failures. We can do this if we don't let our enthusiasm relax. It is indeed a great challenge. How to face this challenge, that is the question. Plan and write an essay on which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your reasoning with examples from your readings, observations or personal experiences.

6. You are Reena/Rahul, a press reporter, and you have been asked to report a collision between a school bus and a truck. Prepare a report in 120 – 150 words. You may use the points given below. *5*

Points: Date and venue — what happened — impact on life and property — other important features — action taken — responses of survivors and eye witnesses

SECTION C

Literature and Fiction 32 Marks

7. (I) Attempt any ***one*** of the two extracts (a) and (b) given below :

(a) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow : *6×1=6*

Usually after breakfast on Sunday, he and his wife took a walk in Central Park, or, when the weather was mild, went to the Palisades. But today Solomon Margolin lingered in bed. During the years, he had stopped attending the functions of the Senciminer Society; meanwhile, the town of Sencimin had been destroyed. His family there had been tortured, burned, gassed. Many Senciminers had survived, and, later, come to America from the camps, but most of them were younger people whom he, Solomon, had not known in the old country. Tonight everyone would be there; the Senciminers belonging to the bride's family, and the Tereshpolers belonging to the groom's. He knew how they would pester him, reproach him for growing aloof, drop hints that he was a snob. They would address him familiarly, slap him on the back, drag him off to dance. Well, even so, he had to go to Sylvia's wedding. He had already sent out the present.

(i) What was the reason for Dr. Margolin to linger in bed after his breakfast ?

(ii) Who destroyed the town of Sencimin and why ?

(iii) Who did Dr. Margolin expect to meet at the wedding ?

(iv) What is the significance of the words "He had already sent out the present" ?

(v) Who were the Senciminers and why did they settle in New York ?

(vi) Find the word in the extract which is opposite in meaning to the word 'perished'.

OR

(b) After lunch, during the inevitable stroll along the Ramblas, I lagged behind with Frau Frieda so that we could renew our memories with no other ears listening. She told me she had sold her properties in Austria and retired to Oporto, in Portugal, where she lived in a house that she described as a fake castle on a hill, from which one could see all the way across the ocean to the Americas. Although she did not say so, her conversation made it clear that, dream by dream, she had taken over the entire fortune of her ineffable patrons in Vienna. That did not surprise me, however, because I had always thought her dreams were no more than a stratagem for surviving. And I told her so.

She laughed her irresistible laugh. 'You're as impudent as ever,' she said. And said no more, because the rest of the group had stopped to wait for Neruda to finish talking in Chilean slang to the parrots along the Rambla de los Pájaros. When we resumed our conversation, Frau Frieda changed the subject.

(i) Explain the 'inevitable stroll'.

(ii) Why did the writer lag behind others in the company of Frau Frieda ?

(iii) How was Frau Frieda able to grab the property of her 'ineffable patrons' ?

(iv) Why did the writer think that Frau Frieda's dream telling was only a clever trick to earn money ?

(v) Why did Frau Frieda change the topic she was discussing with the writer ?

(vi) Which word can be a good synonym for the word 'Stratagem' ?

(a) Frankness (b) Stagnation

(c) Discord (d) Artifice

(II) Attempt any ***one*** of the two extracts (a) and (b) given below :

(a) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow : *6×1=6*

Or listen to the clock towers
of any old well-managed city
beating their gongs round the clock, each slightly
off the others' time, deeper or lighter
in its bronze, beating out a different
sequence each half-hour, out of the accidents
of alloy, a maker's shaking hand
in Switzerland, or the mutual distances
commemorating a donor's whim,
the perennial feuds and seasonal alliance
of Hindu, Christian and Muslim —
cut off sometimes by a change of wind,
a change of mind, or a siren
between the pieces of a backstreet quarrel.
One day you look up and see one of them
eyeless, silent, a zigzag sky showing
through the knocked-out clockwork, after a riot,
a peace-march time bomb, or a precise act
Of nature in a night of lightnings.

(i) Do you think the city is really well-managed ?

(ii) What are perennial feuds and seasonal alliances ?

(iii) Why does the poet mention 'Switzerland' ?

(iv) Explain the phrase "change of wind" with reference to the extract.

(v) What does one look up and see after a riot ?

(vi) Pick out the word from the extract which is an apt synonym of the word 'celebrating'.

OR

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

The trees are in their autumn beauty,
The woodland paths are dry,
Under the October twilight the water
Mirrors a still sky;
Upon the brimming water among the stones
Are nine-and-fifty swans.

The nineteenth autumn has come upon me
Since I first made my count;
I saw, before I had well finished,
All suddenly mount
And scatter wheeling in great broken rings
Upon their clamorous wings.

I have looked upon those brilliant creatures,
And now my heart is sore.
All's changed since I, hearing at twilight,
The first time on this shore,
The bell-beat of their wings above my head,
Trod with a lighter tread,
Unwearied still, lover by lover,
They paddle in the cold
Companionable streams or climb the air;
Their hearts have not grown old;
Passion or conquest, wander where they will,
Attend upon them still.

But now they drift on the still water,
Mysterious, beautiful;
Among what rushes will they build,
By what lake's edge or pool
Delight men's eyes when I awake some day
To find they have flown away ?

(i) What is the theme of this poem ?

(ii) What does the expression "I first made my count" refer to ?

(iii) What does 'scatter wheeling' refer to ?

(iv) What makes the poet unhappy ?

(v) What is the contrast between the liveliness of the swans and human life ?

(vi) Find the word in the poem which means 'noisy/squawking'.

8. Answer any ***one*** of the following questions in 30 – 40 words. *2*

(a) What prompts Eveline to give up her idea of eloping with Frank ?

(b) Describe the things that refer to magical elements in the poem 'Kubla Khan'.

9. Answer any ***one*** of the following questions in 40 – 50 words. *3*

(a) Why is Dr. Margolin not particular that his wife should accompany him to the wedding ?

(b) What impression do you make of Pablo Neruda from his manner of eating ?

10. Answer any ***one*** of the following questions in 120 – 150 words. *5*

(a) Do you think absolute freedom exists in the world ?

(b) Do you think Prakriti is right in falling in love unilaterally with the monk in order to get rid of the stigma of untouchability ?

11. Answer any ***one*** of the following questions in 30 – 40 words. *2*

(a) What prompts Raja, the Tiger to make peace with the tigress and live together ?

(b) How is Raja tamed by the Captain for his circus performances ?

(c) What kind of relationship does Margayya enjoy with his brother and his family ?

(d) Why did Margayya sell his share of book-publishing to Madan, his partner ?

12. Answer any ***one*** of the following questions in 50 – 60 words. *3*

(a) Compare and contrast Raja's life before and after he came in contact with Swamiji.

(b) What assignment does the Swami make for Raja when Raja is sent to a circus ?

(c) Why did the temple priest ask Margayya to procure a red rose ?

(d) Comment on the ending of the novel – 'The Financial Expert'.

13. Answer any ***one*** of the following questions in 120 – 150 words. *5*

(a) Is R.K. Narayan, the novelist, right in giving his novel the title 'A Tiger for Malgudi' ?

(b) "Raja's short-lived experience in the children's school and his subsequent rescue brings a complete transformation in Raja's behaviour." Explain.

(c) The novel 'The Financial Expert' has two themes — a passion for money and personal love. How are these themes interconnected ?

(d) In his novel 'The Financial Expert' the novelist has tried to say that excessive lust for money ends in disaster. Do you agree with this observation ? Support your answer with reference to the events in the novel.

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- Class 10 Notes
- Class 11 Notes
- Class 12 Notes

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