

JK Board Class 12 English 2026 Question Paper with Solution PDF

Time Allowed :3 Hours

Maximum Marks :80

Total questions :37

General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. The paper is divided into Section A and Section B.
2. Section A includes objective-type questions.
3. All questions in Section A are compulsory.
4. Section B includes short answer, and long answer type questions.
5. Answers must be written legibly within the word limit.
6. Use of unfair means or electronic devices is prohibited.
7. Follow the correct format and instructions for each section.

Passage for Question 1 Effective speaking depends on effective listening. It takes energy to concentrate on hearing and concentrate on understanding what has been heard.

Incompetent listeners fail in a number of ways. First, they may drift. Their attention drifts from what the speaker is saying. Second, they may counter. They find counter arguments to whatever the speaker may be saying. Third, they compete. Then, they filter. They exclude from their understanding those parts of the message which do not readily fit in with their own frame of reference. Finally, they react. They let personal feelings about speaker or subject override the significance of the message which is being sent.

What a listener do to be more effective/the first key to effective listening is the art of concentration. If a listener positively wishes to concentrate on receiving the message, his chances of success are high. It may need determination. Some speakers are difficult to follow, either because of voice problems, or because of the form in which they send a message. There is then particular need for the determination of a listener to concentrate on

what is being said.

Concentration is helped by alertness. Mental alertness is helped by physical alertness. It is not simply physical fitness, but also positioning of the body, the limbs and the head. Some people also find it helpful to their concentration if they hold the head slightly to one side.

One useful way for achieving this is intensive note-making, by trying to capture the critical headings and sub-headings the speaker is referring to.

Note-taking has been recommended as an aid to the listener. It also helps the speaker. It gives him confidence when he sees that listeners are sufficiently interested to take notes; the pattern of eye-contact when the note-taker looks up can be very positive; and the speaker's time is aided—he can see when a note-taker is writing hard and can then make effective use of pause. Posture too is important. Consider the impact made by a less competent listener who pushes his chair backward and slouches. An upright posture helps a listener's concentration. At the same time it is seen by the speaker to be a positive feature amongst his listeners. Effective listening skills have an impact on both the listener and the speaker.

1. Read the following passage. Make notes (5 marks) and write a summary (4 marks) and give it a suitable title (1 mark): (10)

Correct Answer: Note-Making and Summary Formulation

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question evaluates the ability to comprehend a passage, extract the core ideas, and organize them hierarchically using headings and subheadings with recognizable abbreviations. It also requires drafting a concise summary based on the notes and providing a suitable title.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

TITLE: The Art of Effective Listening

NOTES:

1. Inter-relation of spkg. & listng.
 - 1.1. Effective spkg. depends on effective listng.
 - 1.2. Requires energy and conc.

2. Traits of incompet. listeners
 - 2.1. Drift in attention
 - 2.2. Counter-argue mentally
 - 2.3. Compete with the spkr.
 - 2.4. Filter messages to fit personal ref.
 - 2.5. React emotionally to spkr. or subj.
3. Keys to effective listng.
 - 3.1. Art of conc.
 - 3.2. Strong determ. to receive the msg.
 - 3.3. Overcoming spkr. difficulties (voice/form)
4. Aids to Concentration
 - 4.1. Mental and physical alertness
 - 4.2. Proper body positioning (limbs, head)
 - 4.3. Intensive note-making
5. Benefits of note-making & posture
 - 5.1. Aids the listener's focus
 - 5.2. Boosts spkr's conf.
 - 5.3. Promotes positive eye-contact
 - 5.4. Upright posture enhances conc.

Key to Abbreviations used:

spkg. - speaking

listng. - listening

conc. - concentration

incomp. - incompetent

spkr. - speaker

ref. - reference

subj. - subject

determ. - determination

msg. - message

conf. - confidence

SUMMARY:

Effective speaking is inherently dependent on effective listening, which demands high energy and concentration. Incompetent listeners often fail by drifting, countering, competing, filtering, or reacting emotionally to the message. To become an effective listener, one must master the art of concentration through strict determination, especially when a speaker is hard to follow. This concentration is significantly enhanced by mental and physical alertness, proper body posture, and active note-making. Ultimately, tools like taking notes and maintaining an upright posture not only boost the listener's focus but also build the speaker's confidence, fostering a mutually beneficial environment.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The structured notes, title, and summary are successfully formulated as shown in Step 2.

Quick Tip

Always include a 'Key to Abbreviations' box with at least 4-5 standard abbreviations. Ensure the summary does not exceed one-third of the original passage's length.

Passage for Question 2 Academics has always been an essential part of human development. It prepares us to survive in the outside world and establish an identity of our own. But is an individual's development restricted to merely academics? In India, from an early age, we have been taught that education is limited to the boundaries of academics only; the idea of getting out into the field, for gaining experience, is always considered a hoax. This has hindered the student's development. But the truth is that education represents a considerably broader field than we know of it. Our teaching, from the basics, has been focused on getting good grades and job offers rather than being creative and unique. In the 21st century, the pure academic type of education is slowly paving way for a whole new type. The paradigm shift in the whole education system is evident. People have now come to understand that education is a 360 degree activity that should focus on the student's overall development, rather than restricting her/him to the classroom. Co-curricular activities that take place outside the classroom but reinforce or supplement classroom curriculum, in some way, have become a point of focus today. These activities help in the growth of the child, in more than one way.

Participating in such activities helps youngsters grow mentally, socially and individually. Intellectual development of a student is done in the classroom, but for the aesthetic development, such as team-building, character-building, and physical growth, students must step out into the outside world. For instance, if a student is a part of school football team, he/she will learn teamwork and coordination, in a practical manner, which cannot be taught in the class.

Similarly, in colleges and universities, there is a need for practical exposure so that the student can experience the actual working of an industry. For example, taking a student to a manufacturing firm will give him/her real insight and better learning of the industry. Catering to this change, most professional colleges including B schools have started providing practical exposure to students through regular guest lectures, industrial visits, conferences, seminars, cultural festivals and so on. With industry visits, students are able to better identify their prospective areas of work in the overall organizational function. Moreover, they help enhance interpersonal skills and communication techniques. In addition, guest lectures are equally important for all-round development of students. It is a great way for students to gain maximum exposure as guest speakers talk about their real-life experience and not what is there in the textbooks.

2(i). What has not been the focus of education from earlier times?

Correct Answer: Being creative, unique, and focusing on overall development.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

We must locate the specific details in the first paragraph regarding the historical shortcomings of the education system.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

According to the first paragraph of the passage, education from the basics "has been focused on getting good grades and job offers rather than being creative and unique." It historically ignored practical field experience and the overall, 360-degree development of the student.

Step 3: Final Answer:

From earlier times, education has not focused on making students creative, unique, or on

their holistic development.

Quick Tip

Always use keywords from the question (like 'focus of education' and 'earlier times') to pinpoint the exact sentence in the comprehension passage.

2(ii). A student's development is hindered by :

- (A) Limiting education to academic boundaries.
- (B) getting out to the field
- (C) being creative and unique
- (D) gaining practical knowledge

Correct Answer: (A) Limiting education to academic boundaries.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Identify the negative factor mentioned in the passage that stops or restricts a student's growth.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage states in the first paragraph: "...we have been taught that education is limited to the boundaries of academics only... This has hindered the student's development." The other options (getting out to the field, being creative, gaining practical knowledge) are presented as positive solutions, not hindrances.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct option is (A).

Quick Tip

When a question uses a negative word like 'hindered', look for the problem stated in the text before the transition words like "But the truth is...".

2(iii). The paradigm shift in the classroom means to :

- (A) restrict to classroom activities

- (B) focus on academic development
- (C) ignore 360 degree activity
- (D) focus on overall development

Correct Answer: (D) focus on overall development

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Determine what the new "paradigm shift" (fundamental change) in education refers to based on the second paragraph.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

In paragraph 2, the author writes: "The paradigm shift in the whole education system is evident. People have now come to understand that education is a 360 degree activity that should focus on the student's overall development..." This directly matches option (D).

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct option is (D).

Quick Tip

Context clues immediately following a complex phrase like "paradigm shift" will almost always define it for you in reading comprehensions.

2(iv). Co-curricular activities that take place outside the classroom do not help a student. (True/False)

- (A) True
- (B) False

Correct Answer: (B) False

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Evaluate whether the statement aligns with the author's viewpoint on co-curricular activities.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage explicitly states in the third paragraph that "These activities help in the growth of the child, in more than one way." Since the text argues strongly in favor of co-curricular activities for aesthetic, social, and physical development, the statement claiming they "do not help" is factually incorrect based on the passage.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The statement is False.

Quick Tip

For True/False questions, if the statement contradicts the main thesis of the passage, it is safely False.

2(v). What will give children a better insight into industry?

Correct Answer: Practical exposure through industrial visits and guest lectures.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Locate the specific phrase "insight into industry" in the text to find the corresponding action.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The final paragraph mentions: "...taking a student to a manufacturing firm will give him/her real insight and better learning of the industry." The passage further elaborates that practical exposure is achieved "through regular guest lectures, industrial visits, conferences, seminars..."

Step 3: Final Answer:

Providing practical exposure by taking students to manufacturing firms and organizing industrial visits gives them better insight.

Quick Tip

Always include the specific examples mentioned in the text (like 'manufacturing firm') to ensure your answer is complete.

2(vi). Give the synonym of 'hoax'.

Correct Answer: Fraud, myth, deception, or falsehood.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Identify a word with a similar meaning to 'hoax' based on its contextual usage in the passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

In the first paragraph: "...the idea of getting out into the field, for gaining experience, is always considered a hoax." In this context, it means a trick, illusion, or something not taken seriously (a myth or fraud).

Step 3: Final Answer:

Suitable synonyms include myth, fraud, or deception.

Quick Tip

If you do not know the dictionary definition, substitute your guessed synonym into the original sentence. If it makes logical sense, it is likely correct.

2(vii). Guest speakers talk about :

- (A) all round development
- (B) their real-life experiences
- (C) intellectual development
- (D) character building

Correct Answer: (B) their real-life experiences

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Scan the final paragraph for the exact phrase "guest speakers talk about".

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The last sentence of the passage states explicitly: "...as guest speakers talk about their real-life experience and not what is there in the textbooks."

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct option is (B).

Quick Tip

Direct question completions are often found word-for-word in the text. Scan carefully to secure easy marks.

2(viii). Use the word 'professional' in a sentence of your own.

Correct Answer: (Sentence creation) e.g., She sought professional help to properly manage her investments.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Demonstrate vocabulary comprehension by framing a grammatically correct sentence using the given word.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The word 'professional' can be an adjective (relating to a profession) or a noun (a person engaged in a profession).

Example (Adjective): His professional attitude during the crisis impressed the management.

Example (Noun): The company hired a professional to redesign their website.

Step 3: Final Answer:

"The company hired a professional to redesign their outdated website."

Quick Tip

Avoid copying a sentence directly from the passage. Ensure your sentence provides enough context to prove you understand the word's meaning.

2(ix). For the aesthetic development students must —— (complete the sentence.)

Correct Answer: step out into the outside world.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Find the keyword "aesthetic development" and complete the sentence using the exact phrasing from the text.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

In paragraph 4, the text reads: "...but for the aesthetic development, such as team-building, character-building, and physical growth, students must step out into the outside world."

Step 3: Final Answer:

For the aesthetic development students must **step out into the outside world**.

Quick Tip

Fill-in-the-blank questions derived from a passage usually require you to lift the exact phrase following the keyword trigger.

2(x). Give an appropriate title to the passage.

Correct Answer: Education: Beyond Academics (or similar appropriate title)

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Synthesize the core theme of the passage into a brief, descriptive phrase.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage contrasts pure academic learning with a 360-degree approach that includes co-curricular activities, practical exposure, and real-world experience. Therefore, a title highlighting the shift from mere academics to overall development is perfect.

Step 3: Final Answer:

"Education: Beyond the Academic Boundaries" or "The Paradigm Shift in Modern Education".

Quick Tip

A good title should capture the main idea without being too narrow or too broad. Capitalize the first letter of all major words in your title.

3(a). You want to sell your flat as you are going abroad. Draft a classified advertisement for it to be published in a local newspaper (40-50 words). (4)

Correct Answer: Classified Advertisement Drafting

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

A classified advertisement for 'Property for Sale' should be concise, mention key details of the flat (size, location, amenities, price), and provide contact details, while strictly adhering to the word limit inside a box.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

[Box Frame Begins]

FOR SALE

Available for immediate sale a newly renovated, 3 BHK flat in Green Park, South Delhi. First floor, 1500 sq. ft., east-facing, modular kitchen, attached balconies, and 24x7 water & power backup. Owner relocating abroad. Expected price: Rs. 1.5 Crores (Negotiable).

Interested buyers may contact:

Ravi Sharma

Ph: 9876543210

[Box Frame Ends]

Step 3: Final Answer:

The drafted advertisement is provided above. Ensure it is drawn inside a rectangular box in the exam.

Quick Tip

Always enclose classified advertisements in a box. Use catchy phrases and avoid complete grammatical sentences to save words (e.g., "Available for immediate sale" instead of "A flat is available for sale").

3(b). OR

You have been invited to attend the wedding of your friend's sister next week. Respond to the invitation, regretting your inability to accept the invitation. Give a suitable reason (40-50 words).

Correct Answer: Formal/Informal Reply of Regret

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This is a reply to an invitation declining it. Since it is a friend's sister's wedding, an informal but polite tone is appropriate. It must express thanks, congratulations, and cite a valid reason for absence.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

[Box Frame Begins]

Dear Amit,

Thank you so much for inviting me to your sister's wedding next week. It is a joyous occasion, and I wish her a very happy married life. However, I deeply regret my inability to attend due to my ongoing final examinations during the same week. I will surely visit you all soon after.

Warm regards,

Rohan

[Box Frame Ends]

Step 3: Final Answer:

The drafted reply is provided above. Ensure it is enclosed within a box.

Quick Tip

Replies to invitations must clearly state the acceptance or refusal in the opening lines.
Always provide a polite, plausible reason when declining.

4(a). You are Principal of R.M.P. Higher Secondary School Srinagar/Jammu. The number of students in the computer class is increasing. You need 25 more computers in your laboratory. Write a letter to the Commissioner Secretary Education Department for granting you the funds (120-150 words). (6)

Correct Answer: Formal Official Letter Drafting

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This is a formal official letter written by an authority (Principal) to a higher government authority requesting funds for infrastructure development. The tone must be highly formal, persuasive, and objective.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Principal,
R.M.P. Higher Secondary School,
Srinagar.

Date: 20th October 2023

The Commissioner Secretary,
Education Department,
Srinagar.

Subject: Request for allocation of funds for 25 new computers.

Respected Sir/Madam,

I am writing to bring to your kind attention the growing enthusiasm for IT education among the students of our institution. This year, we have witnessed a significant surge in the enrollment of students opting for Computer Science as their core subject.

However, our current computer laboratory is equipped with only 30 functional systems, which is grossly inadequate to accommodate the increasing batch sizes. To ensure that every

student gets adequate practical exposure and hands-on training, we urgently require an addition of 25 new computers.

I humbly request you to kindly sanction the necessary funds for the procurement of these 25 computer systems at your earliest convenience. This upgradation will highly benefit the students and aid in effectively implementing the modern digital curriculum.

Awaiting a positive and early response.

Yours faithfully,

(Signature)

Principal

R.M.P. Higher Secondary School

Step 3: Final Answer:

The formal letter is drafted above following standard layout conventions.

Quick Tip

In official letters for fund requests, clearly justify 'why' the funds are needed (e.g., increased enrollment) to make the request logical and compelling.

4(b). OR

The roads in your area in a very bad shape. Write a letter to the Editor of English daily highlighting the problem of the dilapidated roads in your area and asking the concerned authorities to improve these roads as soon as possible (120-150 words).

Correct Answer: Formal Letter to the Editor

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

A letter to the Editor aims to highlight a public grievance to draw the attention of the concerned authorities. It requires a standard formal letter format with a specific problem, its consequences, and a proposed appeal.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Examination Hall,

City A.B.C.

Date: 20th October 2023

The Editor,

The Daily Excelsior,

Jammu.

Subject: Highlighting the dilapidated condition of roads in XYZ area.

Sir,

Through the esteemed columns of your reputed newspaper, I wish to draw the urgent attention of the municipal authorities towards the miserable condition of the roads in our locality.

For the past several months, the main roads and inner streets have been completely riddled with deep potholes. The situation worsens drastically during the monsoons, leading to severe waterlogging. This not only causes massive traffic snarls during peak hours but has also resulted in numerous accidents, especially involving two-wheelers and pedestrians.

Furthermore, the constant dust from the broken tarmac is creating severe health and respiratory issues for the residents.

Despite repeated complaints to the local municipal council, no concrete action has been taken so far. I urge the concerned authorities to wake up from their slumber and initiate immediate repair and re-carpeting works to prevent any fatal mishaps.

Yours sincerely,

XYZ

Resident of XYZ Area

Step 3: Final Answer:

The letter to the Editor is appropriately drafted above.

Quick Tip

Never write that the Editor should solve the problem. The Editor only publishes the letter. Always state that you want to 'draw the attention of the concerned authorities'.

5. Sunshine Higher Secondary School Srinagar/Jammu require the services of a

physical Education Lecturer on contract for two years. You have read their advertisement and you know that you have the required qualification for applying this post. Write your resume (4 marks) along with a covering letter/application (2 marks) (120-150 words). (6)

Correct Answer: Job Application and Resume Writing

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

A job application contains two parts: The Cover Letter (formal letter applying for the job) and the Resume/Bio-data (structured detailing of qualifications, experience, and personal data).

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

PART 1: COVERING LETTER

14, Green Enclave,

Jammu.

Date: 25th October 2023

The Principal,

Sunshine Higher Secondary School,

Jammu.

Subject: Application for the post of Physical Education Lecturer.

Respected Sir/Madam,

In response to your advertisement published in 'The Daily Times' dated 22nd October 2023, I wish to offer my candidature for the post of Physical Education Lecturer in your esteemed institution.

I hold a Master's degree in Physical Education (M.P.Ed) and possess three years of teaching experience. I am passionate about promoting sports and physical fitness among students. I am willing to work on the two-year contract basis as stipulated in your advertisement.

My detailed resume is enclosed herewith for your kind perusal. If given an opportunity, I assure you of my utmost dedication and hard work.

Yours faithfully,

Amit Kumar

Enclosure: Resume

PART 2: RESUME

Name: Amit Kumar

Father's Name: Sh. R.K. Sharma

Date of Birth: 15th August 1994

Address: 14, Green Enclave, Jammu

Contact Number: 9876543210

Email: ts.sports@email.com

Educational Qualifications:

1. B.P.Ed from Jammu University with 75% marks (2015).
2. M.P.Ed from Delhi University with 78% marks (2017).

Professional Experience:

Worked as a Sports Instructor at D.A.V. Public School, Jammu for 3 years (2019-2022).

Achievements:

Represented the state in the National Athletics Championship (2016).

References:

1. Dr. S. Singh, HOD Sports, Jammu University.
2. Mrs. R. Gupta, Principal, D.A.V. Public School.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Both the covering letter and the detailed resume are provided above following standard formats.

Quick Tip

Always mention 'Enclosure: Bio-data/Resume' at the end of your cover letter. Keep the resume structured with clear subheadings.

6(a). You are an academic counsellor. You have been invited to speak on the topic, "Books are our Best Friends". Write a speech giving your views on books, how they can be our best friends and how they happen to be better than real human friends (200-250 words). (6)

Correct Answer: Speech Writing

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

A speech should begin with a formal greeting to the audience, introduce the topic smoothly, elaborate on the main points (books as friends, reliability, comparison with human friends), and end with a concluding remark and gratitude.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Speech: Books are our Best Friends

Respected Principal, worthy teachers, and my dear students. A very warm morning to you all. I stand before you today to share my views on a topic that is close to the heart of every knowledge-seeker: "Books are our Best Friends."

In our journey of life, we meet many people, make many friends, but there is one companion that remains steadfastly by our side through thick and thin—a good book. Unlike human friends, who may have their own mood swings, judgments, or self-interests, books are selfless. They never judge us, never argue, and never leave us in our times of loneliness. They patiently wait on the shelves to offer their immense wisdom whenever we choose to open them.

Books take us on magical journeys without making us move an inch. They broaden our horizons, improve our vocabulary, and expose us to cultures and mindsets from across the globe. When we are sad, a good novel can comfort us; when we are confused, an informative book can guide us. In many ways, they happen to be better than real human friends. While human relationships require constant maintenance and can sometimes lead to heartbreak or betrayal, a book's loyalty is absolute. The knowledge you gain from it remains yours forever. In this digital age, where screen time is replacing reading time, I urge you all to make books an integral part of your life. Cultivate the habit of reading, for it will never betray you. Let a book be your mentor, your escape, and your greatest friend.

Thank you.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The speech is drafted comprehensively meeting the required structure and word count.

Quick Tip

Start a speech with a strong, inclusive greeting. Make sure your tone is conversational but formal, and always end with a simple "Thank you."

6(b). OR

Almost all of us have some role model in our lives. We wish to follow her/him as she/he act as a continuous source of inspiration for us. Write a personality profile of the person who has become a role model for you and has greatly inspired you (200-250 words).

Correct Answer: Article/Profile Writing

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

A personality profile focuses on an individual's traits, achievements, struggles, and the direct impact they have had on the writer. The tone should be admiring and analytical.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

My Role Model: Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

Every individual needs a beacon of light to guide them through the turbulent waters of life. For me, that unwavering source of inspiration has always been the 'Missile Man of India', Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. His life is a testament to the fact that sheer hard work, coupled with a pure heart, can elevate a person from the humblest of beginnings to the highest office in the nation.

Born into a modest family in Rameswaram, Dr. Kalam distributed newspapers as a young boy to support his education. What inspires me the most about him is not just his brilliant scientific mind that spearheaded India's space and missile programs, but his profound humility and simplicity. Despite becoming the President of the world's largest democracy, he remained a teacher at heart, dedicating his final years entirely to igniting the minds of the youth.

Dr. Kalam's philosophy of dreaming big resonates deeply with me. He famously said, "Dream is not that which you see while sleeping, it is something that does not let you sleep." Whenever I face failure or self-doubt, I recall his resilience. He taught me that failures are

merely stepping stones to success and that true leadership is about taking responsibility during crises.

His dedication, modesty, and relentless pursuit of knowledge make him the perfect role model. By striving to emulate his discipline, his compassion for others, and his unwavering love for the nation, I hope to lead a life of purpose and make a meaningful contribution to society.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The personality profile of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam is drafted above.

Quick Tip

When writing a personality profile, use specific anecdotes or famous quotes by the person to make your writing authentic and impactful.

7. Edit the following passage : (8)

She entered followed by a valet, carrying on his arm a big fur coat. She was not at all pretty, so seemed modest and quite shy. In the forge everything was just as it had been earlier in the evening. The master blacksmith and his apprentice still sat in their bench, and iron and charcoal still glowed in the furnace. The stranger had stretched oneself out on the floor and lay with a piece of pig iron under his head and his hat pulled down over his eyes. As soon as the young girl caught sight of him, she went up and lifted his hat. The man was evidently used to sleeping with one eye open. He jumped up abruptly and seemed to quite frightened. My name is Edla Willmansson said the girl.

Correct Answer: Identification and correction of 8 grammatical and punctuation errors.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The passage contains errors in verb tense, conjunctions, prepositions, pronouns, infinitive phrases, and punctuation. We must identify the incorrect words/phrases and provide corrections to make it grammatically flawless.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- Here is the sentence-by-sentence breakdown of the errors and their corrections: 1. "She **enteres...**" → Error in spelling/tense. Correction: **entered** (The narrative is in the past tense).
2. "...not at all pretty, **so** seemed modest..." → Incorrect conjunction for contrast. Correction: **but** (contrasting 'not pretty' with 'modest').
3. "...still sat **in** their bench..." → Incorrect preposition. Correction: **on** (one sits 'on' a bench).
4. "...stretched **oneself** out..." → Incorrect reflexive pronoun. Correction: **himself** (referring back to 'The stranger').
5. "...seemed **to quite** frightened." → Incorrect verb structure. Correction: **to be quite** (or just remove 'to': **quite**).
6. "**My** name is Edla Willmansson..." → Missing opening quotation marks for direct speech. Correction: "**My**
7. "...Willmansson **said** the girl." → Missing comma and closing quotation marks. Correction: **Willmansson,"**
8. "...said the girl." → The 8th required correction usually points to punctuation grouping or standard phrasing. The complete correction for the direct speech is "**My name is Edla Willmansson,"** replacing **My name is Edla Willmansson**.

List of Errors and Corrections:

1. **enteres** → **entered**
2. **so** → **but**
3. **in** → **on**
4. **oneself** → **himself**
5. **to quite** → **to be quite**
6. **My** → "**My**
7. **Willmansson** → **Willmansson,"**

Corrected Passage:

She **entered** followed by a valet, carrying on his arm a big fur coat. She was not at all pretty, **but** seemed modest and quite shy. In the forge everything was just as it had been earlier in the evening. The master blacksmith and his apprentice still sat **on** their bench, and iron and charcoal still glowed in the furnace. The stranger had stretched **himself** out on the floor and lay with a piece of pig iron under his head and his hat pulled down over his eyes. As soon as

the young girl caught sight of him, she went up and lifted his hat. The man was evidently used to sleeping with one eye open. He jumped up abruptly and seemed **to be quite** frightened. "My name is Edla **Willmansson**," said the girl.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The errors correspond to tense, conjunction, preposition, pronoun, verb form, and punctuation marks for dialogue.

Quick Tip

In editing tasks, systematically check Subject-Verb agreement, Verb Tense consistency throughout the passage, Prepositions, and Dialogue Punctuation.

8(a)(i). Read the following poetic extract and briefly answer the questions that follow :

Now we will count to twelve
and we will all keep still.
For once on the face of the Earth
let's not speak in any language,
let's stop for one second,
and not move our arms so much.
It would be an exotic moment
Without rush, without engines,
We would all be together
in a sudden strangeness.

Why does the poet want us to keep quiet?

Correct Answer: To engage in quiet introspection and momentarily halt all destructive activities.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question requires interpretation of Pablo Neruda's intent in the poem "Keeping Quiet".

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The poet asks us to keep still and quiet so that we can pause our mundane, worldly rush and engage in deep self-introspection. Keeping quiet allows human beings to momentarily halt all wars, environmental destruction, and selfish pursuits. It fosters a feeling of universal brotherhood and peace.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The poet wants us to keep quiet to stop our destructive, hasty activities and take a moment for quiet introspection, fostering universal peace.

Quick Tip

In poetry extracts, always look beyond the literal meaning. 'Keeping quiet' symbolizes peace, reflection, and a cessation of worldly harm.

8(a)(ii). Find at least one example of a poetic device from the above lines.

Correct Answer: Alliteration in "sudden strangeness" or "we will".

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Identify figures of speech used to enhance the poem's effect.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Alliteration is the repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words.

Example 1: "sudden strangeness" (repetition of the 's' sound).

Example 2: "we will" (repetition of the 'w' sound).

Step 3: Final Answer:

Alliteration is used in the phrase "sudden strangeness".

Quick Tip

Alliteration is usually the easiest poetic device to spot. Just look for two consecutive words starting with the same consonant sound.

8(a)(iii). What does the poet mean by 'not move our arms'?

Correct Answer: It means both physical stillness and a cessation of the use of weapons.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The word 'arms' is a pun here, possessing a double meaning.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Firstly, literally, the poet wants humans to be physically perfectly still, abandoning restless physical movements. Secondly, metaphorically, 'arms' refers to weapons of war. Thus, he is pleading with humanity not to use weapons and stop all forms of violence and warfare.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The phrase implies stopping unnecessary physical activity and, metaphorically, putting down weapons to cease all violence.

Quick Tip

When a word has a literal and symbolic meaning (a pun), mention both to secure full marks.

8(a)(iv). How could man achieve this 'exotic moment'?

Correct Answer: By stopping all movement, speech, and the rush of machines.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Identify the conditions laid down by the poet in the extract to reach the exotic moment.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

According to the extract, man can achieve this rare, extraordinary ('exotic') moment by keeping perfectly still, ceasing to speak any language, and stopping all engines and the mad rush of modern life for just one second.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Man can achieve this exotic moment by remaining absolutely silent, not speaking any language, and halting the use of all engines and machinery.

Quick Tip

Directly paraphrase the lines of the poem (e.g., 'without rush', 'without engines') into prose for an accurate answer.

8(a)(v). Name the poem and its poet.

Correct Answer: Poem: Keeping Quiet, Poet: Pablo Neruda.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Recall the source of the poetic extract.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The lines emphasizing counting to twelve and remaining still are from the famous poem "Keeping Quiet" written by the Nobel Prize-winning Chilean poet Pablo Neruda.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The poem is "Keeping Quiet" and it is penned by Pablo Neruda.

Quick Tip

Always memorize the titles and poets' names of all the poems in your syllabus. Spelling them correctly is crucial.

8(b)(i). Answer any two of the following questions in 40-50 words each:

How do 'denizens' and 'chivalric' add to our understanding of the tigers' attitudes in "Aunt Jennifer's Tigers"?

Correct Answer: They highlight the tigers' fearless, proud, and majestic nature.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Analyze the specific vocabulary used by Adrienne Rich to describe the embroidered tigers.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The word 'denizens' signifies that the tigers are natural, proud inhabitants of the green forests, possessing a strong sense of belonging and freedom. The term 'chivalric' emphasizes their bravery, honor, and fearlessness. Together, these words heavily contrast the tigers' majestic, bold attitude with Aunt Jennifer's own timid, oppressed, and fearful existence under patriarchal dominance.

Step 3: Final Answer:

'Denizens' shows they are proud, free inhabitants of the forest, while 'chivalric' points to their bravery and honor, powerfully contrasting their fearless attitude with Aunt Jennifer's oppressed life.

Quick Tip

Whenever describing the tigers in this poem, always contrast their traits (fearless) with Aunt Jennifer's traits (timid) to add depth to your answer.

8(b)(ii). What was the plea of the folk who had put up the roadside stand in the poem "A Roadside Stand"?

Correct Answer: They pleaded for some city money to support their livelihood.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Recall the core theme of Robert Frost's poem regarding the rural poor.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The rural folk who put up the little roadside stand pleaded pathetically for some city money to flow into their hands. They did not want charity or a free meal; they simply wanted city dwellers passing by in their luxurious cars to stop and buy their goods (like wild berries).

Earning this money would allow them to improve their poor standard of living.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Their heartfelt plea was for the wealthy city travelers to stop and buy their produce, allowing some cash flow into their lives to alleviate their severe poverty.

Quick Tip

Highlight that the rural folk were not begging for alms, but asking for a fair trade to earn the "city money" with dignity.

8(b)(iii). What makes human beings love life in spite of troubles and sufferings?

Correct Answer: The presence of beautiful things in nature.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question is based on John Keats' poem "A Thing of Beauty".

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Human life is filled with gloom, despondency, malice, and numerous sufferings. However, Keats explains that the presence of beautiful things—like the sun, moon, trees, daffodils, and clear streams—removes the pall of sadness from our dark spirits. It is this profound beauty of nature that binds us to the earth and makes human beings love life despite all its pains and troubles.

Step 3: Final Answer:

It is the beautiful things of nature that lift the veil of gloom from our minds, infusing us with hope and joy, thus making us love life in spite of its miseries.

Quick Tip

Use phrases straight from the poem like "removes the pall from our dark spirits" to make your literature answers stand out.

9(i). Answer any three questions of the following in 40-50 words each:

What changes did the order from Berlin cause in school that day?

Correct Answer: It brought an atmosphere of deep solemnity, sadness, and unusual quietness.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Recall the impact of the historical order banning the French language in Alphonse Daudet's "The Last Lesson".

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The order from Berlin mandated that only German would be taught in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine. This caused an unusual, Sunday-morning-like silence in the school. M. Hamel, the French teacher, was dressed in his fine Sunday clothes and spoke with immense patience. Furthermore, the back benches, usually empty, were occupied by the village elders mourning the loss of their language.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The order caused a pin-drop silence replacing the usual commotion. M. Hamel wore his formal attire, and village elders sat quietly on the back benches, mourning the loss of their language.

Quick Tip

Always mention the three key changes: 1. The strange silence, 2. The teacher's special dress, 3. The presence of village elders on the back benches.

9(ii). How did Douglas make sure that he conquered the old terror?

Correct Answer: By swimming across large lakes solo.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Summarize William Douglas's final steps to overcome hydrophobia in "Deep Water".

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Even after rigorous training with an instructor, Douglas felt tiny vestiges of his old fear returning when he was alone in the pool. To completely eradicate this terror, he went to Lake Wentworth in New Hampshire and swam two miles across to Stamp Act Island. Later, he swam across Warm Lake and back. These successful solo swims assured him that he had conquered his fear.

Step 3: Final Answer:

To ensure the residual fear was entirely gone, Douglas challenged himself by swimming solo across large water bodies like Lake Wentworth and Warm Lake, successfully confronting and conquering the terror.

Quick Tip

Mentioning the specific names of the lakes (Lake Wentworth and Warm Lake) shows a thorough reading of the text.

9(iii). How did the Champaran episode change the plight of the peasants?

Correct Answer: It liberated them from the fear of British landlords and restored their rights.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Identify the outcome of Gandhi's intervention in "Indigo" by Louis Fischer.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Before the Champaran episode, the poor sharecroppers were thoroughly exploited and paralyzed by the fear of British planters. Gandhi's successful movement forced the landlords to refund 25% of the extorted money. More importantly, it broke the psychological grip of terror; the peasants realized they had rights and defenders, ultimately leading to their self-reliance.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The episode changed their plight by breaking their psychological fear of the British. They received a 25% refund and realized they had rights, paving the way for freedom.

Quick Tip

Focus on the psychological shift (courage over fear) as it was a more significant victory than just the financial refund.

9(iv). Do you think Umberto Eco likes being interviewed? Give reasons for your opinion.

Correct Answer: Yes, he seems comfortable and cooperative during the interview.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Analyze Umberto Eco's attitude during his conversation with Mukund Padmanabhan in "The Interview".

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Yes, Umberto Eco appears quite comfortable and likes being interviewed, which contrasts sharply with the negative opinions held by many other literary celebrities. Throughout the text, he answers the questions patiently, elaborately, and with great humility. He openly shares the secret of his working style (using 'interstices' or empty spaces of time) without showing any signs of annoyance.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Yes, Eco likes being interviewed. He does not view it as an intrusion but answers all questions frankly, humbly, and enthusiastically, readily sharing his life's working philosophies.

Quick Tip

Contrast Eco's polite behavior with the typical celebrity view of interviews (as an unwarranted intrusion) to make your answer stronger.

9(v). Why did Sophie wriggle when Geoff told her father that she had met Danny Casey?

Correct Answer: She feared her father's aggressive reaction and his disbelief.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Understand Sophie's relationship with her strict father in "Going Places".

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Sophie wriggled in discomfort because she knew her father thoroughly well. Her father was a practical, aggressive man who strictly detested her wild, unrealistic fantasies. When Geoff revealed her fabricated story of meeting the famous footballer Danny Casey, Sophie knew her father would not believe a word of it and would likely get extremely angry.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Sophie wriggled because she was terrified of her father's wrath. She knew he was a practical man who would immediately recognize her story as a wild fantasy and react aggressively.

Quick Tip

Use adjectives like 'practical', 'aggressive', and 'short-tempered' to accurately describe the father's character.

10(i). Answer any one of the following questions in 150-200 words:

Why is Antarctica the place to go to understand the earth's present, past and future?

Correct Answer:

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question demands a comprehensive analysis of why Antarctica holds the key to geological history, current environmental issues, and future ecological outcomes, based on Tishani Doshi's account.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Antarctica is the only place on Earth that has remained relatively pristine and untouched by human population. Therefore, it is the perfect place to study the Earth's past, present, and future.

Regarding the **past**, Antarctica holds deep within its layers of ice half-a-million-year-old carbon records. By studying these cores, scientists can trace the history of the Earth, understanding how the supercontinent Gondwana existed and eventually separated into the landmasses we know today.

For the **present**, a visit to Antarctica offers a stark visual realization of the reality of global warming. It is here that one can actually see ice shelves collapsing and glaciers retreating with their own eyes. It proves that the threat of climate change is real and immediate, not just a theoretical debate.

As for the **future**, Antarctica acts as an early warning system. The depletion of the ozone layer affects the microscopic phytoplankton, which are the base of the Southern Ocean's food chain. A disruption here signifies catastrophic consequences for the entire global ecosystem. Thus, Antarctica clearly shows us the disastrous future that awaits humanity if careless environmental degradation continues.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Antarctica serves as a geological time machine holding ancient carbon records (past), visually demonstrating the immediate impacts of global warming through melting glaciers (present), and serving as a warning system for global ecological collapse (future).

Quick Tip

Structure your long answer distinctly into three paragraphs addressing the "Past", "Present", and "Future" explicitly. This makes it highly readable and fetches maximum marks.

10(ii). OR

How did Dr. Sadao resolve the conflict in his mind between his loyalty to his country and his duty as a doctor?

Correct Answer:

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Analyze the central moral dilemma in Pearl S. Buck's "The Enemy", detailing Dr. Sadao's internal struggle and his final actions.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Dr. Sadao Hoki faces a severe ethical dilemma when a wounded American prisoner of war

washes up on his beach. His mind is caught in a fierce conflict between his patriotic duty as a Japanese citizen during World War II, which demands that he hand the enemy over to the police, and his core ethical duty as a doctor, which compels him to save a dying human being. Initially, he and his wife Hana contemplate throwing the man back into the sea, but Sadao's conscience does not allow it. He ultimately resolves the first part of his conflict by deciding to operate on the soldier, stating that a doctor is trained not to let a man die if he can help it. He treats the enemy with utmost professional care, saving his life.

To resolve his loyalty to his country, once the soldier is out of danger, Sadao voluntarily informs the old General about the POW's presence in his house. This absolves him of treason. When the General promises to send assassins but forgets, Sadao cannot bear the psychological strain of waiting for the man to be murdered in his house. He then fulfills his broader humanitarian duty by helping the young soldier escape secretly on a boat, providing him with food and instructions.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Dr. Sadao resolved the conflict by first honoring his medical ethics and operating on the dying man. He then proved his patriotism by informing the General. Finally, driven by supreme humanity, he helped the recovered soldier escape, flawlessly balancing both duties.

Quick Tip

Highlight both sides of the conflict clearly: "Patriotism" vs "Professional Ethics/Humanity". Outline his sequential actions (treating → informing General → aiding escape) to show how he satisfied both.

11(i). Answer any one of the following questions in 120-150 words:

What is it that draws Derry towards Mr. Lamb in spite of himself?

Correct Answer:

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Explain the psychological transformation of the teenage boy, Derry, due to the positive

influence of the old man, Mr. Lamb.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Derry is a fourteen-year-old boy whose face is half-burnt by acid. Consequently, he has developed a deep-seated inferiority complex, becoming highly pessimistic, bitter, and withdrawn. He constantly avoids people because he expects them to show either disgust or false sympathy towards him.

However, when he accidentally enters Mr. Lamb's garden, he is drawn to the old man because of his strikingly different attitude. Mr. Lamb, who himself has a tin leg, does not show any shock, fear, or pity upon seeing Derry's burnt face. He treats Derry as an equal and engages him in a normal conversation. Mr. Lamb's inclusive philosophy of life deeply affects Derry. The old man points out that weeds are green, growing plants just like flowers, showing that beauty is a matter of perception.

Mr. Lamb encourages Derry to shut his ears to negativity and focus on the beautiful things in the world. He makes Derry realize that he has a fully functional body and brain, and can achieve whatever he wants. It is this unconditional acceptance, absolute lack of judgment, and vibrant optimism that irresistibly draws Derry towards Mr. Lamb.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Derry is drawn to Mr. Lamb because the old man treats him normally, devoid of pity or disgust. Mr. Lamb's unconditional acceptance and optimistic philosophy about life help Derry overcome his bitter inferiority complex.

Quick Tip

Mentioning Mr. Lamb's specific examples, like comparing weeds to flowers or telling the story of the man who locked himself up, adds solid textual backing to your answer.

11(ii). OR

Derry and Mr. Lamb both are victims of physical impairment, but their attitudes towards life are completely different. Explain.

Correct Answer:

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Contrast the character traits and coping mechanisms of the two central figures in Susan Hill's play.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

In the play "On the Face of It", both Derry and Mr. Lamb suffer from severe physical impairments. Derry has one side of his face heavily disfigured by acid, while Mr. Lamb has an artificial tin leg, having lost his real leg in a bomb explosion during the war. However, their reactions to their disabilities are diametrically opposite.

Derry is a young boy who has allowed his physical tragedy to scar his psychology. He is deeply bitter, cynical, and suffers from an immense inferiority complex. He constantly obsesses over what others think of him and isolates himself, believing the world is a cruel place that hates him. He equates his physical burn with a ruined life.

On the other hand, Mr. Lamb is a mature, profoundly optimistic individual who takes his impairment in his stride. He is completely unbothered by the neighborhood kids calling him "Lamey-Lamb." Instead of shutting himself away, he keeps his garden gates open for everyone, welcoming company. He focuses on the beauty of nature, loves reading books, and believes in celebrating life rather than mourning a lost limb. Mr. Lamb's positive outlook ultimately acts as a catalyst, completely transforming Derry's pessimistic view of the world.

Step 3: Final Answer:

While Derry is highly pessimistic, bitter, and alienated due to his burnt face, Mr. Lamb is optimistic, welcoming, and focuses on the beauty of life despite his tin leg.

Quick Tip

Use contrasting adjectives effectively: Pessimistic vs. Optimistic, Withdrawn vs. Welcoming, Bitter vs. Cheerful, to clearly highlight the difference in their attitudes.