Sample Question Paper

Class XII

Subject: English

Max. Marks: 80 Max. Time: 3 Hours

General Instructions:

I. Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

II. This question paper has 12 questions. All questions are compulsory.

III. This question paper contains three sections:

Section A: Reading Skills

Section B: Creative Writing Skills

Section C: Literature

IV. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.

V. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.

VI. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

S. No.	Question	Marks
	Section A	**22 marks**
	READING SKILLS	
1	**Read the following passage-** My father was a clergyman, a good man, but poor. Even before his death, the pressure of narrow circumstances had taught us—his three sons—to look on life as an obligation to work rather than a gift to enjoy. My two elder brothers had been placed in situations which, though humble, offered the means of earning an honest livelihood. As for me, the youngest, no special provision had been made. It seemed taken for granted that I, too, would in time discover some niche in the great framework of labor. My early years were passed amid regular duties and scant indulgences. I remember no period of ease or expectation; the idea of a future bright with wealth or distinction never visited my imagination. I was taught that to be useful was the best thing; to be honest, the noblest; to work hard, the safest path to independence. When my father died, leaving little beyond his good name, I felt no shock of changed fortune. Poverty had always been with us; her face was familiar; her voice had long spoken in our ears. But though I was not cast down, I was anxious to act. I had my own passage to push through the world; I had my	(12)

	bread to earn. Seeking advice, I received much counsel, but little aid. Some recommended me to this trade, some to that; but the difficulty of obtaining even the lowest post seemed great. Still, I persevered. I was not gifted, but I possessed the single advantage of a will tenacious of purpose. I resolved to accept the first honest employment that offered, and to make of it the best I could. Thus, trained by necessity, I entered adulthood with a mind tempered like steel—hard, perhaps, but durable. If my prospects were not brilliant, they were at least my own to work upon. I felt within me the power to advance one step at a time, and I trusted that patience and labor would shape a modest but independent future. (Adapted from Brontë, Charlotte. *The Professor*. London: Smith, Elder & Co., 1857.)	
	Answer the following questions, based on the given passage-	
	I. Which quality does the narrator believe will help him succeed? A. A wide social network B. Great natural talent C. A strong and persistent will D. Access to formal education	1
	II. Why did the narrator feel "no shock of changed fortune" after his father's death? A. He inherited money B. He expected his relatives to support him C. He had always lived with poverty D. He disliked his father	1
	III. What did the narrator *not* expect in life? A. Hard work B. Distinction C. Poverty **D.** Regular duties	1
	IV. What contrast is drawn between the narrator and his elder brothers? A. They refused to work, while he was industrious and sensitive. B. They had secured livelihoods, while no arrangements were made for him. C. They were wealthy, while he was poor because his father passed away. D. They stayed at home, while he traveled for work related purposes.	1

	V. What does the metaphor of the narrator's mind being "tempered like steel" suggest? A. His growing irritability B. His emotional fragility C. His strength formed through hardship D. His desire for physical labor and happiness	1
	VI. Which best evaluates the narrator's approach to adversity? A. It is defeatist B. It is practical and determined C. It is reckless and fragile D. It is overly ambitious	1
	VII. The title that best captures the theme of the excerpt is _____.	1
	VIII. The narrator's willingness to accept "the first honest employment that is offered" shows that he values _____ over ambition, reflecting his belief that stability is earned through persistence.	1
	IX. How does the narrator's early experience with poverty shape his attitudes toward work, responsibility, and adulthood? Use evidence from the paragraph to support your explanation. (Answer in about 40 words).	2
	X. The narrator faces an internal conflict between his limited opportunities and his desire to build an independent future. Based on the paragraph, what strategy does he use to resolve this conflict, and how effective do you think it would be in shaping his future? Explain your reasoning. (Answer in about 40 words).	2
2	**Read the following passage-**	**10 marks**
	India is internationally recognised as one of the most linguistically diverse nations in the world, with its languages functioning as vital markers of regional identity, cultural continuity, and social belonging. Linguistic plurality in India is not merely a characteristic of communication but a reflection of the subcontinent's long and complex civilisational history shaped by migration, interaction, and cultural exchange. According to the Census of India (2011),	

	the country records thousands of mother tongues and over a hundred major languages, illustrating the depth of its linguistic landscape. Languages such as Hindi, Tamil, Bengali, Telugu, Marathi, Urdu, Gujarati, Punjabi and many others are not merely tools of communication; they carry the history, culture, traditions, and values of the people who speak them. For example, according to official data: • About 43.63% of Indians declared Hindi as their mother tongue. • Other widely spoken languages include Bengali (~ 8.03% of population), Marathi (~ 6.86%), Telugu (~ 6.70%), Tamil (~ 5.70%), Urdu (~ 4.19%), Gujarati (~ 4.58%) and others. Through language, stories are told, songs are sung, knowledge is passed on, and social bonds are formed. Linguistic diversity helps us understand the vastness and complexity of Indian society. Each region uses language to express its unique way of life — its festivals, food habits, folklore, and belief systems. At the same time, languages connect people across regions through translation, education, media, and everyday interaction. Many Indians grow up speaking more than one language, which helps them become more open-minded, flexible, and respectful of differences. Multilingualism thus becomes a strength rather than a challenge. Celebrating linguistic heterogeneity also means recognising the importance of equal respect for all languages, whether widely spoken or used by smaller communities. When students learn about different languages, they learn to value cultural diversity and democratic ideals such as inclusion and mutual respect. In a diverse nation like India, unity is not created by uniformity but by the ability of different languages and cultures to coexist harmoniously. By celebrating our regional and linguistic diversity, we strengthen the spirit of national integration and shared belonging that defines India. (Created for academic usage/ 346 words)	
	Answer the following questions, based on the given passage-	
	I. Based on the data provided, what can be inferred about the linguistic distribution in India? A. No language has a major share of speakers. B. Hindi is the only language spoken in most states. C. A few languages have large populations of speaker. D. All languages have equal numbers of speakers.	1
	II. Which example from the passage best demonstrates the application of multilingualism as a social advantage? A. The government announcing new language policies. B. People learning multiple languages to become more open-minded and respectful. C. Textbooks being translated into English. D. The census recording various mother tongues.	1

	III. Which option best applies the passage's idea of multilingualism as a strength? A. It helps individuals interact better with diverse groups. B. It allows individuals to memorize more vocabulary. C. It encourages individuals to use formal language structures. D. It supports individuals in avoiding regional languages.	1
	IV. What interpretation of national unity is suggested in the paragraph? A. Unity develops when cultural differences are respected. B. Unity increases when language use becomes more uniform. C. Unity improves when official languages are limited. D. Unity appears when regional identities are reduced.	1
	V. According to the passage, why is language important for understanding regional practices? A. It expresses local customs and cultural lifestyles B. It informs agricultural patterns and trade decisions C. It determines policy design and changes in the society D. It influences national educational standards	1
	VI. Assertion (A): Multilingualism in India is considered a social strength. Reason (R): Speaking multiple languages helps individuals become more open-minded and respectful of cultural differences. A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A. B. Both A and R are true, but R is *not* the correct explanation of A. C. A is true, but R is false. D. A is false, but R is true.	1
	VII. According to the data provided, what does the distribution of major languages (such as Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Tamil, etc.) reveal about India's linguistic landscape?	2
	VIII. Why is it important to give equal respect to languages spoken by smaller communities?	2
	SECTION B **CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS**	**18 marks**

	All the names and addresses used in the questions are fictitious. Resemblance, if any, is purely coincidental.	
3	**Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words.** **A.** You are Aarav Mehta, a volunteer of the Youth Fitness Society, Jaipur. The Society is organising free yoga classes every Saturday morning at the local park to promote physical and mental well-being among residents. Write a notice in about 50 words, informing the residents about the programme and inviting registrations. Include all the necessary details. Put your notice in a box.	1x4=4
	OR	
	B. You are Neha Rao, the Secretary of the Literary Club of XYZ School, Bengaluru. Your school is organising a 'Book Fair and Reading Week' to encourage reading habits among students. Draft a notice in about 50 words, inviting students to participate in various activities and book exchange stalls. Include all the necessary details. Put your notice in a box.	
4	**Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words.** A. As the Sports Secretary, Rohan Verma, of PQR School, Indore, draft an invitation for the Annual Sports Day, inviting Ms Sunita Phogat, a renowned athlete, to be the chief guest and award the winners. Provide the essential details in about 50 words.	1x4=4
	OR	
	B. You are Anita Kulkarni, residing at 22, Shivaji Nagar, Pune. You have been invited to preside over the annual prize distribution ceremony at your former school, Green Valley School, Nashik. Write a formal reply in about 50 words, accepting the invitation and expressing your appreciation.	
5	**Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in 120-150 words** A. You are Suresh Malhotra, residing at 18, Civil Lines, Bikaner. Write a letter to the editor of The City Herald, highlighting the importance of career counselling at the school level to help students make informed career choices. Emphasise how early guidance can reduce stress and confusion among students. Draft the letter using your own ideas as well as the cues given. • Identifying students' interests and strengths early • Providing awareness about diverse career options • Reducing peer and parental pressure • Helping students set realistic goals • Preparing students for future challenges	1x5=5
	OR	
	B. You are Ritika Sharma from Flat No. 12B, Rose Apartments, Sector 15, Gurugram. You came across an advertisement in The Daily Tribune for the post of a Customer Service Executive in a reputed company. Write a letter expressing your interest in the post. Include your bio-data	

	along with the application.	
6	**Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in 120-150 words** A. The growing use of social media and digital platforms has changed the way young people communicate and share information. While it offers many benefits, it also poses certain challenges. You are Ahmed Khan. Write an article for the school magazine Youth Voice discussing the impact of social media on students. Write the article using your own ideas as well as the cues given. • Communication and connectivity • Positive and negative influence • Impact on studies and relationships • Responsible use of social media	1x5=5
	OR	
	B. The Science Fair at RST School, Patiala, was organised recently to showcase students' innovative ideas and projects. As the senior editorial board member, Simran Kaur, write this report for the school magazine, highlighting various aspects of the event. Write the report using your own ideas as well as the cues given. • Planning and purpose of the fair • Exhibits and student participation • Interaction with judges and visitors • Overall impact and success	
	SECTION C **LITERATURE**	**40 marks**
	NOTE: The objective of this section is to test a candidate's ability to understand and interpret the prescribed text through short & long answer type questions. Long answer type questions have been set to test the students' understanding of the text and their ability to interpret, evaluate & respond to the issues raised therein. Hence, no particular answer can be accepted as the only correct answer. All presentations may be accepted as correct with consultation of the HE, if they have been duly supported by the facts drawn from the text. The student should be able to justify his/ her viewpoint. In the Inter textual questions reference to both the texts must be included.	
7	**Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B)** (A) "Charley notices a small, hidden platform at Grand Central Station that seems out of place. The hustle of commuters and trains rushes past, but the platform has a calm, old-fashioned charm. He steps onto it and sees trains labeled "Third Level," unlike any he has seen before. The station smells faintly of polished wood and steam, and the air feels	8 (1x2=2 2x3=6)

	different—slower, gentler. No one seems to notice him or the unusual train; it's as if the platform exists in another time. Charley feels both excitement and fear, unsure if he has found a portal to the past." (The Third Level) I. Charley was excited to observe that _____. II. Imagine stumbling upon a hidden place like Charley. Faced with a dilemma of whether to explore it, which personal, psychological and real-world considerations might guide your decision about the future course of action? (3 marks) III. How does Charley's willingness to step onto a mysterious platform demonstrate open-mindedness in facing the unknown? (3 marks)	
	OR	
	(B) "I sat trembling as the teacher grabbed my long hair and began to cut. My hands and feet felt powerless, and I could do nothing to stop it. I thought of my mother and how she would react if she saw me. The scissors snipped, each cut slicing away my pride and sense of self. I felt like a wooden puppet, tossed about and helpless. Around me, other children looked on silently, some sympathizing, some indifferent. In that moment, I realized how harsh and controlling the boarding school rules were, and how they tried to erase the children's individuality and heritage." (The cutting of my long hair) I. Seeing other children who were silent or indifferent shows the _____ of students under the oppressive system. II. How might students have worked together to support each other emotionally during such oppressive situations? III. What strategy could be used to resolve the conflict between preserving children's cultural identity and enforcing school rules?	
8	**Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B).** (A) "Saheb, a young ragpicker, wakes early to work in the bustling streets of Delhi, collecting scraps to sell. He dreams of going to school like other children, but poverty binds him to his daily toil.	10

The city around him is indifferent, and passersby barely notice his existence.
Despite his hardships, Saheb smiles occasionally, finding small joys in his fragile world.
Jamal, another child in a roadside market, sells flowers and vegetables while longing for education and a normal childhood.
Both children's lives highlight how economic necessity steals away their innocence and dreams." (The Lost Spring)

I. Which of the following could help children like Saheb and Jamal gain access to education? (1 mark)
A. Community support and NGO programs
B. Stricter labor laws without enforcement
C. Increased Street vending
D. Letting the issue resolve by itself

II. The indifference of the city around the children highlights the _____ faced by marginalized communities. (1 mark)

III. What does the author's contrast between the children's dreams and their reality to highlight? (2 marks)

IV. How does understanding Saheb and Jamal's struggles help readers become more empathetic and open-minded toward marginalized communities? (3 marks)

V. Imagine a community-based project between urban residents and waste pickers to recycle waste creatively. How could such collaborative project foster dignity, income, and social visibility for children like Saheb and Jamal? (3 marks)

OR

(B) "As a child, William Douglas was terrified of water after a near-drowning incident.
He avoided pools and lakes, unable to face the fear that haunted him.
With patient guidance from his father and repeated practice, he slowly learned to swim.
Each small success built his confidence, transforming his fear into mastery.
Douglas realized that fear could be confronted through courage,

	patience, and determination. Eventually, he not only overcame his fear but developed a lifelong love for swimming. The experience taught him the importance of perseverance in overcoming personal obstacles." (Deep Water) I. Each small success in swimming helped Douglas build _____ and eventually enjoy the water. (1 mark) II. What lesson can be drawn from Douglas's experience with fear? (1 mark) A. Fear cannot be overcome despite practice B. Courage and patience help overcome personal obstacles C. Avoid situations that may lead to near-drowning experiences D. Fear is good and may help us develop perseverance III. How does being open to guidance and trying new methods help Douglas conquer his fear? (2 marks) IV. How does Douglas' narration of his experience of conquering fear of water help readers understand the importance of flexibility and perseverance in life? (3 marks) V. Douglas could overcome his fear of water with patient guidance of his father. How do you think collaborating with others help us through challenges in life? (3 marks)	
9	**Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B) in 100 -120 words each.** (A) Aunt Jennifer creates images of tigers leaping boldly across the panel. They shine like golden jewels in a bright green forest. These tigers show no nervousness toward the men nearby, moving with confidence and grace. Meanwhile, Aunt Jennifer's hands tremble under the weight of her fears, yet the creatures she stitches remain strong and fearless, living in a world untouched by the burdens she carries." (Aunt Jennifer's Tigers) I. How does the contrast between Aunt Jennifer and the tigers deepen the meaning of the poem? II. What does the creation of the tigers by Aunt Jennifer reveal about art as a means of emotional resistance?	2x 3=6
	OR	
	(B) **"**If we were not so single-minded	

	about keeping our lives moving, and for once could do nothing, perhaps a huge silence might interrupt this sadness of never understanding ourselves and of threatening ourselves with death." (Keeping Quiet) I. How could reflecting quietly, as Neruda suggests, prevent people or nations from "threatening ourselves with death" and instead promote peaceful conflict resolution? II. In what way does pausing to "do nothing" require an open mind, and how might this help individuals understand themselves better?	
10	**Answer any two of the following questions in 100 -120 words each:** I. What does Frost's criticism of city dwellers' indifference towards "the little old house" reveal about societal neglect of the rural poor? (The Roadside Stand) OR II. How does Edla's compassionate treatment of the peddler highlight the transformative power of dignity in a society that routinely dehumanizes the poor? (The Rattrap) III. Examine how Douglas's relationship with water changes throughout the chapter. How does this transformation reflect a larger message about courage, self-belief, and mental recovery? (Deep Water) OR IV. How does Gandhi's decision to fight for the peasants of Champaran reflect his larger strategy of transforming Indian nationalism into a mass movement? (Indigo)	2 x 3=6
11	**Answer any one of the following one questions, in about 120-150 words.** I. Both Poets and Pancakes and The Roadside Stand comment on the gap between appearance and reality. Analyse how each text uncovers hidden truths beneath glamorous or idealised surfaces. **OR** II. How do The Last Lesson and Indigo explore education as a tool of empowerment? Compare how political power tries to suppress knowledge and how the texts argue for its liberating force.	1x5=5

12	**Answer any one of the following one questions, in about 120-150 words** I. Do you think Sadao could have made a different choice without compromising his ethics? Justify your answer. (The Enemy) **OR** II. The Tiger king's calculated actions to change his fate ironically about the very end he feared. What does this imply about human control over destiny? What is your opinion on this? (The Tiger King)	1x5=5