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Candidates must write the Set No. on the title page of the answer book.

SAHODAYA PRE-BOARD EXAMINATIONS-2024-25

- Please check that this question paper contains **10** printed pages.
- Set number given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer book by the candidate.
- Check that this question paper contains **13** questions.
- Write down the Serial Number of the question in the left side of the margin before attempting it.
- 15 minutes time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the examination. The students will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer script during this period.

CLASS- XII**SUB: ENGLISH CORE (301)****Time Allowed: 3 Hours****Maximum Marks: 80****General Instructions:-**

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

- i. This question paper has 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.
- ii. This question paper contains three sections:
Section A: Reading Skills,
Section B: Creative Writing Skills
Section C: Literature.
- iii. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
- iv. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
- v. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions

SECTION-A**READING SKILLS (22 marks)****I. Read the following passage carefully.****12**

1. New Year celebrations span New Year's Eve through New Year's Day, with roots tracing back to the Babylonians around 2,000 B.C. Originally, New Year was celebrated in spring to symbolize new life that is aligned with the season when new life began to emerge in the world. However, ancient cultures struggled with calendars aligning to the sun. The Romans ultimately shifted the New Year to January 1st under Julius Caesar in 46 B.C, introducing the Julian calendar, which forms the basis of the current calendar.
2. The Romans honored Janus, the two-headed god of beginnings and endings, a symbol of transition, a reflection of the past year and anticipation for the year ahead. This embodies the concept of New Year's celebrations as a time of endings and new beginnings. Janus, whose name relates to January, could look backward at the past and forward to the future. This belief influenced naming January as the first month, a tradition that persists today. Modern New Year celebrations echo ancient customs, encouraging reflection on the past year and welcoming the new one with hope and self-improvement.
3. New Year's Day traditionally brings happiness and serves as a time for resolutions. Resolutions involve setting goals to enhance personal and family life. It is good to set personal goals, but it can also be beneficial to set goals as a family. Working on

goals as a family can be fun and rewarding. Additionally, it strengthens bonds and provides a support system for achieving success.

4. Some people achieve their New Year’s resolutions, while others lose sight of them over time. Making too many goals can complicate your efforts and make you lose sight of many of them altogether. Goals should be few, realistic, and manageable to avoid losing focus.
5. It is amazing how the rush of life can quickly overtake the genuinely good intentions of worthy goals. When goals are not written down, they can be easily forgotten. When your goals are written and clearly visible, you will be more likely to remember them and to follow good habits that lead to success. Writing and posting them visibly helps reinforce commitment and progress.
6. Including a resolution that brings immediate happiness can balance the stress of challenging goals like dieting or quitting bad habits. Examples include starting a hobby, relaxing daily, or spending time with family. New Year celebrations symbolize moving past the old year and embracing opportunities ahead. The celebration of New Year’s Day is all about putting the past behind and looking forward to new and exciting things to come. While Roman civilization has faded, its traditions still shape how we celebrate New Year’s Day today.

(Collected and curated for academic purpose; 443 words)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- I. According to paragraph 1, why was New Year originally celebrated in the spring? 1
- II. How does the author use the symbolism of Janus to describe the concept of New Year’s celebrations? 1
- III. Complete the following sentence suitably. 1
The phrase ‘it is amazing how the rush of life can quickly overtake the genuinely good intentions of worthy goals’ suggests that the writer is concerned about:
 - A. life’s pace, making it difficult to focus on resolutions.
 - B. the stress caused by unachievable goals.
- IV. Complete the following suitably with ONE reason, with reference to paragraph 1. 1
The Romans ultimately shifted the New Year to January 1st because
- V. The writer emphasizes setting a few realistic goals to 1
 - A. encourage people to dream big and aim for ambitious outcomes.
 - B. avoid overwhelming efforts and prevent losing sight of objectives.
 - C. highlight the importance of writing down goals to achieve success.
 - D. ensure people take on as many goals as possible for self-improvement.
- VI. Provide ONE textual evidence from paragraph 5 to prove the following: 1
Writing goals down makes it easier to achieve them.
- VII. What does the phrase ‘putting the past behind’ in the line ‘The celebration of New Year’s Day is all about putting the past behind and looking forward to new and exciting things to come’, signify? 2
- VIII. Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph 4 1
complicated: difficult :: achievable: ____
 - A. simple
 - B. realistic
 - C. difficult
 - D. easy

- IX. The statement ‘Some people achieve their New Year’s resolutions, while others lose sight of them over time,’ employs contrast because it _____ 1
- A. shows the balance between success and failure.
- B. highlights the difference between staying committed and losing focus.
- C. criticizes people who fail to keep their resolutions.
- D. emphasizes the importance of setting realistic goals.
- X. Assess the potential benefits of involving families in achieving resolutions, as outlined in paragraph 3. 2

2. Read the following carefully.

10 marks

1. As the world grapples with the challenges of climate change, cities globally are turning to renewable energy sources to reduce their carbon footprint. Solar energy, harnessed from the sun’s rays, is emerging as a leading solution. Across urban landscapes, solar panels are becoming a common sight, not just on rooftops but also integrated into building designs and public infrastructure.
2. The primary motivation behind this shift to solar energy is twofold: environmental responsibility and economic viability. Solar energy reduces the reliance on fossil fuels, thereby decreasing greenhouse gas emissions. This transition not only combats global warming but also ensures cleaner air, benefiting urban residents’ health.
3. However, the journey to becoming a solar city is not without hurdles. Initial installation costs, ensuring consistent energy supply during cloudy days, and the need for efficient energy storage solutions are some challenges cities face. But with technological advancements, such as the development of high-capacity batteries and more efficient solar cells, these challenges are gradually being overcome.
4. Moreover, solar cities are not just about energy. They represent a broader vision of sustainability, encompassing green transportation, waste management, and water conservation. The holistic approach ensures a better quality of life, fostering community well-being and resilience against climate adversities.

Survey on Solar Cities (Total number of participants: 400)

No.	Survey Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	Solar energy is crucial for combating climate change	220	110	40	20	10
2	Initial installation costs hinder the adoption of solar energy	180	140	50	20	10
3	Solar cities offer a better quality of life	200	130	40	20	10
4	Efficient energy storage is a challenge in solar cities	190	120	60	20	10
5	Solar panels are now an integral part of urban architecture	210	125	45	10	10
6	Green transportation is as important as solar energy in solar cities	205	115	60	10	10

(Collected and curated for academic purpose; 314 words)

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage

- I. Complete the following suitably. 1
Solar cities, the dream project for our country may be a herculean task, but it is the need of hour because _____.
- II. Solar energy is one step ahead in combating with climate change because it _____. 1
A. is a sustainable energy source.
B. is the only way to get rid of pollution.
C. enhances the possibility of financial burden on us.
D. opens up opportunities for electrification.
- III. Give two points to support why solar energy is the need of the hour. 2
- IV. Paragraph 2 & 3 speak about 'motivations' and 'inspiration'. 1
Classify the following sentences under 'motivation' or 'inspiration' category as per the context:
Sentence 1: A group of students turned out stupendous in their Board Exams as they were the true followers of their teacher.
Sentence 2: It is not the hard work only, it is the steadfast desire to achieve and reach your target.
- V. Read the following: 1
1. Solar energy is crucial for combating climate change.
2. Solar cities offer a better quality of life.
3. Efficient energy storage is a challenge in solar cities.
Which of the following best suits the three points mentioned above?
A. Solar energy always cannot be an alternative.
B. It is definitely possible to have solar cities.
C. We should think about solar energy in the present context.
D. A better life means a life with solar energy.
- VI. We should look at the obstacles before we plan for a solar city. Justify. 1
- VII. Analyse the outcome of the survey that has been conducted on the solar cities. 2
- VIII. The concept of solar cities seems like _____. 1
A. a dream without reality.
B. a dream with lots of possibilities.
C. a mirage where nothing practically happens.
D. a costly project to be carried out.

SECTION-B

CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 marks)

3. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words. 1x4=4
- A. Twenty five years ago, a government school was opened in Udhampur village. As part of its Silver Jubilee celebrations, the school has decided to honour the meritorious alumni who are now holding important positions in the society. As Head boy/girl, draft a notice inviting the students of classes IX to XII to attend the function in the school hall. You are Karuna/Kirti.
- OR**
- B. Residents' Welfare Association of Lotus Society, Noida Sector 16 is planning to visit the flood affected families of Rishikesh and set up a relief aid team. Draft a notice inviting residents to volunteer for these visits. You are Ankita/Arnav, President, RWA.

4. **Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words.** **1x4=4**
- A. You are going to open a confectionery store at Sipri Road, Jhansi, and want to invite your friends and the people of your locality on its inaugural ceremony. As Shakti/Shekhar, the Proprietor of the Confectionery Store, draft a suitable invitation for the same.
- OR**
- B. An invitation had been issued by Mr. Sanjay Mathur, the Head of the Science Club of DREAMS Public School, inviting you to attend a Science Fair. As Simona Majumdar, the Chief Scientist of NRRI, draft a replay consenting to attend.
5. **Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in 120-150 words.** **1x5=5**
- A. You saw an advertisement in a daily newspaper for the post of a Sales Executive in a reputable MNC. Write a letter to the HR Manager, Goel Sons Ltd, Vinod Nagar, New Delhi, applying for the post advertised. Attach your resume. You are Rani/Rajesh.
- OR**
- B. Meera Ranjan is a resident of Kerala. She writes a letter to the editor of a local newspaper giving her strong views on the disadvantages of setting up of a chemical factory in the local area and makes an appeal to the government to reconsider its decision. Add your own ideas including the clues given below and write this letter.
- Clues:
- Building the factory will result in deforestation
 - Release of Chemical waste and smoke
 - Pollution of air, water and soil
 - Respiratory and skin problems among residents
 - Risk of chemical mishaps
6. **Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in 120-150 words** **1x5=5**
- A. The modern lifestyle, characterized by a sedentary routine, unhealthy eating habits, and excessive screen time, is leading to an alarming rise in lifestyle diseases among children. Write an article emphasizing on the urgent need for children to adopt a healthy lifestyle, focusing on the benefits of balanced nutrition, regular exercise, and restricted screen time to prevent lifestyle-related diseases. You are Sharan/Shilpa. Use the cues given below.
- Increasing prevalence of childhood obesity
 - Mental health concerns
 - Importance of adequate sleep
 - Parental role in healthy choices
 - Schools' role in promoting health
- OR**
- B. You are Prithvi/ Priya, the staff correspondent of a local daily. The recent cyclone Dana has caused a massive destruction and rendered many people homeless on the outskirts of your city. Organisations and individuals, from various quarters went out to help in the rescue and relief efforts. Write a report on the topic-“Cyclone Relief Efforts in your city.”
- Hints:
- Impact of the cyclone
 - Relief efforts by the local authorities
 - Contribution from NGOs and volunteers
 - Support provided; challenges faced
 - Current situation

SECTION-C
LITERATURE (40 marks)

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two-
A or B 1x6=6

A. No, in country money, the country scale of gain,
The requisite lift of spirit has never been found,
Or so the voice of the country seems to complain,
I can't help owning the great relief it would be
To put these people at one stroke out of their pain.
And then next day as
I come back into the sane, I wonder how
I should like you to come to me
And offer to put me gently out of my pain.

(A Roadside Stand)

- I. Explain the given lines from the above extract.
"I can't help owning the great relief it would be to put these people at one stroke out of their pain."
- II. Pick the option that mentions elements justifying monetary aspect as the 'requisite lift of spirit'.
 - A. Confidence
 - B. Self-esteem
 - C. Fame
 - D. All of these
- III. Complete the following sentence appropriately.
.....can help the rural people.
- IV. Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank.
The poet bemoans the people's lack of spirit to better their
(social/economic) condition.
- V. Read the Assertion and the Reason below, with reference to the given extract.
Assertion: The poet wants to help the rural poor.
Reason: The poet is in pain because he himself cannot help the poor rural folk.
Choose the correct option regarding their relationship.
 - A. Both the Assertion and the Reason are true and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion.
 - B. Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, but the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion.
 - C. The Assertion is true, but the Reason is false.
 - D. The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.
- VI. Based on the extract, what does the phrase 'country money' mean?

OR

B. It would be an exotic moment
without rush, without engines,
we would all be together
in a sudden strangeness

(Keeping Quiet)

- I. State the phrase that suggests the following.
Though, presently, everyone seems to be in a hurry, it would strangely become quiet.

- II. Select the option that has the same literary device as used in 'in a sudden strangeness'.
- Till the sun grows cold, and the stars are old.
 - O! Wonderful for weight and whiteness!
 - I wandered lonely as a cloud.
 - Death, be not proud.
- III. Complete the following sentence with reference to the extract.
The exotic moment will be when everyone is.....
- IV. Select the correct option from those given in bracket to fill in the blank.
The poet emphasises (being still/being together) because people would forget their differences in the experience of peace.
- V. Read the Assertion and the Reason below, with reference to the given extract.
Assertion: The poet wants to end all activity that makes us selfish.
Reason: The poet wants all of us to be a part of the 'exotic' moment.
Choose the correct option regarding their relationship.
- Both the Assertion and the Reason are true and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion.
 - Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, but the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion.
 - The Assertion is true, but the Reason is false.
 - The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.
- VI. The poetic devices in the 2nd line are _____

8. **Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (A) or (B) 4x1=4**

A. How would it be if Antarctica were to become the warm place that it once used to be? Will we be around to see it, or would we have gone the way of the dinosaurs, mammoths and woolly rhinos? Who's to say? But after spending two weeks with a bunch of teenagers who still have the idealism to save the world, all I can say is that a lot can happen in a million years, but what a difference a day makes!

(Journey to the End of the Earth)

- The role of the teenagers in the context of the changing climate and potential transformation of Antarctica is _____
- "A lot can happen in a million years, but what a difference a day makes!" This phrase highlights the _____.
- The potential transformation of Antarctica into a warmer environment raises questions about the survival of human civilization in the future. This portrayal reflects:
 - A concern that human adaptation strategies might be insufficient to cope with extreme climate shifts.
 - An emphasis on the historical records of past climate changes and their effects on ecosystems.
 - A belief that Antarctica's transformation is inevitable and will lead to human extinction.
 - A recognition of the insignificant role of human activities in influencing global climate patterns.
- The text is vividly factual and explores the artistry of the hold of language on the imagination. Comment.

OR

- B.** The next day, infection flared in the Maharaja's right hand. In four days, it developed into a suppurating sore which spread all over the arm. Three famous surgeons were brought in from Madras. After holding a consultation, they decided to operate. The operation took place. The three surgeons who performed it came out of the theatre and announced, "The operation was successful. The Maharaja is dead." In this manner the hundredth tiger took its final revenge upon the Tiger King.

(The Tiger King)

- I. The significance of the surgeons' announcement, "The operation was successful. The Maharaja is dead," lies in its ability to:
 - A. Confuse the readers about the outcome of the operation.
 - B. Highlight the incompetence of the surgeons.
 - C. Convey the irony of the situation and reveal the ultimate fate of the Maharaja.
 - D. Provide a conclusive ending to the story.
- II. What does the expression "The hundredth tiger took its final revenge upon the Tiger King" symbolize in the passage?
- III. The central theme of the passage revolves around the concept of _____, where the Tiger King's obsession with hunting tigers leads to an ironic and tragic end.
- IV. How does the author's use of foreshadowing in "the hundredth tiger" contribute to the narrative's impact and the reader's understanding of the Tiger King's fate?

9. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, A or B. 1x6=6

- A.** Maybe I give the impression of doing many things. But in the end, I am convinced I am always doing the same thing... And then I have a secret. Did you know what will happen if you eliminate the empty spaces from the universe, eliminate the empty spaces in all the atoms? The universe will become as big as my fist. Similarly, we have a lot of empty spaces in our lives. I call them interstices. Say you are coming over to my place. You are in an elevator and while you are coming up, I am waiting for you. This is an interstice, an empty space. I work in empty spaces.

(The Interview)

- I. What is the writer's purpose of using the metaphor of a 'fist' for the universe?
- II. Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank.
The term "interstice" serves to convey a sense of _____
(incompleteness/contemplation/recognition) in the speaker's understanding of time and space.
- III. Complete the following suitably.
The speaker's focus on "empty spaces" reveals two things about his perspective: first, his awareness of the gaps in everyday life, and second, his approach to _____.
- IV. What does the speaker's notion of "interstice" suggest about his view on the nature of existence and purpose?
- V. Select the textual option that best illustrates the speaker's philosophical outlook.
 - A. "Maybe I give the impression of doing many things..."
 - B. "And then I have a secret."
 - C. "The universe will become as big as my fist."
 - D. "I work in empty spaces."

- VI. What is reflected in the line, "I am convinced I am always doing the same thing...?"
- Confusion
 - Realization
 - Boredom
 - Expectation

OR

- B.** "Since you have been so nice to me all day long, as if I was a captain, I want to be nice to you, in return, as if I was a real captain-for I do not want you to be embarrassed at this Christmas season by a thief, but you can give back the money to the old man on the roadside, who has the money pouch hanging on the window frame as a bait for poor wanderers. The rattrap is a Christmas present from a rat who would have been caught in this world's rattrap if he had not been caught in this world's rattrap if he had not been raised to captain, because in that way he got power to clear himself. "Written with friendship and high regard, Captain von Stahle".

(The Rattrap)

- What does the peddler's statement about not wanting to embarrass his host at Christmas reveal about his character and his outlook on life?
- Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank.
The peddler's reference to the world as a "rattrap" _____ (emphasizes/trivializes/mitigates) his view of life as a trap designed to ensnare the vulnerable.
- Complete the following with a suitable reason.
The peddler decides to return the money because _____.
- How does the concept of a "rattrap" function symbolically for the peddler and Captain von Stahle?
- What is implied by the transformation of the peddler into "Captain von Stahle"?
 - It highlights a dramatic change in the peddler's social status.
 - It emphasizes the continued presence of greed within him.
 - It signifies the importance of kindness and acceptance in humanizing him.
 - It underlines his reluctance to part with the money he found.
- What prompts the peddler to leave the rattrap as a "Christmas present"?
 - A change of heart influenced by kindness.
 - A fear of getting caught with the stolen money.
 - His hope to build a relationship with the family.
 - His desire to seek a permanent place in the community.

10. Answer **any five** of the following six questions in 40-50 words each: **5x2=10**

- Subbu is popular among the staff of the Gemini studios for both his goodwill and animosity. Analyse. (Poets and Pancakes)
- Elaborate the use of literal and metaphorical expressions to convey concepts of aging and separation in My Mother at Sixty-Six.
- Comment on how small victories contributed to the transformation of Douglas's personality. (Deep Water)
- Describe the peasant's role in the success of the Champaran Civil Disobedience movement. (Indigo)
- Analyse how symbols convey the constraints and struggles faced by Aunt Jennifer in her life. (Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)
- What is unrealistic about Sophie's dreams of her future life? (Going Places)

11. Answer **any two** of the following three questions in 40-50 words each: **2x2=4**
- I. Comment on the theme of loyalty as portrayed by the servants, Sadao Hoki and the General. (The Enemy)
 - II. Charley's experience at the ticket counter snaps him back to the reality. Evaluate the statement. (The Third Level)
 - III. The lesson, 'On The Face of It', is an apt depiction of the loneliness and sense of alienation experienced by people on account of a disability. Explain.
(On the Face of It)
12. Answer **any one** of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. **1x5=5**
- A.** The textual selections, 'The Last Lesson' and 'Keeping Quiet' bring out the concept of peace and harmony to make earth a beautiful place to live in. Imagine yourself as a participant of a seminar who has to speak on the futility of war with reference to the lessons mentioned above and the present day context Write this address highlighting the need to promote mutual understanding and universal brotherhood among the people.
You may start like this....
Good morning dear friends!
We all are aware that life is too short to live but we are busy fighting with each other....
- OR**
- B.** How are Robert Frost and Anees Jung similar in their presentation and insight, of the deprived and the poor, in 'The Lost Spring' and 'The Roadside Stand,' respectively. Suggest solutions to uplift the living conditions of the poor and the needy.
13. Answer **any one** of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words **1x5=5**
- A.** The travelogue 'Journey to the End of the Earth' gives a strong message to preserve nature. It is the callous attitude of mankind to plunder natural resources which have led to the miserable condition the planet Earth is in today. Justify the situation with suggestions for improvement.
- OR**
- B.** Compare and contrast the characters of Charley from 'Third level' and the Tiger King in terms of their aspirations, constraints, and the pursuit of their dreams.
