

**MARKING SCHEME**  
**ENGLISH CORE (Code No. 301)**  
**SAHODAYA PRE BOARD EXAMINATION-2024-25**  
**CLASS-XII**  
**SET 1**

**General Instructions: -**

1. The Marking Scheme carries only suggested value points for the answers. These are in the nature of Guidelines only and do not constitute the complete answer. The students can have their own expression and if the expression is correct, then due marks should be awarded accordingly.
2. If a student has attempted an extra question, answer of the question deserving more marks should be retained and the other answer scored out with a note "Extra Question".
3. If more than one option is mentioned in the answer of multiple choice questions, then no marks to be awarded.

| <b>SECTION A: READING SKILLS (22 marks)</b>         |   |           |
|---|---|-----------|
| <b>1.</b>   | <b>Answer the following questions, based on the passage above. (Descriptive Passage)</b>  | <b>12</b> |
| I   | because it aligned with the season when new life began to emerge in the world.  | 1         |
| II  | The Roman god Janus, with one head looking back and the other forward, symbolizes reflection on 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,  | 1         |
| III   | A. how life's pace makes it difficult to focus on resolutions.  | 1         |
| IV  | because under Julius Caesar in 46 B.C, Julian calendar was introduced, which forms the basis of the current calendar..  | 1         |
| V   | B. To avoid overwhelming efforts and prevent losing sight of objectives   | 1         |
| VI  | ."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."  | 1         |
| VII   | ... signifies letting go of past mistakes, regrets, or failures and focusing on starting afresh with positivity and determination for the future.   | 2         |
| VIII  | B. realistic  | 1         |
| IX  | B. Because it highlights the difference between staying committed and losing focus.1  | 1         |
| X   | Involving families in achieving resolutions fosters teamwork and strengthens relationships. It provides a support system that helps maintain motivation, makes the process more enjoyable, and increases the likelihood of success.   | 2         |
| <b>2.</b>   | <b>Answer the following questions, based on given passage.</b>  | <b>10</b> |
| I   | Climate change has deteriorated the health condition of the earth. Solar energy is a broader vision of sustainability, encompassing green transportation, waste management, and water conservation.(Any other relevant points)  | 1         |
| II  | A- it is a sustainable energy source.   | 1         |
| III   | Deal with energy crisis, sustainable energy, better quality of life, community well-being and resilience against climate adversities, reduces the reliance on fossil fuels, thereby decreasing greenhouse gas emissions.(Any two)   | 2         |
| IV  | Motivations   | 1         |
| V   | C- We should think about solar energy in the present context.   | 1         |
| VI  | We may have some hurdles like consistent energy in cloudy days, and the need for efficient energy storage solutions, but with technological advancements, such as the development of high-capacity batteries and more efficient solar cells, these challenges are gradually being overcome. | 1         |
| VII   | It says that maximum number of people support that solar energy is crucial for combating climate change, however, initial installation costs hinder the adoption of solar energy. Many of them supported this idea of solar cities, but some of the genuine issues like                     | 2         |
| VIII  | D- a costly project to be carried out.  | 1         |
| <b>SECTION B-CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 marks)</b> |   |           |
| 3.  | Format – 1                      Content -2                      Accuracy of spelling and grammar -1   | 4         |

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|----|---|---|
| 4. | A-(Card type formal/third person/centre aligned)<br>B-(Letter type-formal, first/third person)<br>Format – 1                      Content -2                      Accuracy of spelling and grammar -1   | 4 |
| 5. | Format -1    Content -2    Organisation -1    Accuracy of spelling and grammar -1   | 5 |
| 6. | Format – 1    Content -2    Organisation -1    Accuracy of spelling and grammar -1  | 5 |
| A. | Article – Value Points<br>Introduction<br>Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rising rates of childhood obesity</li> <li>• Heart health and blood pressure challenges</li> <li>• Mental well-being at risk</li> <li>• Decline in physical activity</li> <li>• Need for nutritious, well-balanced meals</li> <li>• Essential to manage screen time</li> <li>• Significance of sufficient sleep</li> <li>• Encouraging healthy habits</li> <li>• Influence of parents on health choices</li> <li>• Supportive role of schools in health promotion</li> </ul> |   |
| B. | Cues lead to the eliciting of relevant response points.   |   |

**SECTION C-LITERATURE (40 marks)**

**7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two-A or B**

|           |  |              |
|-----------|--|--------------|
| A.        | <b>Poetry (Flamingo)</b>   | <b>1X6=6</b> |
| I         | The given lines indicate that poet feels that death is better than living a miserable life like that of the poor rural people.   | 1            |
| II        | (d) All of these   | 1            |
| III       | The government, the city people and the influential people   | 1            |
| IV        | economic   | 1            |
| V         | (b) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, but the Reason is not the correct explanation  | <b>1</b>     |
| VI        | The phrase ‘country money’ in the given context means meagre income earned by the countryside people.  | <b>1</b>     |
| B.        | (i) ‘Without rush, without engines’  | 1            |
|           | (ii) (b) O! Wonderful for weight and whiteness   | 1            |
|           | (iii) quiet  | 1            |
|           | (iv) being together  | 1            |
|           | (v) (b) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, but the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion.  | 1            |
|           | (vi) repetition/alliteration/imagery (any one)   | 1            |
| <b>8.</b> | <b>Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (A) or (B)</b>   | <b>1X4=4</b> |
| A.        |  |              |
| I         | A. i. Their idealism represents a positive outlook and willingness to act to mitigate climate change and its effects on places like Antarctica. It highlights the potential for younger generations to contribute to the preservation of the planet and its ecosystems, even in the face of significant challenges.  | 1            |
| II        | ii. This phrase highlights the contrast between the long-term geological timescale of million-year changes and the urgent need for immediate action in the face of current climate challenges.   | 1            |
| III       | iii. A) A concern that human adaptation strategies might be insufficient to cope with extreme climate shifts. (The portrayal of the potential transformation of Antarctica into a warmer environment raises concerns about human civilization's survival due to inadequate adaptation strategies for extreme climate shifts. It reflects the worry that such shifts could outpace our ability to adapt effectively.) | 1            |

|     |   |               |
|-----|---|---------------|
| IV  | iv The text achieves its vivid factual portrayal through concrete details and descriptions, such as the mention of Antarctica's past warmth and the comparison to extinct species like dinosaurs, mammoths, and woolly rhinos. This factual foundation provides a tangible understanding of the potential transformation of Antarctica.   | 1             |
| B   |   |               |
| I   | C) Convey the irony of the situation and reveal the ultimate fate of the Maharaja. (The surgeons' announcement, "The operation was successful. The Maharaja is dead," is ironic and signifies the ultimate twist of fate. It reveals the story's underlying irony, highlighting how the seemingly successful operation led to the Maharaja's demise, concluding his tragic journey.)                      | 1             |
| II  | The metaphorical "hundredth tiger" represents the cumulative impact of his tiger-hunting endeavours, and his demise becomes a form of poetic justice, where the very tigers he hunted seem to have metaphorically avenged their deaths by indirectly causing his own death through infection after a botched operation. This phrase underscores the theme of karma and the consequences of one's actions. | 1             |
| III | dramatic irony / irony  | 1             |
| IV  | . The author's use of foreshadowing in "The Hundredth Tiger" builds tension and anticipation, hinting at the Tiger King's downfall due to his tiger hunts. This creates irony, suspense, and emotional impact, enhancing themes and reader engagement.  | 1             |
| 9.  | <b>Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, A or B.</b>   | <b>1X6=6</b>  |
| A   |   |               |
| i   | The writer's purpose in using the metaphor of a 'fist' for the universe after eliminating empty spaces is to emphasize the concept of reduction and unity, suggesting that the vastness of the universe, or life itself, can condense into something tangible when the extraneous is removed.   |               |
| ii  | a sense of <i>contemplation</i> in the speaker's understanding of time and space.   |               |
| iii | his approach to <i>mindfulness</i> or <i>making use of waiting moments</i> .  |               |
| iv  | The speaker's notion of "interstice" suggests that he views existence as composed of meaningful pauses and moments that allow for introspection or creativity, rather than seeing life as a continuous, unbroken stream of action.  |               |
| v   | <b>C. "The universe will become as big as my fist."</b>   |               |
| vi  | <b>B. Realization</b>   |               |
| B   |   |               |
| i   | The peddler's statement about not wanting to embarrass his host at Christmas reveals that he feels gratitude for the kindness shown to him. It also shows his understanding of the importance of generosity and respect during the holiday season, leading him to act honorably by returning the money.   |               |
| ii  | The peddler's reference to the world as a "rattrap" underscores his view of life as a trap designed to ensnare the vulnerable. This metaphor reflects his cynical perspective, shaped by his own hardships and experiences.   |               |
| iii | The peddler decides to return the money because he feels a sense of respect and friendship towards the family who treated him kindly, helping him see himself in a new, more honorable light/ wanted to mend his wrong ways   |               |
| iv  | The concept of a "rattrap" functions symbolically as it represents the peddler's previous belief that the world is full of temptations and traps that entangle people. However, after experiencing kindness and being called "Captain," he realizes that one's view of the world can change with compassion and respect, allowing him to escape his own mental "rattrap."                                 |               |
| v   | <b>C.</b> It signifies the importance of kindness and acceptance in humanizing him..  |               |
| vi  | A change of heart influenced by kindness.   |               |
| 10. | <b>Answer any five of the following six questions in 40 50 words each :</b><br>1 -Content                      1- Expression                      ½ -1 deducted from overall, for Accuracy  | <b>2X5=10</b> |

|           |   |              |
|-----------|---|--------------|
| i         | In <i>Poets and Pancakes</i> , Subbu is portrayed as charitable and supportive, often willing to help others without considering his own future. However, his success and position in the film studio, combined with his natural talents, lead to envy and resentment among some colleagues. His generosity and easy-going attitude make him likable to many, but those who felt threatened by his talents or proximity to higher authorities saw him as a rival, creating enmity despite his charitable nature.  | 2            |
| ii        | In <i>My Mother at Sixty-Six</i> , Kamala Das uses literal and metaphorical expressions of separation to convey the pain of witnessing her mother's aging. The poet reflects on the inevitable parting that looms over them, which is both a literal and metaphorical separation. The imagery of her mother's pale, ashen face reminds her of the loss of vitality and time, evoking a deep emotional separation. This dual expression of parting underscores the universal experience of watching loved ones age and the sorrow it brings.   | 2            |
| iii       | In <i>Deep Water</i> , seemingly small victories, like taking a few strokes in the pool or resisting panic, are profound achievements for the protagonist. These moments mark significant steps in his journey to overcome a lifelong fear of water. These small wins highlight the theme that personal growth and resilience are often built through incremental successes rather than grand moments. They reveal that triumph over fears is a continuous process and that these everyday victories shape one's confidence and courage.  | 2            |
| iv        | In <i>Indigo</i> , the peasants played an essential role in the success of the Champaran Civil Disobedience movement. By standing united and showing resilience, they forced the British landlords to acknowledge their plight. Their unity and willingness to defy oppressive policies empowered Gandhi to take up their cause, making them central agents in the movement. The peasants' strength and determination proved instrumental in bringing about a significant shift in their condition and contributed to the broader struggle for Indian independence.   | 2            |
| v         | In <i>Aunt Jennifer's Tigers</i> , symbols such as the tigers she embroiders reveal her inner desire for freedom and power. While the tigers move with confidence and fearlessness, Aunt Jennifer herself is bound by societal expectations and restrictions, symbolized by the heavy wedding band. This contrast between her art and her reality highlights her oppression and yearning for independence. The symbolic use of the tigers thus deepens our understanding of her plight, reflecting her longing for agency and freedom despite the constraints imposed on her.   | 2            |
| vi        | Sophie's dreams of her future life are far removed from her reality. She dreams of owning a boutique, of becoming an actress but the fact was that she was earmarked for the biscuit factory. Sophie drifts into a world of fantasy and wants to live her dreams by stepping out of her middle-class status.  | 2            |
| <b>11</b> | <b>Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words</b>  | <b>2X2=4</b> |
| i.        | The servants rebelled, did not cooperate, left the house, but did not disclose the matter, returned home after the man left; Sadao operated on the enemy and saved his life while all the time he upheld the tradition of Japan as well as kept the General informed about the enemy. The General, was self-centred and obsessed with his own wellness. He did not take any action about it.  |              |
| ii.       | Charley saw fewer ticket counters- people dressed in clothes of previous century- old currencies-the clerk at the counter gives him a stern look. That is where Charley realizes that he had to go back to New York to exchange his present currency.   |              |
| iii.      | Lesson 'On the Face of It' aptly depicts the loneliness and sense of alienation experienced by Derry and Mr. Lamb on account of a disability. The actual pain and inconvenience caused by the disabilities is often much less than the sense of alienation felt by the disabled person. Derry suffered from severe negative complexes because of his burnt face. He became a pessimistic loner who indulged in self pity and was always suspicious of the intention of others. His anger and frustration made him withdrawn and an introvert. Mr. Lamb, on the other hand, was outwardly a loner who craved for company and acceptance. Though outwardly he was always jovial, outgoing and optimistic, he was an extremely sensitive person. |              |
| <b>12</b> | <b>Answer ANY ONE of the following three questions, in about 120-150 words</b>  | <b>1X5=5</b> |
| <b>A</b>  | Good morning, dear friends!   |              |

|           |   |              |
|-----------|---|--------------|
|           | <p>We all are aware that life is too short to love, yet we often find ourselves embroiled in conflicts, big and small. The lessons from ‘The Last Lesson’ and ‘Keeping Quiet’ remind us of the devastation war brings—not only in physical destruction but in the deeper wounds inflicted on humanity's soul. War divides us, erodes trust, and leaves us grappling with loss and fear. In 'The Last Lesson,' we see how a sense of pride in one’s nation and culture, if twisted by hatred, leads to isolation and suffering. Meanwhile, 'Keeping Quiet' invites us to pause, reflect, and value silence, urging us toward a shared peace.</p> <p>Today, as wars and conflicts rage on around the world, we must remember that mutual understanding and universal brotherhood are the only paths to true peace. Let’s come together, set aside our differences, and work toward a future where harmony prevails</p> <p>In ‘<i>The Last Lesson</i>’, we see how war disrupts culture and identity, forcing people to cling to their heritage with a bittersweet sense of loss. Similarly, ‘<i>Keeping Quiet</i>’ by Pablo Neruda emphasizes the need for introspection and stillness, reminding us that peace begins within each of us. War causes untold suffering, separating families, destroying homes, and leaving lasting scars on humanity. In today's world, promoting mutual understanding and universal brotherhood is not just an ideal but a necessity. By choosing compassion over conflict, we can strive to make the world a better place for all. Let us embrace peace to ensure a harmonious future for generations to come.</p>                               |              |
| B         | <p>Robert Frost in <i>The Roadside Stand</i> and Anees Jung in <i>Lost Spring</i> both address the plight of marginalized individuals living in poverty, although their approaches and tones differ. Frost’s poem captures the frustration of rural people who attempt to earn a living by selling goods at a roadside stand, only to be ignored by city folk. Through the speaker’s empathetic voice, Frost reveals the inner turmoil of the poor, yearning for dignity and fairness but treated as “backward” by urban society. Frost's poem critiques the superficial promises of progress and development, hinting that society's unequal structure prevents these individuals from achieving self-sufficiency.</p> <p>In <i>Lost Spring</i>, Anees Jung uses narrative journalism to portray the harsh realities faced by children in India’s poorest sectors, such as young ragpickers in Seemapuri and child laborers in Firozabad. Through vivid descriptions and direct interviews, she exposes the cycles of poverty that trap these children and their families, unable to break free from exploitative labor. Jung empathizes with her subjects, showing how systemic oppression, rather than lack of ambition, keeps the poor disadvantaged.</p> <p>Both writers suggest that change requires systemic restructuring. Frost implies that empathy from the privileged could help bridge the social gap, enabling the poor to earn a dignified living. Jung, however, emphasizes the need for educational opportunities and policy reforms to eliminate child labor, advocating for practical solutions that allow children to envision a future beyond poverty.</p> |              |
| <b>13</b> | <b>Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words</b>  | <b>1X5=5</b> |
| A         | <p>The travelogue <i>Journey to the End of the Earth</i> by Tishani Doshi brings forth a poignant reflection on the destructive impact of human activity on the planet, especially through the exploitation of natural resources. In the narrative, Doshi takes the reader to the remote regions of Antarctica, a place that symbolizes the vulnerability of the Earth's fragile ecosystems, yet also highlights the global consequences of environmental neglect. Through this journey, the author conveys a strong message about the need for urgent action to preserve nature, and the consequences of mankind’s callous attitude towards the environment.</p> <p>Any other relevant point</p>   | A            |

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| B | <p>Charley from <i>"The Third Level"</i> by Jack Finney and the Tiger King from <i>"The Tiger King"</i> by R.K. Narayan present two contrasting yet thematically linked characters regarding their aspirations, constraints, and pursuit of dreams. Here's how they compare and contrast:</p> <p><b>Aspirations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charley: Charley longs for an escape from the harsh realities of the modern world, seeking solace in the past, specifically in the year 1894. His aspiration is to find peace in a simpler, less chaotic time, symbolized by the mythical "Third Level" at Grand Central Station.</li> <li>• The Tiger King: The Tiger King desires power, security, and the fulfillment of a prophecy. His aspiration is rooted in a desire to defy fate by killing a hundred tigers, which he believes will grant him immortality or at least spare him from death by a tiger.</li> </ul> <p><b>Constraints</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charley: Charley's constraints are internal and societal. He is held back by the impossibility of time travel and his own psychological limitations, which keep him from truly escaping into the past. His yearning for the Third Level reflects a need to escape the anxieties of modernity, but he's aware this escape may only be a mental construct.</li> <li>• The Tiger King: The Tiger King's constraints are rooted in fate and societal expectations of his role as a king. He is bound by a prophecy that foretells his death by a tiger and thus engages in excessive tiger hunts to evade this fate. His ambition is limited by his fear of the prophecy and his obsession with overcoming it.</li> </ul> <p><b>Pursuit of Dreams</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charley: Charley's pursuit is more emotional and psychological. He discovers the Third Level at the train station, which symbolizes his attempt to find a portal to a happier time. However, this pursuit is intangible and depends on his belief and imagination, as there is no concrete way to reach his dream.</li> <li>• The Tiger King: The Tiger King's pursuit is active and ruthless; he eliminates nearly all tigers in his kingdom to achieve his goal. His pursuit is tangible, involving real action and violence, contrasting Charley's more reflective, internal journey.</li> </ul> <p><b>Comparison and Contrast</b></p> <p>While both characters are driven by a desire to escape—Charley from the complexities of modern life and the Tiger King from his foretold destiny—they approach their goals differently. Charley's journey is more of an introspective quest for peace, whereas the Tiger King's pursuit is outwardly aggressive, symbolizing his desperation to control fate. Charley represents the introspective individual seeking peace through escapism, whereas the Tiger King embodies the futility of materialistic power in defying destiny.</p> <p>In summary, Charley's dream is idealistic and reflective, bound by psychological constraints, while the Tiger King's is ambitious and external, bound by fate and irony. Both characters, however, ultimately face the impossibility of truly realizing their dreams.</p> | B |
|---|--|---|