

SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER

Subject: English Core

Class – XII

Full Marks: 80

Time: 3 Hours

General Instruction:

- i. Write all answers in the answer script
- ii. Attempt all parts of a question together at one place
- iii. This question paper has 8 questions. All questions are compulsory.
- iv. This question paper contains three sections:
Section A: Reading Skills,
Section B: Grammar and Creative Writing Skills and
Section C: Literature.
- v. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
- vi. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
- vii. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

Q.No.	Question	Marks
	(SECTION : A) (Marks : 20) READING SKILLS	
1.	Read the given passage carefully. The art of living is learnt easily by those who are positive, observant and optimistic. From humble and simple people to great leaders in History, Science or Literature, we can learn a lot about the art of living, by having a peep into their lives, autobiographies or biographies. The daily routines of these great men not only reveal their different, maybe unique life styles but also help us learn certain habits and practices they followed. Here are some: read, enjoy and follow in their footsteps as it suits you. A private workplace always helps. Jane Austen asked that a certain squeaky hinge should never be oiled so that she always had a warning whenever someone was approaching the room where she wrote. William Faulkner, lacking a lock on his study door, detached the doorknob and brought it into the room with him. Mark Twain's family knew better than to breach his study door – they would blow a horn to draw him out. Graham Green went even further, renting a secret office; only his wife knew the address and the telephone number. After all, every one of us needs a workplace where we can work on our creation uninterruptedly. Equally we need our private space too! A daily walk has always been a source of inspiration. For many artists, a regular stroll was essentially a creative inspiration. Charles Dickens famously took three hour walks every afternoon, and what he observed on them fed directly into his writing. Tchaikovsky made do with a two-hour jaunt but wouldn't return a moment early; convinced that doing so would make him ill. Ludwig van Beethoven took lengthy strolls after lunch, carrying a pencil and paper with him in case inspiration	

	struck. Nineteenth Century composer, Erik Satie did the same on his long hikes from Paris to the working-class suburb where he lived, stopping under street lamps to jot down ideas that came on his journey; it's rumoured that when those lamps were turned off during the war years, his music declined too. Many great people had limited social life too. One of Simone de Beauvior's close friends puts it this way: "There were no receptions, parties. It was an uncluttered kind of life, a simplicity deliberately constructed so that she could do her work." To Pablo the idea of Sunday was an "at home day". The routines of these thinkers are difficult. Perhaps it is because they are so unattainable. The very idea that you can organize your time as you like is out of reach for most of us, so I'll close with a toast to all those who worked with difficulties. Like Francine Prose, who began writing when the school bus picked up her children and stopped when it brought them back; or T.S. Eliot, who found it much easier to write once he had a day job in a bank than he had as a starving poet and even F. Scott Fitzgerald, whose early books were written in his strict schedule as a young military officer. Those days were not as interesting as the nights in Paris that came later, but they were much more productive – and no doubt easier on his liver. Being forced to follow someone else's routine may irritate but it makes it easier to stay on the path. Whenever we break that trail ourselves or take an easy path of least resistance, perhaps what's most important is that we keep walking. On the basis of your understanding of the given passage answer the following questions. A Choose the correct answer from the given alternatives I The passage is about _____ (a) How to practice walking (b) Walking everyday (c) The life of a genius (d) What we can learn from the routines of geniuses. II The writers in the past _____ (a) Followed a perfect daily routine (b) Enjoyed the difficulties of life (c) They did not get any privacy (d) They did not mind visitors III Jane Austen asked that a squeaky _____ should never be oiled. (a) floor (b) door (c) hinge (d) board IV Some artists resorted to walking as it was ____ (a) An exercise	1x5=5
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	(b) A creative inspiration (c) Essential for improving their health (d) Helpful in interaction with others. V Mark Twain's family would ____ to draw him out of his study (a) whistle to him (b) bang on the door (c) call out loudly (d) blow a horn. B. Answer the following questions briefly: (i) Why do you think Graham Green hired a secret office? (ii) What was the rumour about Erik Satie's productivity? (iii) What was Tchaikovsky convinced of if he returned a moment early from his two-hour jaunt? (iv) What was Simone de Beauvoir's social life like? (v) What makes it easier for one to stay on the path?	1x5=5
2.	Read the passage carefully: Human life changes constantly over time Mobile phones were previously seen only among few high-class people and were considered as something lavish. Then slowly, even the average or the common men on the street, like a cobbler or a vegetable vendor, could be seen having a cell-phone. In the world today, even young kids and school going children are found busily chatting away on their mobile phones. Now, kids as young as seven and eight, too, have started owning a mobile phone. Studies recommended that mobile phones should only be given to children above sixteen years of age. Children below the age of sixteen should not be given mobile phones since their brain is too sensitive to withstand the effects of mobile radiation. Since the tissues in the brain and body are still developing, these radiations can cause cell damage. Due to the absorption of radiation children can have severe health issues. Although, adults also get affected by these radiations, it will be more severe in those radiation levels. Experts also believe that there is a link between childhood cancer and mobile phone usage among children. A survey was conducted to get the views of the parents and teachers as to whether the children below sixteen years of age should be given mobiles or not. The responses received was formulated into a pie diagram as under:	

	Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions: i) What is the minimum age prescribed by the studies to give mobile phones to children? ii) Why does the author say that life changes constantly? iii) Which word in the passage means ‘extravagant’? iv) Mobile phones affect children’s _____ the most. a) Heart b) Brain c) Kidneys d) Lungs v) State whether True or False: Childhood cancer is not linked to mobile phone usage. vi) What percentage of parents and teachers are against giving mobile phones to students in any situation? a) 43% b) 30% c) 20% d) 7% vii) Why is it not recommended to give mobile phones to children below sixteen years of age? viii) Give a suitable title for the passage.	1 2 1 1 1 1 1 2
	(SECTION – B) (MARKS : 20) GRAMMAR & CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS	
3	Answer the following questions as directed :- a. We are taught English by Mr. Smith. (Change to Active Voice) b. The boy said, “How happy I am!” (Change to Indirect Speech) c. I saw Richard when I’m on the flight. (Correct the sentence) d. She always finishes her work on time. (Change to Negative Sentence)	1x10=10

	e. Pick the word similar in meaning to the given word: Fortify – (i) topple (ii) destroy (iii) reproduce (iv) strengthen f. Pick the word opposite in meaning to the given word: Minuscule – (ii) Impressive (ii) minute (iii) massive (iv) menial g. Jasmine completed her baking_____ (course/coarse) successfully. (Complete the sentence by choosing the correct word from the brackets) h. Pick the word that is spelled correctly: (i) Translucent (ii) Translulent (iii) Transluscent (iv) Trancluent. i. Pick the word that is spelled incorrectly: (i) Commentary (ii) Argument (iii) Bouquet (vi) Forefeit j. Rearrange the following words or phrases to make a meaningful sentence: From/the mountains/to see/of the gentle/the river/very pleasant/it is.	
	CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS	
4	Attempt <u>any one</u> of the following. (a) To encourage students to participate in outdoor activities, your school has planned a one-day trek for students of class XII. As the head boy/girl, write a notice in 50 words giving necessary information to the students. (b) Your school recently organized a Quiz Competition for students of classes X and XII. As the Secretary of the Organizing Committee, write a report of the event to be published in your school magazine. (c) You are Rita/Rakesh of 110, I.C. Colony, New Delhi. You read the given advertisement and wish to apply for the post advertised. Write a job application along with your bio-data.	10

	CLARION PUBLIC SCHOOL requires Teacher of English Qualification: Post Graduation in English Skills Required: Communication, classroom management and adaptability along with strong organizational abilities, creativity and patience. Experience: Minimum 2 years in teaching. Apply with detailed bio-data to: The Principal, Clarion Public School, 75, Abbot Avenue, New Delhi.	
	SECTION : C (40 MARKS) LITERATURE	
5	Answer the following questions by choosing the correct answer from the given alternatives: i. In the open field back of the saw-mill the Prussian soldiers were (a) marching (b) drilling (c) singing (d) whistling. ii. Sanita's hands move _____ like the tongs of a machine. (a) automatically (b) swiftly (c) smoothly (d) mechanically iii. The Peddler did not want to go up along to the manor house and be received by the owner like an old regimental _____ (a) acquaintance (b) friend (c) comrade (d) captain iv. Which of the following is the capital of Champaran? (a) Sevagram (b) Cawnpore	1x10=10

	(c) Muzzafarpur (d) Motihari v. The only information that the workers at Gemini Studios had about the visitors was that he was a _____ from England. (a) actor (b) scholar (c) Poet (d) director vi. The boss read out a long speech which was all in the most general terms but here and there it was _____ with words like ‘freedom and democracy’ (a) Peppered (b) laced (c) sprinkled (d) layered. vii. What sort of a moment would it be if there were no engines, no rush? (a) Extraordinary (b) strange (c) exotic (d) quit viii. Therefore, on every morrow, are we _____. A flowery band to bind us to earth. (a) Making (b) wreathing (c) circling (d) winding. ix. Trees sprinting, the _____ children spilling out of their homes. (a) Cheerful (b) happy (c) laughing (d) merry. x. The tigers in the panel that she made will go _____, _____ and _____. (a) Unafraid, proud, prancing (b) Proud, prancing, unafraid (c) Prancing, proud, unafraid (d) Prancing, unafraid, proud	
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6	Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follows: (A) “Poor man! It was in honour of this last lesson that he had put on his fine Sunday clothes, and now I understood why the old men of the village were sitting there in the back of the room”. i) Why does the narrator refer to M. Hamel as ‘poor man!’? ii) What dress was M. Hamel wearing on that day?	1 1
	(B) “I sometimes find a rupee, even a ten rupee note,’ Saheb says, his eyes lighting up. When you can find a silver coin in a heap of garbage, you don’t stop scrounging, for there is hope of finding more. It seems that for children from what it means to their parents. For the children, it is wrapped in wonder; for the elders, it is a means of survival. i) Which emotion of saheb is revealed in the phrase, ‘his eyes lighting up’? (a) Anxiety (b) Envy (c) Happiness (d) Greed ii) What does garbage mean to the elders?	1 1
	(C) “ ‘I am thinking of this stranger here,’ said the young girl. ‘He walks and walks the whole year long, and there is probably not a single place in the whole country where he is welcome and can feel at home. Wherever he turns he is chased away. Always he is afraid of being arrested and cross-examined. I should like to have him enjoy a day of peace with us here- just one in the whole year’.” i) What did Edla want for the peddler? ii) What does the expression, ‘he is cross-examined’ suggest?	1 1
	(D) “Driving from my parent’s home to Cochin last Friday morning, I saw my mother, beside me, doze, open mouthed, her face ashen like that of a corpse and realised with pain that she was as old as she looked.” i) How did the poet describe her mother’s face? ii) What did the poet realise?	1 1
	(E) “Aunt Jennifer’s tigers prance across a screen, Bright topaz denizens of a world of green. They do not fear the men beneath the tree; They pace	

	in sleek chivalric certainty. i) Why are the tigers described as ‘denizens of a world of green’? ii) Why are they not afraid of the men?	1 1
7.	Answer the following questions briefly (Any ten): i) What did M. Hamel have to say about the French language? ii) When, according to the author, will Sarita know ‘the sanctity of the bangles she helps make’? iii) Why was Edla Willmansson happy to see the gift left by the peddler? iv) Why did Gandhi not accept C. E. Andrew’s help during the Champaran Movement? v) What amount of repayment did the big planters think Gandhi would demand? vi) Why did the author, Asokamitran, appear to be doing nothing at the studios? vii) How did Kamala Das try to put away the thoughts of her ageing mother? viii) How would keeping quiet affect life in and around the sea? ix) How does a thing of beauty provide shelter and comfort? x) What do you learn about Aunt Jennifer’s tigers on reading the poem? xi) What does ‘massive weight of uncle’s wedding band’ indicate? xii) What are the things that cause suffering and pain to Keats in his poem ‘A Thing of Beauty’? xiii) What language was to be taught in Alsace and Lorraine after the last lesson in French?	1x10=10
8	A. Answer any one of the following questions: i. What changes did the order from Berlin cause in the school that day? ii. Describe how the story, ‘The Rattrap,’ shows that basic human goodness can be brought out by kindness, sympathy, understanding and love. iii. Why is Subbu described as a many-sided genius? Give a reasoned answer.	5

	B. Answer any one of the following Questions. i. What is the kind of pain and ache the poet, Kamala Das, feels in ‘My Mother at Sixty-Six’? ii. Things of beauty, according to Keats, ‘Move away the pall from our dark spirits’. Discuss with reference to the poem, ‘A Thing of Beauty’. iii. The Tigers’ description as ‘Chivalric’, in the poem, ‘Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers’, is a contrast to that of Aunt Jennifer. Explain.	5
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