



DAV PUBLIC SCHOOLS , JHARKHAND , ZONE-B
Half Yearly Examination, 2024-25

Class:- XII

Subject:- English Core(301)

Full Marks:- 80

Time Allowed:-3Hrs

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions very carefully:

1. This Question Paper has 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. This Question Paper contains THREE Sections- Section A: **READING SKILLS**. Section B: **CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS** and Section C: **LITERATURE**.
3. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
4. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A
READING SKILLS

(22 Marks)

(12)

1. Read the passage given below.

1. Many of us believe that 'small' means 'insignificant'. We believe that small actions and choices do not have much impact on our lives. We think that it is only the big things, the big actions and the big decisions that really count. But when you look at the lives of all great people, you will see that they built their character through small decisions, small choices and small actions that they performed every day. They transformed their lives through a step-by-step or day-by-day approach. They nurtured and nourished their good habits and chipped away at their bad habits, one step at a time. It was their small day-to-day decisions that added up to make a tremendous difference in the long run. Indeed, in matters of personal growth and character building, there is no such thing as an overnight success.
2. Growth always occurs through a sequential series of stages. There is an organic process to growth. When we look at children growing up, we can see this process at work: the child first learns to crawl, then to stand and walk and finally to run. The same is true in the natural world. The soil must first be tilled and then the seed must be sowed. Next, it must be nurtured with enough water and sunlight and only then will it grow, bear fruit and finally ripen and be ready to eat.
3. Gandhi understood this organic process and used this universal law of nature to his benefit. Gandhi grew in small ways, in his day-to-day affairs. He did not wake up one day and find himself to be the 'Mahatma'. In fact, there was nothing much in his early life that showed signs of greatness. But from his mid-twenties onwards, he deliberately and consistently attempted to change himself, reform himself and grow in some small way every day. Day-by-day, hour-by-hour, he risked failure, experimented and learnt from mistakes. In small and large situations alike, he took up rather than avoiding responsibility.
4. People have always marvelled at the effortless way in which Gandhi could accomplish the most difficult tasks. He displayed a great deal of self-mastery and discipline that was amazing. These things did not come easily to him. Years of practice and disciplined training went into making his successes possible. Very few saw his struggles, fears, doubts and anxieties or his inner efforts to overcome them. They saw the victory, but not the struggle.
5. This is a common factor in the lives of all great people: they exercised their freedoms and choices in small ways that made great impact on their lives and their environment. Each of their small decisions and actions, added up to have a profound impact in the long run. By understanding this principle, we can move forward with confidence in the direction of our dreams. Often, when our 'ideal goal' looks too far from us, we become easily discouraged, disheartened and pessimistic. However, when we choose to grow in small ways, taking small steps one at a time, performing it becomes easy to achieve the goal.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage answer the questions given below

- (i) What do many of us believe? 1
- a) Small choices and small actions are performed every day.
- b) There is no such thing as an overnight success.
- c) Small actions and choices do not have much impact on our lives.
- d) 'Small' means 'Significant'

(ii) What does the writer mean by saying 'chipped away their bad habits'? 1

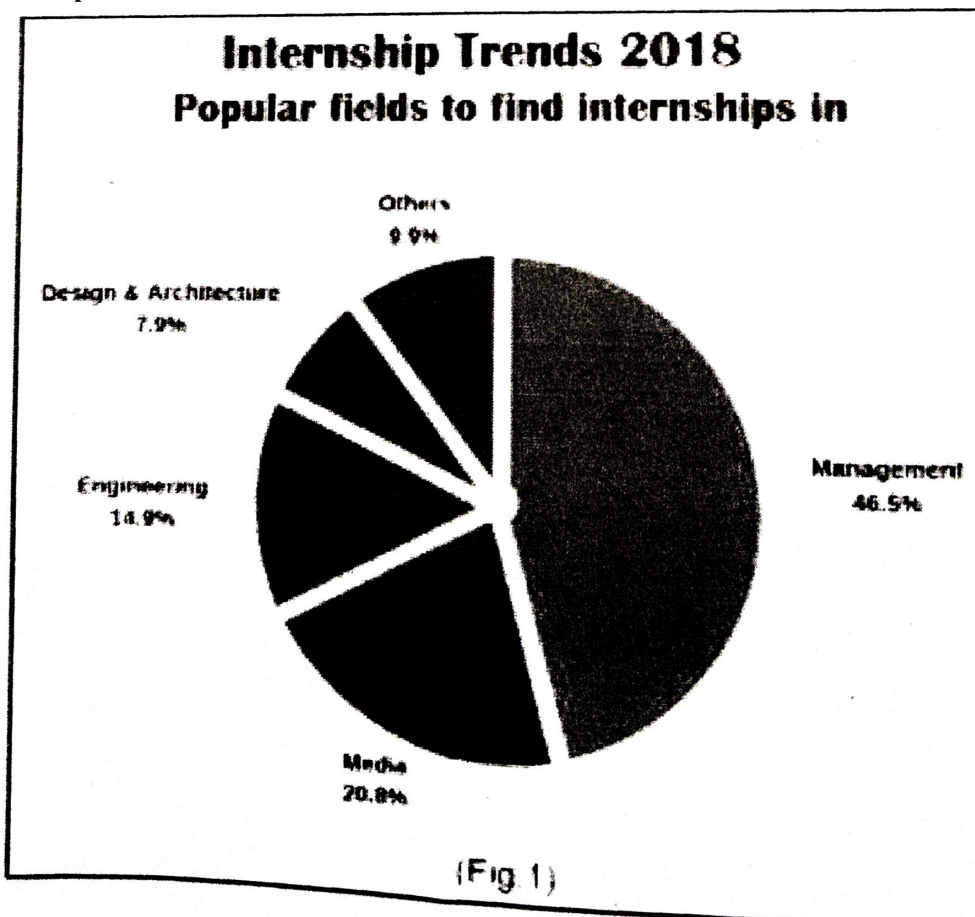
(iii) Which of the following statement is true, in the context of the third paragraph? 1

- (a) Gandhi became great overnight.
 (b) Gandhi showed signs of greatness in childhood itself.
 (c) Every day, Gandhi made efforts to change himself in some small ways.
 (d) Gandhi never made mistakes
- (iv) Why have people always marvelled Gandhi? 2
 (v) 'Gandhi understood this organic process' What is being referred to as 'organic process'? 2
 (vi) How did Gandhi use the organic process of growth to his benefit? 1
 (vii) There is nothing in Mahatma Gandhi's early life that showed: 1
 (a) signs of greatness (b) doubts and anxieties
 (c) personal growth and character building (d) self-mastery and discipline. 1
- (viii) Fill in the blank:
 _____ always occurs through a sequential series of stages.
- (ix) 'Each of their small decisions and actions added up to have a profound impact in the long run'. 1
 Pick the option in which the word 'profound' is not the same as it is in the passage
 (a) intense (b) deep
 (c) extreme (d) superficial
- (x) Select the option that correctly lists the tone of the writer with reference to the passage: 1
 (a) wonder (b) matter of fact
 (c) encouraging (d) regret.

2. Read the passage given below:

(1x10=10 marks)

I. Over the last five years, more companies have been actively looking for intern profiles, according to a 2018-19 survey by an online internship and training platform. This survey reveals that India had 80% more internship applications — with 2.2 million applications received in 2018 compared to 1.27 million in the year before. The trend was partly due to more industries looking to have fresh minds and ideas on existing projects for better productivity. What was originally seen as a western concept, getting an internship before plunging into the job market, is fast gaining momentum at Indian workplaces.



II. According to the survey data, India's National Capital Region has been the top provider of internships, with a total of 35% internship opportunities, followed by Mumbai and Bengaluru at 20% and 15%, respectively. This includes opportunities in startups, MNCs and even government entities. The survey also revealed popular fields to find internships in (Fig 1). There has been growing awareness among the students about the intern profiles sought by hiring companies that often look for people with real-time experience in management than B- school masters.

III. The stipend has been an important factor influencing the choice of internships. The survey data reveals that the average stipend offered to interns was recorded as ₹7000 while the maximum stipend went up to ₹85,000. According to statistics, a greater number of people considered virtual internships than in-office internships. Virtual internships got three times more applications than in-office, since a large chunk of students were the ones already enrolled in various courses, or preferred working from home.

IV. Internship portals have sprung up in the last three to four years and many of them already report healthy traffic per month. Reports suggest that on an average, an internship portal company has around 200,000-plus students and some 8,000 companies registered on it. It gets around two lakh visits online every month. The Managing Director of a leading executive search firm says that though these web platforms are working as an effective bridge between the industry and students, most established companies are still reluctant to take too many interns on board for obvious reasons.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer all the questions by choosing the correct option.

(i) Select the correct inference with reference to the following:

Over the last five years, more companies have been actively looking for intern profiles...

(a) The past five years have seen active applications by interns to several companies.

(b) The activity for intern profiling by the companies has reached a gradual downslide over the past five years.

(c) There were lesser companies searching for intern profiles earlier, as compared to those in the recent five years.

(d) Several companies have initiated intern profiling five times a year in the recent past.

(ii) Select the central idea of the paragraph likely to precede paragraph I

(a) Process of registering for internships

(b) Knowing more about internships

(c) Do's and Don't's for an internship interview

(d) Startups and internships

(iii) Select the option that displays the true statement with reference to Fig.

(a) Internships for Engineering and Management are the top two favourites.

(b) Design & Architecture internships are significantly more popular than Others.

(c) Internships for Media and Others have nearly equal popularity percentage.

(d) Management internships' popularity is more than twice that for Media.

(iv) The survey states that internship opportunities

(a) are the most in Mumbai

(b) can be available in MNCs.

(c) are limited to the National Capital Region.

(d) Can be pursued only after a B-school degree.

(v) Based on your reading of paragraphs II-III, select the appropriate counter-argument to the given argument.

Argument: I don't think you'll be considered for an internship just because you've been the student editor and Head of Student Council.

(a) I think I have a fair chance because I'm applying for a virtual position than an in-office job.

- (b) I have real-time experience in managing a team and many companies consider it more meritorious than a degree in Management.
- (c) I know that my stipend might be on the lower side but I think that it's a good 'earn while you learn' opportunity.
- (d) Lot of metro-cities have a good percentage of positions open and I think I should definitely take a chance.
- (vi) Select the option that displays the correct cause-effect relationship.

A.	cause	effect
	Several students had academic courses to complete	Students applied for online internship
B.	cause	effect
	A large chunk of students preferred in-office internships	Applications were three times more than for virtual internships
C.	cause	effect
	A greater number of students wanted to work from home	Several students had courses to complete
D.	cause	effect
	Students applied for online internship	An equal number of students applied for work-from-home

- (vii) The survey statistics mention the average stipend, indicating that
- 50% interns were offered ₹85,000.
 - ₹7,000 was the lowest and ₹85,000 was the highest.
 - Most interns were offered around ₹7,000.
 - No intern was offered more than ₹7,000.
- (viii) The phrase 'healthy traffic' refers to the
- Updates from portals about health and road safety.
 - Statistics about adherence to traffic rules by the portals.
 - Sizeable number of visitors to the portal per month.
 - Monthly data about the health of internship applicants.
- (ix) Read the two statements given below and select the option that suitably explains them.
- Established companies are reluctant to take too many interns on board.
 - Probability of interns leaving the company for a variety of reasons, is high.
- (1) is the problem and (2) is the solution for (1).
 - (1) is false but (2) correctly explains (1).
 - (1) summarises (2).
 - (1) is true and (2) is the reason for (1).
- (x) "Most established companies are still reluctant to take too many interns on board for obvious reasons"
What do you feel are the 'obvious reasons'?

SECTION B CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

(18 marks)

3. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 50 words:

4 marks

- (a) While walking in a park in your neighbourhood you found a small plastic bag containing some documents and some cash. Write a notice to be put up on the park notice board asking the owner to identify and collect it from you. You are Amar/Amrita, 85431xxxxx.

OR

(b) The Environment Club of your school is organising a tree plantation drive on World Environment Day around your school and in the neighbourhood. Write a notice inviting students to volunteer for the event. Give all the necessary details. You are the Secretary of the Club.

4. Attempt ANY ONE of the two in about 50 words:

4 marks

(a) Your school is going to hold its Annual Sports Day. You want Mr Dhanraj Pillai, a noted hockey player to give away the prizes to the sportspersons of the school. Write a formal invitation requesting him to grace the occasion. You are Karuna/Keshav, Sports Secretary, Sunrise Global School, Agra.

OR

(b) You are Rukmini / Raja of R – 201, Fort Road, Chennai. You have purchased a new house. You decide to have a house- warming ceremony and invite your cousin Balaji. Write the invitation giving all necessary details.

5. Attempt anyone in about 120 to 150 words:

5 marks

(a) You are Natasha / Nimesh, a resident of College Road, Bhopal. You see the following advertisement in a national daily for the post of Manager in A.R. Steel, Mumbai. Write an application with detailed biodata to The General Manager, A.R. Steel, J.H. Avenue, Mumbai.

OR

(b) You are Navtej / Navita, M-114, Malviya Nagar, Kanpur. You have observed with increasing concern that garbage collection continues to be done without segregation in your neighbourhood. Write a letter to the editor of a local daily, explaining your concern along with the rationale behind the importance of garbage segregation.

6. Attempt ANY ONE in about 120 - 150 words:

5 marks

(a) Last week as you were coming back from school you happened to see a huge plastic bag full of leftovers of food being flung into the middle of the road from a speeding car. You wondered how people can be so devoid of civic sense. Write an article in about 120 - 150 words on why we lack civic sense and how civic sense can be inculcated in children at a very young age. You are Shiva or Shivani.

OR

(b) The World Book Fair which lasted for a month in your city was the hot topic of all book lovers. Write a report on it for publication in a local daily. You are Usha / Umesh.

SECTION – C
LITERATURE

(40 marks)

7. Attempt ANY ONE of the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:

6x1=6

(a) The little old house was out with a little new shed
in front at the edge of the road where the traffic sped.

A roadside stand that too pathetically pled

It would not be fair to say for a dole of bread.

But for some of the money, the cash, whose flow supports

The flower of cities from sinking and withering faint.

(i) Which of the following expressions has the same literary device as used in
"A roadside stand that too pathetically pled."

(a) All the worlds a stage

(c) The brutal wind bullied the tree.

(b) I wonder lonely, as a cloud.

(d) And life is too much like a pathless wood.

(ii) Select the option that aptly conveys the poet's point of view with reference to the above extract:

The roadside stand is put up with the purpose to

- (a) display fruits (b) to stop the traffic
(c) to do business (d) to interact with city people

(iii) What do you infer about the people, who put up the roadside stand from the phrase 'would not be fair to say for a dole of bread'?

(iv) Complete the following sentence with reference to the extract.

The word 'pathetically' reflects the ----- condition of the roadside stand.

(v) State whether the following statement is true or false

By 'flower of cities' the poet refers to the garden in cities.

(vi) Based on the rhymes scheme, evident in lines 1- 4, which word would rhyme with line 2?

Part fled seen

OR

7.(b) 'and looked out at Young

6x1=6

Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling
out of their homes, but after the airport's
security check, standing a few yards
away, I looked again at her, wan,
pale
as a late winter's moon and felt that
old
familiar ache,

(i) 'My Mother at Sixty-six' is a ----- poem.

- (a) political (b) confessional (c) traditional (d) cultural

(ii) Capitalization of 'Young Trees' enhances the contrast between poet's sick and pale mother and trees. What does this imply?

(iii) State whether the given statement is true or false

My mother at sixty six is a poem that highlights a daughter's painful feelings of growing old herself

(iv) Complete the sentence

Just as the brightness of winter's moon is veiled behind the haze and mist, similarly _____

(v) The use of the word winter's moon in the extract suggests that during winters the sky is usually covered with mist. This is compared with mother's physique because _____

(vi) Select the option that is NOT true about the poet's feelings depicted in the extract

- (a) growing up has developed a sense of maturity in the poet
(b) childhood memories are revived of the fear of separation from mother
(c) The poetess feels some relief after seeing the happy children
(d) The poetess never wanted to encounter such situations.

8. Attempt ANY ONE of the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:

(a) Human civilizations have been around for a paltry 12,000 years -- barely a few seconds on the geological clock. In that short amount of time we've managed to create quite a ruckus, etching our dominance over nature with our villages, town, cities, mega cities. The rapid increase of human populations has left us battling with other species for limited resources, and the unmitigated burning of fossil fuels has now created a blanket of carbon dioxide around the world, which is slowly but surely increasing the average global temperature. 4x1=4

(i) According to the view expressed by the author in the above extract, increase in global temperature is due to

- (a) mega cities (b) human people
(c) burning of fossil fuels (d) limited resources

(ii) Complete the following sentence with reference to the extract:

Humans are criticized by the author for -----

(iii) According to the author, the relation between human population and resources is ----- .

(iv) 'In that short amount of time, we've managed to create a ruckus.' By ruckus the author refers to --- .

- (a) movement (b) misunderstanding
(c) breach (d) commotion

OR

(b) From that day onwards it was celebration time for all the tigers inhabiting Pratibandhapuram. The state banned tiger hunting by anyone except the Maharaja. A proclamation was issued to the effect that if anyone dared to fling so much as a stone at a tiger, all his wealth and property would be confiscated. The Maharaja vowed he would attend to all the other matters only after killing the hundred tigers. Initially the king seemed well set to realise his ambition. Not that he faced no dangers. There were times when the bullet missed his mark, the tiger leaped upon him and he fought the beast with his bare hands. Each time it was the Maharaja who won. 4x1=4

- (i) In which tone the author says, 'it was a celebration time for all Tigers'?
- (ii) Complete the sentence appropriately

The Maharaja paid no heed to matters _____

- (iii) Why the Maharaja banned tiger hunting?
- (iv) On the basis of this passage which character traits of the king are enumerated?

9. Attempt ANY ONE Of the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:

(a) He was illiterate but resolute. He had come to the Congress Session to complain about the injustice of the landlord system in Bihar. 6x1=6

- (i) Who is 'he' in the above extract?
- (ii) 'He' has been described as being 'resolute' because
- (a) he had pledged to learn swimming (b) he had followed Gandhiji wherever he went
- (c) he was determined to fight the British officers (d) he was ready to plant new crops
- (iii) Which city had 'he' come to where the Congress Session was going on?
- (iv) Why had 'he' come to the Congress Session?
- (v) Which among the following is NOT TRUE regarding the share cropping arrangement in Champaran?
- (a) the land owners were Englishmen
- (b) landlords compelled the peasants to plant 15% of the land with indigo
- (c) 15% of the indigo harvest had to be surrendered as rent
- (d) this arrangement was done by a long term contract
- (vi) Complete the sentence in ONE word

The country which developed synthetic indigo was ----- .

OR

(b) M Hamel who went on to talk of the French language, saying that it was the most beautiful language in the world-- the clearest, the most logical; that we must guard it among us and never forget it, because when people are enslaved, as long as they hold fast to their language it is as if they had the key to their prison. Then he opened a grammar and read as our lesson. I was amazed to see how well I understood it. All he said seemed so easy, so easy! 6x1=6

- (i) Which of the following can be attributed to M Hamel's declaration about the French language?
- (a) subject expertise (b) nostalgic pride
- (c) factual accuracy (d) patriotic magnification
- (ii) According to the extract what is M Hamel's viewpoint?
- (iii) "I was amazed to see how well I understood it".
- Pick the evidence which explains why Franz found the grammar lesson 'easy' that day.
- (iv) Complete the statement appropriately
- Franz was able to understand the grammar lesson easily because he was ____
- (v) What suggestion did the speaker give to the listeners?
- (vi) Pick the evidence that shows that Franz was filled with repentance and guilt on the last day of French class.

10. Answer ANY FIVE out of six questions given below in about 40 - 50 words: 5x2=10

- (a) What vicious cycle are the bangle makers trapped in?
- (b) Why was Douglas determined to get over his fear of water?
- (c) Explain the metaphor of 'The Rattrap' as explained by the peddler.
- (d) 'There can be life under apparent stillness'. Explain.
- (e) In the poem 'A Thing of Beauty', how is grandeur connected with the mighty dead?
- (f) What does Gandhi refer to as 'conflict of duties'?

11. Answer ANY TWO out of three questions given below in about 40 to 50 words:

2x2=4

- (a) What did Charley find in his collection of first day covers ?
- (b) Why was Dr Sadao not sent abroad along with the troops ?
- (c) What are the significant features of 'Students on Ice Programme'?

12. Answer ANY ONE in about 120 -150 words:

5 marks

(a) The prose selections, Deep Water and Indigo bring out the importance of overcoming fear in order to be able to lead our life successfully.

Write an article based on 'Freedom from Fear'.

(b) It could be said that the poem 'Keeping Quiet' presents the poet's philosophy for a different kind of world. If you were asked to highlight elements of Neruda's vision that resonate in your specific social, political and cultural context, which three main ideas would you engage with?

Use relevant textual details to support your analysis.

5 marks

13. Attempt ANY ONE in about 120 - 150 words:

(a) In the story 'The Third Level' by Jack Finney, Charley is obsessed with finding the third level. In an attempt to thrash out whether this obsession is a good quality or a harmful one, Charley's wife expresses her thoughts in her diary.

As Louisa, Charley's wife, write this diary entry. Support your response with reference to the story.

You may begin this way:

I have been married to Charley for a few years now and I have always known him to be an intelligent man. However, his recent obsession with finding the Third Level has.....

(b) Dr Sadao was a patriotic Japanese as well as a dedicated surgeon. Based upon the story of the chapter 'The Enemy', which according to you is higher humanity or patriotism ?

Write a paragraph on the topic 'Humanity vs Patriotism'.

.....

+