

Class XII | Session 2026-27
Subject - English Core
Sample Question Paper - Set 3

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

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. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
5. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A – READING SKILLS

1. **Read the passage given below:**

[12]

1. My father has always been a passionate man. He has always been passionate about the people of the Everest region - so much so that in 1960 he began the first of the many projects aimed at improving their lives. In 1975 he had begun building his second hospital in the Himalayas when tragedy struck our family. My mother and my youngest sister Belinda were flying into the mountains to join him when their small aeroplane crashed soon after take-off from Kathmandu.
2. I was in Assam when I first heard of the accident. I flew straight to Kathmandu and met my father and oldest sister Sarah on a narrow lane on the outskirts of the city. Any hope I had clung to, that my mother and sister were still alive, was extinguished the moment I saw father - bowed and broken. I knew then that Mum and Belinda would never return.
3. It was years before Dad fully came out of this period of darkness. Only by plunging himself into more adventures and ever more projects in Nepal, could he get through it. He has built 42 schools and hospitals there.
4. As I grew up, some of Dad's restlessness rubbed off on me. I know many people think there must be some compulsion for the son of Sir Edmund Hillary to climb mountains.
They assume that there was some imperative etched in stone that says, "Thou shalt climb mountains" - and in particular Everest, whether you like it or not. But for me, it's simpler than that. I think families are like factories: the Hillary family is a limited production mountaineering establishment.
5. Today, at the age of 48, I am an inveterate mountain man. I have been on more than 30 mountaineering expeditions, from the Himalayas to the Antarctic. And yes, I have climbed Everest - twice.
6. I treasure the same things that drew my father to climbing - the tremendous camaraderie involved, the intensity and adrenaline buzz especially in dangerous places where your life depends upon making the right

call. I guess that I am luckier than most because I am able to fall back on all that my father has taught me.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

i. Complete the sentence by choosing an appropriate option. **(1)**

The author's father was passionate about the people of the Everest region; so he _____.

- i. Climbed mountains
- ii. Worked on the improvement of their lives
- iii. Built schools and hospitals everywhere
- iv. Invited all the family to stay there

ii. Comment on the effect of the plane crash in 1975 on the life Hillary family. **(1)**

iii. List the two ways how author's father came out of the dark phase in his life **(2)**

(Clue: Think about the type his engagements)

iv. Select the option that conveys the opposite of 'lethargy', from words used in paragraph six. **(1)**

- i. treasure
- ii. camaraderie
- iii. intensity
- iv. adrenaline

v. How did the author prove to be the true son of his father? **(1)**

- i. He proved to be an excellent mountaineer
- ii. He involved himself in social service
- iii. He scaled the Everest twice
- iv. All of these

vi. Based on your understanding of the last paragraph, list one major advantage that the author had which made him consider himself fortunate. **(2)**

vii. Why did the author take up climbing like his father? **(1)**

viii. Complete the given sentence with an appropriate inference, with respect to the following: **(1)**

The phrase "Thou shalt climb mountains" means _____.

ix. A word similar in meaning to "section" in paragraph two is **(1)**

- i. narrow
- ii. outskirts
- iii. extinguished
- iv. broken

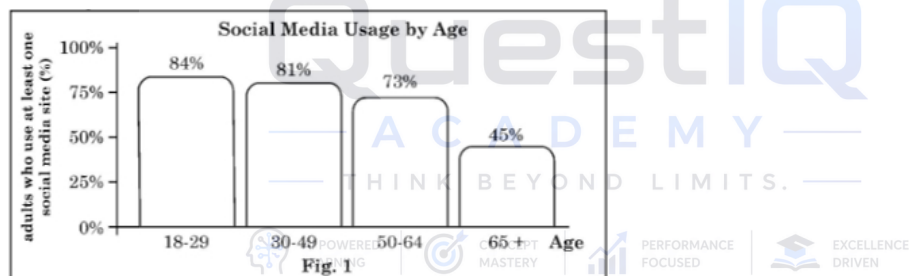
x. What tragedy struck the narrator's family in 1975? **(1)**

2. **Read the following passage carefully :**

[10]

1. News - If you can't remember the last time, you saw a teenager reading a book, newspaper or magazine, you're not alone. In recent years, less than 20 percent of teens report reading a book, magazine or newspaper daily for pleasure. More than 80 percent say they use social media every day, according to research published by the World Psychological Association.
2. "Compared with previous generations, teens in the 2010s spent more time online and less time with traditional media, such as books, magazines and television," said lead author of the book yGen and professor of psychology at ABC University. "Time on digital media has displaced time once spent enjoying a book or watching TV."

3. Swaner and her colleagues analysed data concluded from an ongoing study of a nationally representative sample of approximately 50,000 eighth, tenth and twelfth grade students annually. They looked at survey results from 1976 to 2016, representing more than 1 million teenagers. While the study started with only twelfth-graders in the 1970s, eighth- and tenth-graders were added in 1991.
4. Use of digital media increased substantially from 2006 to 2016. Among twelfth-graders, internet use during leisure time doubled from one to two hours per day during that period. It also increased 75 percent for tenth-graders and 68 percent for eighth-graders.
5. "In the mid-2010s, the average twelfth-grader reported spending approximately two hours a day texting, just over two hours a day on the internet - which included gaming - and just under two hours a day on social media," said Swaner. That's a total of about six hours per day on just three digital media activities during their leisure time."
6. In comparison, tenth-graders reported a total of five hours per day and eighth-graders reported four hours per day on those three digital activities. Consequently the spent time in the digital world is seriously degrading the time they spend on more traditional media such as print book and newspapers.
7. The decline in reading print media was especially steep. In the early 1990s, 33 percent of tenth-graders said they read a newspaper almost every day. By 2016, that number was only 2 percent. In the late 1970s, 60 percent of twelfth-graders said they read a book or a magazine almost every day; by 2016, only 16 percent did. Twelfth-graders also reported reading fewer books each year in 2016 compared to how much they read in 1976, and approximately onethird did not read a book (including e-books) for pleasure in the year prior to the 2016 survey.
8. There's no lack of intelligence among young people. However due to over dependence on digital media they find it difficult to focus for long periods of time and to read long-form text. Subsequently they find it challenging to understand complex issues and develop critical thinking skills.



Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

- i. Does the following statement agree with the information given in paragraph 1? **(1)**
 The writer believes that very few teens indulge in reading as a pleasurable activity.
 Select from the following:
 True : if the statement agrees with the information.
 False : if the statement contradicts the information.
 Not given : if there is no information on this.
- ii. Select the option that displays the most likely reason for this research. **(1)**
 In order to find out _____.
 a. reading choices of teenagers.
 b. digital competency of teenagers.
 c. speed of reading text.
 d. the decline of time spent on traditional media.

iii. Complete the statement based on the following statement: (1)

Traditional media has been replaced by digital media, we can say this because _____.

iv. Do you think that the researchers of study added tenth and eighth graders to the survey deliberately?

Support your answer with reference to the text. (2)

v. Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option: (1)

The concluding sentence of the text makes a clear case for _____ by listing it as a core competency for analysis and application.

- a. following social media
- b. reading long texts
- c. building focus and concentration
- d. developing constructive habits

vi. Complete the sentence appropriately with one/two words: (1)

Teens today hardly read print media for _____.

vii. Based on the reading of the text, state points to challenge the given statement: (2)

“Time on digital media has displaced time once spent enjoying a book or watching T.V.”

viii. What does the author mean by **degrading the time** in para 6? (1)

- a. spending less time
- b. waste of time
- c. consuming more time
- d. saving time

SECTION B – CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

3. As the Principal, National Public School, Ramnagar, write a notice in about 50 words informing the students that with effect from 20th of January the school shall start at 9 AM instead of 8 AM. Give reasons for the change. [4]

OR

You are the Anuj/Anu, Secretary of Saket Kunj, Saket, Navi Mumbai, Resident Welfare Association. Write a notice in 50 words to be circulated to all the residents informing them that there will be no water supply in your colony for two days due to necessary repair and maintenance work. Mention dates, and the timings that tankers will be available in the R.W.A. premises.

4. You are Dr. B. L. Kapoor from Pratibha Kapoor Hospital, Patiala. You have been invited to speak on Health - a dietary journey, for Senior Secondary School students. Draft a reply accepting the invitation in not more than 50 words. Request for the time, date and venue where the meeting has been organised. [4]

OR

You are Akshat/Ankita, living in Palghat. Your cousin from the same city has purchased a new house and he has invited you for a house warming party. Draft a letter of acceptance mentioning date, time, venue. Word limit 50 words.

5. You have realized the necessity of education and financial independence of women for their family, society and in turn for the nation. Write a letter to the Editor, **The National Times** highlighting your ideas on the importance of education of women leading to a better status for them. You are Tarun/Taruna, B-7/9, Mall Road, Delhi. [5]

OR

You are Chetan Sharma, a commerce graduate from Delhi University. You are seeking for a suitable job. You came across an advertisement in 'The Times of India', inviting young and dynamic fresh graduates as sales executives in a

reputed company. Apply for the said job to Box No. 8365, C/o The Times of India, New Delhi.

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6. Rising pollution, fast and competitive lifestyle, lack of nutritious food etc., have caused health woes for a large section of our population. Providing healthcare used to be a charitable and ethical activity. Today it has become commercialised, a money spinning business. Write an article in 150-200 words on 'How to provide proper health care to the common man.' You are Karan/Karuna. [5]

OR

Your school celebrated the Diamond Jubilee year of India's independence. Write a report in 100-125 words for your school magazine, giving details of the celebrations. You are Amit/Anita of Maharani Laxmibai Senior Secondary School, Gwalior.

SECTION C - LITERATURE

7. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow: [6]

I looked again at her, wan,

pale

as a late winter's moon and felt that

old

familiar ache, my childhood's fear,

but all I said was, see you soon,

Amma,

all I did was smile and smile and

smile ...

- i. The poem My Mother at Sixty-Six captures the _____ of the narrator.

I. happiness

II. fear

III. dismay

IV. anxiety

Choose the most appropriate option:

a. Only I

b. I and IV

- c. II and IV
d. Only III
- ii. Identify the phrase from the extract that suggests the following:
She was overwhelmed with emotion and could not speak much.
- iii. The word **wan** in the given context most nearly means
- a. pale
b. old
c. unwell
d. anxious
- iv. Complete the following analogy correctly. Do not repeat from the example used.
Trees sprinting : personification : : _____ : simile
- v. On the basis of the extract, study the two statements, I and II given below:
I. The poet accepts the reality of her mother's declining health and old age.
II. She is nostalgic about her childhood days spent with her mother.
Choose the most appropriate option:
- a. I is true, but II is false
b. Both I and II are true
c. II is the reason for I
d. II cannot be inferred from the extract
- vi. Explain the following statement with reference to the above extract:
All I did was smile and smile and smile.

OR

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

"Sometimes I feel myself I can hardly bear The thought of so much childish longing in vain,
The sadness that lurks near the open window there,
That waits all day in almost open prayer
For the squeal of brakes, the sound of a stopping car,"

- i. What can't the poet tolerate?
- a. The farmers dashed hopes
b. The travellers not stopping at the stand
c. The poor condition of village
d. Attitude of the rich people
- ii. Complete the following analogy correctly.
lurk: creep :: _____: futile
- iii. Answer in ONE word.
When the poet says that 'squeal of brakes', he means the car to _____.
- iv. What is the prayer of the villager sitting at open window?
- a. A generous traveller to stop at the stand
b. To sell something
c. A good amount to dwindle their distress
d. All of these



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v. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to (1) and (2) given below.

(1) The villagers pray for the vehicles to hear a car stop by.

(2) These shed owners want to sell their products.

- a. (1) is true but (2) is false.
- b. (2) is true but (1) is false.
- c. (2) is the reason for (1).
- d. Both (1) and (2) cannot be inferred from the extract.

vi. Identify the phrase from the extract, that suggests the following:

The rural folk dreamt of a better life with help from the city dwellers which was like a kiddish desire.

8. **Read the following text carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

[4]

I was walking home from school one day, an old bag hanging from my shoulder. It was actually possible to walk the distance in ten minutes. But usually it would take me thirty minutes at the very least to reach home. It would take me from half an hour to an hour to dawdle along, watching all the fun and games that were going on, all the entertaining novelties and oddities in the streets, the shops and the bazaar.

i. **The entertaining novelties** as stated in the passage include (1)

- a. A performing monkey
- b. Stunt performances
- c. Puppet shows
- d. All of these

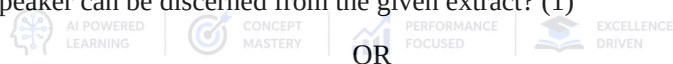
ii. The word **dawdle** as used in the extract means (1)

- a. To Push
- b. To walk slowly
- c. To delay deliberately
- d. To put off

iii. Complete the sentence appropriately, with reference to the extract. (1) _____

The distance from the school to the speaker's house could be easily covered within _____ minutes.

iv. What nature of the speaker can be discerned from the given extract? (1) _____



Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

"You are to come to the palace," the man said. "The old General is in pain again."

"Oh," Hana breathed, "Is that all?"

"All ?" the messenger exclaimed. "Is it not enough?"

"Indeed it is," she replied, "I am very sorry."

When Sadao came to say goodbye, she was in the kitchen, but doing nothing. The children were asleep and she sat merely resting for a moment, more exhausted from her fright than from work. (The Enemy)

i. Seeing the messenger, Hana was apprehensive of _____.

ii. The summons for Dr. Sadao were because

- a. the servants had reported.
- b. there was a medical emergency.
- c. the General wanted to express his admiration.
- d. the prisoner of war had escaped.

iii. Which of the following summarizes Hana's reason for resting momentarily?

- a. Her physical exhaustion
- b. Her fear
- c. Her infirmity
- d. Her sadness

iv. Complete the analogy correctly with a word from the extract.

asleep : awake :: rejuvenated : _____.

9. **Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:**

[6]

"My children, this is the last lesson I shall give you. The order has come from Berlin to teach only German in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine. The new master comes tomorrow. This is your last French lesson. I want you to be very attentive."

What a thunderclap these words were to me!

Oh, the wretches; that was what they had put up at the town hall!

i. Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation, as per the extract.

M Hamel wanted the students to be attentive because _____.

ii. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.

(1) M. Hamel wanted his students to pay attention as it was the last lesson.

(2) Nobody except Franz was able to realise the pain in M. Hamel's eyes.

- a. (1) Can be inferred from the extract but (2) cannot.
- b. (1) cannot be inferred from the extract but (2) can.
- c. (1) is true but (2) is false.
- d. (2) is the reason for (1).

iii. How would you describe Franz's tone when he says- **What a thunderclap these words were to me?**

- a. Angry
- b. Gloomy
- c. Perplexed
- d. Irritated

iv. In which of the following options can the underlined words not be replaced with **wretche(s)**?

- a. That beggar has broken my car window.
- b. Items like a stick and grenadier are now variable.
- c. He is a lonely and miserable rogue.
- d. Before the poor knave had time to speak, he was shot.

v. Henceforth, only _____ would be taught in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine.

vi. Write another similar word for the underlined word that is used in the extract.

It was startling for Franz to know that he could not learn French any longer.

OR

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

"I will learn to drive a car," he answers, looking straight into my eyes. His dream looms like a mirage amidst the dust of streets that fill his town Firozabad, famous for its bangles. Every other family in Firozabad is engaged in making bangles. It is the centre of India's glass-blowing industry where families have spent generations working around furnaces, wielding glass, making bangles for all the women in the land it seems.

Mukesh's family is among them. None of them know that it is illegal for children like him to work in the glass furnaces with high temperatures, in dingy cells without air and light; that the law, if enforced, could get him and all those 20,000 children out of the hot furnaces where they slog their daylight hours, often losing the brightness of their eyes. Mukesh's eyes beam as he volunteers to take me home, which he proudly says is being rebuilt.

- i. What big loss do the children face working there?
- ii. The line **dream looms like a mirage amidst the dust of streets** indicates that his dream was:
 - a. a reality, yet seemed distant
 - b. lost in the sea of dust.
 - c. illusory and indistinct.
 - d. hanging in the dusty air.

iii. **I will learn to drive a car**, he answers, looking straight into my eyes. This sentence highlights Mukesh was:

- i. determined
- ii. fearless
- iii. hopeful
- iv. valiant
- v. ambitious
- vi. stern

- a. i and iv
- b. ii and iv
- c. ii and v
- d. iii and vi

iv. Which of the following statements is NOT TRUE with reference to the extract?

- a. Children work in badly lit and poorly ventilated furnaces.
- b. The children are unaware that it is forbidden by law to work in the furnaces.
- c. Children toil in the furnaces for hours which affects their eyesight.
- d. Firozabad has emerged as a nascent producer of bangles in the country.

v. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that majority of the population in Firozabad is involved in bangle-making. (Clue: a sentence)

vi. Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation, as per the extract.

_____ is the literary device employed in the line "His dream looms like a mirage amidst the dust of streets..."

10. **Answer any five of the following questions in 40-50 words each:** [10]

- (a) How did Douglas' introduction to the YMCA pool revive his childhood fear of water? [2]
- (b) There can be life under apparent stillness. Explain. (Keeping Quiet) [2]
- (c) What do you understand by "massive weight of uncle's wedding band"? (Aunt Jennifer's Tigers) [2]
- (d) Why didn't Sophie like to talk to Jansie about Danny Casey? [2]
- (e) How did the people of Madras and those at Gemini Studios respond to the plays staged by the Moral Re-Armament Army? (Poets and Pancakes) [2]
- (f) Umberto Eco is an academic as well as a famous novelist. Comment. [2]

11. **Answer any two of the following questions in 40-50 words each:** [4]

- (a) Why was Tishani Doshi tilted with relief and wonder when he set foot on the Antarctic continent? [2]
- (b) How was the hundredth tiger made available to the king? [2]

(c) What kind of indications do we get while visiting Antarctica to save Earth? (**Journey to the End of the Earth**) [2]

12. The author of the story The Lost Spring realizes later that she has made a hollow promise to Saheb. [5]

"Is your school ready?"

"It takes longer to build a school," I say, embarrassed at having made a promise that was not meant. But promises like mine abound in every corner of his bleak world.

While Edla in The Rattrap fulfills her promise to let the peddler leave freely.

She looked at him compassionately, with her heavy eyes, and then she noticed that the man was afraid. "Either he has stolen something or else he has escaped from, jail", she thought, and added quickly, "You may be sure, Captain, that you will be allowed to leave us just as freely as you came. Only please stay with us over Christmas Eve."

Create a conversation between the author and Edla with reference to the above extracts.

You may begin the conversation like this:

Author: That day I had asked Saheb jokingly that if I opened a school would he attend it. I was unaware of the fact that I was unknowingly making a hollow promise to the boy. Has something like this happened to you Edla?

OR

Keats presents the idea of beauty as eternal that has a timeless lifelong attraction. According to him,

"...it will never

Pass into nothingness, but will keep

A bower quiet for us, and a sleep

Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing."

In the same vein, Neruda manifests the beauty of quietness to obtaining inner clarity.

"Now I'll count up to twelve

and you keep quiet and I will go."

Pen down your thoughts in the form of a descriptive essay by exploring a common connection that runs into the phrases like "pass into nothingness", "quiet breathing" and "you keep quiet and I will go".

13. Derry who was always in search of secluded places, finds one in Mr. Lamb's garden. Although his seclusion did [5]

not last for long there as the owner turns up, he ends up being a frequent visitor of this place. Create a diary entry as Derry reflecting on the qualities of Mr. Lamb that attracted you towards him.

You may begin like this:

The moment I noticed that I was not alone as the old man could see me, I wanted to leave. But an interesting rather **peculiar** conversation kept me glued...

OR

Sadao shared a matured relation with his father. His father had gone through a lot of hardships to bring him up and he was concerned about his education. Therefore, Sadao was sent to America to study surgery and medicine at the young age of twenty-two.

Create a diary entry as a Sadao narrating your experiences in America.

You may begin this way:

I went to America because of my father as his prime concern was my education...