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# Sample Question Paper 02

## English Core 12<sup>th</sup> (Code 301)

### 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.

Time : 3 Hrs.

Max. Marks : 80

### Section A Reading Skills (22 Marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully.

(12)

1. The afternoon was warm and the prospect of a dull, prolonged vigil in the beer garden had made me feel vaguely uneasy and almost sad. I felt that Tom would drift on forever seeking a little wistfully for the dramatic turbulence of some irrecoverable football game. And, as I walked on, I was lonely no longer. I was a guide, a pathfinder, an original settler. He had casually conferred on me the freedom of the neighbourhood.
2. And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies, I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer.
3. There was so much to read, for one thing, and so much fine health to be pulled down out of the young breath-giving air. I bought a dozen volumes on banking and credit and investment securities, and they stood on my shelf in red and gold like new money from the mint promising to unfold the shining secrets that only Midas and Morgan and Maecenas knew. And I had the high intention of reading many other books besides. I was rather literary in college—one year I wrote a series of very solemn and obvious editorials for the 'Yale News'—and now I was going to bring back all such things into my life and become again that most limited of all specialists, the 'well-rounded man'. This isn't just an epigram—life is much more successfully looked at from a single window, after all.
4. It was a matter of chance that I should have rented a house in one of the strangest communities in North America. It was on that slender riotous island which extends itself due east of New York—and where there are, among other natural curiosities, two unusual formations of land.
5. Twenty miles from the city a pair of enormous eggs, identical in contour and separated only by a courtesy bay, jut out into the most domesticated body of salt water in the Western Hemisphere, the great wet barnyard of Long Island Sound. They are not perfect ovals—like the egg in the Columbus story, they are both crushed flat at the contact end—but their physical resemblance must be a source of perpetual confusion to the gulls that fly overhead. To the wingless a more arresting phenomenon is their dissimilarity in every particular except shape and size.

Answer the following questions based on the above passage.

- (i) How does the narrator describe the appearance of the books he purchased? (1)
- (ii) How did the author use 'summer' as an analogy for change? (2)
- (iii) Read and complete the following sentence suitably. (1)
 

"It was a matter of chance that I should have rented a house in one of the strangest communities in North America." These communities were strange because of .....

  - A. unusual geographical formations
  - B. unique cultural practices
- (iv) Complete the blank with the correct word or phrase from the passage. (1)
 

"I bought a dozen volumes on banking and credit and investment securities, and they stood on my shelf in red and gold like new money from the mint, promising to unfold the shining secrets that only ..... and Morgan and Maecenas knew."
- (v) According to the passage, what did the writer spend money to buy? (1)
  - (a) Artwork and home decor
  - (b) Books on finance and investment
  - (c) Travel tickets and accommodation
  - (d) Electronic gadgets and technology
- (vi) Find the word in paragraph 3 which means 'grave'. (1)
  - (a) unfold
  - (b) solemn
  - (c) obvious
  - (d) epigram
- (vii) Share evidence from the text, to support the view that the speaker is determined to make a change in his life and what inspires him to do so. (2)
- (viii) Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph. (1)
 

Turbulence : Uneasy :: Wistfully : .....

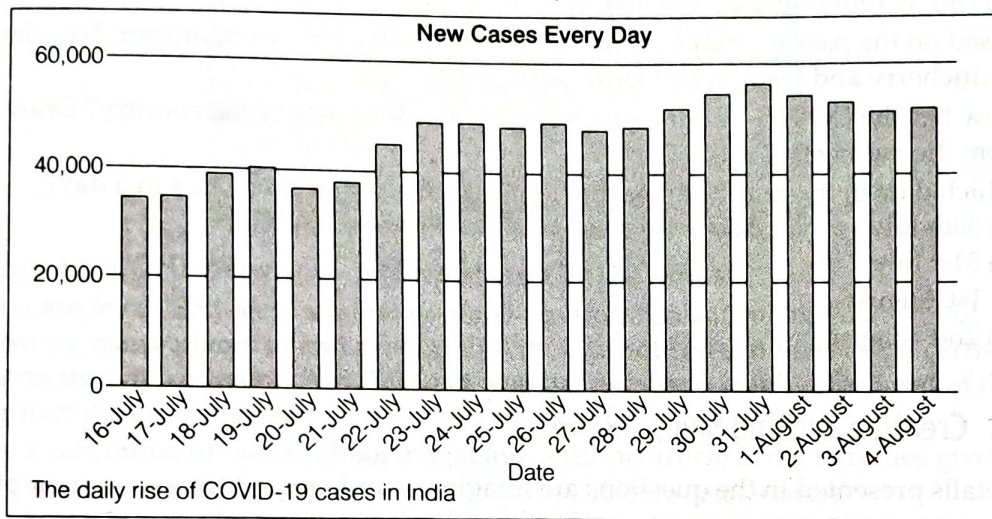
  - (a) Prospect
  - (b) Seeking
  - (c) Longing
  - (d) Bursts
- (ix) How would you classify the given passage? (1)
  - (a) Reflective
  - (b) Philosophical
  - (c) Chronological
  - (d) Biographical
- (x) 'I felt that Tom would drift on forever seeking a little wistfully for the dramatic turbulence of some irrecoverable football game.' Explain this line from para 1 and give reason why the speaker feels so. (1)

**2. Read the following passage. (10)**

1. With novel Coronavirus spreading rapidly all over the country, there are only three states right now – Meghalaya, Sikkim and Andaman and Nicobar Islands – that have less than 1,000 people infected with the disease.
2. Lakshadweep, of course, still hasn't reported even a single case till now, the only region in India entirely free of the epidemic.
3. Otherwise, even the relatively smaller states now have significantly large spread of the disease. Goa, for example, has seen more than 7,000 of its people infected by the virus till now. Tripura has over 5,500 cases while Manipur has more than 3,000, and Nagaland a little less than 2,500. Puducherry has more than 4,000 cases while even Daman and Diu has over 1,300 people infected.

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4. And, in each of these states, the numbers are rising at a fast pace, at a rate higher than the national level. The infections had initially reached these states in the first and second week of May when the lockdown was relaxed for the first time to enable people stuck in different parts of the country to return to their native places.
5. After a period of very slow growth, the number of cases have begun to rise rapidly in the last one month. In Goa, for example, the total number of infected people has nearly doubled in the last 15 days. Same has happened in Puducherry, as well.
6. Tuesday was one of those rare occasions when the number of active cases in the country, those who are yet to recover from the disease, went down compared to the previous day. That is because the number of recoveries, combined with the number of deaths, exceeded the new cases that were detected on Tuesday.



7. With over 52,500 new cases detected in the country, the total number of infections crossed 19 lakh, out of which 12.82 lakh people have recovered from the disease. The number of dead is now close to 40,000.
8. The number of recoveries on Tuesday was the highest-ever for a single day. More than 51,700 people were declared to have been recovered. Three days earlier, the number of recoveries had crossed 50,000 for the first time, but in the next two days the number had fallen to much lower levels.

Answer the following questions based on the above passage.

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- (i) Complete the following sentence appropriately. (1)  
 With over 52,500 new cases detected in the country, the total number of infections crossed 19 lakh, out of which ..... people have recovered from the disease.
- (ii) According to the graph, how can the change in the number of new cases registered between 16th to 20th July be described? (1)
  - (a) Gradual increase
  - (b) Rapid decrease
  - (c) Gradual increase followed by a decrease
  - (d) Gradual decrease followed by an increase
- (iii) How many people were declared to have been recovered on Tuesday? (2)
- (iv) The given passage talks about the months of May and August in relation to Covid. (1)  
 Classify the following cases as to which month it relates for a place X.

**Case 1** The number of Covid Patients is 15,000-20,000

**Case 2** The number of Covid Patients is 15-20

(v) **Read the following**

You are studying three days in relation to Covid cases. On the first day, the cases were reaching about 60,000. On the second day, the cases were below 20,000 and on the third day, the cases were a little about 40,000. (1)

State the dates you are referring to.

- (a) Day 1- 30th July, Day 2- 23rd July, Day 3- 16th July  
 (b) Day 1- 31st July, Day 2- 16th July, Day 3- 22nd July  
 (c) Day 1- 30th July, Day 2- 17th July, Day 3- 20th July  
 (d) Day 1- 16th July, Day 2- 30th July, Day 3- 27th July
- (vi) Based on the passage, what is common among Goa, Tripura, Manipur, Nagaland, Puducherry and Daman and Diu? (1)
- (vii) How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected various parts of the country? Draw inferences from the passage. (2)
- (viii) Which date in the graph shows the highest jump of detected cases in a day? (1)
- (a) 30th July  
 (b) 31st July  
 (c) 1st August  
 (d) 2nd August

## **Section B Creative Writing Skills (18 Marks)**

**Note:** All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.

**3. Attempt ANY ONE of two (A) or (B) in about 50 words. (4)**

A. As the Sports Captain of your school, write a notice for student's notice-board informing budding cricketers to attend trials for selection in school teams. Invent all the necessary details.

OR

B. The Residents' Welfare Association of Golden Apartments, Chennai is starting a Book Club. The opening of the club is on Saturday, 13th June. Write a notice inviting residents to the inauguration. Also, mention the activities that the Club will undertake.

**4. Attempt ANY ONE of two (A) or (B) in about 50 words. (4)**

A. M/s Shyam Lal & Sons are opening a new branch of their grocery store 'Galaxy Novelties' in Geetanjali Enclave, Dwarka, Delhi. The inauguration ceremony is fixed for Sunday, the 19th of October, 20XX at 11:00 am. Prepare a draft of formal invitation for the purpose.

OR

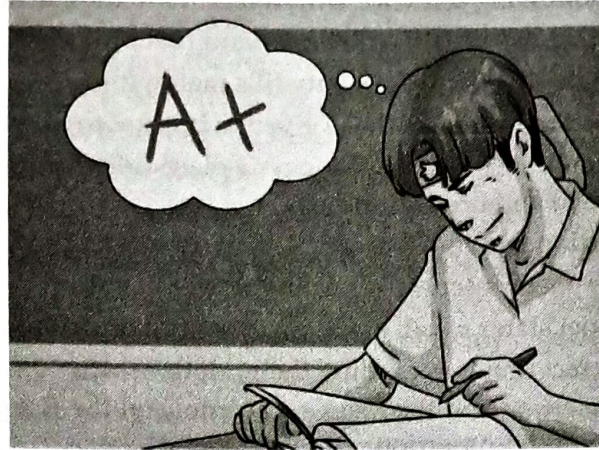
B. You are Anurag Kashyap of sector 67, Noida, Uttar Pradesh. You are invited by your colleague at his daughter's weaning ceremony. Draft a reply letter expressing your inability to accept the invitation and also cite a reason for refusal.

**5. Attempt ANY ONE of two (A) or (B) in about 120-150 words. (5)**

A. You are Anand/ Aarti Singh Sindhu of 14, Model Town, Delhi. You have seen an advertisement in 'The Hindu' for the post of Chief Chef in a 5-Star Hotel. Apply for the job with complete bio-data.

OR

- B. Students are required to cope with a lot of pressure in today's competitive environment. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily highlighting the increasing stress faced by students and suggest ways to combat the same. You are Sarvesh/Savita. You can take help from the following visual.



6. Attempt ANY ONE of two (A) or (B) in about 120-150 words. (6)

- A. You are Swati/Sandeep, a member of the Environmental Club of your School. After visiting many places in and around the city, you noticed activities being carried out that harm the environment. Post this visit, you have realised that it is the need of the hour to protect the environment.

As a columnist for your school magazine, write an article using the clues given below.

- Maintain ecological balance
- Plant trees
- Reduce pollution
- Reduce deforestation
- Stop dumping industrial waste in rivers

OR

- B. You are Akshay, Secretary, Health Club. You recently attended a Heart Care Camp organised by Sanjeevni Hospital, Daryaganj, Delhi to celebrate New Year's Day. Write a report on the same for your school magazine.

#### Clues

- Camp inaugurated by Mayor
- Presence of heart specialist and student volunteers
- People screened for diseases
- Health education provided

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### Section C Literature (40 Marks)

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the given two (A) or (B). (6)

A.

Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing  
 A flowery band to bind us to the Earth,  
 Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth  
 Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,  
 Of all the unhealthy and o'er darkened ways  
 Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,  
 Some shape of beauty moves away the pall  
 From our dark spirits.

(A Thing of Beauty)

- (i) What makes our life full of inhuman dearth? (1)
- (ii) Pick the option that enumerates what 'noble natures' would include. (1)
- (a) Selflessness (b) Judiciousness  
(c) Enthusiasm (d) All of these
- (iii) Complete the following sentence with reference to the extract. (1)
- The poet says that we wreath a flowery band that binds us to Earth.  
He means to state that nature's beauty fills man with .....
- (iv) Select the correct option from those given in bracket to fill in the blanks. (1)
- The Earth without the beautiful things is a place full of .....  
(despair/anguish) and unpleasantness.
- (v) Read the Assertion and the Reason below, with reference to the given extract. (1)
- Assertion** The poet presents the healing power of nature.  
**Reason** The poet states we all are living a life full of struggles.  
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) What message does the poet give about the nature?

OR

B.

*For once on the face of the Earth  
let's not speak in any language,  
let's stop for one second,  
and not move our arms so much.  
It would be an exotic moment  
without rush, without engines,  
we would all be together  
in a sudden strangeness.*

(Keeping Quiet)

- (i) Select the phrase that suggests the following. (1)
- Every activity of machines have stopped.
- (ii) 'Let's not speak in any language'. (1)
- Why does the poet use the word 'let's'?
- (a) To initiate a conversation between the poet and the readers  
(b) To invite readers as part of the poem's larger call to humanity  
(c) To welcome readers into the world of the poem and its subject  
(d) To address readers as fellow members of the human race
- (iii) Complete the following suitably. (1)
- The poet is propagating, through the given lines, .....
- (iv) Select the correct option from those given in bracket to fill the blank. (1)
- The poet employs words like 'exotic' 'strangeness' to highlight .....  
(that everyone would feel excitement in the moment/ that such a moment has never  
been lived before)

- (v) Read the Assertion and the Reason below, with reference to the given extract. (1)

**Assertion** The poet wants everyone to stop what they are doing.

**Reason** The poet wants the moment for self-reflection and introspection.

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) What does the use of the word 'arms' suggest to you? (1)

8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the given two (A) or (B). (4)

A. The Maharaja and the dewan held deliberations over this issue. As a result, a telegram was despatched forthwith to a famous British company of jewellers in Calcutta. 'Send samples of expensive diamond rings of different designs.' (The Tiger King)

- (i) Complete the following sentence appropriately with reference to the extract. (1)

The rings were gifted to .....

- (ii) Which emotions were the Maharaja and the dewan feeling in the extract? (1)

- (iii) Why were the deliberations held? (1)

- (a) To find out a way to procure tigers (b) To please the British officer  
 (c) To save the kingdom from usurpation (d) To gain favours from the British

- (iv) With what purpose does Maharaja seek to send the rings to the wife of the British Officer? (1)

OR

B. I cried aloud, shaking my head all the while until I felt the cold blades of the scissors against my neck and heard them gnaw off one of my thick braids. Then I lost my spirit. Since the day I was taken from my mother I had suffered extreme indignities. People had stared at me. I had been tossed about in the air like a wooden puppet. And now my long hair was shingled like a coward's! In my anguish I moaned for my mother, but no one came to comfort me. Not a soul reasoned quietly with me, as my own mother used to do; for now I was only one of many little animals driven by a herder.

(Memories of Childhood) SP-02

- (i) Complete the sentence appropriately.

The shingling of hair was important because, in the narrator's community, .....

- (ii) What did Zitkala Sa feel when her long hair was cut? (1)

- (iii) "Among our people, short hair was worn by mourners, and shingled hair by cowards!" This statement is an example of ..... (1)

- (a) courage (b) simplicity (c) belief (d) imaginary

- (iv) What does the analogy 'tossed around in the air like a wooden puppet' show? (1)

9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the given two (A) or (B). (6)

A. And afterwards you wait there alone in the arcade for a long while, standing where he stood, remembering the soft melodious voice, the shimmer of green eyes. No taller than you. No bolder than you. The prodigy. The innocent genius. The great Danny Casey.

And she saw it all again, last Saturday - saw him ghost past the lumbering defenders, heard the fifty thousand catch their breath as he hovered momentarily over the ball and then the explosion of sound as he struck it crisply into the goal, the sudden thunderous eruption of exultant approbation. (Going Places)

- (i) What does the word 'prodigy' in the extract refer to? (1)
- (ii) Select the correct option from those given in bracket to fill in the blank. (1)  
 Sophie hear the fifty thousand people catching their breath .....  
 (To listen to the melodious voice of Danny Casey/To see Danny Casey momentarily hovering on the ball)
- (iii) Complete the sentence appropriately. (1)  
 Sophie waited alone in .....
- (iv) How will you relate the football match and the idol worship with reference to Sophie? (1)
- (v) 'The sudden thunderous eruption of exultant approbation.'  
 The sentence which conveys the meaning of 'exultant' as reflected in the above line is ..... (1)  
 (a) the children were delighted to meet their new teacher  
 (b) he could not enjoyed the dessert like he wanted  
 (c) she finally showed a faint smile  
 (d) the clerk was friendly to all the passengers
- (vi) What does the following line from the extract showcase? (1)  
 And afterward you wait there alone in the arcade ...  
 (a) Despite (b) Solitariness  
 (c) Wish (d) Both (a) and (b)

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 raised to captain, because in that way he got power to clear himself. 'Written with friendship and high regard, Captain von Stahle.' (The Rattrap)
- (i) Why does the peddler refer to the 'money pouch by the window' as a bait rather than as a prize? (1)
- (ii) Select the correct option from those given in the bracket to fill in the blank. (1)  
 The inference that can be drawn from the line 'because in that way he got power to clear himself' is that the peddler changed his ways and lived an/a .....  
 (honest/innocent) life.
- (iii) Complete the sentence appropriately. (1)  
 The peddler signs himself as Captain Von stable to .....
- (iv) What do we infer about the peddler when he gifted a rattrap as a Christmas present? (1)
- (v) This communication includes (1)  
 (a) a promise (b) regret (c) an apology (d) Both (a) and (c)
- (vi) Which of the following cannot be attributed to the peddler according to the above extract? (1)  
 (a) Indebtedness (b) Reform  
 (c) Self-pity (d) Self-awareness



10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions in about 40-50 words each. (3 × 2 = 10)

- (i) 'But for a child it is even more.' What does garbage mean to the children of Seemapuri and their parents? (*Lost Spring*)
- (ii) Morning found the town of Motihari black with peasants.  
Explain the possible reasons for Gandhi's quick popularity among the peasants of Champaran. (*Indigo*)
- (iii) What do the symbols 'tigers', 'fingers' and 'ring' stand for in the poem?  
(*Aunt Jennifer's Tigers*)
- (iv) '..... and realised with pain that she was as old as she looked.' The poet does not directly mention about the fear of her mother's death and yet she is successfully able to convey the same through different poetic techniques. Discuss.  
(*My Mother at Sixty-Six*)
- (v) I call them interstices. Explain the concept of 'interstices' in our lives as given by Umberto Eco. (*The Interview*)
- (vi) The story is written in a way that it makes it difficult to point out clearly if Sophie met Danny Casey or not. Suggest possible reasons for such writing.  
(*Going Places*)

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions in about 40-50 words each. (2 × 2 = 4)

- (i) Pearl Buck depicts the servants in a way to convey a message about Japanese people and culture. Do you agree Support your answer with textual evidence. (*The Enemy*) (2)
- (ii) For the narrator, spending two weeks in Antarctica is a challenge not only for the body but also the mind. Elaborate. (2)
- (iii) Louisa, Charley's wife, finally believed that the third level existed in reality. Give evidence from 'The Third Level' in support of the above statement. (2)

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 120-150 words each. (5)

A. Imagine that Mahatma Gandhi from the text 'Indigo' visits Mukesh's town Firozabad as described in 'Lost Spring'. Gandhi sees how the poor bangle-makers are caught up in 'a vicious circle of the sahkars, the middlemen, the policemen, the keepers of law, the bureaucrats and the politicians.' True to his nature of being an activist and a social reformist, he decides to do something about it over a month.

As Mukesh, write a diary entry on the last day of Gandhi's one-month stay, elaborating on any two things that he did that transformed the people's lives in Firozabad.

**You may begin this way**

Dear Diary,

9:00 pm

Today marks a month of Mahatma Gandhi being in our town...

OR

B. In the text 'Keeping Quiet' and 'The Last Lesson' silence is being used to sketch contrasting ideas and emotions. Compare and contrast the themes of silence in 'Keeping Quiet' and 'The Last Lesson'.

**You may begin**

Ironically, it's silence that we hear the loudest and clearest.

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 120-150 words. (5)

A. Both Derry and Lamb are physically impaired and lonely. It is the responsibility of society to understand and support people with infirmities so that they do not suffer from a sense of alienation. As a responsible citizen, generate a write-up on what you can do to bring about a change in the lives of such people. (*On the Face of It*)

OR

- B. The author of 'Journey to the End of the Earth', Tishani Doshi has been invited to an international conference and is asked to tell us how she started writing and how it had changed with the journey. As the narrator, write a speech discussing the impact of the students on Ice programme on your life and writing.

**You may begin like this**

Dear audience, I did not simply take to writing ...