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# Sample Question Paper 03

## 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.

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Max. Marks : 80

### Section A Reading Skills (22 Marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully.

(12)

1. Atticus was leaving the post office when Mr. Ewell approached him, cursed him, spat on him and threatened to kill him. Miss Stephanie said Atticus didn't bat an eye, just took out his handkerchief and wiped his face and stood there and let Mr. Ewell call him names wild horses could not bring her to repeat. Mr. Ewell was a veteran of an obscure war; that plus Atticus peaceful reaction probably prompted him to inquire, 'Too proud to fight, you nigger-lovin' bastard?'

2. Miss Stephanie said Atticus said, 'No, too old,' put his hands in his pockets and strolled on. Miss Stephanie said you had to hand it to Atticus Finch, he could be right dry sometimes.

3. Jem and I didn't think it entertaining. 'After all, though,' I said, 'he was the dearest shot in the county one time. He could—'

'You know he wouldn't carry a gun, Scout. He ain't even got one—' said Jem.

'You know he didn't even have one down at the jail that night. He told me havin' a gun around's an invitation to somebody to shoot you.'

'This is different,' I said. 'We can ask him to borrow one.'

We did, and he said, 'Nonsense.'

4. Dill was of the opinion that an appeal to Atticus better nature might work. After all, we would starve if Mr. Ewell killed him: besides, he raised every child in the county but us, and we'd like to keep it that way. We thought it best to keep this among ourselves: we were the first and only line of defense.

5. Atticus told us that Mr. Ewell was a coward but he wasn't going to take any chances. We could shoot all the bluejays we wanted but it was a sin to kill a mockingbird.

'Remember, it's a sin to kill a mockingbird.'



That was the only time I ever heard Atticus say it was a sin to do something, and I asked Miss Maudie about it.

6. 'Your father's right,' she said. 'Mockingbirds don't do one thing but make music for us to enjoy. They don't eat up people's gardens, don't nest in corncribs, they don't do one thing but sing their hearts out for us. That's why it's a sin to kill a mockingbird.'

Answer the following questions based on the above passage.

- (i) Why is it considered a sin to kill a mockingbird? (2)
- (ii) The passage states that Atticus doesn't bat an eye when he was being abused by Mr. Ewell. What does this tell us about Atticus' behaviour? (1)
- (iii) Read and complete the following sentence suitably. (1)
- Mr. Ewell was a obscure war veteran.
- The given information is crucial to highlights .....
- A. that Atticus was not interested in a fight.
- B. the reason why Mr. Ewell seemed to get angry too easily.
- (iv) Complete the following sentence with an appropriate word 'Miss Stephanie said Atticus said, 'No, too old,' put his hands in his pockets and strolled on. Miss Stephanie said you had to hand it to Atticus Finch, he could be right dry sometimes.' (1)
- In the above sentence, Stephanie thinks that Atticus is an unemotional and ..... fellow.
- (v) The given story can be classified as ..... (1)
- (a) myth (b) legend
- (c) fable (d) fiction
- (vi) 'Miss Stephanie said Atticus didn't bat an eye, just took out his handkerchief and wiped his face and stood there and let Mr. Ewell call him names wild horses could not bring her to repeat.' Explain your understanding of this situation from paragraph 1. (1)
- (vii) What is the significance of Mr. Ewell confronting Atticus outside the post office? (1)
- (viii) Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph. (1)
- Bluejays : Destroyer :: Mockingbird : .....
- (a) Coward (b) Pleasant (c) Sin (d) Appeal
- (ix) According to the passage, What was Atticus' reaction to Mr. Ewell's threat? (1)
- (a) Cursed (b) Spat (c) Threatened (d) Kill
- (x) What does this excerpt reveal about Atticus? Mention 2 qualities. (2)

2. Read the following passage carefully. (10)

The story of Joanne Kathleen Rowling's near magical rise to fame is almost as well known as the characters she creates.

Rowling was constantly writing and telling stories to her younger sister Dianne. 'The first story I ever wrote down was about a rabbit called Rabbit.' Rowling said in an interview. 'He got the Measles and was visited by his friends including a giant bee called Miss Bee. And, ever since Rabbit and Miss Bee, I have always wanted to be a writer though I rarely told anyone so.

However, my parents, both of whom come from impoverished backgrounds and neither of whom had been to college, took the view that my overactive imagination was an amusing personal quirk that would never pay a mortgage or secure a pension.

A writer from the age of six, with two unpublished novels in the \* drawer, she was stuck on a train when Harry walked into her mind fully formed. She spent the next five years constructing the plots of seven books, one for every year of his secondary school life.



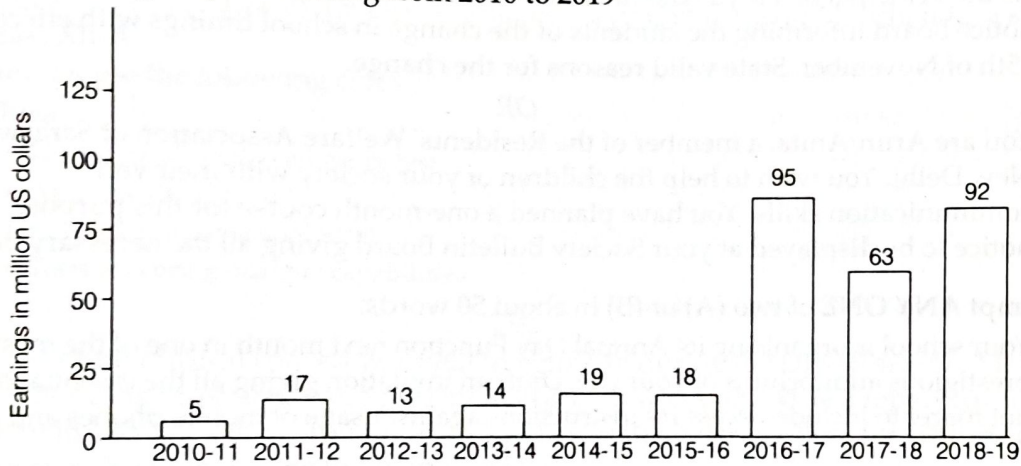
Rowling says she started writing the first book, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, in Portugal, where she was teaching English.

At first, nobody wanted to publish the Harry Potter books. She was told that plot was too complex. Refusing to compromise, she found a publisher.

In 1997, Rowling received her first royalty cheque. By book three, she had sky rocketed to the top of the publishing world. A row of zeroes appeared on the author's bank balance and her life was turned upside down. Day and night she had journalists knocking on the unanswered door of her flat.

Rowling's quality control has become legendary, as her obsession with accuracy. She's thrilled with Stephen Fry's taped version of the books and outraged that an Italian dust jacket showed Harry minus his glasses. 'Don't they understand that the glasses are the clue to his vulnerability.'

Annual earnings of J.K. Rowling from 2010 to 2019



Answer the following questions based on the above passage.

(i) Complete the following sentence appropriately. (1)

In 1997, Rowling received her first..... By book three, she had sky rocketed to the top of the publishing world.

(ii) What pivotal role did Portugal play in J.K. Rowling's journey to writing the Harry Potter series? (1)

- (a) It was where she attended university.
- (b) It was where she first conceived the idea for *Harry Potter*.
- (c) It was where she met her publisher.
- (d) It was where she completed her first draft of the series.

(iii) What challenges did Rowling face in getting her first *Harry Potter* book published? (2)

(iv) The given passage point out the difference between Rowling's books and their movie adaptation. (1)

Classify the following cases indicating which seems to be from the book and which from the movie.

Case 1 Harry does not wear any glasses and has an identification mark on his chin.

Case 2 Harry wears glasses and has a identification mark on his forehead.

(v) Which qualities of Rowling's have become legendary? (1)

- I. Imagination
- II. Story telling
- III. Quality control
- IV. Nuances
- V. Accuracy

- (a) I and III
- (b) II and IV
- (c) III and IV
- (d) III and V



- (vi) What prompted Joanne Rowling to start writing the *Harry Potter* series? (1)
- (vii) How did Rowling's parents view her aspirations to become a writer? How did Rowling's life change after the success of the *Harry Potter* series? (2)
- (viii) Why did Miss Bee visit Rabbit? (1)
- Because Miss Bee had baked a carrot cake for him.
  - Because it was Rabbit's birthday.
  - Because Miss Bee had to tutor Rabbit in Maths.
  - Because Rabbit had fallen ill with Measles.

## 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 Principal of Vidya Niketan Public School, Raiganj, draft a notice for the school notice board informing the students of the change in school timings with effect from the 15th of November. State valid reasons for the change.
- OR
- B. You are Arun/Anita, a member of the Residents' Welfare Association of Saraswati Vihar, New Delhi. You wish to help the children of your society with their verbal communication skills. You have planned a one-month course for this purpose. Draft a notice to be displayed at your Society Bulletin Board giving all the necessary details.
4. Attempt ANY ONE of two (A) or (B) in about 50 words. (4)
- A. Your school is organising its Annual Day Function next month in one of the most prestigious auditoriums of your city. Draft an invitation giving all the essential details. Do not forget to include necessary instructions against usage of mobile phones and cameras.
- OR
- B. You are Manoj/Manvi. You have been invited to attend a birthday party of your closest friend. Draft a reply accepting the invite.
5. Attempt ANY ONE of two (A) or (B) in about 120-150 words. (5)
- A. Draft an application for the post of an accountant in Pioneers (Pvt.) Ltd. Co., Hyderabad in response to their advertisement given below. Prepare a resume to be enclosed. You are Nipun/Aparna.

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### JOB OPENING ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT

Pioneers (Pvt.) Ltd. Co., Hyderabad seeks applications from qualified applicants to staff the position of Assistant Accountant, with a starting salary of ₹ 17850+ 2050 Transport Allowance per month plus other benefits.

**Minimum Qualifications**

- Bachelor's Degree in Commerce or Accounting.
- Knowledge of computers, especially MS Office & MYOB.
- Excellent oral & written-abilities in English
- Be able to work under pressure.
- Possess good interpersonal skills, initiative, integrity, flexibility, adaptability and must be a team player.

**Experience** At least 2 years working experience in the field of accounting.

Interested Candidates send their applications along with CV to the Manager, Pioneers (Pvt.) Ltd. Co., Hyderabad within 3 weeks of publishing of this advertisement

Or Email your CVs at

**ccaccounts1a@mail.com**



OR

B. You are Abhinav, a sports lover. Write a letter to the Editor of a Local Daily expressing your views on improving facilities for sportsmen. You can use the following clues

Clues

- Facilities provided are pathetic
- No facility of international standards
- Poor performance in overseas tournaments
- Need of action for improvement

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

A. Some colleges conduct entrance test for admission to their professional courses. Do you think that the entrance test is the right method for selecting students? Write an article for your school magazine on this issue. You are Kavita/ Himanshu Manchanda, a student of Class XII-A.

You can use the following clues

Clues

- Necessity of written entrance test
- Aptitude developed
- Rote learning at school level
- Tests will bring out true capabilities

OR

B. A glittering musical concert was held in your city during the Diwali season. Many noted and budding musicians were present to grace the occasion. Write a report covering the event in 120-150 words. You are Yash Khullar, Staff Correspondent for 'The Indian Express'. You can use the following clues.

Clues

- Idea behind organising the concert
- Describe the venue and artists performing in the concert
- Celebrities attending and performing in the concert
- Teaches how Diwali can be celebrated without bursting crackers

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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.

... but soon

put that thought away, and

looked out at young

trees sprinting, the merry children spilling out of their homes,

(My Mother At Sixty-Six)

- (i) What do you infer from the phrase 'young trees sprinting'? (1)
- (ii) The fact that the poem's narrative style is single sentence, punctuated by commas shows that (1)
- (a) there is only one topic which made the poet fearful.
  - (b) there is only one thought which runs through the poem.
  - (c) the lines are all being intermingled in the poet's mind.
  - (d) many sub ideas are connected to the main idea of the poem.



- (iii) Complete the sentence appropriately. (1)  
Given the poet's emotions, it would be correct to say that the poet's action of looking out of the window .....
- (iv) Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank. (1)  
By giving trees the attribute of 'running', the poet has ..... (personified/glorified) them.
- (v) Read the Assertion and the Reason below, with reference to the given extract. (1)  
**Assertion** The poet has used the image of young trees deliberately.  
**Reason** The poet wants to highlight her mother's old age.  
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 is the expression. (1)  
'The merry children spilling out of their homes' symbolic of ?

OR

B.

*Yes, in spite of all,  
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall  
From our dark spirits. Such the Sun, the Moon,  
Trees old and young, sprouting a shady boon  
For simple sheep; and such are daffodils.  
With the green world they live in; and clear rills  
That for themselves a cooling covert make  
Gainst the hot season; the mid forest brake,* (A Thing of Beauty)

- (i) Select the phrase that displays the same poetic device as used in 'Some shape of beauty'. (1)
- (ii) Why are our spirits dark? (1)
  - (a) Because of night
  - (b) Because of suffering
  - (c) Because of disappointments
  - (d) Both (b) and (c)
- (iii) Complete the sentence with one word. (1)  
When the poet says that "Some shape of beauty moves away the pall away from our dark spirits", he refers to the ..... power of nature.
- (iv) Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank. (1)  
The world that 'they' are residing in is ..... (sad/graceful) due to the pretty flowers.
- (v) Read the Assertion and the Reason below, with reference to the given extract. (1)  
**Assertion** The poet believes that all natural things are beautiful.  
**Reason** The poet wants to live in the lap of nature.  
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 words 'clear rills' in the extract means? (1)

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

A. 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. (*Memories of Childhood*)

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

The word 'dawdle' as used in the extract means .....

(ii) Why did Bama take so much time to reach her home? (1)

(iii) 'The entertaining novelties' as stated in the passage include ..... (1)

(a) a performing money (b) stunt performances

(c) puppet shows (d) All of these

(iv) What can be inferred about Bama from the given extract? (1)

OR

B. Yes, I've taken the obvious step: I talked to a psychiatrist friend of mine, among others. I told him about the third level at Grand Central Station, and he said it was a waking dream wish fulfillment. He said I was unhappy. That made my wife kind of mad, but he explained that he meant the modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry and all the rest of it and that I just want to escape. (*The Third Level*)

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

The psychiatrist explains to Charley that .....

(ii) Why did the narrator go to a psychiatrist? (1)

(iii) According to the psychiatrist, waking dream wish fulfillment is the result of ..... (1)

(a) insecurity and fear

(b) excitement and nervousness

(c) tragedy and ecstasy

(d) happiness and insecurity

(iv) 'Yes, I've taken the obvious step,' what does the author mean by obvious step? (1) SP-03

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

A. I jumped over the bench and sat down at my desk. Not till then, when I had got a little over my fright, did I see that our teacher had on his beautiful green coat, his frilled shirt, and the little black silk cap, all embroidered, that he never wore except on inspection and prize days. Besides the whole school seemed strange and solemn. (*The Last Lesson*)

(i) Why was 'I' in a fright? (1)

(ii) Select the correct option from those given in bracket to fill in the blanks.

There were a few villagers sitting in the back as they were .....

(regretful/nostalgic). (1)

(iii) Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation, as per the extract. (1)

M. Hamel was dressed so formally because .....

(iv) Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that the school was different that day. (1)



- (v) Based on the above extract, choose the statement that is true for the teacher. (1)
- (a) He was strict teacher.
  - (b) He was getting emotional in the class.
  - (c) He wanted to make this lesson special.
  - (d) Both (a) and (c)
- (vi) The teacher was wearing his special clothes for a day that he would never want to forget. What is the teacher feeling?
- (a) Angry
  - (b) Nostalgic
  - (c) Melancholic
  - (d) Jovial

OR

B. Tiny vestiges of the old terror would return. But now I could frown and say to that terror, 'Trying to scare me, eh? Well, here's to you! Look!' And off I'd go for another length of the pool. This went on until July. But I was still not satisfied. I was not sure that all the terror had left. So, I went to Lake Wentworth in New Hampshire, dived off a dock at Triggs Island and swam two miles across the lake to Stamp Act Island. I swam the crawl, breast stroke, side stroke and back stroke. Only once did the terror return. When I was in the middle of the lake, I put my face under and saw nothing but bottomless water. The old sensation returned in miniature.

(Deep Water)

- (i) What is the 'old terror' and how does Douglas get it? (1)
- (ii) Select the correct option from those given in bracket to fill in the blank. (1)  
Douglas mentions that the old sensation returned in miniature. He means that he felt a ..... (near/familiar) fear.
- (iii) Complete the following with a suitable reason. (1)  
Douglas went to swim at Lake Wentworth to .....
- (iv) What do we infer about Douglas as a swimmer? (1)
- (v) Select the option that lists the correct inference based on the information in the extract. (1)  
  - (a) Triggs Island and Stamp Act Island are both located in Lake Wentworth.
  - (b) Lake Wentworth is a part of Triggs island.
  - (c) Stamp Act Island is two miles away from New Hampshire.
  - (d) Lake Wentworth is connected *via* docks to New Hampshire.
- (vi) How did Douglas handle the 'old sensation'? (1)  
  - (a) Addressed it
  - (b) Avoided it
  - (c) Submitted to it
  - (d) Stayed indifferent to it

**10.** Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions in about 40-50 words each. (5 × 2 = 10)

- (i) The order has come from Berlin to teach only German in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine. What changes did the order from Berlin cause in the school that day? (*The Last Lesson*)
- (ii) "I am Rajkumar Shukla. I am from Champaran, and I want you to come to my district!" How did Rajkumar Shukla establish that he was a resolute man? (*Indigo*)
- (iii) "Perhaps a huge silence might interrupt this sadness." Comment with reference to the poem '*Keeping Quiet*'.
- (iv) 'Some shape of beauty moves away the pall from our dark spirits'. What image does Keats use to describe the beautiful bounty of the Earth that brightens our dark spirits? (*A Thing of Beauty*)



- (v) What is evident about the writing style of Asokamitran in 'Poets and Pancakes'? What effect does it have on the readers?
- (vi) "No, I couldn't think of it!" he said, looking quite alarmed. Why did the peddler initially decline the invitation of the ironmaster?

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

- (i) What great miracle did the ten-day-old Jilani Jung Bahadur perform? How did it affect the people who listened to him? (*The Tiger King*) (2)
- (ii) Answer the questions in the context of the following lines from 'The Enemy'.  
"Then certainly I can allow nothing to happen to you," the General said with anxiety. His long pale Japanese face became expressionless, which meant that he was in deep thought. How did Dr. Sadao perform his duty as a patriotic Japanese? (*The Enemy*) (2)
- (iii) Why did the landlord's man ask Bama's brother on which street he lived? What was the significance? (*We Too are Human beings-Memories of Childhood*) (2)

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

A. A. After reading 'My Mother at Sixty-Six' and 'Lost Spring', you get an insight of the experiences and challenges that women face in society.

As an editor of your school magazine, you have to present a write-up on the importance of highlighting the different experiences of women.

**You may begin like this**

Each woman's experience offers varied insights into the societal constraints and obligation that are placed upon women.

OR

B. Observe the following lines from two different poems.

(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers) : When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie  
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.

(The Roadside Stand) : I can't help owning the great relief it would be  
to put these people at one stroke out of their pain.

There are many commonalities between the two poems. Imagine that you are interviewing Adrienne Rich and Robert Frost together. Ask them any two questions that would highlight two points of similarity between their poems, and create their responses to each.

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

A. You are at an event which tests your knowledge of literature. In the event, you have chosen the short story *The Enemy* as your discussion topic and this following question was put forward in it.

"Do you think Dr Sadao's final decision was the best possible one in the circumstances? Why/Why not? Explain with reference to the story *The Enemy*."

How will you answer this question?

**You may begin like this**

Yes, I think Dr. Sadao's final decision to save the prisoner's life was the best possible decision in the circumstances.



OR

B. In the same contest, Your friend chose *The Tiger King* as his discussion topic and the following question was asked-

In *The Tiger King*, the author indirectly comments on subjecting innocent animals to the wilfulness of human beings. Comment.

You found your friend's answer for the same to be unsatisfactory. Write up an answer for how would you have answered the question.

**You may begin like this**

No man has the authority to take away another being's life.