

Eastwood International School

Final Term Examination 2024-25

Class – XI

Subject - ENGLISH – CORE (301)

Time allowed: 3 Hrs.

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

- 1. 15-minute prior reading time allotted for Q-paper reading.**
- 2. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, WRITING & GRAMMAR, and LITERATURE.**
- 3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.**
- 4. Write in a neat and legible hand.**

Section A: READING (26 marks)

I. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. (10x1=10 marks)

1. The New Year is a time for resolutions. Mentally, at least, most of us could compile formidable lists of do's, and don'ts. The same old favourites recur year in and year out with monotonous regularity. We resolve to get up earlier each morning, eat less, find more time to play with the children, do a thousand and one jobs about the house, be nice to people we don't like, drive carefully and take the dog for a walk every day. Past experience has taught us that certain accomplishments are beyond attainment. If we remain deep-rooted liars, it is only because we have so often experienced the frustration that results from failure.
2. Most of us fail in our efforts at self-improvement because our schemes are too ambitious and we never have time to carry them out. We also make the fundamental error of announcing our resolution to everybody so that we look even more foolish when we slip back into our bad old ways. Aware of these pitfalls, this year I attempted to keep my resolutions to myself. I limited myself to two modest ambitions: to do physical exercise every morning and to read more every evening. An all-night party on New Year's Eve provided me with a good excuse for not carrying out either of these new resolutions on the first day of the year, but on the second, I applied myself assiduously to the task.
3. The daily exercise lasted only eleven minutes and I proposed to do them early in the morning before anyone had got up. The self-discipline required to drag myself out of bed eleven minutes earlier than usual was considerable. Nevertheless, I managed to creep down into the living-room for two days before anyone found me out. After jumping about on the

carpet and twisting the human frame into uncomfortable positions, I sat down at the breakfast table in an exhausted condition. It was this that betrayed me. The next morning the whole family trooped in to watch the performance. That was really upsetting but I fended off the taunts and jibes of the family humorously and soon everybody got used to the idea. However, my enthusiasm waned, the time I spent at exercises gradually diminished. Little by little the eleven minutes fell to zero. By 10th January, I was back to where I had started from. I argued that if I spent less time exhausting myself at exercises in the morning I would keep my mind fresh for reading when I got home from work. Resisting the hypnotising effect of television, I sat in my room for a few evenings with my eyes glued to a book. One night, however, feeling cold and lonely, I went downstairs and sat in front of the television pretending to read. That proved to be my undoing, for I soon got back to the old bad habit of dozing off in front of the screen. I still haven't given up my resolution to do more reading, In fact, I have just bought a book entitled 'How to read a Thousand Words a Minute'. Perhaps it will solve my problem, but I just haven't had time to read it.

1. According to the writer, past experiences of resolutions has taught him

- a. Frustration results from failure.
- b. Certain accomplishments are beyond attainment.
- c. New Year is the time for resolutions.
- d. Failures are a part of life.

2. Most of us fail in efforts at self improvement because

- a. our schemes are too ambitious.
- b. we never have time to carry them out.
- c. We announce our resolution to everybody.
- d. All of these.

3. It is a basic mistake to announce our resolution because

- a. We have no excuse to revert back to our earlier life.
- b. we can't be nice to people we don't like.
- c. we look more foolish when we slip back to our old ways.
- d. none of the above

4. The writer did not carry out his resolution on New Year's Day because

- a. He had attended an all night party.
- b. He was glued to the TV.

- c. The exercise was only for 11 minutes.
- d. Everyone was awake and watching him.

5. The writer thought of keeping his mind fresh by

- a. watching TV.
- b. Exercising for 11 minutes.
- c. Reading.
- d. Finding that much more time to play with children.

6. The word similar in meaning to 'decrease' is

- a. Formidable
- b. Monotonous
- c. attainment
- d. diminish

7. The New Year is a time for _____.

8. Past experience has taught us certain accomplishments are beyond _____.

9. Find the antonym of the word success in para 1.

10. By _____, I was back to where I had started from.

II. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow. (8x1=8 marks)

1. Delhi tried very hard but it wasn't enough. In the run-up to D-Day, the sound of firecrackers had not been heard. The Supreme Court ban on sales had made procuring them difficult, but many people, including school children, had resolved to buck tradition for clean air. And till 7 p.m. on Diwali, most neighbourhoods were quiet. Around that time the first sound of firecrackers going off was heard, and gradually it rose to a crescendo. But it was nowhere near the blitzkrieg of the past, not even half of that. And well before midnight, it was all over.

2. The bad news broke at dawn. It was a visibly smoggy morning. Air pollution levels had peaked to "severe" on Diwali night and remained dangerously high till Friday afternoon as reflected in the real-time monitoring data of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC).

3. The CPCB, however, pointed out a silver lining. It said the air quality index (AQI) this year was better than the ones on Diwali in the past two years in spite of hostile meteorological conditions. On Diwali last year (October 30, 2016), the average AQI for the city was in the "severe" category at 426 while the year before that (November 11, 2015), it had been in the "very poor" category at 327. This time, it was marginally lower at 326.

4. There are so many factors impacting air quality – from the speed and direction of the wind to burning of crop stubble in neighbouring states — that it is difficult to definitively identify the main culprit. What, however, has to be acknowledged is that at least a majority

of people have the will to stick to what may appear to be unpalatable decisions for better quality of life.

5. The data, however, is making informed observers worry-particularly the massive peaks in PM (Particulate Matter) 2.5 (fine, respirable pollution particles) and PM 10 (coarse pollution particles) levels on Thursday night after 10 p.m. Delhi peaked to 656 micrograms per cubic metres around midnight.

6. However, the data also shows that in spite of unfavourable meteorological conditions, the air quality on Diwali this year was better than last year. It had not been so good in the two days preceding Diwali due to intrusion of humid air from the south-east coupled with prevailing calm wind conditions. The average mixing height (the height to which smoke or air will rise, mix and disperse) recorded on October 18 and 19 were 547 metres and 481 metres, respectively, according to CPCB. It should be at least 1,000 metres for proper dispersal.

Based on your reading of the above excerpt, choose the correct option to answer the following questions:

1. In the run-up to D-Day, the sound of firecrackers had not been heard because the

- a. Supreme Court banned the sales of firecrackers.
- b. children resolved to buck tradition for clean air.
- c. neighbourhoods did not like the sound of firecracker.
- d. children were afraid of the sound of firecrackers.

2. The bad news that broke at dawn was that

- a. there was smog in the sky.
- b. the air pollution levels were dangerously high.
- c. CPCB released real time figures that were alarming.
- d. All of the above.

3. The AQI levels after Diwali this year were

- a. the same as in other years.
- b. higher than other years.
- c. lower than other years.
- d. could not be ascertained.

4. There will be no air pollution if

- a. school children do not burst crackers on Diwali.
- b. there is a strong wind on Diwali night.
- c. if the motor vehicles do not run on Diwali.
- d. None of the above.

5. 'Crescendo' in para 1 means

- a. To happen successfully
- b. an increase in intensity
- c. better quality of life
- d. meteorological conditions

6. 'Unpalatable' in para 4 means

- a. 6,000 metres for proper dispersal
- b. feeling happy
- c. dispersal
- d. not pleasant

7. The massive peaks in PM (Particulate Matter) 2.5 and PM 10 (coarse pollution particles) on the Diwali day made the observers worried.

- a. True
- b. False
- c. may be
- d. Don't know

8. Despite the Supreme Court ban on the sale of firecrackers, many people including school children were adamant to burst firecrackers on the Diwali day.

- a. True
- b. False
- c. May be
- d. Don't know

III. Read the following passage. (8 marks)

Rising prices are causing a great concern to the Indian economists at the present moment. It is true that prices can never remain stationary. A certain amount of fluctuation is inherent in the very nature of prices. In a developing economy, they usually display an upward trend. But if prices keep rising persistently, they cause great hardship to the people. They spare neither the rich nor the poor, neither the producer nor the consumer. They make economic activities uncertain and unstable, causing great unrest in the minds of the people.

Inflation is a self-accelerating process. It is a phenomenon that feeds on itself and initiates a very vicious cycle. Rising prices drive people to demand increased wages and salaries. Since such demands are resisted in the beginning, they resort to pressure tactics like strikes and demonstrations. But such tactics only decrease production and aggravate the situation. And if the demands are met, there is a fresh spurt in prices. All benefits accruing from additional income are neutralised. Then fresh demands are raised and this cycle goes on.

The fixed-income groups like salaried people, wage-earners and pensioners are the most helpless victims of inflation. As prices rise, their real income gets eroded. The additional dearness allowance which the government sanctions from time to time proves of no use to

them, because their purchasing power actually goes down. Inflation induces businessmen to invest their money in non-productive assets like gold and land whose real worth is not affected by rising prices. High prices also adversely affect the exports of the country and distort the balance of foreign trade.

Numerous factors can be cited to explain price rise in India. First, our economic planning has suffered from serious drawbacks right from the beginning. During the various Five-Year Plans, while the public expenditure persistently increased, the production targets were never realised. This forced the Government to resort to deficit financing. There was a rapid increase in the money supply without a corresponding increase in production. The resulting imbalance inevitably led to inflation.

The taxation policy of the government has also contributed to price rise. A sound policy of direct taxes would not only have yielded higher revenue but also have enabled the government to give relief in indirect taxes, which invariably lead to inflation. Defective tax structure has encouraged tax evasion and led to the accumulation of black money. This is an example of evil multiplying evil. The parallel economy in our country that thrives on black money and smuggling has always encouraged rise in prices.

Steep rise in the population of the country after independence is another major factor responsible for causing inflation. During the last thirty years alone, the population has gone up by about 75 per cent. Rising population multiplies demands for all kinds of goods and services and leads to an all-round price hike.

Slow increase in agricultural and industrial production, faulty distribution and marketing system, and an unprecedented hike in oil prices in the international market can be cited as some other important factors that have aggravated the situation. Our agriculture has been rather slow to respond to innovations. Industry has been faced with shortage of inputs like coal, power, raw materials. But even the things produced are not properly distributed. Majority of Indians have no community consciousness. There is no organised consumer resistance to price rise. Instead, our masses get scared by the rumours of scarcities and tend to hoard as much as they can. This further intensifies the crisis. Indians also believe in ostentatious living. They indulge in wasteful expenditure that directly affects the prices.

(a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and subheadings. Use recognizable abbreviations (minimum four) and a format you consider suitable. Supply a suitable title to it. (5)

(b) Make a summary of the above passage in about 50 words. (3)

Section B: WRITING & GRAMMAR (23 marks)

IV. Grammar (7 marks)

- 1. Complete the sentences given below by filling in the gaps with the help of the options given: (4x1= 4 marks)**

i) He _____ daily for a year now.

- A. exercises
- B. was exercising
- C. has been exercising
- D. have been exercising

ii) The wise leader and politician _____ assassinated.

- A. are
- B. has been
- C. have been
- D. have had been

iii) They _____ into their cars and drove away.

- A. has got
- B. have got
- C. gets
- D. got

iv) Choose the correct sentence.

- A. When I woke up, he has already eaten breakfast.
- B. When I woke up, he had already eaten breakfast.
- C. When I had woken up, he had already ate breakfast.
- D. When I had woken up, he has already ate breakfast.

2. Rearrange the following words and phrases into meaningful sentences. Attempt ANY THREE: (3x1=marks)

- a. to/ the /company /goods /Vietnam /exports
- b. she/ interested/ that/ was/ in /proposal/ said /she/ the
- c. at/ top /voice/ the /man /his /of /demanded/ the/ admission /shouting
- d. exorbitant/farmers/taxes/poor/pay/were/to/forced/the

V. Writing (16 marks)

(i) You want to sell your newly built flat. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words to be published in the classified columns of the 'The Assam Tribune' giving all necessary details. You are Niranjan of Nabin Nagar, Guwahati.

OR

The Principal, Sunrise Global School, Agra requires a receptionist for her school. Draft a suitable advertisement in about 50 words to be published in the classified columns of a national newspaper giving all the necessary details of qualifications and experience required in the receptionist. **(3 marks)**

(ii) Design a poster on Road Safety.

OR

Prepare a poster to be circulated in other schools in your city for the inter-school Basketball tournament going to be held in your school. **(3 marks)**

(iii) Nowadays just about everyone owns a cell phone but most of the users do not follow even the basic rules of cell phone conduct. They are seen speaking loudly taking a phone call in the middle of a meeting or even at a funeral, etc. Write a speech in 120 – 150 words to be delivered in the assembly of your school to appraise the fellow students of cell phone etiquette.

OR

Career conscious students focus primarily on academics and neglect participation in games and sports not realising how important physical activities are. You are Vineet/ Vinita. Prepare a speech in 120 - 150 words to be delivered in the morning assembly of your school on the topic 'Balancing Academics and Sports'. **(5 marks)**

(iv) 'The Internet cannot replace a classroom teacher'. Write a debate in about 120 – 150 words either for or against the motion.

OR

'Brain drain is not a bane for a developing country like India.' Write a debate in 120-150 words either for or against the motion. You are Shivam/Shivani. **(5 marks)**

Section C: LITERATURE (31 marks)

VI. Reference to the Context

- (i) Read the given extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow. Answer **ANY ONE** of the two extracts: (3×1=3M)

*Now she's been dead nearly as many years
As that girl lived. And of this circumstance
There is nothing to say at all.
Its silence silences.*

i. Identify the phrase from the extract that conveys the following:
It has been twelve years since the death of the poet's mother.

ii. The tone of the poet in the above extract is
a. pessimistic b. optimistic c. aggressive d. sentimental

iii. Which figure of speech has been used in the last line of the extract?

OR

When did my childhood go?

*Was it the time I realised that adults were not all they seemed to be,
They talked of love and preached of love, But did not act so lovingly,
Was that the day!*

i. The trait of adults highlighted in the extract is _____.

ii. Which lines justify the following idiom—

‘Actions speak louder than words.’

iii. Choose the poetic device used in the first line of the extract.

- a. Repetition
- b. Transferred epithet
- c. Personification
- d. Refrain

(ii) Answer with reference to the given context. ANY ONE of the given two prose extracts. (3x1=3 marks)

When I went in to comfort the children, Jon asked, “Daddy, are we going to die?” I tried to assure him that we could make it. “But, Daddy,” he went on, “we aren’t afraid of dying if we can all be together — you and Mummy, Sue and I.” I could find no words with which to respond, but I left the children’s cabin determined to fight the sea with everything I had. To protect the weakened starboard side, I decided to heave to with the undamaged port hull facing the oncoming waves, using an improvised sea anchor of heavy nylon rope and two 22 litre plastic barrels of paraffin.

i. An apt title of the above extract could be

- a. Power of Words
- b. Child is the Father of Man
- c. Struggle for Survival
- d. Struggle at Sea

ii. Which group of words from the following options aptly describes the relationship between the father and the son

- a. Unquestionable, friendly, hesitant
- b. Trusting, strong bonding, unconditional love
- c. Doubtful, feeble bonding, conditional love
- d. Faithful, affable, unpleasant

iii. Choose the word which means the same as ‘improvised’.

- a. prepared

- b. planned
- c. rehearsed
- d. devised

OR

A FLAWLESS half-moon floated in a perfect blue sky on the morning we said our goodbyes. Extended banks of cloud like long French loaves glowed pink as the sun emerged to splash the distant mountain tops with a rose-tinted blush. Now that we were leaving Ravu, Lhamo said she wanted to give me a farewell present. One evening I'd told her through Daniel that I was heading towards Mount Kailash to complete the kora, and she'd said that I ought to get some warmer clothes. After ducking back into her tent, she emerged carrying one of the long sleeved sheepskin coats that all the men wore.

i. Identify the figure of speech in "Extended banks of cloud like long French loaves".

- a. personification
- b. hyperbole
- c. metaphor
- d. simile

ii. Lhamo's farewell present to Nick Middleton highlights her

- a. simplicity
- b. friendliness
- c. concern
- d. greed

iii. Choose the option that displays the correct usage of the word 'ducking' in the above extract.

- a. This ducking was the very thing he needed.
- b. He walked around to the driver's side, ducking his head as he folded his tall frame into the car.
- c. The slower class of meteors ducking the earth have a velocity of about 8 to 10m.
- d. The movement of traffic was made impossible due to the ducking of tracks.

(iii) Answer with reference to the given context. ANY ONE of the given two prose extracts. (4x1=4 marks)

I stopped, horrified. I was in a room I knew and did not know. I found myself in the midst of things I did want to see again but which oppressed me in the strange atmosphere. Or because of the tasteless way everything was arranged, because of the ugly furniture or the muggy smell that hung there, I don't know; but I scarcely dared to look around me. The girl moved a chair. I sat down and stared at the woollen table-cloth. I rubbed it. My fingers grew warm from rubbing. I followed the lines of the pattern. Somewhere on the edge there should be a burn mark that had never been repaired.

i) Which room is the narrator referring to in the given context?

- a) dining room
- b) living room
- c) lobby
- d) attic

ii) Identify the literary device in the given statement "I was in a room I knew and did not know."

- a) Repetition
- b) Contrast
- c) Oxymoron
- d) Paradox

iii) Ascertain the reason that doesn't correspond to the narrator feeling horrified

- a) oppressed by the strange atmosphere
- b) plagued by the tasteless way everything was arranged
- c) upset by Mrs. Dorling's reluctance to acknowledge her
- d) dismayed by the ugly furniture or the muggy smell

iv) Select the option which means the same as 'hardly/barely'?

- a) oppressed
- b) scarcely
- c) muggy
- d) midst

OR

It suddenly dawned on me that he had been taking these early morning rides for some time and had come for me this morning only because he knew how much I longed to ride.

Who said anything about stealing a horse? he said.

Anyhow, I said, how long ago did you begin riding every morning?

Not until this morning, he said.

Are you telling the truth? I said.

Of course not, he said, but if we are found out, that's what you're to say. I don't want both of us to be liars. All you know is that we started riding this morning.

i) Aram's conclusion about Mourad taking early morning rides was based on

- a) Mourad's love for the horse
- b) Mourad not willing to be caught with the horse
- c) Mourad skillfully riding the horse
- d) Mourad inviting Aram for a ride

ii) Highlight one trait of Mourad from his statement "I don't want both of us to be liars."

- a) conspiring

- b) scrupulous
- c) honesty
- d) manipulative

iii) What made Mourad visit Aram with a horse?

- a) because he had been taking early morning rides himself
- b) because he wanted company
- c) because he didn't want to be found out alone
- d) because he knew Aram's longing to ride a horse

iv) Statement – A: Mourad had become adept at riding the horse.

Statement – R: Mourad had stolen the horse that day only and had come to Aram to offer him a ride.

- a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.
- c) Both A and R are false.
- d) A is true but R is false.

VII. Answer ANY TWO of the following in 40-50 words. (2x3=6 marks)

- a) A fairly universal issue of friction between a father and son is exclusively personal also. Do you agree or disagree with the statement? Explain with reference to 'Father to Son'.
- b) Draw a parallel between a goldfinch and a lizard as depicted by Ted Hughes.
- c) Give evidence of the fact that Tut's burial took place in the month of March or April.
- d) 'To her music had lewd associations'. Comment on the statement in the light of the story 'The Portrait of a Lady'.

VIII. Answer ANY ONE of the following in 40-50 words. (1x3=3 marks)

- a) "Love for an animal or bird is pure because in that love you don't expect anything in return." Substantiate with reference to 'The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse.'
- b) An unwarranted enthusiasm for rules and regulations may lead to chaos and anarchy. Explain in the wake of the theme of the poem 'The Tale of Melon City'.

IX. Answer ANY ONE of the following in 120-150 words. (1x6=6 marks)

- a) An adventure is an unusual, exciting and daring experience. Compare and contrast the element of adventure in the chapters 'The Adventure' and 'Silk Road'.
- b) Nature plays an important part in human life. To keep it alive, man needs to respect the necessity of rain on earth. Reinforce this idea as reflected in the poem 'The Voice of the Rain'.

X. Answer ANY ONE of the following in 120-150 words. (1x6=6 marks)

- a) "I have done something; oh, God! I've done something real at last". Justify Andrew's comment with reference to the title of the story. (Birth)
- b) 'All's well that ends well' effectively summarizes the essence of the play 'Mother's Day'. Elucidate.