

BUDHA DAL PUBLIC SCHOOL PATIALA
Pre Board Examination (8 December 2025)
Subject – ENGLISH CORE
Class XII (Set – A)

Time: 3 hrs.

M.M.80

General Instructions:

1. The question paper contains three sections – Reading, Writing and Literature.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

Section – A (Reading) (22 marks)

Q1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: (12)

1. In a room filled with people, each face illuminated by the soft glow of their smartphones, moments drift away like autumn leaves in the wind. The constant hum of notifications fills the air, punctuating conversations like an incessant drumbeat. Every vibration or ping sends fingers flying to screens, a response ingrained by years of digital conditioning. The once-reliable tick-tock of analog timepieces has been overshadowed by the constant flicker of notifications on the wrist watch, blurring the boundaries between the virtual and the real.
2. Anxiety gnaws at the edges of consciousness when the phone is out of reach, a phantom limb syndrome that leaves us feeling incomplete without our digital appendage. The fear of missing out permeates every moment spent away from the screen, driving us to constantly check for updates and notifications.
3. Thumbs move with the speed and precision of skillful pianists, tapping out messages and scrolling through feeds with practiced ease. Yet amidst the flurry of activity, the true rhythm of life remains unheard, drowned out by the dissonance of digital noise. The weight of constant connectivity forms a hunch upon our shoulders, a physical manifestation of the burden we carry in an age of information overload. Our minds are perpetually on high alert, scanning for the next wave of excitement that comes with each like, share, or comment.
4. And yet, for all our efforts to stay connected, we find ourselves increasingly isolated in a sea of digital faces. Genuine connections are fleeting, drowned out by the constant clamour for attention. In the pursuit of digital validation, we sacrifice the wealth of lived experience, trading meaningful moments for fleeting glimpses of connection. The true essence of life lies not in the pixels on a screen, but in the depth of human connection and the richness of shared experiences.
5. As we navigate this brave new world of constant connectivity, let us not forget the value of presence and the beauty of being fully engaged in the moments that matter most. For in the end, it is not the number of likes or followers that defines us, but the depth of our connections and the richness of our experiences that truly matter.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- I. According to paragraph 1, what effect do smartphone notifications have on the people in the room? (1)
- II. How does the author use the metaphor of '*autumn leaves in the wind*' to interpret the passing of time in the setting described? (1)
- III. Read and complete the following sentence suitably. (1)
The phrase '*a phantom limb syndrome that leaves us feeling incomplete without our digital appendage*' suggests that just as an amputee might feel pain in a limb they no longer have, individuals can feel a sense of loss or incompleteness when they are separated from their digital devices.
Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence.
The concern this analogy points towards is about _____.
A. a deep (psychological) dependence on technology for a sense of wholeness or connection
B. excessive physical damage that can be caused due to constant use of digital devices
- IV. Complete the following suitably with ONE advantage, with reference to paragraph 2.
Designating specific hours each day to intentionally avoid checking digital devices can help _____. (1)

A-1



- V. Why does the writer refer to digital noise as 'dissonance' in paragraph 3? *Because:* (1)
- It creates a jarring and chaotic environment that disrupts focus.
 - It contributes to a sense of overload, overwhelming the senses.
 - It interferes with our ability to engage with meaningful aspects of our life.
 - It induces stress by interrupting with regular updates about the device.
- VI. Provide ONE textual evidence with reference to paragraph 3, to prove the following: The need to be perpetually engaged with digital notifications manifests in the body. (1)
- VII. In the line, 'Yet amidst the flurry of activity, the true rhythm of life remains unheard...', what does the phrase 'true rhythm of life' refer to? (Paragraphs 3-4) (2)
- VIII. Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph 4. (1)
- whisper: quietly: _____: loudly
- validation
 - fleeting
 - essence
 - clamour
- IX. Why is it fair to say that the statement 'And yet, for all our efforts to stay connected, _____ we find ourselves increasingly isolated in a sea of digital faces' from paragraph 4, employs irony? (1)
- Despite the intent to connect more effectively, the result is the opposite.
 - The writer mocks the seriousness with which people approach digital connectivity.
 - The writer exaggerates the effects of digital connectivity to highlight its impact.
 - Use of 'a sea of digital faces' to symbolically represent digital platforms.
- X. Assess the potential challenges OR benefits of relying on survey outcomes for designing health interventions, as outlined in paragraph 5. (2)

Q2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

(10)

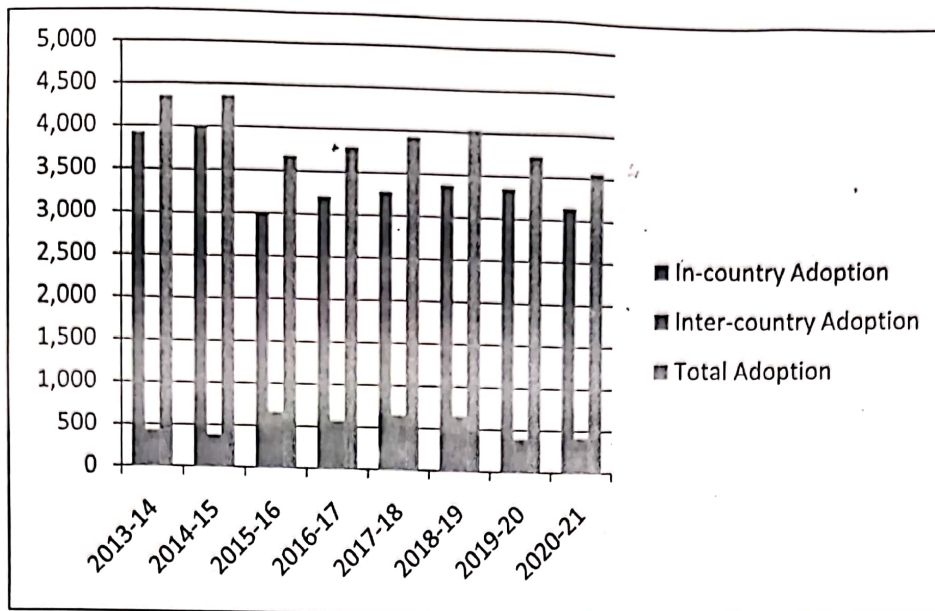
Adoption in India and Its Status since 2013

- Adoption in India is governed by the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. According to the relevant guidelines, the eligibility criteria for a Prospective Adoptive Parent (PAP)—an individual who intend to adopt a child—are the following.
- They should be physically, mentally, and emotionally stable, financially capable and should not have any life-threatening medical condition.
 - Any PAP can adopt a child subject to the following:
 - the consent of both spouses is mandatory in case of a married couple
 - a single female can adopt a child of any gender
 - a single male is not eligible to adopt a girl child
 - A couple should have at least two years of stable marital relationship to become eligible for adoption.
 - The age of the PAP as on the date of registration shall be counted for deciding their eligibility to apply for children of different age groups. In case of couples, the composite age of PAPs shall be counted as given in the table below.

Age of the Child	Maximum composite age of prospective adoptive parents (couple)	Maximum age of single prospective adoptive parent
Up to 4 years	90 years	45 years
Above 4 and upto 8 years	100 years	50 years
Above 8 and upto 18 years	110 years	55 years

- The minimum age difference between the child and either of the PAPs should be at least twenty-five years.
 - The age criteria for PAPs shall not be applicable in the case of relative adoptions and adoption by a step-parent.
 - Couples with three or more children shall not be considered except in certain conditions.
- The graph given below gives details of the in-country adoptions and intercountry adoptions (adoptions by a person from another nation) that took place in India between 2013-14 and 2020-21.

A-2



3. Various estimates indicate that the number of orphaned and abandoned children in the country has increased since 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. These children are at a high risk of becoming victims of trafficking and illegal adoptions. But the lengthy and complicated adoption process is a stumbling block in their rehabilitation. The government has made some amendments to increase the pace of adoptions. Whether these will reduce the delay in the adoption process and increase the adoption numbers remains to be seen.

- I. Which of these can be inferred from the table given in the passage? (1)
- The younger parents should adopt younger children and older parents should adopt older children.
 - The age of single prospective adoptive parents should be the half of prospective adoptive couples
 - The youngest group of children will be adopted by relatively young prospective adoptive parents.
 - The youngest group of children have higher chances of being adopted by couples than single individuals.
- II. Based on point (v) in the passage, choose a suitable option to complete the sentence below. (1)
- Couples can adopt a child if _____.
- one of them is at least 25 years older than the child
 - both parents are at least 25 years older than the child
 - both parents have completed at least 25 years of age
 - there is an age difference of at least 25 years between the partners
- III. According to the graph, the trend in inter-country adoptions has been _____ between 2013 and 2021. (1)
- unvarying
 - increasing
 - fluctuating
 - decreasing
- IV. Which of these can replace the word 'amendments' in paragraph 4? (1)
- sections
 - changes
 - schemes
 - agreements
- V. Which of these facts from the passage shows a cause-effect relationship? (1)

	Cause	Effect
A.	the COVID-19 pandemic occurred	an increase in the number of abandoned children
B.	an estimate of total number of orphaned children taken	a complicated and lengthy adoption process
C.	the age of single prospective adoptive parent counted	a composite age criteria for prospective adoptive parents
D.	an eligibility criteria for prospective adoptive parents exists	data for in-country and inter country adoptions made available

VI. Why does the eligibility criteria specify that prospective adoptive parents should be emotionally stable? Answer 40-50 words. (2)

- VII. Select a suitable word from the eligibility criteria listed to complete the below sentence appropriately.
The students were required to have their parents' _____ to participate in the 10-kilometer hike. (1)
- VIII. What do you think could be a challenge associated with inter-country adoptions? Answer in one sentence. (1)
- IX. *The rules and regulations regarding adoptions in India include restrictions.*
Based on the information in the passage, which of the following responses best fits the statement above? (1)
- Responses:
Yes – if the statement agrees with the information
No – if the statement contradicts the information
Not Given – if there is no information on this

SECTION- B (Creative Writing Skills) (18 marks)

Q3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words.

- A) As the manager of Green Valley Nature Park, write a notice in about 50 words prohibiting visitors from consuming any food items or beverages in the premises and warning them against littering. (4)

OR

- B) You are Divyansh Arya/Vanshika Saraf, incharge officer of the Churu Nath Sanctuary. Recently, some officers have complained about incidents of elephant hunting in the sanctuary. Write a notice in about 50 words highlighting that elephants are an endangered species and hunting is a punishable offence. (4)

Q4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words.

- A) Draft an invitation in not more than 50 words from Vani Gopalan, Chief Project Officer of an NGO, for the launch of the 'Each One Teach One' programme, addressed to school Principals and Coordinators. Mention a compelling highlight of the programme along with other necessary details.

OR

- B) You are Namita Jose, a famous architect in Mumbai, Maharashtra. You had been invited by Modern Maison, an interior designing company, for a grand dinner in Goa to celebrate their fifth year of running successfully. The event is to be held on 9 March 2025, 7 pm onwards. However, there is a family wedding on that day and you will be unable to travel to Goa. Draft a formal rejection to the invitation in about 50 words. (5)

Q5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words.

- A) You are Sonali Rai, and have just completed your undergraduate studies in Music. You saw the given advertisement in a job portal of a music academy, and wish to apply for the open position. Write a letter to the Human Resources Manager at Raga Academy of Music and Dance, along with your bio-data, expressing your interest in the advertisement post. Answer in 120-150 words.

We are looking for Music Teacher

Raga Academy of Music and Dance is looking for a music teacher or students aged 8-15 years.

Experience : 0-2 years

Qualifications: An undergraduate/postgraduate degree in Music and exposure to both Carnatic and Hindustani schools of music.

Location : #67, 10th Main Road, Mysuru – 570009

If you are interested in the position, send your CV along with a letter of interest to the Human Resources Manager.

OR

A-4

- B) You are Trijeet Chatterjee. You recently came across a 'zero-waste' company that creates products which do not leave any waste behind once consumed, such as plastic or non-biodegradable waste. You were extremely impressed and would like more people to think about how they can reduce their waste in simple ways by using specific products. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the editor of a national daily urging people to reduce waste. You can include the following points:

- Carry your own cutlery that you can wash and reuse (like a foldable metal cup, metal straws, cutlery made of coconut shells, etc.)
- Use soaps and shampoos that come in powdered form or in bars (rather than using plastic, bottled products)
- Buy products sold in glass jars and bottles so the containers can be reused as storage jars.

(5)

Q6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words.

- A) Social media today has become an unavoidable element in the lives of people. You are concerned when you see young people spending increasing number of hours on free platforms and chat rooms. Write an article highlighting the consequences of 'Fear of Missing Out' addiction. You may use the following cues along with your ideas. You are Radhu/ Rakesh. (120-150 words)

SOCIAL MEDIA

Advantages:

Connectivity, information and updates, stress reliever

Disadvantages:

Affects socio-emotional connection, invades privacy, causes distress, cyber bullying, distracting, peer pressure

Suggestions:

Set reasonable timings, encourage face-to-face interaction

OR

- B) You have been reading in the newspaper about the senior citizen care homes that are mushrooming in the city. The elderly not only face a security threat but are also victims of depression and loneliness. Write an article in 120-150 words highlighting the need to volunteer and extend warmth and compassion to our elderly. You are Raghav/ Ragini. You may use the cues given below.

ADOPT A SENIOR

Loneliness, Help the Stay Healthy and Active, Take Them for an Outing, Companionship, Have a Meal Together, Buy Them a Gift

SECTION – C (Literature) (40 Marks)

Q7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. (6)

A) *No, in country money, the country scale of gain,
The requisite lift of spirit has never been found,
Or so the voice of the country seems to complain,
I can't help owning the great relief it would be
To put these people at one stroke out of their pain.
And then next day as I come back into the sane,
I wonder how I should like you to come to me
And offer to put me gently out of my pain.*

- i) The 'country money' contextually here refers to
- a) Money kept aside for the rural development
 - b) Wealth accumulated by the whole country
 - c) meager income earned by the countryside people
 - d) riches collected by the ancestral farmers over time

A-5



- ii) Pick the option that mentions elements justifying monetary aspect as the 'requisite lift of spirit'
- 1) Confidence 2) ego 3) self-esteem 4) status 5) fame
- a) 1, 2, 4 b) 2, 4, 5 c) 1, 3, 4 d) 1, 3, 5
- iii) Choose the correct option with respect to the two statements given below:
- Statement 1 : The poet is agitated and depressed
- Statement 2 : The poet realizes the futility of his thought about giving up.
- a) Statement 1 can be inferred but Statement 2 cannot be inferred.
- b) Statement 1 cannot be inferred but Statement 2 can be inferred.
- c) Statement 1 and Statement 2 can be inferred.
- d) Statement 1 and Statement 2 cannot be inferred.
- iv) Choose the option that correctly paraphrases the given lines from the above extract.
- 'I can't help owning the great relief it would be
To put these people at one stroke out of their pain.'
- a) The poet wants to kill the impoverished people
- b) The poet feels that death is better than living such a miserable life.
- c) The poet wants to eliminate poverty from the society.
- d) The poet states that it is important that these people become rich.
- v) "I wonder how I should like you to come to me And offer to put me gently out of my pain."
The tone of the poem by the end, as depicted by the given lines is
- 1) Not every win in a triumph 2) Self reflection is crucial to evolution
- a) frustrated b) commanding c) introspective d) emotional
- vi) How does the poet express his concern for the country people?

OR

B) *Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull
The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.*

- i) What is Aunt Jennifer doing with her wool?
- a) Knitting sweater b) Making woolen garments
- c) Doing craftwork d) Embroidering beautiful images of tigers
- ii) Why does she find it difficult to pull her ivory needle?
- a) As the needle was very heavy
- b) As she was very weak
- c) As she is terrorized and traumatized by the constraints of her married life
- d) None of the above
- iii) What does 'wedding band' stand for?
- a) The wedding ring
- b) The bangle of Aunt Jennifer's hand
- c) The bond of married life
- d) Aunt Jennifer's marital responsibilities
- iv) Identify the poetic device used in the third line.
- a) Irony b) Metaphor c) Alliteration d) Personification

A-6

v) Complete the following sentence appropriately :
The Aunt's fingers were fluttering due to _____.

vi) Why does the poet use 'massive weight' and 'sits heavily' for uncle's ring?

Q8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. (6)

(A) "I am a professor who writes novels on Sundays" -Umberto Eco The following is an extract from an interview of Umberto Eco. The interviewer is Mukund Padmanabhan from The Hindu. Umberto Eco, a professor at the University of Bologna in Italy had already acquired a formidable reputation as a scholar for his ideas on semiotics (the study of signs), literary interpretation, and medieval aesthetics before he turned to writing fiction. Literary fiction, academic texts, essays, children's books, newspaper articles- his written output is staggeringly large and wide-ranging. In 1980, he acquired the equivalent of intellectual superstardom with the publication of The Name of the Rose, which sold more than 10 million copies.

- i) What does Eco's self-description as "a professor who writes novels on Sundays" reveal about his priorities?
- ii) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank.
Eco's reputation as a scholar was (diminished/enhanced) by his success as a novelist.
- iii) Complete the following suitably.
The phrase "intellectual superstardom" suggests that Eco's fame was primarily based on his ____.
- iv) How does the description of Eco's written output contribute to the reader's understanding of his career?
- v) Which of the following best describes Eco's career trajectory?
a) From novelist to academic b) From academic to novelist
c) Simultaneously academic and novelist d) Neither academic nor novelist
- vi) The success of 'The Name of the Rose' is quantified by :
a) Its critical reception b) Its influence of academia
b) Its sales figures d) Its impact on semiotics

OR

(B) After dark she walked by the canal, along a sheltered path lighted only by the glare of the lamps from the wharf across the water, and the unceasing drone of the city was muffled and distant. It was a place she had often played in when she was a child. There was a wooden bench beneath a solitary elm where lovers sometimes came. She sat down to wait. It was the perfect place, she had always thought so, for a meeting of this kind. For those who wished not to be observed. She knew he would approve. For some while, waiting, she imagined his coming. She watched along the canal, seeing him come out of the shadows, imagining her own consequent excitement.

- i) What is the significance of Sophie choosing this particular location for her meeting?
a) It's close to her home b) It's a popular meeting spot
c) It offers privacy and romance d) It's where she first met Danny Casey
- ii) How does the description of the setting contribute to the mood of the extract?
a) It creates a sense of danger and foreboding
b) It evokes a feeling of nostalgia and comfort
c) It builds an atmosphere of mystery and anticipation
d) It suggests a bustling and lively environment
- iii) What does 'Sophie's act of waiting reveal about her character?
a) Her impatience and restlessness b) Her romantic and imaginative nature
c) Her practical and realistic approach d) Her fear and hesitation
- iv) Complete the sentence :
Sophie's choice of meeting place and her anticipation reflect her ____ nature and her desire for ____ in her life.

A-7

Assertion : Sophie believes Danny Casey will approve of the meeting place.

Reason : Sophie has a deep understanding of Danny Casey's preferences and personality.

- a) Both the assertion and reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
- b) Both the assertion and reason are true, and the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.

c) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.

d) Both the assertion and reason are false.

- vii) How does Sophie's imagination influence her experience of waiting for Danny Casey?

Q9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. (4)

(A) MR. LAMB : Well that needn't stop you, you needn't mind.

DERRY : It'd stop them. They'd mind me. When they saw me here. They look at my face and run.

MR. LAMB : They might. They might not. You'd have to take the risk. So would they.

DERRY : No, you would, you might have me and lose all your other friends, because nobody wants to stay near me if they can help it.

MR. LAMB: I've not moved.

DERRY : No

MR. LAMB : When I go down the street, the kids shout 'LameyLamb'. But they still come into the Garden, into my house; it's a game. They're not afraid of me. Why should they be?

Because I'm not afraid of them, that's why not.

- i) The kids tease Mr. Lamb but still come into his garden. Why?
- ii) Choose the best option that describes Mr. Lamb.
 - a) headstrong b) pessimist c) negligent d) positiveChoose the correct option with reference to the extract:
What makes Derry tell Mr. Lamb that if he comes, others would stop coming?
- iii)
 - a) Mr. Lamb would not let others come.
 - b) They would be repulsed by Derry.
 - c) Mr. Lamb will have to choose between him and others.
 - d) Derry would flare up.What does Mr. Lamb mean by 'They might, they might not'?
- iv) **OR**

(B) I held my breath and watched them open closet doors and peep behind large trunks. Some one threw up the curtains, and the room was filled with sudden light. What caused them to stoop and look under the bed I do not know. I remember being dragged out, thought I resisted by kicking and scratching wildly. In spite of myself, I was carried downstairs and tied fast in a chair. 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.

- i) What does the act of cutting the narrator's hair symbolize?
 - a) A routine hygiene procedure
 - b) A punishment for misbehavior
 - c) A form of cultural assimilation
 - d) A medical treatment
- ii) Complete the following sentence:
The narrator's physical resistance to being dragged out represents ____.
- iii) Read the assertion and the reason below:
Assertion : The cutting of the narrator's hair is a traumatic experience for her.
Reason : Long hair held significant cultural importance for the narrator's people.
 - a) Both the assertion and reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
 - b) Both the assertion and reason are true, and 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.
How does the author convey the emotional impact of the hair-cutting scene on the narrator?

Q10.

Answer any five of the following questions in about 40-50 words each. (5×2=10)

- a) How does Sophie's imagination contrast with her reality in 'going places'?
- b) Umberto Eco, with reference to "The Name of the rose says, 'I think if I had written this novel ten years earlier or ten years later, it wouldn't have been the same'. What could he have meant?
- c) Does Aunt Jennifer find asylum in her art? (Aunt Jennifer's Tiger)
- d) How does a thing of beauty provide shelter and comfort? (Poem-A Thing of Beauty)
- e) Why do you think the poet empathized with the people in the countryside and not with the city people? (A Roadside Stand)
- f) Explain the meaning of the word 'Interview' as signified in the lesson.

Q11. Answer any two the following questions in about 40-50 words.

(2×2=4)

- a) Why does Mr. Lamb says, "So you are not lost, are you? Not altogether?"
- b) What embarrassing situation did Zitkala-Sa find Hersey in at breakfast tie?
- a) When did Bama first become aware of 'untouchability' prevailing in the society around her? How?

Q12. Answer any one the following questions in about 120-150 words.

(1×5=5)

- a) Compare and contrast the themes of loss and resilience in "My Mother at Sixty-six" by Kamala Das and "The Last Lesson" by Alphonse Daudet.
- OR
- b) The persistent determination of both Raj Kumar Shukla in "Indigo" and Douglas in "Deep Water" reflects a strong will to overcome challenges and achieve one's goal. Elaborate with reference to the texts.

(1×5=5)

Q13. Answer any one the following questions in about 120-150 words.

- a) The lesson, 'On The Face of It', is an apt depiction of the loneliness and sense of alienation experienced by people on account of a disability. Explain.

OR

- b) Education is an antidote to all the social evils. Do you agree? Discuss with special reference to Bama's account "We too are Human Beings."