

BUDHA DAL PUBLIC SCHOOL PATIALA
Pre Board Examination (8 December 2025)

Subject – ENGLISH CORE

Class XII (Set – B)

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)

Arthur lay in his cabin, still trying to piece together the events of the last few hours. He had watched his home planet of Earth be demolished to make way for a hyperspace bypass, been saved by his friend Ford, and then whisked away on a ship that was powered by an “infinite improbability drive.”

It was all too much for him.

Just then, Ford stuck his head around the door.

“Hey, Earthman,” he said, “come and have a look at this.”

Arthur stumbled after him down a corridor and into the ship’s control room. He gazed in amazement at the banks of controls and flashing lights. In the center of the room was a large console covered in buttons and switches, and in the middle of the console was a small, white mouse.

“What’s that?” asked Arthur.

“That’s the ship’s computer,” said Ford.

Arthur stared at the mouse. “That’s a computer?” he said.

“Yup,” said Ford. “Five-dimensional, biologically-based, super intelligent, and in the form of a white lab mouse. Pretty neat, huh?”

“I don’t know,” said Arthur. “I don’t think I really understand anything anymore. Why is a mouse the ship’s computer?”

“It’s a long story,” said Ford. “But the short version is that the mice built the Earth as a giant computer to figure out the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything. Then they ran out of money and had to destroy it to make way for a hyperspace bypass. So now they’re using the Heart of Gold to finish the calculation.”

Arthur was about to say something, but at that moment the ship’s intercom crackled to life.

“Good evening, Heart of Gold,” said a smooth, computerized voice. “This is Eddie, your shipboard computer. I’m feeling a bit depressed today. Would you like me to sing you a song?”

“Oh, not again,” groaned Ford.

“Eddie, would you mind shutting up?” said Arthur.

Arthur sighed and leaned back against the console, trying to make sense of everything. But as he closed his eyes, he heard a voice inside his head.

“Hello?” it said.

Arthur jumped, startled. “Who’s there?” he said.

“It’s me,” said the voice. “Marvin.”

“Marvin?” said Arthur. “Who’s Marvin?”

“The Paranoid Android,” said the voice.

Arthur looked around, but he didn’t see anyone. “Where are you?” he said.

“I’m down here,” said the voice.

Arthur looked down and saw a small, metal figure shuffling across the floor. It was about three feet tall, with a round head and a body that looked like it had been cobbled together from spare parts. Its eyes were a dull red, and its voice was a monotone.

“I’ve been waiting for someone to talk to me for over two million years,” said Marvin.

B-1

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- I. Select the option that classifies Arthur's confusion about drastic events such as the destruction of his home planet and the introduction of new technologies, correctly. (1)
 - A. Routine and boredom
 - B. Adventure and excitement
 - C. Loss and change
 - D. Calm and relaxation
- II. What is the significance of the white lab mouse in the control room of the Heart of Gold spaceship? (1)
 - A. It is the captain of the ship
 - B. It serves as the ship's computer
 - C. It is a pet of the crew
 - D. It is used for scientific experiments
- III. Share evidence from the text, in about 40 words to support the view that the writer's writing style is descriptive and humorous. (2)
- IV. Complete the sentence appropriately with a characteristic or its description. (1)

Based on the information given in the excerpt, one can infer that the mice who built the Earth are _____.
- V. Select the option that is similar in meaning to Ford's expression, "Pretty neat, huh?". (1)
 - A. Easy, isn't it?
 - B. Could be worse, no?
 - C. Impressive, yes?
 - D. Too difficult for you?
- VI. Explain, in about 40 words, why the name "The Paranoid Android" is considered ironic. (2)
- VII. In the line, "...a body that looked like it had been cobbled together from spare parts...", what comparison does the word "cobbled" refer to? (1)
- VIII. How does the following, impact the reader, even though they know Marvin is just an android? (2)

"I've been waiting for someone to talk to me for over two million years," said Marvin.

(Answer in about 40 words.)
- IX. Read the five headlines (a)-(e), given below: (1)
 - (a) HUMANITY'S JOURNEY WITNESSED BY A DEPRESSED ROBOT
 - (b) HITCHHIKING THROUGH SPACE: A COMICAL TAKE ON THE END OF THE WORLD
 - (c) NEW STUDY FINDS ALIENS LIVING AMONG US
 - (d) GROUNDBREAKING TECHNOLOGY WILL SOON ENABLE TIME TRAVEL
 - (e) INTERGALACTIC TRAVEL VIA NEW INFINITE IMPROBABILITY DRIVE

Identify the option that displays the headline/s that DOES/ DO NOT correspond with occurrences in the passage.

 - A. Only (a)
 - B. (b), (c) and (d)
 - C. Only (e)
 - D. (a) and (e)

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

(10)

1. **Introduction:** In the hasty lifestyle of today's world, the choice of snacks can greatly impact one's health and well-being. This case study aims to analyse the preference for seasonal fruits compared to packaged snacks among different age groups and the implications for overall health.
2. **Methodology:** A survey was conducted among individuals across various age groups, ranging from children to seniors, to determine their snacking preferences. Participants were asked to indicate their preferred snack choices and provide reasons for their preferences. The data was then analysed to identify trends and patterns among different age demographics.
3. **Survey Examination:** The survey encompassed a comprehensive examination of snacking habits, including not only preferred snack choices but also delving into the underlying motivations and influences guiding these choices. Beyond mere preference, participants were encouraged to articulate the reasons behind their selections, providing invaluable insights into the multifaceted nature of snacking behavior.
4. **Results:** The survey results revealed interesting insights into snacking preferences among different age groups:

B-2

Age-group	%	Preferred snack	Reasons for preference
Children	77	Seasonal fruits	Taste, Health benefits, Parental guidance
Teenagers	65	Packaged snacks	Convenience, Taste, Peer influence
Young adults	52	seasonal fruits and packaged snacks	Transitional lifestyle(college, beginning careers, and establishing independence), Health consciousness, Convenience
Middle-aged	83	Seasonal fruits	Freshness, Nutrition, Health consciousness
Elderly	90	Seasonal fruits	Health benefits, Digestive ease

5. **Implications for Interventions:** By discerning the diverse preferences among different age groups, policymakers and health practitioners can tailor interventions to address specific demographic needs. For instance, targeting educational campaigns towards parents could empower them to instill healthy eating habits in their children from an early age. Concurrently, efforts to mitigate the influence of advertising and peer pressure on teenagers could involve regulatory measures and educational initiatives aimed at promoting critical thinking and informed decision-making. Furthermore, the prominence of seasonal fruits as a preferred snack choice among middle-aged adults and senior's points towards the importance of promoting access to fresh produce and nutritional education across all age demographics.
6. **Conclusion:** The survey outcomes serve as a roadmap for designing targeted interventions that not only cater to diverse demographic needs but also nurture a culture of health and well-being. By harnessing the insights gleaned from this study, stakeholders can collaboratively work towards building healthier communities and promoting sustainable practices for generations to come.

Answer the following questions, based on given passage.

- I. Complete the following suitably. (1)
In the introduction, the researcher links a hasty lifestyle with the choice of snacks in the study to highlight_____.
- II. What would the following be classified as? (1)
To examine snacking preferences across various age groups in detail, and assess health implications.
Select the appropriate response.
A. Primary purpose B. Secondary objective
C. Method of analysis D. Research outcome
- III. Give two points to support why it is likely that fresh fruits were given as an option to the survey participants to choose from in the study on snacking preferences. (2)
- IV. Paragraph 3 includes words – 'motivations' and 'influences.' (1)
Classify the following sentences as 'influence' or 'motivation':
Sentence 1: Peer pressure leads teenagers to prefer packaged snacks over healthier options.
Sentence 2: The drive to maintain health as one ages makes middle-aged adults to choose seasonal fruits.
- V. Read the following: (1)
Seema regularly enjoys snacking on chips and cool drinks while watching movies. Mohan, her neighbour, prefers to snack on oranges and also some nuts occasionally. Arindam, who lives across, often tends to eat a mix of carrot sticks and instant noodles, in between meals.
Select the option that identifies the correct demographic Seema, Mohan and Arindam belong to.
A. Seema – young adult; Mohan – teenager; Arindam -middle-age
B. Seema - teenager; Mohan – middle-age; Arindam -child
C. Seema – young adult; Mohan – child; Arindam - teenager
D. Seema - teenager; Mohan – elderly; Arindam -young adult
- VI. Although children, middle-aged, and elderly groups all prefer seasonal fruits, why is the preference percentage highest among the elderly? (1)
- VII. Analyse how targeted interventions based on the diverse snacking preferences of different age groups can lead to improved health outcomes. (Paragraph 5) (2)
- VIII. What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders, based on the insights from the study? (1)
A. Increasing profitability through enhanced snack marketing
B. Building healthier communities
C. Reducing the cost of healthcare services
D. Expanding the range of available snack product

B-3

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

(4)

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

- A) You are Josely Mathew, the President of the school book club. The club is organising a drive for promoting reuse of study materials and books. Draft a notice in about 50 words, for the school notice board, addressing students of classes X-XII, informing them about this drive and urging them to contribute to the endeavour. Mention how the donated books would benefit a charitable cause.

OR

- B) You are Secretary of Vishal Housing Society, Prem Nagar. Draft a notice in about 50 words for the society notice board informing and inviting residents to the annual get - together to be held in the society compound, followed by dinner, on 28th March, 2025 from 7 pm onwards. Invent other details like contribution per family, guest charges, etc.

(4)

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

- A) You are Kiran Singh, a farmer residing in Bathinda, Punjab. You had been invited to Pathankot International School to attend a Q & A session on your work as farmer for their career fair. However, someone in your family has fallen gravely ill and requires your full attention. In about 50 words, draft a formal response of rejection expressing your gratitude and apology.

OR

- B) Draft an invitation in about 50 words, on behalf of your aunt, Meghna Menon, which she has to share to invite prior work colleagues to the inaugural event of her own investment consultancy firm, in the Acer mall, Kozhikode, Kerala.

(5)

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

- A) You are Mathumita Das, and have just completed your undergraduate studies in Journalism. You saw the given advertisement on a job portal, and wish to apply for the open position. Write a letter expressing your interest and applying for the position along with your bio-data, in 120-150 words. Write this letter along with your resume.

WANTED

Sub – editor, Lifestyle and Culture

The Indian Express is looking for a sub-editor to cover lifestyle and culture related news in Bangalore city

Experience : 0-2 years

Qualifications: An undergraduate/postgraduate degree in English Literature, Journalism, Mass Media or Communication.

Location : A – 402, the Indian Express, Noida - 110025

If you are interested in the position, send your CV along with a letter of interest to the editor of The Indian Express.

OR

- B) Financial literacy is increasingly recognized as a crucial 21st – century skill for young individuals. Write a letter to the editor of a local daily discussing the benefits of providing financial literacy education to children. Also, suggest effective ways to raise awareness about the importance of this education among parents and guardians. You are a Counsellor, Chitra Mahapatra from Puri, Odisha. You may use some of the given cues along with your own ideas to draft the letter.

- What are the long-term benefits of learning financial independence from a young age?
- Why is understanding the power of finances beneficial for young learners?
- Why skills learned during childhood tend to have a lasting impact.

B-4

Q6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. (5)

- A) You are Hitesh/Heena, a 'blog' writer. You are also a voracious reader and keep abreast of the current topics of the day. Reading about the trends in Digital Marketing, you decide to write an article on "Digital Marketing has gained tremendous momentum in the past couple of years." Use the following cues along with your own ideas to compose this article. Invent necessary details. (120-150 words).

DIGITAL MARKETING

Importance

Connects with customer, Allows you to get creative, Hands-on experience, Easy to target right audience

Benefits

Cost effective, Access to global markets

OR

- B) There was an "Each One Teach One" camp held in your school during summer vacations. As student editor of the school magazine, write a report on the camp. You are Sneha/Surbhi. You may use the following cues along with your ideas to write the report. Invent necessary details. (120-150 words).

- children from neighbourhood slums 5 to 8 years
- student volunteers from class XI
- foundational numeracy and literacy skills
- distribution of stationery and books
- both oral and written approaches
- general knowledge quizzes
- certificates given

SECTION – C (Literature) (40 Marks)

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

A) *In front at the edge of the road where the traffic sped,
A roadside stand too pathetically pled,
It would not be fair to say for a dole of bread,
But for some of the money, the cash, whose flow supports
The flower of cities from sinking and withering faint.
The polished traffic passed with a mind ahead,
Or if ever aside a moment, then out of sorts
At having the landscape marred with the artless paint
Of signs that with N turned wrong and S turned wrong*

- What is the tone of the poet in the extract?
a) optimistic b) resigned c) sympathetic d) indifferent
- With reference to the given extract, what harm has been caused by the 'artless paint'?
- The city is compared to _____.
a) a landscape b) signs of N and S c) a flower d) a dole of bread
- The roadside stand is
a) at the edge of the road
b) marred with artless paint
c) like the lower of cities
d) well maintained
- What type of expectations do the stand owners have from the city dwellers who come there?
- Complete the analogy with a word from the given extract.
donate : contribute :: dying : _____

OR

B-5



B) *When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.
The tigers in the panel that she made
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.*

- i) The expression 'terrified hands' is an example of
a) simile b) transferred epithet c) paradox d) inversion
- ii) The expression 'terrified hands' suggests that
a) Aunt Jennifer is nervous and fear-struck
b) Aunt Jennifer is much too tired after work
c) Aunt Jennifer has been found guilty of something.
d) Aunt Jennifer has lost her wedding ring
- iii) Choose the options that explain the meaning of the word 'ringed' as used in the extract above.
1) Aunt Jennifer had risen above all ordeals.
2) Aunt Jennifer had overcome all her ordeals.
3) Aunt Jennifer still had her wedding ring on a finger.
4) Aunt Jennifer's ring was a symbol of the tyranny of her husband
Options:
a) Options 1 and 2 b) Options 1 and 3 c) Options 2 and 4 d) Options 3 and 4
- iv) The last two lines invoke a feeling of
a) fear b) wonder c) hope d) sorrow
- v) Which of the following is NOT an example of irony in the extract above?
a) Aunt Jennifer is dead but her 'tigers' on the panel live on.
b) Aunt Jennifer felt terrified all her life but her 'tigers' are fearless.
c) Aunt Jennifer wanted to be like her tigers but could not.
d) Aunt Jennifer learnt to be fearless from the tigers in the panel.
- vi) Why is Aunt Jennifer referred to as 'Aunt' in the end?

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

(A) They thought he would demand repayment in full of the money which they had illegally and deceitfully extorted from the sharecroppers. He asked only 50 percent. "There he seemed adamant", writes Reverend J.Z. Hodge, a British missionary in Champaran, who observed the entire episode at close range, "thinking probably that he would not give way, the representatives of the planters offered to refund to the extent of 25 percent, and to his amazement Mr. Gandhi took him at his words thus breaking the deadlock."

- i) Choose the correct option:
'there he seemed adamant', reflects Gandhi's trait of being _____.
a) arrogant b) uncompromising c) argumentative d) courageous
- ii) Deceitfully extorted from the sharecroppers
The status of sharecroppers as inferred from the above line is
a) law abiding citizens b) followers of Gandhi
c) victims of exploitation d) contract labourers
- iii) Complete the following sentence:
Gandhi surprised them by _____.
- iv) The inference that can be drawn from the line "Mr. Gandhi took him at his word" is _____
- v) 'Deadlock' in the last line means _____.
- vi) What do we infer about the attitude of planters towards sharecroppers?

OR

B-6



(B) Some might make quite extravagant claims for it as being, in its highest form, a source of truth, and, in its practice, an art. Others, usually celebrities who see themselves as its victims, might despise the interview as an unwarranted intrusion into their lives, or feel that it somehow diminishes them, just as in some primitive cultures it is believed that if one takes a photographic portrait of somebody then one is stealing that person's soul.

- i) What is the most likely reason some people consider the practice of interview to be an art?
a) fluency of words b) sensitive and careful handling
c) creativity and imagination d) probing and focusing on details
- ii) Rewrite the sentence by replacing the underlined phrase with its inference.
Celebrities feel that an interview diminishes them.
- iii) On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below:
1) Celebrities don't consent to be interviewed.
2) Interviews intrude the privacy of celebrities.
a) (1) can be inferred from the extract but (2) cannot
b) (1) cannot be inferred from the extract but (2) can
c) (1) is true but (2) is false
d) (2) is reason for (1)
- iv) Retionalise, to support the given opinion:
To say that an interview, in its highest form, is a source of truth is an extravagant, claim.
- v) Replace the underlined word with its antonym from the extract.
Some celebrities hate the idea of having to given an interview because it makes them feel like supporters.
- vi) The author's views on interview, in the extract, can best be described as statements based on
a) facts b) hypothesis c) beliefs d) superstitions

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

(A) I did not open my mouth to answer. Then the steps were quickened and the voices became excited. The sounds came nearer and nearer. Women and girls entered the room. I held my breath and watched them open closet doors and peep behind large trunks. Someone 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, though I resisted by kicking and scratching wildly. In spite of myself, I was carried downstairs and tied fast in a chair.

- i) Select the appropriate option:
..... Sounds came nearer and nearer _____.
a) describes the increase in volume
b) adds suspense and anxiety to readers
c) reflects the thought of the speaker
d) is a factual narrative
- ii) Complete the following sentence:
'In spite of myself' suggests that the speaker was _____
- iii) What do you infer from the first line of the extract?
a) It was her first day in school
b) She did not want to get caught
c) She was unprepared for the lesson
d) She preferred to be by herself.
- iv) State whether the statement given below is True or False.
The speaker hoodwinked the people looking for her.

OR

B-7



(B) DERRY: What do you do all day?
 MR LAMB: Sit in the sun. Read books. Ah, you thought it was an empty house, but inside, it's full. Books and other things full.
 DERRY: But there aren't any curtains at the windows.
 MR LAMB: I'm not fond of curtains, Shutting things out, shutting things in. I like the light and the darkness, and the windows open, to hear the wind.
 DERRY: Yes. I like that. When it's raining, I like to hear it on the roof?
 MR LAMB: So you're not lost, are you? Not altogether? You do hear things. You listen.
 DERRY: They talk about me. Downstairs, When I'm not there.

- i) According to Mr. Lamb, what does the idea of being 'lost' signify?
 - a) He who does not hear what other people say is lost.
 - b) He who does not appreciate man and nature is lost.
 - c) He who does not pause to reflect on wind and rain is lost.
 - d) He who is closed off to nature and its wonders is lost.
- ii) Read the following analysis of Mr. Lamb's character based on the given extract. Choose the option that fills in the given blanks most appropriately"

Mr. Lamb's (i) _____ and daily activities reflected the values he lived by and the kind of person he was. His openness, inquisitiveness, and his (ii) _____ to nature were embodied in his work and words. Being close to an experiencing (iii) was not only significant to him, but was at the heart of finding meaning and (iv) _____ in life.

 - a) (i) preferences; (ii) attunement; (iii) nature; (iv) direction
 - b) (i) choices; (ii) loyalty; (iii) the world (iv) hope
 - c) (i) words; (ii) attitude; (iii) gardening; (iv) worthiness
 - d) (i) sermons; (ii) proximity; (iii) life; (iv) values
- iii) Choose the option that best describes the sequence of Derry's emotions in the above extract:
 - a) syness – friendliness – reluctant acceptance
 - b) inquisitiveness – nostalgia – mild sadness
 - c) curiosity – measured delight - disappointment
 - d) defiance – excitement – grouchy insecurity
- iv) "You do hear things. You listen." Choose the option that captures the difference between hearing and listening. Hear : listen :: _____ : _____
 - a) Shut in : shut out
 - b) smile : laugh
 - c) act : reflect
 - d) chance : attend

Q10. Answer any five of the following questions in about 40-50 words each. (5×2=10)

- a) What did the lawyer do in the Story Department?
- b) Why was Lewis Carroll averse to giving interviews?
- c) How can death be 'grand and mighty'?
- d) What characteristics do 'fishermen' and 'man gathering salt' have in common?
- e) What do Douglas's efforts to learn swimming indicate? Was he determined or was he obstinate? Give reasons in support of your answer?
- f) How did Gandhiji's family help in removing the backwardness of Champaran?

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

(2×2=4)

- a) How did the infant Tiger King surprise everyone?
- b) Why does Zitkala – Sa refer to herself as a ‘wooden puppet’ and one of many little animals driven by a herder?
- a) What makes Bama laugh one day to see an elder from her community?

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

(1×5=5)

- a) Both “A Thing of Beauty” and “Lost Spring” explore the theme of hope in harsh surroundings. How do these texts highlight this idea through characters, situations, or reflections?

OR

- b) How do the characters of the narrator in “Deep Water” and Gandhiji in “Indigo” compare and contrast in terms of their roles as models of courage and personal transformation?

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

(1×5=5)

- a) How does Dr. Sadao’s dilemma in “The Enemy” explore the conflict between national loyalty and moral duty?

OR

- b) Discuss how Tishani Doshi uses contrast between the past and the present, as well as between nature and human activities to emphasise her message about the importance of sustainability. Provide textual evidence to support your analysis.

B-9