

BUDHA DAL PUBLIC SCHOOL PATIALA
First Term Examination (18 September 2025)
Subject - ENGLISH CORE
Class XI (Set - A)

Time: 3 hrs.

M.M.80

General Instructions:

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

Section - A (Reading) (26 marks)

Q1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: (10)

1. Researchers have long agreed that anger hurts health, particularly the heart: it raises blood pressure, releases harmful fats into the bloodstream, triggers adrenaline and other hormones that make platelets stickier-leading to artery blockage and may even weaken the immune system. Chronic anger has also been linked to increased risks of strokes and cardiovascular diseases. The key question is how to manage anger. "Should one express it freely or suppress it?" Neither approach is ideal. There is a third, more effective method - responding with reasoned control - which, with practice, can truly work.
2. Decades ago, psychologists believed that venting anger could be beneficial. They reasoned that since suppressing anger harms the body, releasing it might have a cleansing effect. However, studies have shown this is incorrect. Rather than alleviating stress, frequent outbursts can reinforce aggressive behaviour, making individuals more prone to conflict. "Anger is harmful, whether expressed outwardly or kept inside," states Redford Williams, M.D., a researcher from Duke University who pioneered studies in this field.
3. The problem with venting lies in hostility, a combination of cynicism, frequent anger, and aggressive behaviour. The tendency to blame others, get angry, and retaliate can be harmful. Instead, one must learn to diffuse hostility. Dr. Williams suggests three reflective questions:
 4. "Is this situation important?" If not, move on.
 5. "Am I justified in my anger?" Consider the situation objectively, as if making a court case.
 6. "Do I have an effective response?" Aggression is not a solution, as research shows that people with frequent aggressive reactions have higher mortality rates due to elevated blood pressure and suppressed immunity.
7. Meditation is a time-tested way to regain calm when emotions take over. Taking deep breaths, focusing on a distant spot, and visualising a peaceful image can help. Physical activity, such as yoga or a simple walk, can also help in channelling pent-up emotions positively. One can also talk to oneself silently, commanding, "Stop it," and shifting focus to pleasant thoughts-friends, an upcoming event, or a loved one.
8. Finally, the idea of living each day as if it were the last can be transformative. Anger often stems from trivial issues that seem insignificant in hindsight. If today were one's final day, would one waste time in anger? Likely not. Thus, practising gratitude, embracing forgiveness, and focusing on meaningful experiences can help cultivate lasting inner peace. Choosing peace over hostility is not just an anger-management technique - it is a way to lead a healthier, more fulfilling life.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below.

1. According to the paragraph 1, what effect does anger have on a person's physical health?
2. How does the author use the phrase "responding with reasoned control" in paragraph 1 to highlight a healthier way to deal with anger?
3. Read and complete the following sentence suitably.
The line, "Anger is harmful, whether expressed outwardly or kept inside," in paragraph 2 highlights the author's belief about unhealthy ways of handling anger.
Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence:
The idea this statement points towards is that
 - a) It is expressed regularly in small amounts to reduce stress
 - b) It is not managed through thoughtful self-control and reflection
4. Complete the following sentence suitably with ONE reason, based on paragraph 2.
Psychologists now reject the idea of venting anger as healthy because

- Opt
- a) If a bes
- a) b) c) d)
- vi) W Ti a) b) c) d)
- Q8. F (A) i)
5. Why does Dr. Williams suggest asking questions like "Is this situation important" w angry?
 - a) To delay confronting others
 - b) To justify emotional responses to others
 - c) To shift focus and reassess whether the anger is valid
 - d) To create courtroom-style arguments during conflicts
 6. Provide ONE textual evidence from paragraph 6 that supports the idea that aggression increases health risks.
 7. In the line, "Meditation is a time-tested way to regain calm when emotions take over," what does the phrase 'time-tested' suggest about meditation?
 8. Complete the analogy using ONE word from paragraph 8
aggression : harm : : forgiveness :
a) hostility b) hindsight c) peace d) anger
 9. Why is it fair to say that the author supports a balanced approach to managing anger?
 - a) Because the author supports venting emotions openly
 - b) Because the author promotes only deep breathing techniques
 - c) Because the author rejects both suppression and aggressive outbursts
 - d) Because the author believes anger should never be discussed
 10. Assess one key message that author conveys about long-term anger management.

Q2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: (8)

1. INTRODUCTION

According to the fifth cycle of the All India Tiger Estimation (2022) released on April 9, 2023, the tiger population in India rose to 3,167 in 2022, up from 2,967 in 2018. This marks an increase of 200 individuals over four years. However, the growth rate has slowed to 6.7% between 2018 and 2022, a decline from the more robust 33% growth recorded between 2014 and 2018. While the numbers show steady recovery, the reduced rate of increase has raised concerns regarding regional and environmental challenges.

2. METHODOLOGY AND SURVEY SCALE

The tiger census covered forested habitats across 20 states of India, making it one of the most comprehensive wildlife surveys in the world. According to the report, a foot survey of 641,449 kilometres was conducted to track carnivore signs and estimate prey abundance. Within these areas, 324,003 habitat plots were sampled to assess vegetation quality, signs of human impact, and the presence of ungulate dung – an indicator of prey base availability. Additionally, camera traps were installed at 32,588 locations, generating 47,081,881 photographs, out of which 97,399 images captured tigers.

3. REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF TIGER POPULATION (2022)

The tiger population distribution varied across major forested landscapes.

The following table presents the camera trap records from key regions:

REGION	NO. OF TIGERS PHOTOGRAPHED	KEY OBSERVATIONS
Central Indian Highlands & Eastern Ghats	1,161	Highest number recorded; new territorial expansion in Madhya Pradesh & Maharashtra
Western Ghats	824	Decline in occupancy outside protected areas; stable or rising inside PAs
Shivalik Hills & Gangetic Plains	804	Significant increase; includes five key tiger reserves

North East Hills & Brahmaputra Plains	194	Limited richness despite high forest cover; tigers concentrated in few PAs
Sundarbans	100	Least count; vulnerable to climate threats and coastal erosion

4. REGIONAL INSIGHTS AND OBSERVATIONS

- Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains showed a substantial rise in tiger numbers. A total of 804 individuals were photographed across this landscape, which spans multiple states and includes five major tiger reserves as well as additional protected areas.
- Central Indian Highlands and Eastern Ghats recorded the highest number of tigers (1,161) in 2022. The report noted expansion into new territorial areas of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra that were not previously occupied in 2018.
- In the Western Ghats, tiger occupancy declined. Although protected areas such as Mudumalai and Periyar maintained stability and reserves like Bandipur and Nagarhole showed increase, tiger presence outside these PAs has fallen, highlighting habitat fragmentation.
- The North East Hills and Brahmaputra Plains saw 194 tigers recorded through camera traps. Despite having more than 50% forest cover (as per the India State of Forest Report 2021), tiger density remains restricted to a few protected zones.
- The Sundarbans had the lowest number of tigers photographed – only 100. The region's fragile ecology makes it highly vulnerable to sea-level rise, climate change, and ongoing erosion and accretion, which impact both habitat stability and prey availability.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below:

1. Complete the following suitably.

In the introduction, the passage highlights India's tiger population growth to show

2. What would the following be classified as?

Studying the decline in tiger occupancy outside protected areas, despite stable numbers within reserves.

Select the appropriate response.

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| a) Conservation strategy | c) Regional insight |
| b) Primary objective | d) Forest mapping exercise |

3. Give two reasons why tiger occupancy declined in the Western Ghats, despite stable numbers in some protected areas.

4. Paragraph 2 includes the terms – 'Camera trap' and 'habitat plot'.

Classify the following examples accordingly

Sentence 1 : A section of forest examined for dung, plants, and human activity.

Sentence 2 : An image of a tiger taken automatically by a motion-sensitive device in the forest.

5. Read the following

Paresh, a field biologist, observes frequent flooding and rapid land erosion affecting tiger movements in a low-lying coastal forest. Kavita, a conservation officer, reports better prey density and stronger protection measures within key tiger reserves spread across several states. Mithun, a wildlife ecologist, studies dense forest cover but finds very few tiger sightings outside national parks, even though the region has abundant vegetation.

Select the option that best matches each expert with the landscape they are most likely studying:

- a) PARESH – Western Ghats; KATIVA – Central Indian Highlands and Eastern Ghats;
MITHUN – Sundarbans

Options:

sitting on a beautiful white horse. I stuck my head out
Options: a) Only I and III, b) Only II and IV

- b) PARESH – Sundarbans; KAVITA – Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains; MITHUN – No. East Hills and Brahmaputra Plains
c) PARESH – Sundarbans; KAVITA – Western Ghats; MITHUN – Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains
d) PARESH – Eastern Ghats; KAVITA – Sundarbans; MITHUN – Western Ghats
6. Although the Central Indian Highlands had the highest tiger count, what does the data suggest about their distribution over time?
7. Analyse how the landscape of the Sundarbans poses a threat to long-term tiger conservation.
8. What does the report suggest about the North East Hills and Brahmaputra plains?
a) Wildlife is evenly distributed across all forested regions.
b) Forest cover is low and rapidly declining across the region.
c) The region has recorded the highest number of tiger sightings.
d) Protected areas support wildlife, but other forests lack diversity.

(8)

Q3. Read the passage carefully.

1. Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming legal work but isn't the threat it's often portrayed as. While AI is making impressive progress globally, the assumption that it will render professions obsolete is false and only creates panic towards beneficial technology.
2. In the legal world, AI's capabilities include speech and object recognition, data-based decision-making, and language translation. It can perform search-and-find tasks, automating mundane work that requires minimal human intelligence. This allows for quicker, cheaper legal services, freeing lawyers to focus on tasks requiring discernment, empathy, and trust - qualities AI cannot replicate. The legal profession, one of the world's oldest, thrives on trust, judgement and diligence. The crucial lawyer-client relationship is built on human connection and interaction.
3. While AI can scan and organize case documents, it cannot perform higher-level tasks like decision-making, client relationship-building, writing legal briefs, advising clients, or court appearances. Sound legal research is crucial for case proceedings, requiring lawyers to assimilate information from relevant cases and understand opposing arguments.
4. AI software aids in electronic discovery, contract reviews, and legal document automation. It utilizes big-data analytics for case data visualization and can create maps of cited cases and their verdicts. Machine learning and predictive analytics can estimate case outcomes, helping firms determine litigation ROI and consider alternatives like agreements or arbitration.
- a) **On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using headings and subheadings. Use recognizable abbreviations (minimum 4) and also supply a title to it.** (5)
b) **Write a summary of the passage in not more than 80 words using the notes made.** (3)

SECTION- B (Grammar & Writing Skills) (23 marks)

Q4. Complete the following passage by filling in the blanks with correct options: (4)

'Kalari' is considered to be the (a) _____ (more/ much/ most) complete and scientific martial art and is the mother of (b) _____ (all/ every/ each) martial arts. Bodhidharma, a Buddhist monk from India, (c) _____ (introduce/ introduced/ has introduced) Kalari into China and Japan. (d) _____ (A/ An/ The) student of Kalari learns philosophy, medicine, attack and self defence.

Q5. Rearrange the following words/ phrases into meaningful sentences. (3)

- a) multinational company/ ensure/ at a/ may not/ a job/ education
b) sanitation and/ personal hygiene/ with education/ issues like/ the importance of/ are also understood
c) healthcare/ family planning/ the need for/ and preventive/ also understand/ with education/ people will

A-4

Q6. Answer any ONE of the two questions given below:

(3)

Your school, Akash Public School, Agra needs a canteen manager. On behalf of the Principal, write an advertisement in about 50 words to be published in the classified columns of a local daily. Mention the educational and professional qualifications, other qualities required in the manager, who to apply to and the last date for the receipt of applications.

OR

You are Anoop/Arya, the cultural secretary of Sardar Patel Vidyalaya, Lucknow. As part of the national heritage programme, the school has decided to put up a show on ancient art forms. Write a notice to be put up on the school notice board inviting students to watch the show and encourage the artists. Write the notice in not more than 50 words.

Q7. Answer any ONE of the two questions given below:

(3)

Your institute, Golden Care Hospital, has decided to organise an 'Organ Donation Camp' to generate awareness about the cause. Draft a Poster giving all the necessary details. (50 words).

OR

You are the marketing manager of a new fitness center opening in your city. Draft a display advertisement to attract potential members."

Q8. Answer any ONE of the two questions given below:

(5)

Laugh out loud and feel happy and fit inside out' for laughter is the best medicine. With stress mushrooming all around and among all ages, Laughter Yoga seems a great alternative way to physical and mental health. Using cues given below along with your own ideas write an article in about 150 words describing benefits of Laughter Yoga.

Improves Cardiovascular health, Boosts Immune System, Production of antibodies, Activation of immune cells, Reduces stress, No special equipment required, Cost effective

OR

Taking ideas from the given cues, together with your own ideas write an article in about 150 words on the topic: "The Future of Education: e-learning".

Teachers can evaluate and assess students' performance and prepare reports, Provide learning-by-doing

More individualistic approach, Highly Interactive, make learning a fun-filled and enriching experience, Distance learning possible, Most suitable for mass education, Parents can track children's progress

Q9. Answer any ONE of the two questions given below:

(5)

A survey reveals that most of the health issues faced by teenagers are related to excessive use of gadgets. You are concerned about this. Write a letter to the Editor of 'Navbharat Times' in 120-150 words expressing your views on the topic. Offer solutions. You are Mala/Mohan of M.G. Road, Jhansi. You may use the cues given below.

GADGETS & HEALTH PROBLEMS:

Sedentary lifestyle • Social isolation • Obesity • Emotional disorders • resources and technology

SOLUTIONS: • Disciplined use of gadgets • Follow an exercise routine • Spend family time

OR

Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily in about 150 words expressing your concern at the rise in the number of incidents of communal violence in the country. You are Govind Kelkar/ Gyatri Kelkar of 2, Apna Apartments, Mumbai.

Cues:

refer to a few recent incidents of communal disturbance/violence in the country, how it affects common people, appeal to the general public to maintain public harmony and peace

- a) Only I and II b) Only IV c) Only I and II d) Only I and IV
- v) If a student were to interpret the word 'prancing' in a real-world context, which of the following would it

SECTION - C (Literature) (31 Marks)

Q10. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow: (Do any one)
(1×3=3)

A) *Some twenty-thirty-years later
She'd laugh at the snapshot. "See Betty
And Dolly," she'd say, "and look how they
Dressed us for the beach." The sea holiday
Was her past, mine is her laughter, Both wry
With the laboured ease of loss.*

- Identify the word in the extract that means 'ironic' or 'bittersweet'
- Read the following statements and choose the correct option:
 - Betty and Dolly are the names of the mother's cousins
 - The mother finds the beach outfits amusing
 - (1) is true, but (2) is false
 - (1) is false, but (2) is true
 - Both (1) and (2) are true
 - Both (1) and (2) are false
- Fill the blank with appropriate words with reference to the extract:
The phrase "laboured ease of loss" suggests _____

OR

B) *Eternal I rise impalpable out of the land and the bottomless sea,
Upward to heaven, whence, vaguely form'd, altogether changed, and yet the same,
I descend to lave the droughts, atomies, dust-layers of the globe.*

- What does the phrase 'Poem of Earth' primarily signify?
 - The beauty of nature
 - The cycle of life and renewal
 - The destructive forces of nature
 - The permanence of human existence
- Assertion :** The rain represents a continuous cycle of life
Reason : The rain only serves to beautify the earth temporarily
 - Both the assertion and reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
 - Both the assertion and reason are true, and the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.
 - The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
 - The assertion is false, but the reason is true.
- Complete the following suitably : The phrase 'eternal rise' symbolizes _____.

Q11. Read the extracts given below and answer ANY ONE.
(1×3=3)

(A) An angry wind stirred up ghostly dust devils as King Tut was taken from his resting place in the ancient Egyptian cemetery known as the Valley of the Kings. Dark-bellied clouds had scudded across the desert sky all day and now were veiling the stars in casket grey. It was 6 p.m. on 5 January 2005. The world's most famous mummy glided head first into a CT scanner brought here to probe the lingering medical mysteries of this little understood young ruler who died more than 3,300 years ago.

- Why is King Tut described as "the last heir of a powerful family"?
 - He was the youngest pharaoh in Egyptian history
 - He was the final ruler of his dynasty
 - He had no siblings to inherit the throne
 - He was the most powerful pharaoh of ancient Egyptian
- How does the extract describe the CT scan conducted on King Tut's mummy, and what is its significance?
- Complete the following suitably: The author's description of "dark-bellied clouds" suggests a sense of _____

OR

B) When I decided to go abroad for further studies. I was sure my grandmother would be upset. I would be away for five years, and at her age one could never tell. But my grandmother could. She was not even sentimental. She came to leave me at the railway station but did not talk or show any emotion. Her lips moved in prayer, her mind was lost

in prayer. Her fingers were busy telling the beads of her rosary: Silently she kissed my forehead, and when I left I cherished the moist imprint as perhaps the last sign of physical contact between us.

- i) Why did the author expect his grandmother to be upset about his going abroad?
 - a) She was against foreign education
 - b) She feared for his safety in a foreign country
 - c) He would be away for a long time and she was very old
 - d) She didn't want him to leave the family business
- ii) Choose the option that best describes the grandmother's behaviour at the railway station.
 The grandmother's demeanor was (i) _____ her focus was on (ii) _____, and her farewell was (iii) _____. This behaviour reflected her (iv) _____.
 - a) (i) emotional; (ii) the author; (iii) tearful; (iv) weakness
 - b) (i) stoic; (ii) prayer; (iii) silent; (iv) inner strength
 - c) (i) angry; (ii) the journey; (iii) cold; (iv) disappointment
 - d) (i) cheerful; (ii) the surroundings; (iii) casual; (iv) indifference
- iii) What does the author's description of his grandmother's farewell reveal about their relationship and her character?

Q12. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow. Any one. (4)

(A) 'Do you still know me?' I asked. The woman looked at me searchingly. She had opened the door a chink. I came closer and stood on the step. 'No, I don't know you.' 'I'm Mrs S's daughter.' She held her hand on the door as though she wanted to prevent it opening any further. Her face gave absolutely no sign of recognition. She kept staring at me in silence. Perhaps I was mistaken, I thought, perhaps it isn't her. I had seen her only once, fleetingly, and that was years ago. It was most probable that I had rung the wrong bell. The woman let go of the door and stepped to the side. She was wearing my mother's green knitted cardigan. The wooden buttons were rather pale from washing. She saw that I was looking at the cardigan and half hid herself again behind the door. But I knew now that I was right.

- i) Why does the narrator ask, 'Do you still know me?'
 - a) She is testing the woman's memory
 - b) She is unsure if she's at the right address
 - c) She expects the woman to recognize her immediately
 - d) She is trying to start a conversation
- ii) Choose the option the most appropriately fills in the blanks for the following description of the given extract.
 The narrator's encounter with the woman at the door is marked by (i) _____ and (ii) _____.
 The woman's behaviour suggests (iii) _____, while the narrator experience a moment of (iv) _____ upon seeing the familiar cardigan.
 - a) (i) hostility; (ii) anger; (iii) forgetfulness; (iv) nostalgia
 - b) (i) uncertainty; (ii) tension; (iii) reluctance; (iv) recognition
 - c) (i) curiosity; (ii) warmth; (iii) hospitality; (iv) confusion
 - d) (i) fear; (ii) suspicion; (iii) aggression; (iv) disappointment
- iii) How does the woman's body language reflect her attitude towards the narrator?
- iv) Complete the following suitably:
 The narrator's initial doubt about the woman's identity suggests a sense of _____

OR

B) Aram, he said. I jumped out of bed and looked out of the window. I couldn't believe what I saw. Morning yet, but it was summer and with daybreak not many minutes around the corner of the world light enough for me to know I wasn't dreaming. My cousin Mourad was

a) Only I and II

b) Only IV

c) Only I and III ✓ d) Only II and IV

v) If a student were to interpret the word 'prancing' in a real-world context, which of the following would it

sitting on a beautiful white horse. I stuck my head out of the window and rubbed my eyes. Yes, he said in Armenian. It's a horse. Yet dreaming. Make it quick if you want to ride.

- i) Why couldn't the narrator believe what he saw?
a) He was still half-asleep
b) It was too dark to see clearly
c) His cousin Mourad was sitting on a beautiful white horse
d) He thought he was dreaming
- ii) Choose the option that best describes the narrator's state of mind when he first saw Mourad on the horse.
a) Excited and eager
b) Confused and skeptical
c) Frightened and alarmed
d) Amused and entertained
- iii) How does the author use the character of Uncle Khosrove to add humor to the story?
- iv) Complete the following suitably.
The narrator's description of the early morning scene suggests a sense of _____

Q13. Answer any two of the following questions in about 40-50 words each. (3×2=6)

- Analyze the symbolism of the sparrows in the story. What do they represent?
- What difference did you notice between the reaction of the adults and children when faced with danger?
- How does the story 'we're Not Afraid to Die' Suggest that optimism helps to endure 'the direst stress'?
- How does the author's description of Tut's burial goods reflect ancient Egyptian beliefs about the after life?

Q14. Answer any one the following questions in about 40-50 words.

(3×1=3)

- What role does Uncle Khosrove play in the story?
- Why does the narrator feel uncomfortable in Mrs. Dorling's living room?

Q15. Answer any one the following questions in about 120-150 words.

(6)

- a) Compare the themes of loss and memory in 'A Photograph' by Sherley Toulson and 'The Portrait of a lady' by Khushwant Singh. How do both pieces explore the impact of time on relationship?

OR

- b) Imagine you are Jonathan, writing a diary entry after the ordeal. Describe your experience and feelings during the crisis and how it has changed your perspective on life and family.

Q16. Answer any one the following questions in about 120-150 words.

(6)

- a) Write a letter from the narrator to her friend discussing her feelings about the visit to Mrs. Dorling's House.

OR

- b) Write an article discussing the themes of friendship and integrity in "The Summer of Beautiful House".

A-8

BUDHA DAL PUBLIC SCHOOL PATIALA
First Term Examination (18 September 2025)
Subject - ENGLISH CORE
Class XI (Set - B)

Time: 3 hrs.

M.M.80

General Instructions:

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

Section - A (Reading) (26 marks)

Q1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: (10)

1. It was in 1999 that Punukula, a tiny village in Andhra Pradesh's Khammam district successfully began experimenting with non-pesticidal management practices. The contaminated environment began to change. Soil and plant health looked revitalised, and the pests began to disappear. Restoring the ecological balance brought back the natural pest control systems. The crop yields were still higher. Punukula is not the only village to have escaped from the vicious cycle of poison. Thousands of villages in the country have clearly demonstrated that pesticides are not only harmful but also unnecessary.
2. In Bangladesh, 2,000 poor rice farmers with average farm incomes of Rs 4,000 a year have proved mainline agricultural scientists completely wrong. Gary John, senior scientist at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Manila, was completely stumped by the change they brought about in just two years. "To my surprise when people stopped spraying, yields didn't drop - and this was across 600 fields in two different districts over four seasons. I'm convinced that the vast majority of insecticides that rice farmers use are a complete waste of time and money."
3. Bangladesh rice farmers conclusively demonstrated that insecticide can be eliminated and nitrogen fertilizer applications reduced without lowering yields.
4. Some agricultural scientists have begun to realise that chemical pesticides are not necessary. The tragedy is that this recognition has come much late - only after poisoning the lands, contaminating the ground water, polluting the environment, putting millions to health risk and fatalities, and killing thousands of farmers and farm workers. The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that some 20,000 people die every year of pesticides poisoning.
5. With the advent of modern science, which began to view everything traditional as backward and sub-standard, the collective wisdom of generations of farmers was lost. The result being that while expensive and unwanted pesticides are being promoted and pushed by scientists and extension workers, farmers are looking for safe and ecological alternatives. Is it not a fact that the chemical industry, which gained commercially from the surge in widespread use, has very cleverly used agricultural scientists as its promoters?
6. The chemical industry has meanwhile moved into life sciences. It now decries pesticides and sings the virtues of the new "promising technology" genetic engineering. Pesticides are now being replaced with genetically modified crops, which perform the same functions. Agricultural scientists need to think whether they are once again being used as promoters of a technology, the negative impacts of which have not been fully studied.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below.

1. According to paragraph 1, what happened in Punukula village after switching to non-pesticidal farming?
2. How does the author use the example of Bangladesh rice farmers to challenge conventional agricultural beliefs?
3. Read and complete the following sentence suitably.
Gary John, a senior scientist, was surprised by the yield results after farmers stopped spraying insecticides.

Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence:

This reaction shows

- a) that scientific beliefs about insecticide use can be challenged by real-world results
 - b) that only rice farmers in Bangladesh could manage farming without insecticides
4. Complete the following sentence suitably with ONE concern, with reference to paragraph 4.

B-1

- The delayed recognition of pesticide harm has led to
5. Why does the author question the role of agricultural scientists in paragraph 5?
 - a) Because they have always rejected chemical farming
 - b) Because they encouraged traditional wisdom too late
 - c) Because they unknowingly supported harmful commercial agendas
 - d) Because they shifted to ecological farming too quickly
 6. Provide ONE textual evidence from paragraph 4 that highlights the fatal impact of pesticide use.
 7. In the line, "the collective wisdom of generations of farmers was lost," (paragraph 5) what does the phrase 'collective wisdom' refer to?
 8. Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph 4
 contamination : pollution :: poisoning :
 a) recognition b) risk c) fatalities d) scientists
 9. Why is it fair to say that genetically modified crops are being promoted without full understanding of their impact?
 - a) Because farmers requested GM crops for better productivity
 - b) Because traditional crops no longer grow without chemical support
 - c) Because the chemical industry no longer markets pesticides
 - d) Because their long-term effects have not been fully studied
 10. Assess two major criticisms the author makes about modern agricultural practices.

Q2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: (8)

1. INTRODUCTION

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has released a global report on road accident fatalities. The report highlights that 1.35 million people die each year due to road accidents, with a large share of victims aged between 5 and 29 years. India is one of the most affected countries, accounting for approximately 1.5 lakh road deaths annually.

2. ROAD FATALITIES AND CONTRIBUTING FACTORS IN INDIA

India's road fatality rate stands at 22.6 deaths per 1 lakh people, a figure far worse than many developed nations. Contributing factors include poor traffic discipline, driver carelessness, vehicle malfunctions, drowsy driving, and animal crossings. The country's high population and congested road conditions only worsen the scenario.

3. SHIFT IN CAR SAFETY PRIORITIES

In recent years, Indian consumers and manufacturers have started prioritising vehicle safety features over pricing and fuel efficiency. Most new cars now come with essential safety features like:

- Dual airbags (standard)
- ABS + EBD
- ISOFIX child seat mounts
- Improved structural strength

- *ABS : Anti-lock Braking System
- *EBD : Electronic Brake Force Distribution
- *ISOFIX : International Standard for attachment points for child safety seats in passenger cars

4. CHALLENGE OF ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL (ESC)

Despite the improvements, Electronic Stability Control (ESC) is still largely absent in India's budget car segment. According to WHO, 70% of cars sold globally have ESC, but 90% of cars sold in India do not. Increasing ESC adoption remains a critical challenge.

GLOBAL NCAP AND ROAD SAFETY INITIATIVES

Efforts to enhance vehicle safety in India are ongoing. Global NCAP launched the #SaferCarsForIndia project, which crash-tests popular Indian vehicles to promote safety awareness and standards. The initiative seeks to bridge the gap between Indian and international car safety benchmarks.

6. EXPERT VIEW AND CALL TO ACTION

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO, strongly emphasised the urgency of addressing road safety:

"These deaths are an unacceptable price to pay for mobility. There is no excuse for inaction. This is a problem with proven solutions. This report is a call for governments and partners to take much greater action to implement these measures."

7. SUMMARY TABLE - ROAD SAFETY INSIGHTS

INDICATOR	INDIA	GLOBAL/REFERENCE
Annual Road Deaths	~1.5 lakh	1.35 million (global total)
Death Rate per 1 Lakh People	22.6	Lower in developed nations
ESC in Cars Sold	10%	70% (worldwide)
Key Age Group Affected	529 years	529 years
Key Contributors to Road Accidents	Discipline, fatigue, poor roads	Similar globally
Safety Improvements in Indian Cars	Dual airbags, ABS+EBD, ISOFIX	Increasing globally

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below:

1. Complete the following suitably.

In the introduction, the WHO report and India statistics are presented together to highlight

2. What would the following be classified as?

To assess the current state of road accidents in India and propose targeted interventions to enhance vehicle safety.

Select the appropriate response.

- a) Scientific theory
- b) Research hypothesis
- c) Primary objective
- d) Regulatory warning

3. Give two points to show how India lags behind in car safety compared to global standards.
4. Paragraph 3 and 4 refer to safety features.

Classify the following as 'commonly available' or 'largely missing' in Indian cars.

- Dual airbags and ISOFIX mounts
- Electronic Stability Control (ESC)

5. Read the following

Ravi loses control of his budget car while turning at high speed and wishes it had a feature for better vehicle stability. Sunita, a young mother, looks for a car that ensures secure installation of a child seat. Nikhil wants a car with a braking system that improves control during emergency stops by adjusting brake force.

Select the option that best matches each person's priority.

- a) RAVI - ISOFIX; SUNIT - ABS + EBD; NIKHIL - ESC
- b) RAVI - ABS + EBD; SUNITA - ESC; NIKHIL - ISOFIX
- c) RAVI - ESC; SUNIT - ISOFIX; NIKHIL - ABS + EBD
- d) RAVI - child lock; SUNITA - seatbelt alert; NIKHIL - crash test badge

6. Although India has improved basic car safety, why do accident rates remain high?
7. Analyse how initiatives like #SaferCarsForIndia can influence vehicle safety in the country.

8. What is the most urgent message conveyed by WHO's Director - General in the report?
- Road deaths are inevitable in large and busy countries
 - Road fatalities are preventable and demand urgent action
 - ECS is not essential for low-cost passenger vehicles
 - Strict safety laws may interfere with transportation freedom

Q3. Read the passage carefully.

(8)

- Getting enough sleep is as crucial as taking time to relax. A good night's sleep is essential for brain health and helps prepare individuals for the day ahead. Most people require six to eight hours of sleep each night, although older adults may need slightly less. Stress and sleep deprivation often exacerbate each other, making it difficult to fall asleep and increasing stress levels.
 - Insufficient sleep can severely impact memory performance. To address sleep deprivation, individuals can try going to bed 30 to 60 minutes earlier and focus on relaxing to dissociate from daily stressors. If insomnia persists, seeking medical advice is recommended, as it can impair memory and recall abilities. Prolonged lack of sleep can weaken the immune system, increase accident risk, and lead to depression, reinforcing a negative outlook on life.
 - Managing stress is vital for maximizing brain power. Taking time to relax, even through deep breathing exercises, can significantly improve mood and cognitive function. The best ideas often emerge during relaxation.
 - Meditation has been practiced for thousands of years, especially in Asia, and is increasingly adopted in Western cultures for its benefits in fostering peace of mind and reducing stress. Regular meditation may enhance sleep quality and offer health benefits, particularly in protecting the brain against aging.
- a) **On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using headings and subheadings. Use recognizable abbreviations (minimum 4) and also supply a title to it.** (5)
- b) **Write a summary of the passage in not more than 80 words using the notes made.** (3)

SECTION- B (Grammar/ Writing Skills) (23 marks)

- Q4. Complete the following passage by filling in the blanks with correct options:** (4)

The youth is a dynamo, (a) _____ (a/ an/ the) ocean, an inexhaustible reservoir (b) _____ (in/ on/ of) energy. But this energy cannot be (c) _____ (hold/ held/ holding) in a person. Its basic nature is to flow, to express (d) _____ (themselves/ yourself/ itself).

- Q5. Rearrange the following words/ phrases into meaningful sentences.** (3)

- can deny it/ day by day/ and nobody/ is becoming/ water scarce
- some causes of/ man - made/ are natural/ while/ water scarcity/ others are
- can modify/ scarce/ human behaviour/ that makes/ physical environment/ useful water/ in a way

- Q6. Answer any ONE of the two questions given below:** (3)

You are Surapa/Damodar Dey of 22, Kalinga Nagani, Bhubaneswar. You want to sell your car as you plan to buy a new one. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words to be published in a local newspaper in the classified columns.

OR

You are Mr. D R Verma, Physical Education Teacher, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Kanpur. You want to select the school hockey team for the Inter-School Hockey Tournament. Write a notice in about 50 words inviting those who are interested in selection to give their names. Invent necessary details.

Q7. Answer any ONE of the two questions given below:

(3)

Your school is organising a Blood Donation Camp to promote the spirit of saving lives. Draft a poster with all relevant details. (50 words)

OR

"A popular clothing store is offering a 50% discount on all items for a limited period. Design a display advertisement to announce the sale.

Q8. Answer any ONE of the two questions given below:

(5)

Not everyone needs to go to gyms and follow rigorous exercise routines there to stay fit. Some simple everyday activities can be equally effective in building and maintaining a healthy mind and a healthy body. Use the cues given below, together your own ideas to write an article for your school magazine, in about 150 words, on the topic: "Stay Healthy and Fit with a Magical 30 Minute Routine".

In your article you should

- emphasize the importance of health and fitness
- describe the benefits of doing physical activities of different kinds
- conclude with an appeal to the readers to stay healthy by doing physical activities of their choice

OR

Given below are some do's and don'ts of Eco-tourism. Study them carefully and write an article in about 150 words on the topic: "Need of Promoting Eco-tourism".

In your article you should say what eco-tourism or responsible tourism is, give reasons why it should be promoted, suggest what tourists should and should not do, emphasise the need of partnership between tourists, government, travel companies and local communities in promoting eco-tourism

Q9. Answer any ONE of the two questions given below:

(5)

Despite being an essential component of road safety infrastructure, many people do not respect zebra crossings and fail to follow traffic rules, which results in hazardous situations on the roads. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, sharing your concern, and examining the reasons for such behaviour. Provide suggestions for spreading awareness of rules and etiquettes involved, and ways to ensure adherence. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to write this letter. You are Soma Baruah, a concerned city resident.

FOR AWARENESS: - general public/educational institutions,
how?-in person/social media

ADHERENCE: fines and penalties, revoking driving licenses,
strengthening traffic police force

OR

Write a letter to the Editor of The Real Times, Bhuvneshwar in about 150 words expressing your concern at frequent rise in the prices of petroleum products, cooking gas, fruits, vegetables and cooking oil etc. You are Shubha/ Shubhman residing in Subhadra Apartments, Bhuvneshwar.

Cues:

refer to the recent rises in prices, express your concern for the common people, seek immediate government intervention in bringing these prices under control

SECTION - C (Literature) (31 Marks)

Q10. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow: (Do any one)

- A) *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.*

(1×3=3)

B-5

- i) What does the phrase "that girl" refer to in this extract?
 a) The poet's sister
 b) The poet's mother in her youth
 c) One of the cousins in the photograph
 d) A stranger in the poet's memory
- ii) Choose the option that most appropriately fills in the blanks for the following description of the given extract.
 The poet reflects on the (i) _____ of time, realizing that his mother's (ii) _____ has now lasted as long as her (iii) _____. This realization leaves him (iv) _____, unable to articulate his emotions.
 a) (i) passage; (ii) absence; (iii) youth; (iv) speechless
 b) (i) cruelty; (ii) memory; (iii) life; (iv) angry
 c) (i) beauty; (ii) influence; (iii) career; (iv) nostalgic
 d) (i) irrelevance; (ii) photograph; (iii) marriage; (iv) confused
- iii) Which of these phrases uses the same poetic device as in the line "Its silence silences" from the extract?
 a) The wind whispers secrets
 b) Life is a rollercoaster
 c) The thunder growled in the distance
 d) Time heals all wounds

OR

*B) And all that in them without me were seeds only, latent, unborn;
 And forever, by day and night, I give back life to my own origin,
 And make pure and beautify it;
 (For song, issuing from its birth-place, after fulfillment....)*

- i) What do 'latent' seeds represent in this context?
 a) Potential for growth and renewal
 b) Destruction caused by drought
 c) The inevitability of death in nature
 d) The importance of human intervention
- ii) Complete the following suitably : The phrase 'give back life' signifies _____
- iii) In what way does this extract emphasize interdependence in nature?

Q11. Read the extracts given below and answer ANY ONE. (1×3=3)

(A) My grandmother and I were good friends. My parents left me with her when they went to live in the city, and we were constantly together. She used to wake me up in the morning and get me ready for school. She said her morning prayer in a monotonous sing-song while she bathed and dressed me in the hope that I would listen and get to know it by heart; I listened because I loved her voice-but never bothered to learn it.

- i) What does the phrase 'monotonous sing-song' suggest about the grandmother's prayers?
 a) They were joyful and lively
 b) They were repetitive and soothing
 c) They were complex and difficult
 d) They were spontaneous and varied
- ii) Complete the following suitably: The grandmother's hope that her grandson would learn the prayer by heart indicates her desire for _____.
- iii) **Assertion** : The bond between the grandmother and grandson was strengthened through daily routines.
Reason : The grandmother's prayers were a significant part of their mornings together.
 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.

OR

(B) AN angry wind stirred up ghostly dust devils as King Tut was taken from his resting place in the ancient Egyptian cemetery known as the Valley of the Kings. Dark-bellied clouds had scudded across the desert sky all day and now were veiling the stars in casket grey. It was 6 p.m. on 5 January 2005. The world's most famous mummy glided head first into a CT scanner brought here to probe the lingering medical mysteries of this little understood young ruler who died more than 3,300 years ago.

- i) Why is King Tut described as "the last heir of a powerful family"?
 - a) He was the youngest pharaoh in Egyptian history
 - b) He was the final ruler of his dynasty
 - c) He had no siblings to inherit the throne
 - d) He was the most powerful pharaoh of ancient Egyptian
- ii) How does the extract describe the CT scan conducted on King Tut's mummy, and what is its significance?
- iii) Complete the following suitably: The author's description of "dark-bellied clouds" suggests a sense of _____

Q12. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow. Any one. (4)

(A) Early the following morning we took the horse to John Byro's vineyard and put it in the barn. The dogs followed us around without making a sound. The dogs, I whispered to my cousin Mourad. I thought they would bark. They would at somebody else, he said. I have a way with dogs. My cousin Mourad put his arms around the horse, pressed his nose into the horse's nose. Patted it, and then we went away. That afternoon John Byro came to our house in his surrey and showed my mother the horse that had been stolen and returned. I do not know what to think, he said. The horse is stronger than ever. Better-tempered, too. I thank God. My uncle Khosrove, who was in the parlour, became irritated and shouted. Quiet, man quiet. Your horse has been returned. Pay no attention to it.

- i) What does Mourad's statement "I have a way with dogs" suggest about his character?
 - a) He is arrogant
 - b) He has a special connection with animals
 - c) He is lying to impress Aram
 - d) He is afraid of dogs
- ii) How does John Byro's reaction to the return of his horse reflect on the boys' treatment of the animal?
- iii) Complete the following suitably.
Uncle Khosrove's irritated response to John Byro's gratitude suggests a sense of _____.
- iv) Which of these phrases uses the same literary device as 'pressed his nose into the horse's nose'?
 - a) The wind whispered through the trees
 - b) The sun smiled upon the fields
 - c) Time marched on relentlessly
 - d) The stars winked at us from above

OR

(B) I bet you don't know it is either. I looked intently at her. What we eat with? she asked. 'Well, do you know?' She hesitated. She walked to the sideboard and wanted to open a drawer. 'I'll look. It is in here'. I jumped up. 'I was forgetting the time, I must catch my train.'

She had her hand on the drawer. 'Don't you want to wait for my mother?'

'No, I must go.' I walked to the door. The girl pulled the drawer open. 'I can find my own way.'

As I walked down the passage I heard the jingling of spoons and forks.

- i) Why did the narrator suddenly decide to leave?
 - a) She actually had a train to catch
 - b) She felt uncomfortable about the situation
 - c) She was angry with the girl
 - d) She remembered an important appointment

- ii) Choose the option that most appropriately fills in the blanks for the following description of the given extract.
The interaction between the narrator and the girl is characterized by (i) _____ and (ii) _____. The narrator's abrupt departure suggests (iii) _____, while the sound of jingling cutlery indicates (iv) _____.
- a) (i) curiosity; (ii) friendliness; (iii) rudeness; (iv) carelessness
b) (i) tension; (ii) hesitation; (iii) discomfort; (iv) confirmation
c) (i) excitement; (ii) enthusiasm; (iii) forgetfulness; (iv) celebration
d) (i) hostility; (ii) suspicion; (iii) fear; (iv) theft
- iii) How does the narrator's question about the cutlery reflect her feelings about the situation?
- iv) State a reason for the following : The narrator says she can find her own way out.

Q13. Answer any two of the following questions in about 40-50 words each. (3×2=6)

- a) How did the author perceive his grandmother upon returning after five years?
b) What lesson can be drawn from the Cook family's experience at sea?
c) Why was Howard Carter's investigation resented by some?
d) Analyse the role of technological advancements like CT scans in uncovering mysteries about King Tut's life and death?

Q14. Answer any one the following questions in about 40-50 words. (3×1=3)

- a) Discuss the emotional impact of revisiting familiar places for the narrator. (The Address)
b) How does Aram's perspective on theft evolve throughout the story?

Q15. Answer any one the following questions in about 120-150 words. (6)

- a) Discuss how "The Voice of the Rain" by Walt Whitman and "We're Not Afraid to Die If We Can All Be Together" by Gordon Cook explore humanity's relationship with nature. How do they differ in their approach.

OR

- b) You are a modern day archaeologist. Write a letter to Howard Carter explaining how archaeological practices have changed since his time and how would you approach the excavation of King Tut's tomb differently today.

Q16. Answer any one the following questions in about 120-150 words. (6)

- a) Write a diary entry by Mourad reflecting on his experience with the horse and his bond with Aram.

OR

- b) How does "The Address" explore the complex relationship between memory, objects and human connection in the aftermath of war?