

BUDHA DAL PUBLIC SCHOOL, PATIALA
First Term Examination (12 September 2025)
Subject - ENGLISH CORE (301)
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. Like the Internet, Global Positioning System (GPS) has military origins, though now it is extensively used in civilian applications. If you are lost in Delhi, (and who doesn't need a bit of help in the nation's Capital?) you just have to seek assistance from your latest mobile phone and you will find out not only where you are but also how to get to your destination!
2. The system that allows you to do so originated in the USA. It was planned as means of satellite navigation for military purposes. Such navigation would enable unheard-of precision in delivering weapons like smart bombs to targets. It would also help in tackling the problem of troops that get lost and don't know their location during war.
3. Thus, satellite navigation is a force multiplier that gives distinct advantages to those who use it. Since it was developed by the US military, they did not want to share it with anyone else. In time, civilians were allowed to use GPS but the system has a feature called "selective availability" through which if the US military wants it can introduce errors in the publicly available navigation signals while allowing selected military receivers to get accurate information. This feature is currently disabled.
4. While many countries have tried to set up GPS systems, the only fully functional and available global navigation satellite system belongs to the USA which has put up a constellation of 27 Earth-orbiting satellites (24 in operation and three extras in case one fails) in six different orbital planes.
5. Each of these 3,000 to 4,000-pound solar-powered satellites circles the globe at about 12,000 miles (19,300 km), making two complete rotations every day. The orbits are panned such that at any time, anywhere on the Earth, there are at least four satellites "visible" in the sky. A GPS receiver's job is to locate four or more of these satellites, figure out the distance to each and use this information to deduce its own location. This operation is based on the mathematical principle of trilateration. Basically, your GPS receiver draws a sphere around each of three satellites it can locate. These three spheres intersect in two points - one is in space and other is on the ground. The point on the ground at which the three spheres intersect is your location.
6. As you can imagine, other nations have tried to put similar systems. Russia's competing system GLONASS is the most complete one, but it is not widely used. The European Union's Galileo positioning system is in a stage of initial deployment. Recently, India and China have announced widening of their own navigational systems; however, as of now, most of the world depends on the US system.
7. With ever-decreasing cost and increasing portability of GPS devices, the system has found widespread civilian use, not just as an aid to navigation, but also for making maps, surveying land, and as we noted before, even helping drivers get to their destination. We must remember, however, that a GPS receiver has to have a clear line of sight to the satellite to operate, so dense tree cover and buildings can keep it from getting a fix on your location.
8. We have seen how a system evolves far more than the limited purposes that start its development. With the opening up of GPS, millions are finding uses far beyond what the system was originally intended for. What was designed to make smart bombs more accurate is today being used to make sure that children can find their way home. That's human ingenuity!

Answer the following questions based on the passage above.

1. According to the paragraph 1, how has GPS evolved from its original purpose? (1)
2. How does the author use the phrase "force multiplier" in paragraph 3 to describe the significance of GPS? (1)
3. Read and complete the following sentence suitably. (1)
The phrase "smart bombs" in paragraph 2 is used in the context of military weapons guided by GPS.
Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence.
This phrase suggests that such weapons are designed to

A-1

a) Follow a traditional combat path without satellite help
 b) Be delivered with precise accuracy to specific targets

4. Complete the following sentence suitably with ONE reason, based on paragraph 5. (1)
 One reason GPS receivers need at least four satellites to determine location is that

5. Why is GPS not always reliable in dense forests or cities, according to paragraph 7? (1)
 a) Because GPS systems are outdated
 b) Because receivers do not work at night
 c) Because satellites avoid urban regions
 d) Because buildings and trees can block the signal

6. Provide ONE textual evidence that explains how the US military can control the accuracy of GPS signals. (1)

7. In the line, "We have seen how a system evolves far more than the limited purposes that start its development," what does the phrase "evolves far more" suggest about the nature of technological innovation? (2)

8. Complete the analogy using ONE word from paragraph 2. (1)
 Satellite : precision :: GPS :
 a) war b) weapons c) troops d) navigation

9. Why is it fair to say the GPS technology has created both dependency and innovation? (1)
 a) Because people use it often without understanding its features.
 b) Because some countries avoid using US-based satellite systems.
 c) Because it helps during travel but fails in all urban locations.
 d) Because it led to new tools and made users dependent on digital navigation.

10. Assess how GPS technology has evolved to address civilian challenges and offer long-term benefits beyond its military origins. (2)

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

(10)

1. Is shopping good for health or is it a disease we must call deadly? According to an article in an American journal, shopping as a therapy has been successfully tried on women suffering from depression. After shopping, the pulse-rate and blood pressure of women become normal, as it boosts their ego and creates adrenaline essential for feel-good sensations.
2. The study was based on the survey of women of prosperous families in the USA and cannot be applied to Indian women. Nothing was said about women who feel depressed after spending their money. Researchers in the USA believe that after a woman is depressed for want of activity, she should be sent out to buy things. This will 'tune her in' and make her feel normal.
3. They describe shopping as a 'tool for survival', an essential pre-requisite for mental health. The more they stress out, the better they feel. In India, the average middle class woman has to be content with window shopping since her purchasing power is limited and this only creates self-pity.
4. The advocates of 'shopping therapy' give a variety of reasons to support their view. Accordingly, when a woman freaks out while shopping, she feels free from restrictions. This is as good as any other muscle-relaxing exercise. It increases and preserves in her body chemistry, a hormone good for her emotional well-being.
5. Psychiatrists who believe shopping to be a 'healing plant' for mental disorders quote examples of patients thus totally cured. They advise the husbands to take their wives to department stores and let them buy the things they desire.
6. As opposed to this school of thought, many believe shopping is a deadly disease to which cash-rich women of the metros are more prone. The so-called discount sales lay a trap but television commercials and the status symbol of internet shopping are more alluring and inviting.
7. There is no dearth of women who dash off to Hong Kong, China and Singapore for their shopping bonanzas. They keep abreast of the latest happening places of shopping paradises in London, Paris and New York.
8. This addiction is not easily curable. Around 2 million people in UK and 15 million in the USA are afflicted by this addiction. Psychologists describe them as 'oniomaniacs'. They spend fortunes to indulge their whims and then land in debts. Many are recorded to have had strokes.
9. Compulsive shoppers treat the shopping mall as a religious place and talk about their 'pilgrimage' with great gusto. Gushing over their bargaining capabilities, they parade their purchases before their neighbours and feel satisfied.

- Are they really satisfied? Perhaps not, because when their friends have left and gone, they (once again) feel depressed and abandoned. It is at such moments that they have fits of remorse and fear of the future. Some patients may indulge in shouting, shrieking, crying and vandalism.
- This is wrong to believe that if you are a great shopper you will be taken to be a great person or you social status will rise. If it boosts your ego for a while, it is certainly not worth the amount that you pay for it. It may also result in a strained relationship between you and your well-wishers.
- Even though it is an addiction, you can easily de-addict yourself by making your shopping need oriented. A way out of the malaise is to develop an attitude in which there is no place for a rat-race upmarket shopping plazas.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- According to the paragraph 1, how does shopping affect the mental state of some women? (1)
- How does the author use the metaphor of "healing plant" in paragraph 5 to describe shopping? (1)
- Complete the following sentence suitably with ONE key reason, based on paragraph 4. (1)
According to supporters of shopping therapy, one reason shopping helps emotional well-being is that
- Why does the author mention women flying to places like Hong Kong, China or Singapore for shopping? (1)
- a) To show that international shopping is cheaper
b) To show the extent of the shopping craze among affluent women
c) To suggest shopping abroad helps cure depression
d) To encourage foreign tourism for shopping
- Provide ONE textual evidence from paragraph 8 that supports the idea that compulsive shopping leads to serious consequences. (1)
- In the line, "Compulsive shoppers treat the shopping mall as a religious place," what does the phrase "religious place" suggest and why is it important. (2)
- Why is it fair to say that compulsive shopping can be emotionally harmful despite momentary satisfaction? (1)
a) Because shoppers end up owning too many clothes
b) Because it ruins family vacations
c) Because shoppers feel empty, anxious or depressed after the thrill wears off
d) Because shopping is not a valid hobby
- Mention solutions proposed by the author to help people overcome compulsive shopping. (2)

SECTION– B (Writing Skills) (18 marks)

Q3. Attempt any one of the two in about 50 words: (4)

A) You are Shelly Saluja, a student of Rose Valley School, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Your school is organizing a short story competition on 'Man and Nature' for students of Class X – XII. The five best entries will be selected for publication in the monthly newsletter. Draft a notice in about 50 words informing students about the competition and urging them to submit their entries by 8 Oct 2025. You can invent the other necessary details.

OR

B) You are Simran Kaur/ Sameer Kumar, Head Girl/ Head Boy of Sunrise Public School, Amritsar. The school is running an eco-friendly initiative under the "Green Campus Campaign." Draft a notice appealing to all students to avoid single-use plastic on campus and to carry reusable water bottles and lunch boxes. Include other relevant details and maintain a formal tone. Put the notice in a box.

Q4. Attempt any one of the two in about 50 words: (4)

A) Your school is organizing a debate competition for over 10 schools on 30th October, 2025. The topic is related to women empowerment. You wish to invite Mrs. Sita, a noted activist in this field. Draft an invitation in about 50 words inviting her to judge the event. You are Secretary, Cultural Club, R.K Public School, Ajmer.

OR

B) You are Dr. Sen and have been invited by the Director, Health Services, Uttar Pradesh, to be the keynote speaker at a workshop on Child Care in Civil Hospital, Agra. Draft a formal letter of acceptance in 50 words. Mention day, date, time and venue.

Q5. Attempt Any One of the two in 120-150 words.

(5)

A) You are Netra Samson and have completed your undergraduate studies in Art and Design. You saw the given advertisement on the job portal of a publishing house and wish to apply for the open position. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the Human Resources Manager at Enigma Publications, along with your bio-data, expressing your interest in the advertised post.

WANTED Graphic Designer

Enigma Publications is looking for a graphic designer for its monthly newsletter. Experience: 0 – 2 years Qualifications: An undergraduate/postgraduate specialization in Digital Art, Design or Illustrations with proficiency in photo editing software.

If you are interested in the position, send your CV along with a letter of interest to the Human Resources Manager at Enigma Publications, Thane, Mumbai - 40080

OR

B) You are Animesh/Anisha, a resident of Ambernath, Mompur. While walking you see a lot of construction debris dumped on the roadside claiming the footpaths and creating garbage dumps. As you are a concerned citizen, you decide to write a letter to the editor of a national daily, sharing your concern for the insensitive attitude of builders dumping their construction debris on roadsides endangering peoples' health and barring paths for walking.

Q6. Attempt Any One of the two in 120-150 words.

(5)

A) Inflation has become a critical economic challenge affecting the daily lives of people across all social strata, particularly impacting the common man's ability to afford basic necessities and essential commodities. Write an article in 120-150 words for your school magazine on the impact of inflation on society. You are Divya/Gopal.

OR

B) Your school has organized a seminar on cyber-bullying and online safety. It was attended by counselors and students from ten different schools. As student reporter, write a report in about 120-150 words to be published in the school weekly. You are Rajesh/Rishi.

SECTION – C (Literature) (40 Marks)

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

(6)

*A) Those who prepare green wars, wars with gas, wars with fire,
victory with no survivors, would put on clean clothes
and walk about with their brothers in the shade, doing nothing.
what I want should not be confused with total inactivity.*

- i) Which of these uses the same poetic device as used in the third line of the extract?
a) The boy ran at lightning speed b) The title joys of life are necessary
c) The absence of his presence was felt d) The hooter buzzed when the shooter shot
- ii) From the extract, identify the line or phrase that suggests the following:
Humans are involved in the exploitation of natural resources.
- iii) Based on the extract, which of these best describes the poet?
1) Prudent 2) Spiritual 3) Visionary 4) Methodical
a) (i) and (ii) b) (i) and (iii) c) (ii) and (iv) d) (ii), (iii) and (iv)
- iv) Complete the sentence appropriately
When the poet says that people who participate in wars 'would put on clean clothes' he means that they should _____.
- v) Based on the extract, select the correct option with reference to (1) and (2).
1) Not every win is a triumph 2) Self reflection is crucial to evolution
a) (1) is the result of (2) b) Both (1) and (2) are true
c) Both (1) and (2) are false d) (1) is hypothesis based on (2)
- vi) Which of these is an appropriate title for the extract?
a) Standing in Solitude b) Looking for Prosperity
c) The desire for Renewal d) The Road to Uncertainty

OR

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) What is the attitude of the speaker towards Aunt Jennifer?
a) Empathy b) Wonder c) Sympathy d) Gratitude

ii) Why does Adrienne Rich refer to Aunt Jennifer as only 'Aunt' in the last stanza?
a) She becomes representative of women who suffer male oppression
b) She quietly accepts her slavery
c) She has lost her identity
d) None of the above

iii) What are the 'ordeals' Aunt Jennifer is surrounded by?
a) The responsibility towards family
b) The constraints of her married life
c) The unhappy story of her life and the hardships in the patriarchal society
d) All of the above

iv) What is the poetic devices used in the line – "Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by" ?
I) Simile II) Metaphor III) Alliteration IV) Personification

Options:
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 best represent?
a) An employee working under the pressure of deadlines.
b) A soldier standing firm and ready for battle at the frontier.
c) A child playing freely in a park, unburdened by responsibilities.
d) A bird trapped in a cage, longing to be free and fly high.

vi) Which of the following best explains a symbolism that has been used in the poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers'?
a) Aunt Jennifer's hands representing confidence
b) Tigers representing strength and freedom
c) Men beneath the trees representing humanity
d) The wedding band representing strength and chivalry

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

(6)

(A) Poor man! It was in honour of this last lesson that he had put on his fine Sunday clothes, and now I understood why the old men of the village were sitting there in the back of the room. It was because they were sorry, too, that they had not gone to school more. It was their way of thinking our master for his forty years of faithful service and of showing their respect for the country that was theirs no more.

i) Why does the narrator refer to M. Hamel as 'Poor man'?
a) He emphasizes with M. Hamel as he had to leave the village.
b) He believes that M. Hamel's "fine Sunday clothes" clearly reflected that he was not rich.
c) He feels sorry for M. Hamel as it was his last French lesson.
d) He feels sorry for M. Hamel's patriotism and sense of duty resulted in his poverty.

ii) Which of the following idioms might describe the villagers' act of attending the last lesson most accurately?
a) 'Too good to miss' b) 'Too little too late'
c) 'Too many cooks spoil the broth' d) 'Too cool for school'

iii) Choose the option that might raise a question about M. Hamel's "faithful service".
a) When Franz came late, M. Hamel told him that he was about to begin class without him.
b) Franz mentioned how cranky M. Hamel was and his 'great ruler rapping on the table'.

c) M. Hamel often sent students to water his flowers, and gave a holiday when he wanted to go fishing.
 d) M. Hamel permitted villagers put their children 'to work on a farm or at the mills' for some extra money.

iv) Select the option that shows the correct relationship between (1) and (2).
 1) M. Hamel says, "Go to you place quickly, little Franz. We were beginning without you."
 2) M. Hamel has given up all hope of motivating Franz to be better.

Options:
 a) (1) is the result of (2) b) (1) is the cause of (2)
 c) (1) is true but (2) is false d) (1) and (2) are independent events

v) How and why was M. Hamel dressed differently that day?
 vi) State TRUE or FALSE:
 The villagers attended the last lesson by M. Hamel in honour of his long service to Alsace.

OR

(B) "The rattrap is a Christmas present from a rat who would have been caught in this world's rattrap if he had not been raised to captain, because in that way he got poor to clear himself.
 "Written with friendship and high regard,
 "Captain von Stahle."

i) How does the peddler's signature as "Captain von Stable" reflect his transformation?
 ii) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank
 The peddler's gift to the rattrap symbolizes his _____ (gratitude/cynicism) towards life.

iii) Complete the following suitably.
 The phrase "raised to captain" refers to the way Edla's kindness _____.
 iv) What does the peddler mean by saying he "got power to clear himself"?

v) The peddler's use of the word "rat" to describe himself suggests
 a) Self-deprecation
 b) Continued identification with vermin
 c) A playful reference to his past
 d) Anger at society

vi) The overall tone of the letter can be described as:
 a) Bitter and resentful
 b) Grateful and transformed
 c) Confused and uncertain
 d) Formal and distant

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

(4)

(A) To make sure, I walked over to a newsboy and glanced at the stack of papers at his feet. It was the World; and The World hasn't published for years. The lead story said something about President Cleveland. I found that front page since, in the Public Library files, and it was printed June 11, 1894. I turned towards the ticket window knowing that here-on the third level at Grand Central-I could buy tickets that would take Louisa and me anywhere in the United States we wanted to go.

i) Why does the narrator resort to wishful day-dreaming and want to travel back in time?
 ii) The year 1894 holds so much importance because _____.
 iii) The World, the news about President Cleveland what do they hint at?
 a) The narrator used to like reading the newspaper.
 b) The narrator fantasies about past events.
 c) The narrator wants to escape to a world that was unaffected by the two World Wars.
 d) The narrator tends to forget things.
 iv) Give one reason why the writing style of the extract can be called autobiographical.

OR

(B) Climate change is one of the most hotly contested environment debates of our time. Will the West Antarctic ice sheet melt entirely? Will the Gulf Stream ocean current be disrupted? Will it be the end of the world as we know it? Maybe. Maybe not. Either way, Antarctica is a crucial element in this debate –

not just because it's the only place in the world, which has never sustained a human population and therefore remains relatively 'pristine' in the respect; but more importantly, because it holds in its ice-cores half-million-year-old carbon records trapped in its layers of ice.

- i) How does the absence of a human population in Antarctica make it significant in the climate change debate?
- ii) Why is "climate change" described as a "hotly contested" issue in the extract provided?
This is so, because there _____.
 - a) is universal agreement on the causes and implications of climate change
 - b) is a planned path ahead about how to address climate change
 - c) are differing views on the causes and implications of climate change
 - d) are minimal reports of fresh threats to climate change
- iii) The analogy of a time machine is an appropriate analogy for the role of carbon records in the study of climate change because _____.
iv) Give one reason why the writing style of the extract can be called factual and informative.

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

- a) What can be inferred from Rajendra Prasad's recorded upshot of the lawyer consultations, at Motihari?
- b) Douglas uses sensory details to create a vivid image of the unfortunate experience in the pool. What might be the impact on the reader if the narration were more informative than sensory?
- c) How might the message of the poem, 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' be different, if the last four lines were omitted?
- d) What does the story of Subbu's success in the film industry reveal about the importance of loyalty, creativity and versatility in this field?
- e) What does the reference to fishermen, not harming whales and the man gathering salt looking at his hurt hands signify in the poem? (Keeping Quiet)
- f) The people left in 'utter bafflement' after the English poet's speech.

Mention two things the speaker could have kept in mind before addressing an audience to avoid such a reaction.

Q11. Answer any two the following questions in about 40-50 words. $(2 \times 2 = 4)$

- a) "Stupid Yumi," she muttered fiercely. "Is this anything but a man? And a wounded helpless man!" In the conviction of her own superiority she bent impulsively and untied the knotted rugs that kept the white man covered.
Explain the superiority Hana is convinced about.
- b) What confusion does the Dewan have when the Tiger King broaches the topic of his marriage? (The Tiger King)
- c) 'And for humans, the prognosis is not good'. What is in store for the humans as per the given statement?

Q12. Answer any one the following questions in about 120-150 words. $(1 \times 5 = 5)$

- a) Where the peasants are so crushed and fear-stricken, law courts are useless. The real relief for them is to free from fear (Indigo)
The people of Firozabad (Lost Spring) middlemen, politicians etc. These exploiters don't allow them to take any initiative. You agree that fear is the worst deterrent factor in one's life.
As a motivational speaker, give a speech advising students how to overcome fear and be successful
Use material from the two texts to support your views.
You may begin like this.
Dear Students,
The emotion of fear will always interfere and interrupt your path to success....

OR

b) Suppose your training is over and you have become a confident swimmer. As William Douglas, write a letter of thanks to your instructor thanking him for building a swimmer out of you. Also mention the swims that you have undertaken after the training.

Q13. Answer any one the following questions in about 120-150 words. (1×5=5)

a) Suppose you are one of the student who went on an expedition to Antarctica as part of the 'Students on Ice' programme. Write a dairy entry describing your experience there.

OR

b) How does "The Third Level" explore the theme of escapism and what does it suggest about human nature?