

BUDHA DAL PUBLIC SCHOOL, PATIALA
First Term Examination (12 September 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)

1. Hershey's Centre for Health and Nutrition announced the publication of a study that shows resveratrol, a potent antioxidant and red wine compound (that protects the liver from fat accumulation caused by excessive drinking) is also found in cocoa and dark chocolate products. In the September 24 edition of the Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry, scientists report that cocoa powder, baking chocolate and dark chocolate all have significant levels of resveratrol, a naturally occurring antioxidant.
2. "This study shows that the levels of resveratrol found in cocoa and chocolate products is second to red wine among known sources of resveratrol and forms yet another important link between the antioxidants found in cocoa and dark chocolate to other foods," says David Stuart, PhD, Director of Natural Product Science at The Hershey Company who partnered with Planta Analytica to conduct this study. These once-mutated antioxidants are now gaining overdue scientific attention.
3. In the study, top selling retail products from six categories were tested for the level of resveratrol and its sister compound, piceid. The six product categories included cocoa powder, baking chocolate, dark chocolate, semi-sweet baking chips, milk chocolate and chocolate syrup. Gram for gram, cocoa powder had the highest average amount of resveratrol and piceid, followed by baking chocolates dark chocolates, semi-sweet chips, milk chocolate and then chocolate syrup. In the products studied, the level of piceid was 3 to 6 times the level of resveratrol.
4. When the cocoa and chocolate levels were compared to published values for a serving of red wine, roasted peanuts and peanut butter, resveratrol levels of cocoa powders, baking chocolates and dark chocolate all exceeded the levels for roasted peanuts and peanut butter per serving but were less than California red wine.
5. "Resveratrol gained widespread attention in the early 1990s when it was identified in relatively high amounts in red wine, which is associated with the French Paradox," says Debra Miller, PhD, Director of Nutrition for The Hershey Company. "Despite eating a diet equally high in saturated fat as the typical American diet, the French were shown to have about one-third the level of cardiovascular disease. Continued research indicates that moderate consumption of red wine, along with fruits, vegetables, nuts and lower amounts of red meat, may contribute to this lower risk of heart disease."
6. According to a review article published in Nutrition Reviews, resveratrol, a naturally occurring antioxidant, was shown to improve insulin sensitivity, regulate blood cholesterol levels, prevent heart disease and Alzheimer's disease, and check the spread of some cancers. Further, the article states, studies in mice indicate that diets high in resveratrol were associated with increased longevity.
7. "Cocoa is a highly complex natural food which contains in excess of seven hundred naturally occurring compounds, with many more yet to be discovered," explains Jeff Hurst, the lead chemist on the project. "For years, flavanols, a different class of compounds in chocolate received most of the attention, but these are quite different than resveratrol. It is exciting to see additional antioxidants identified in cocoa and chocolate."
8. The results of the survey show that cocoa powder, baking chocolate and dark chocolate contain on average 14.1 to 18.5 micrograms of resveratrol per serving while the level found in the average California red wine is 832 micrograms per glass. Roasted peanuts have an average of 1.5 micrograms and peanut butter 13.6 micrograms of resveratrol per serving, demonstrating that cocoa and dark chocolates are meaningful sources of resveratrol in the US diet.

Answer the following questions based on the passage above.

1. According to the paragraph 1, what effect does resveratrol have on the liver when present in cocoa and dark chocolate?

(1)

2. How does the author use the phrase "once-muted antioxidants" in paragraph 2 to convey the significance of cocoa's resveratrol? (1)
3. Read and complete the following sentence suitably. (1)
The line, "gram for gram, cocoa powder had the highest average amount of resveratrol and piceid," in paragraph 3 helps readers compare product values.
Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence.
This shows that cocoa powder _____
a) has lower antioxidant levels than milk chocolate or syrup
b) offers more antioxidants than other tested products per unit of weight
4. Complete the following suitably with ONE advantage with reference to paragraph 3. (1)
Cocoa powder stands out among chocolate products because
5. Why does the writer compare the resveratrol content in cocoa products with roasted peanuts and peanut butter in paragraph 4? (1)
a) To prove chocolate is the least healthy option
b) To recommend eating more peanut butter
c) To argue for the use of chocolate in baking only
d) To highlight cocoa's antioxidant strength over everyday foods
6. Provide ONE textual evidence from paragraph 6 to support the claim that resveratrol may contribute to overall well-being. (1)
7. In the line, "Resveratrol gained widespread attention in early 1990s.... which is associated with French Paradox," what does the phrase 'the French Paradox' suggest? (2)
8. Complete the analogy using ONE word from paragraph 3. (1)
grapes : wine :: cocoa :
a) piceid b) resveratrol c) dark chocolate d) chips
9. Why is it fair to say that the phrase "Cocoa is a highly complex natural food which contains in excess of seven hundred naturally occurring compounds" reflects cocoa's growing scientific appeal? (1)
a) Because it proves cocoa is more nutritious than most fruits and vegetables.
b) Because its wide variety of compounds offers potential for future health discoveries.
c) Because cocoa has been fully studied and its composition is now well known.
d) Because cocoa is the only natural food with antioxidant properties.
10. Assess how the findings of the study highlight both the promise and the limitation of cocoa products as a source of resveratrol. (2)

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

(10)

1. The 2025 World Drug Report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimates that around 39 million people globally suffer from drug use disorders requiring treatment and support services. The number of opioid users worldwide has now risen to over 60 million, a 60 per cent increase over previous global estimates from the last decade. Opioids remain the deadliest category of drugs, accounting for nearly two-thirds of all drug-related deaths with an estimated 650,000 people having died due to drug use in 2023.
2. Among these, injection drug use continues to be a critical health issue. In 2023, nearly 12 million people injected drugs, of whom 1.5 million are estimated to be living with HIV and more than 6.2 million with hepatitis C, reflecting a persistent intersection between drug abuse and communicable disease risk.
3. UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly stated that the findings of the 2025 report offer deeper insight into the complexity of global drug trends. She reiterated the need for coordinated international responses, balancing public health priorities with fair criminal justice interventions to address both the supply and demand sides of the problem.
4. In 2023, an estimated 290 million people - roughly 5.6 per cent of the global population aged 15-64-had used drugs in the previous year. Although this percentage appears stable compared to 2022, a broader view reveals that global drug use has risen by nearly 33 per cent since 2010. This increase is partly attributed to overall population growth, particularly in the 15-64 age group.
5. The illicit production of cocaine has also reached new record levels with the global manufacture estimated at 2,150 tons in 2023 an increase of 8 per cent over the previous year. Global cocaine seizures rose to 1,390 tons the highest quantity ever recorded.
6. Synthetic opioids remain a growing concern. While fentanyl and its analogues are still the primary drivers of the opioid crisis in North America, West and Central Africa along with parts of the Middle East are witnessing widespread misuse of tramadol. Global tramadol seizures which were less than 10 kilograms in 2010 crossed 150 tons by 2023 raising alarms among health and enforcement authorities.

7. Cannabis remains the most widely used drug worldwide, with an estimated 200 million users in 2023. Despite its growing legalisation in some regions, concerns over its increased potency and accessibility continue to feature in global health discussions.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

1. Complete the following suitably. (1)
The case study opens by highlighting that millions of people suffer from drug use disorders and need
2. What would the following be classified as? (1)
The global number of people with drug use disorders increased to 39 millions in 2025, with opioids causing nearly 650,000 deaths.
Select the appropriate response.
a) Comparative projection b) Public health concern
c) Legislative outcome d) Scientific forecast
3. Give two points to support why injection drug use is a serious health issue. (2)
4. Paragraph 2 includes the phrases 'critical health issue' and 'communicable disease risk'. (1)
Classify the following sentences as either 'critical health issue' or 'communicable disease risk'.
SENTENCE 1 : Injecting drug use has contributed to the spread of HIV and hepatitis C in many regions.
SENTENCE 2 : Drug overdoses have become one of the leading causes of premature death worldwide.
5. Read the following: (1)
Armaan reports rising tramadol seizures in West Africa. Shanaya tracks global drug trends for UNODC. Leena works at a rehabilitation centre for injection drug users.
Select the option that correctly identifies their roles.
a) ARMAAN – Health specialist; SHANAYA – Enforcer; LEENA – Policy expert
b) ARMAAN – Inspector; SHANAYA – Campaigner; LEENA – NGO staff
c) ARMAAN – Regional monitor; SHANAYA – Data analyst; LEENA – Health worker
d) ARMAAN – Researcher; SHANAYA – Pharmacist; LEENA – Lawyer
6. Although global cocaine seizures increased in 2023, why does this not confirm successful drug control? (1)
7. Analyse how synthetic opioids have created different regional challenges. (2)
8. Which of the following best explains why drug use persists despite global enforcement? (1)
a) Drug awareness programmes have replaced traditional enforcement methods.
b) Enforcement struggles due to limited technology at international borders.
c) Record drug production and varied regional drug crises weaken enforcement efforts.
d) Most drug use occurs only in limited parts of the developing world

SECTION– B (Writing Skills) (18 marks)

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

(4)

- A) As the captain of the swimming team of Bridge Public School, Uttarakhand, draft a notice in not more than 50 words informing students about a workshop on 'Swimming as Exercise' which includes a talk by a national record holder. You are Shaily Pallar.

OR

- B) You are Pushpak/ Pooja. As Secretary of the Social Service League of your school you have organized a cultural benefit show in aid of mentally handicapped children of your town, Vijaywada. Write notice in not more than 50 words for your school notice board, giving necessary information about the programme.

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

(4)

- A) You are Aditya Kumar, a renowned singer. You have received an invitation from the Principal of Shining Light Public School to judge their Inter School Talent Search Competition which is to be held on 2nd April, 2025 in the school auditorium from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Write a reply in about 50 words declining the offer, giving a valid reason.

OR

- B) Ministry of Travel and Tourism is organizing a week long National Festival of Classical Dances of India. On behalf of the Union Minister of Travel and Tourism, prepare a formal invitation card inviting the general public to attend the festival. Invent the necessary details about Chief Guest, date, timings and venue of the festival and R.S.V.P.

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

(5)

- A) You are Sudha, resident of A-7, Shanti Park, Delhi. You read the following advertisement in The Hindustan Times on 4 September 2025. Draft an application for job in response to the advertisement, giving your detailed resume.

Situation Vacant

Wanted a young and experienced graduate with fluency in English and Hindi to work as receptionist at Customer Care booths of NCR Groups of Hotels, Delhi. Contact Manager along with your complete CV within 7 days of his advertisement.

OR

- B) Though the number of children who are educated is increasing, they have poor communication skills. This is a matter of great concern. Write a letter to 120 to 150 words to the editor of a national daily expressing your concerns on the matter and suggesting ways of improving the reading habits of children. You are Jayant/Jayanti.

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

(5)

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

OR

- B) You are Vinay/Vijaya, the staff reporter of the Times of India. You are sent to cover the flood-hit areas of Punjab. Write a report in about 120-150 words to be published in the newspaper.

SECTION - C (Literature) (40 Marks)

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

(6)

A) *Yes, in spite of all,
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
From our dark, spirits
Such the sun, the moon
Trees old, and young, sprouting a shady boon
For simple sheep; and such are daffodils
With the green world they live in;*

- i) Complete the following sentence appropriately:
Tree, young and old, provide a ____.
- ii) Explain - 'in spite of all' in reference to the above lines.
- iii) 'Simple sheep' can also be a reference to which one of these?
a) Harmless creatures b) animals of prey c) human beings d) animals simple as sheep
- iv) What moves away the pall from our lives?
a) Strong bonds b) noble nature c) grandeur of the dooms d) some shape of beauty
- v) Assertion: Beauty is like a shady tree under which all creatures can sleep peacefully.

Reason : Beauty has a soothing effect on every spirit.

- a) Both Assertion and Reason are true and Reason is correct explanation of Assertion
b) Both Assertion and Reason are true but Reason is not the correct explanation of Assertion.
c) Assertion is true, Reason is false.
d) Assertion is false, Reason is true.
- vi) A, thing of beauty NOT mentioned in John Keat's poem is
a) the sun b) the moon c) vegetation d) mountains

OR

B) *I looked again at her, wan, pale as a later winter's moon
And felt that old familiar ache, my childhood's fear
but all I said was, see you soon, Amma,
all I did was smile and smile and smile...*

- i) Pick the statement which uses the same literary device as the following line:
I looked again at her, wan, pale as a late winter's moon
 - a) As soon as I saw the thief, I grabbed him by the collar and punched him in the face.
 - b) There was no way you can get an ice-cream now as there are no shops open at this hour.
 - c) You will have to send the email as early as possible
 - d) This playground is as big as the one we have in our town.
- ii) What is the poet trying to do in the last line of the extract?
 - a) Soothing her mother's fear about old age
 - b) Hiding her own fear about her mother growing old
 - c) Forgetting about her guilt about leaving her mother alone
 - d) Remembering her mother's image before she passes away
- iii) From this poem, it is evident that the poet has an attitude of
 - a) Nonchalance b) Apathy c) empathy d) Bewilderment
- iv) Assertion : The childhood fear of death and decay is troubling the poet now.

Reason : The poet often felt a nostalgic sense of separation from her mother.

- a) Both Assertion and Reason are true and Reason is correct explanation of Assertion
- b) Both Assertion and Reason are true but Reason is not the correct explanation of Assertion.
- c) Assertion is true, Reason is false.
- d) Assertion is false, Reason is true.
- v) What could be the reason for the poet not having shared her thoughts with her mother?
- vi) Complete the following sentence :
The poet's parting words suggests her assurance that _____.

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

- (A) Saheb-e Alam, "he announces. He does not know what it means. If he knew its meaning – lord of the universe – he would have a hard time believing it. Unaware of what his name represents, he roams the streets with his friends, an army of barefoot boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon. Over the month, I have come to recognize each of them.
- i) Why would Saheb have a hard time believing the meaning of his name?
 - ii) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blanks.
The author's description of the boys as an "army" that appears and disappears suggests their _____
(organized movement/ transient existence)
 - iii) Complete the following suitably.
The comparison of the boys to "morning birds" implies their _____ and fleeting presence in the author's daily life.
 - iv) What does the author's ability to recognize each of the boys over month indicate about her relationship with them?
 - v) Which of the following best describes the irony in Saheb's name?
 - a) It's too long for him to remember
 - b) It's in a language he doesn't speak
 - c) It means "lord of the universe" but he lives in poverty.
 - d) It's a common name in his community.
 - vi) How does the phrase "barefoot boys" contribute to the portrayal of Saheb and his friends?

OR

- (B) Gandhi chided the lawyers for collecting big fee from the sharecroppers. He said, "I have come to the conclusion that we should stop going to law courts. Taking such cases to the courts does little goods. Where the peasants are so crushed and fear-stricken, law courts are useless. The real relief for them is to be free from fear."

- i) Why did Gandhi believe that going to law courts was not beneficial for the sharecroppers?
- ii) Select the correct option to fill in the blank: Gandhi's statement suggests that he viewed the legal system as _____ (effective/ inadequate) in addressing the peasants' problems.
- iii) Choose the option that most appropriately sums up the reaction of the lawyers to Gandhi's views on their fees for fighting the sharecroppers' cases in the courts.
 - a) upset and confused b) upbeat and rejoiced
 - c) nonchalant and quiet d) ashamed and shocked
- iv) How does Gandhi's response to the lawyers reflect his approach to solving social issues?
- v) Which of the following best captures Gandhi's view of the peasants' situation?
 - a) They needed better legal representation
 - b) They were primarily suffering from economic issues
 - c) Their fundamental problem was psychological
 - d) They required violent rebellion
- vi) What does Gandhi's chiding of the lawyers imply about his view of their role?
 - a) He saw them as essential allies
 - b) He believed they were part of the problem
 - c) He wanted them to consult senior lawyers
 - d) He thought they were incompetent

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

(4)

(A) From that day onwards it was celebration time for all the tigers inhabiting Pratibandapuram. The state banned tiger hunting by anyone except the Maharaja. A proclamation was issued to the effect that if anyone dared to fling so much as a stone at a tiger, all his wealth and property would be confiscated. The Maharaja vowed he would attend to all other matters only after killing the hundred tigers. Initially the king seemed well set to realise his ambition. Not that he faced no dangers. There were times when the bullet missed its mark, the tiger leapt upon him and he fought the beast with his bare hands. Each time it was the Maharaja who won.

- i) The tone of the author when he says, 'it was celebration time for all tigers' is
 - a) Solemn b) sarcastic c) sympathetic d) mocking
- ii) Pick the pair of TRUE statements based on the extract.
 - 1) Tiger hunting was absolutely banned in the kingdom.
 - 2) The Maharaja was extremely courageous and fearless.
 - 3) The Maharaja paid no heed to matters related to his kingdom.
 - 4) The Maharaja was able to fulfil his ambition, without any perils.
 - a) 1 and 2 b) 2 and 4 c) 2 and 3 d) 1 and 4
- iii) In which of the following options can the underlined words NOT be replaced with 'proclamation'?
 - a) The politician shared his manifesto during the election meeting.
 - b) All the citizens of the kingdom had to abide by the emperor's edict.
 - c) The communiqué made by the official had a disastrous effect.
 - d) The decree of the state forbade cruelty against animals.
- iv) On the basis of this passage, pick the option that enumerates the characteristics of the king.
 - 1) gullible 2) arrogant 3) wilful 4) aggressive 5) apathetic 6) scrupulous
 - a) 1, 2 and 6 b) 3, 4 and 6 c) 3, 5 and 6 d) 2, 3, and 5

OR

(B) "This man," Sadao said, "is my enemy. I ought to turn him over to the police. But I have saved his life. So now I must save him all the way." "The police will only hand him over as a prisoner of war. Hana said, "But you know," Sadao said even more gently, "I am not in the ordinary position of having found a wounded man. I am a doctor, trained in an American medical school. I owe nothing to America but I have an obligation to my profession."

- i) What does Sadao mean when he says he must save the man "all the way"?
 - a) He must help the man escape Japan
 - b) He must ensure the man's complete recovery
 - c) He must adopt the man into his family
 - d) He must teach the man Japanese customs

ii) How does Sadao justify his decision to continue helping the wounded man?

- a) He feels indebted to America
- b) He fears the consequences of turning him in
- c) He is bound by his professional ethics as a doctor
- d) He wants to prove his loyalty to Japan

iii) What does Hana's statement about the police imply?

- a) The police would treat the man fairly
- b) The police would execute the man immediately
- c) The man would face a difficult fate if turned over
- d) The police would release the man

iv) Complete the sentence:

Sadao's reference to his American medical training suggests _____.

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

- a) What was the 'thunderclap' the narrator received as M. Hamel began the lesson? (The Last Lesson)
- b) Though the sharecroppers of Champaran received only one fourth of the compensations, how can Champaran struggle still be termed a huge success and victory.
- c) The lesson "The Rattrap" is both entertaining and philosophical. Do you agree with the statement? Give reasons.
- d) How was there a great deal of national integration in the make-up department? (Poets and Pancakes)
- e) See you soon Amma. 'How are these words contrary to the speaker's emotions? (My Mother at Sixty-six)
- f) 'And such too is the grandeur of the dooms; we have imagined for the mighty dead.' Explain the inference you can draw from the phrase 'mighty dead'.

Q11. Answer any two of the following questions in about 40-50 words. (2×2=4)

- a) Do you think that prediction made by the state astrologer "was indisputably disproved"? Give reasons in support of your answer. (The Tiger King)
- b) Tishani Doshi considered the programme 'Students on Ice' a success. Do you agree with her? Why/Why not? (Journey to the End of the Earth)
- c) What was the servants' reaction to Sadao's decision of treating the American soldier?

Q12. Answer any one of the following questions in about 120-150 words. (1×5=5)

- a) Franz from 'The Last Lesson' and the peddler from 'The Rattrap' demonstrate the importance of learning from one's mistakes and rising up to evolve as a better person. Elaborate.

OR

- b) Compare and contrast the themes of social injustice in "Lost Spring" by Anees Jung and "Indigo by Louis Fischer".

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

- a) Imagine you are the dewan of Pratibandapuram. Write a diary entry expressing your thoughts and concerns about the Maharaja's obsession with tiger hunting and its impact on the kingdom.

OR

- b) The influence of belief in traditions such as religion, family bonds or patriotism can be used to develop narrative techniques like setting, motivation, sources of conflict and pacing. Analyse how the writer has incorporated such influences to give a good effect in the story, "The Enemy". Support your answer with valid textual evidence.