

BUDHA DAL PUBLIC SCHOOL PATIALA

Final Examination (3 March 2026)

Subject – ENGLISH CORE

Class XI (Set – B)

Time: 3 hrs.

M.M.80

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them :

1. This question paper has **16** questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. This question paper contains three sections -
Section A : Reading Skills,
Section B : Grammar and Creative Writing Skills
Section C : Literature.
3. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
4. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
5. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A : READING SKILLS (26 marks)

[10]

1. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

Read the passage given below:

1. The art of conversation, like any art, is a skill of elegance, nuance and creative execution. I happen to believe that there is an art to everything we do, and why not? Without flair and panache most things become a drudgery. Why settle for drudgery when you can have art?
2. When it comes to the art of conversation, we've all met people who seem to have the knack for it. They can talk to anybody about anything and they seem to do it with complete ease. And while it's true that there are those who are born with the gift of the gab, luckily for the rest of us, conversation skills can be developed and mastered.
3. Conversation is a form of communication; however, it is usually more spontaneous and less formal. We enter into conversations for purposes of pleasant engagement in order to meet new people, to find out information and to enjoy social interactions. As far as types of conversation, they vary anywhere from intellectual conversations and information exchanges to friendly debates and witty banter.
4. While there is more to having good conversation skills than being a comedian, a dramatic actor, or a great story teller, it is not necessary to become more gregarious, animated, or outgoing.
5. Instead, you can develop the ability to listen attentively, ask fitting questions, and pay attention to the answers - all qualities essential to the art of conversation. With diligent practice and several good pointers, anyone can improve his or her conversation skills.
6. People who are genuinely interested in others are usually interesting themselves. Why? Because they are more open to learning about and understanding new things. Showing interest also encourages the other person to be relaxed and share information more freely. Display attentiveness by keeping good eye contact and listening actively.
7. If you happen to be shy and need time to warm up before you share your own views, you can ask open-ended questions or encourage the other person to elaborate on their insights. This kick-starts the conversation and before you know it you are engaged in a good conversational flow.
8. To start a conversation, go up to someone and introduce yourself. It is both polite and necessary to start off things smoothly.

B-1



9. When the occasion calls for it, you can offer a handshake and then smile and make eye contact. Being friendly puts the other person at ease and opens the door for him or her to introduce themselves.
10. The art of conversation, like any skill, takes practice. Period. Do not expect to be adept after your first few attempts. It will take practice as well as exposure to many different social situations.

(a) Complete the sentence by choosing an appropriate option:

The art of conversation is a skill of _____.

- a) uniformity and compatibility b) friendliness and consensus
c) sophistication and creativity d) assertion and ease
- (b) Comment on the writer's reference to conversation skills as something you are **born** with.
- (c) List two reasons why people enter into conversation.
- (d) Select the option that conveys the opposite of **witty**, as used in paragraph 3.
- a) boring b) creative
c) ignorant d) educated
- (e) The writer would **not** agree with the given statements based on paragraphs 3 to 5, except
- a) Attentive listening is important only while debating. b) Conversations are meant only for purposes of research.
c) It is important to be outgoing to be a good conversationalist. d) Conversational skills can be improved with regular practice.
- (f) According to the author, showing interest in others leads to interesting conversation. Based on your understanding of paragraphs 5 and 6, list one way how a good listener can make the other person speak more freely.
- (g) How can one warm up before one shares one's views?
- (h) Complete the given sentence with an appropriate inference, with respect to the following:
The writer gives an example of going up to someone and introducing oneself in order to _____.
- (i) How can the ways to start a conversation, as suggested in the passage, be best described?
- a) humbling b) exhausting
c) challenging d) practical
- (j) Select the most suitable title for the above passage.
- a) Conversation vs Communication b) Conversation - A Challenging Pursuit
c) Mastering the Art of Conversation d) Effective Listening

2. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

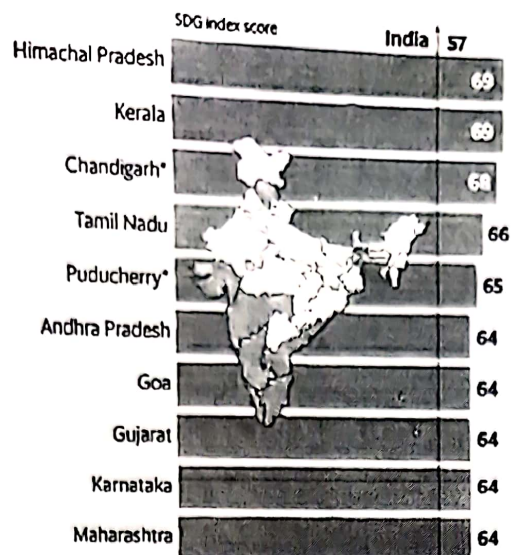
[8]

India's SDG Scores

India has crossed the halfway mark in achieving the UN's sustainable development goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015 and to be achieved by 2030, according to the SDG India Index released on Friday by think tank NITI Aayog and the UN. Here are the 10 best-performing states and Union territories according to the index.

B-2





1. Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu have emerged as the front runners in the race to achieve key sustainable development goals (SDG) like removal of poverty inequality, while Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are the laggards in ranking of states.
2. According to the SDG India Index, the nation as a whole has a score of 57, showing the country has reached a little beyond the halfway mark in meeting the sustainable development goals adopted by India and 192 other nations in 2015. The index covers 13 of the 17 sustainable development goals, including healthcare, gender equality, clean energy, infrastructure, education, peace and building strong, accountable institution.
3. For goals, including climate action and sustainable use of marine resources, were left out because of lack of data at the state level. Kerala's overall top rank (69) is attributed to its strong performance in providing good health, reducing hunger, achieving gender equality and providing quality education. The rank shows the distance each state has to cover to reach 100 - the point at which it fully meets the sustainable development goal
4. Himachal Pradesh ranks high with a similar overall score in providing clean water and sanitation, reducing inequalities and preserving the mountain ecosystem. Tamil Nadu has a score of 66. Among Union territories, Chandigarh takes the lead with a score of 68 on account of its track record in providing clean water and sanitation. Performance in providing quality education has also helped Chandigarh achieve high score.
5. Tamil Nadu topped the states in poverty reduction, while Kerala topped in providing quality education, closely followed by Chandigarh and Himachal Pradesh.
6. Kerala and Tamil Nadu also topped in facilitating good health and well-being. Gender equality, however, is an area all states and the nation as a whole need to improve upon. The toppers in gender equality, Sikkim and Union territories. Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Chandigarh, have crossed the halfway mark in reaching the goals.
7. The scores represent the current status of achievement in meeting the goals.
 - (a) The other remaining goals left out from SDG India Index because:
 - a. of lack of data of the state level
 - b. they have already crossed halfway mark in reaching the goals
 - c. countries have not taken care of the remaining goals
 - d. those goals have not yet officially accepted by the companies
 - (b) Among Union Territories _____ takes the lead with a score of 68 on account of its track record in providing clean water and sanitation.

B-3

- (c) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option.
According to the survey, _____ topped in providing quality education.
- a. Kerala
 - b. Tamil Nadu
 - c. Chandigarh
 - d. Andhra Pradesh
- (d) How many sustainable goals does index cover?
- (e) What do 100 points mean as per SDG Index?
- a. It means the index has covered 13 goals including healthcare, gender equality clean energy. infrastructure, education, peace and building strong. accountable institutions.
 - b. It means the point at which it fully meets the sustainable development goal.
 - c. It means the removal of poverty and equality.
 - d. It means India has reached a little beyond the halfway mark to meet sustainable development goals.
- (f) Which state has the least SDG score according to the graph?
- (g) The SDG score represents the current status of achievements by the states in meeting the goals. True/false.
- (h) Which state ranks the best in total SDG scores?

3. Read the following passage carefully:

[8]

- I. Good decoration reflects the personality of the people who live in the home. It should, first of all, be distinctive, just as each person is distinctive. A home should have unity not only within each room but also throughout the house. Rooms should, to some degree, harmonize with each other. The colour and styling of each room, particularly, should fit into the colour and styling of the rooms which run out of it.
- II. Attractive home furnishings set the stage for pleasant living. If they are an expression of yourself, you will have a feeling of satisfaction every time you enter your home, and friends will share your enjoyment.
- III. However, furnishings and surroundings expressive of just the right note of restfulness, gay informality, or elegant simplicity are not often assembled by accident. Even enthusiasm alone is not enough. For most home decorators, it takes poring over plans, trying colour schemes, finding ingenious ways to make the best of what you have, and shopping around to search out just the right purchases at prices you can afford to pay. But there is keen pleasure in striving for the perfect result, and great satisfaction in achieving it.
- IV. A successful house and successful rooms will depend upon the proper relationship of each element in it to the others and to the whole. Therefore, in selecting each piece it is well to consider the background, the usage, the draperies, the floor covering, the upholstering materials, the woods, shapes, colour scheme, and the "feeling" you prefer for the room.
- V. Work and plan to enjoy your house. Limit the expenditures of time, effort and money to the extent of your abilities, so that just running the house doesn't dominate your life. Elegance and delicate things may be a drain you can afford only in a limited way. If you can't afford outside help, select a house and furnishings that require less care. Plan your activities so that tumult and upset are limited to a few rooms— an activity room or a bedroom, or a corner of the dining room.
- VI. You'll get more pleasure out of a house if you have a hobby connected with it— collecting glass or antiques, gardening or indoor flower growing ceramics, art, cooking, decorating, flower arrangements, etc. And you'll get more satisfaction and a great deal of help from studying household activities.
- VII. You can select a pleasing combination of colours from a wallpaper, a fabric, an oriental rug, a flower or scene, or even a picture in a magazine. If you don't already have the furniture or rugs, it is a good idea to make up a colour scheme in this way. Let one colour predominate. Limit a colour scheme to two or three colours, with white or grey tones. These points will help you: (1) Always choose colours that please you personally— subtle, calm colours if you prefer a restful atmosphere, intense colours if you like liveliness and

B-4



cheer. (2) Don't be afraid of colour. Experimenting on paper will give you confidence. (But remember larger batches of colour are more intense.) Try out various colour combinations, then live with them—look at them frequently before you actually start buying. (3) Colours should harmonize with furniture, draperies, carpets.

Questions: (5+3=8)

A. On the basis of your understanding of the above passage make notes on it using headings and sub-headings.

Use recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary. Give an appropriate title.

B. Write a summary of the above passage in about 80 words.

SECTION- B (Grammar & Writing) (23)

Q4. Complete the following passage by filling in the blanks with suitable words:

(3)

A dog is considered to (a) man's best friend, but there is, unfortunately, a dark side to having dogs (b) streets. More than 20 million people (c) India are bitten by dogs, and 20,000 die because (d) rabies, annually. Dogs also directly kill (e) dozen or more people, mostly children, (f) year.

Q5. Rearrange the following group of words to form meaningful sentences:

(4)

- (a) a loss of concentration/ and also signifies/ no control/ means/ losing our temper/ we have/ over our minds
(b) great virtue/ we do/ in whatever/ that helps us/ is a / patience/ be successful
(c) to raise expenditure/ the government has aimed/ by 2025/ on public health services/ to 2.5 per cent of the country's GDP.
(d) then dispose of/ cover your cough/ with a tissue,/ or sneeze/ the tissue safely

Q6. Answer any one of the following :

(3)

- A) You want to sell your car as you are going abroad. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words to be published in the classified column of 'The Hindu'. Give necessary details of the car. You are Suman/ Sushil, 21 Ram Nagar, Delhi.

OR

- B) Bharat Public School, I.P. Nagar, has recently constructed a Science Park, a dedicated area where specific equipments based on principles of Science are set up. As Rashi Kapoor, President of Science Club, draft a notice for the School Notice Board, informing students of the same. Mention relevant details.

Q7. Answer any one of the following :

(3)

- A) Your school is planning to celebrate its Annual Sports Day. On behalf of the Principal, draft an invitation card in about 50 words to be sent out to the parents and the guests. Mention the day, date, time and venue.

OR

- B) Tourism Department, Government of Uttarakhand has launched an ambitious plan to develop adventure sports and eco-tourism activities in the state. Prepare a suitable poster for display at important public places/ publication in newspaper.

Q8. Answer any one of the following :

(5)

- A) You have recently come across a report stating that crime against the elderly is up by 22% in AB Nagar, Senior citizens especially those living alone are exposed to crimes like robbery, murder, etc. As a concerned citizen, write a letter to the editor of a local daily expressing your concern and suggesting ways to protect them. Use the following cues along with your own ideas to draft the letter.

Hits:

Volunteer your services, Environment to be made secure, Not to leave old people alone, Be in touch with them, Regular police check

OR

- B) Every year there are floods or droughts in the country. Victims suffer a lot. The government does a lot to help the people, but it is not enough. Society also must do its bit. Write a speech in 150-200 words to be delivered in the school morning assembly describing how the students can also help by collecting clothes, money and medicines from their neighbourhoods. You are Arun/ Aruna.

B-5



(5)

Q9 Answer any one of the following :

A) 'The Internet cannot replace a classroom teacher'. Write a debate in 150-200 words either for or against the motion.

OR

B) Your school recently conducted an Art Exhibition in which students from all classes participated. Students presented various paintings, sculpture etc. Parents and visitors congratulated the students on their efforts. As a student editor, write a report on the exhibition to be published in your school magazine. Use the cues given below along with your own ideas to compose this report:
Date, venue, time, Participants, type of painting, sculpture, theme, if any, visitors' feedback

Section C : Literature (31 Marks)

10. Read the text carefully and answer the questions: (any one)

[3]

Q Now she has been dead nearly as many years

As that girl lived. And of this circumstance

There is nothing to say at all.

Its silence silences.

(a) How many years have passed away since the poet's mother died?

a) Twelve years

b) Eleven years

c) Fifteen Years

d) Ten Years

(b) What does **this circumstance** refer to?

a) Happy memories of the mother

b) Present situation of the poet

c) Death of poet's mother

d) Mother's beach holiday

(c) Identify the literary device employed in the last line.

a) Alliteration

b) Transferred Epithet

c) Metaphor

d) Oxymoron

OR

b) Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

[3]

When did my childhood go?

Was it when I found my mind was really mine,

To use whichever way I choose,

Producing thoughts that were not those of other people

But my own, and mine alone

Was that the day!

(a) The stanza deals with the realization of _____ of the poet.

a) individuality

b) consciousness

c) duality

d) hypocrisy

(b) Choose the refrain in the given stanza.

a) But my own, and mine alone

b) To use whichever way I choose

c) Was that the day!

d) Was it when I found

(c) Explain 'My mind was really mine'?

B-6



10. Read the text carefully and answer the questions: (Any one)

a) They remain the richest royal collection ever found and have become part of the pharaoh's legend. Stunning artefacts in gold, their eternal brilliance meant to guarantee resurrection, caused a sensation at the time of the discovery - and still get the most attention. But Tut was also buried with everyday things he'd want in the afterlife: board games, a bronze razor, linen undergarments, cases of food and wine.

- (a) In the above extract, **they** refers to:
- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| a) things which were found in the tomb. | b) Worker |
| c) scientists | d) ministers of Tut |
- (b) Which of the following was not found at the time of discovery?
- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| a) Both utensil and jewellery | b) Utensils |
| c) Jewellery | d) Gold Artefacts |
- (c) Which among the following is the synonym of **resurrection**?
- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| a) Dispirit | b) Enervate |
| c) Dissuade | d) Rejuvenate |

OR

b) Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

[3]

Unexpectedly, my head popped out of the water. A few metres away, Wavewalker was near capsizing, her masts almost horizontal. Then a wave hurled her upright, my lifeline jerked taut, I grabbed the guard rails and sailed through the air into Wavewalker's main boom. Subsequent waves tossed me around the deck like a rag doll. My left ribs cracked; my mouth filled with blood and broken teeth.

- (a) Whose name was Wavewalker?
- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| a) the author | b) the enormous wave |
| c) the ship | d) a crew member |
- (b) Which of the following activities had not happened to Wavewalker
1. near capsizing
 2. masts almost horizontal
 3. jumped in the air
 4. became upright
 5. sank in the sea
- | | |
|------------|------------|
| a) 1 and 4 | b) 2 and 5 |
| c) 1 and 3 | d) 3 and 5 |
- (c) What happened to the author's body when he managed to reach the deck?
- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| a) His head smashed again | b) He broke his left hand |
| c) His left ribs cracked, mouth filled with blood and broken teeth | d) He broke his leg and couldn't swim |

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

[4]

- (a) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

CYRIL: [moving to the table; protesting] Now-look. When I asked you this morning, you promised. You said you'd have to look through 'em first in case there was any mending.

MRS PEARSON: Yes - well now I've decided I don't like mending.

CYRIL: That's a nice way to talk - what would happen if we all talked like that?

MRS PEARSON: You all do talk like that. If there's something at home you don't want to do, you don't do it. If it's something at your work, you get the Union to bar it. Now all that's happened is that I've joined the movement.

B-7

CYRIL: [staggered] I don't get this, Mum. What's going on?

i. Complete the sentence appropriately.

The 'movement' which Mrs Pearson means when she says, 'I've joined the movement', is

_____.
ii. In the given extract, what emotion was NOT felt by Cyril when he says, " You said you'd have to look through 'em first in case there was any mending"?

- a. Irritated
- b. Disgruntled
- c. Annoyed
- d. Offended

iii. Which changed trait of Mrs Pearson can be noticed in her temperament here in this extract?

iv. How is the line, "what would happen if we all talked like that", an example of contrast?

[4]

OR

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

(b) And one day I noticed I was curious about all the possessions that must still be at that address. I wanted to see them, touch, remember.

After my first visit in vain to Mrs. Dorling's house I decided to try a second time. Now a girl of about fifteen opened the door to me. I asked her mother was at home.

i. Who did the narrator encounter at Mrs. Dorling's house during her second visit?

- a. Mrs. Dorling
- b. Mrs. Dorling's daughter
- c. Another visitor
- d. No one (the house was empty)

ii. Why did the narrator revisit Mrs. Dorling's house? This is so, because there ____.

iii. "After my first visit in vain to Mrs. Dorling's house" What does the line suggest?

iv. What specific location is the author referring to in the line - "And one day I noticed I was curious about all the possessions that must still be at that address"?

Q13. Answer the question from either (a) or (b) in 40-50 words. (2×3=6)

- a) i) Why did the author of Silk Road take the ~~short~~^{sketch} cut in spite of high mountain passes?
- ii) What makes the father remark, "I know nothing of him"?

OR

b) i) How did Carter remove the gold adornments from Tut's body? Was his method justified?

ii) Describe the movement of the goldfinch in the laburnum tree.

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

- a) What guess does Mrs. Pearson's family make about the strange changes in her?
- b) What argument did the architect advance in self-defense? How did the king take it?

Q15. Answer any one of the following questions in about 120-150 words. (1×6=6)

- a) Compare and contrast the themes of courage and survival in 'We're not afraid to Die and 'Silk Road'
- b) Rain is an eternal process benefiting mankind. Contrast it with human life which is short lived on this Earth. Should we disturb these eternal elements of nature?

OR

Q16. Answer any one of the following questions in about 120-150 words. (1×6=6)

- a) How does the theme of professional transformation and human perseverance emerge through the events in 'Birth'? Support with key incidents.
- b) In 'The Address' the narrator's journey to reclaim her past ends in disillusionment. Analyse how the story explores the psychological impact of war and loss.

OR