



विद्या सर्वार्थ साधिका

ANANDALAYA
PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION
Class : XII

Subject : English Core (301)

M.M : 80

Date : 13-12-2023

Time : 3 hours

General Instructions:

1. The Question Paper contains three sections.
2. Section A-Reading Section has two passages for comprehension.
3. Section B-Writing Section has 4 questions. Adhere to the word limit as given in the instructions with each question.
4. Section C-Literature Section has 7 questions. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit.

SECTION-A

READING SKILLS (22 marks)

Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages

1. Read the passage given below. (12)
 - 1 All of Earth's oceans share one thing in common "plastic pollution". When people litter, or when the trash is not properly disposed of, things like plastic bags, bottles, straws, foam, and beverage cups get carried to the sea by winds and waterways. About 80% of ocean plastic originates on land. The rest comes from marine industries such as shipping and fishing.
 - 2 In 2015, engineer Jenna Jambeck at the University of Georgia and other researchers calculated that at least 8 million tons of plastic trash are swept into the ocean from coasts every year. That's the equivalent of a full garbage truck of plastic being dumped into the sea every minute. If current trends in plastic production and disposal continue, that figure will double by 2025. A report published by the World Economic Forum last year predicts that by 2050, ocean plastic will outweigh all the fish in the sea.
 - 3 In today's world, plastic is everywhere. It is found in shoes, clothing, household items, electronics and more. There are different types of plastics, but one thing they all have in common is that they are made of polymers-large molecules made up of repeating units. Their chemical structure gives them a lot of advantages; they are cheap and easy to manufacture, lightweight, water-resistant, durable, and can be moulded into nearly any shape.
 - 4 Sea turtles eat plastic bags and soda-can rings, which resemble jellyfish, their favourite food. Seabirds eat bottle caps or chunks of foam cups. Plastic pieces may make an animal feel full, so it does not eat enough real food to get the nutrients it needs. Plastic can also block an animal's digestive system, making it unable to eat.
 - 5 Plastic and its associated pollutants can even make it into our own food supply. Scientists recently examined fish and shellfish bought at markets in California and Indonesia. They found plastic in the guts of more than a quarter of samples purchased at both locations in organisms that people eat whole, such as sardines and oysters, that means we are eating plastic too. In larger fishes, chemicals from plastic may seep into their muscles and other tissues that people consume.
 - 6 One way to keep the ocean cleaner and healthier is through clean-up efforts. A lot of plastic waste caught in ocean currents eventually washes up on beaches. Removing it prevents it from blowing out to sea again. Beach clean-up is ocean clean-up.
 - 7 Clean-up efforts cannot reach every corner of the ocean or track down every bit of micro-plastic. That means it is critical to cut down on the amount of plastic that reaches the sea in the first place. Scientists are working towards new materials that are safer for the environment. For example, Jambeck and her colleagues are currently testing a new polymer that breaks down more easily in seawater.

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

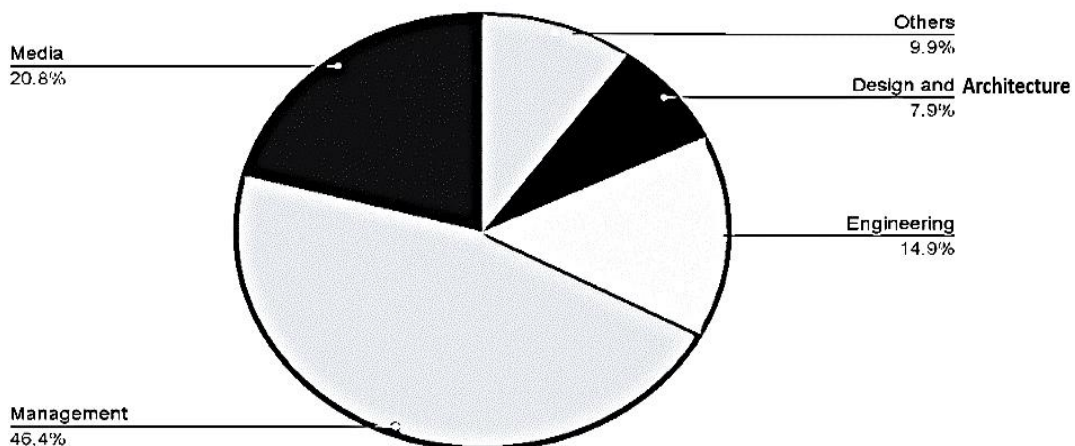
- (i) The percentage of ocean plastic that originates from land is (1)
(A) 20%
(B) 50%
(C) 80%
(D) 25%
- (ii) Pick out the correct option. (1)
Assertion (A): Plastic is biodegradable.
Reason (R): Plastic is made up of large molecule polymers.
(A) Both assertion and reason are true and reason is the correct explanation of assertion.
(B) Both assertion and reason are true, but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion
(C) Assertion is true, but reason is false.
(D) Assertion is false, but reason is true.
- (iii) Scientists bought fish and shellfish for examination at markets in (1)
(A) China and Russia
(B) Pakistan and Afghanistan
(C) California and Indonesia
(D) Australia and Brazil
- (iv) Which properties make plastic great for consumer goods? (1)
(1) Biodegradability.
(2) Durability.
(3) The dyes and flame retardants.
(4) Ability of chemical absorption.
(A) (1) and (2)
(B) only (2)
(C) (3) and (4)
(D) (2) and (4)
- (v) Which articles made of plastic generally cause pollution in the sea? (1)
(A) Discarded plastic bags
(B) Beverage cups
(C) Soda can-rings
(D) All of these
- (vi) Which features do all kinds of plastic have? (1)
(A) Easy to manufacture and easy to dispose of
(B) Water resistant.
(C) Difficult to mould into any shape.
(D) Non-durability.
- (vii) What is the biggest impact of plastic pollution on sea life? (1)
(A) Plastic eating makes them feel full
(B) Plastic blocks the animal's digestive system.
(C) Sea animals do not get enough nutrition.
(D) All of these

- (viii) Choose the correct option. (1)
 Assertion (A): Larger fish are affected by plastic.
 Reason (R): Plastic may go into their muscles and other tissues.
 (A) Both assertion and reason are true and the reason is the correct explanation of assertion.
 (B) Both assertion and reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of assertion.
 (C) Assertion is true, but reason is false.
 (D) Assertion is false, but reason is true.
- (ix) List one way to clean up an ocean? (2)
- (x) Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word/phrase. (2)
- a. It took seventeen years to _____ the wreck of the ship. (para 7)
- b. The mermaid _____ to the shore after the storm. (para 6)

2. Read the passage given below. (10)

- Over the last five years, more companies have been actively looking for intern profiles, according to a 2018-19 survey by an online internship and training platform. This survey reveals that India had 80% more internship applications with 2.2 million applications received in 2018 compared to 1.27 million in the year before. The trend was partly due to more industries looking to have fresh minds and ideas on existing projects for better productivity. What was originally seen as a western concept, getting an internship before plunging into the job market, is fast gaining momentum at Indian workplaces.
- According to the survey data, India's National Capital Region has been the top provider of internships, with a total of 35% internship opportunities, followed by Mumbai and Bengaluru at 20% and 15%, respectively. This includes opportunities in start-ups, MNCs, and even government entities. The survey also revealed popular fields to find internships in. There has been growing awareness among the students about the intern profiles sought by hiring companies that often look for people with real-time experience in management than B-schoolmasters.
- The stipend has been an important factor influencing the choice of internships. The survey data reveals that the average stipend offered to interns was recorded as ₹ 7000, while the maximum stipend went up to ₹ 10,000. According to statistics, a greater number of people considered virtual internships more than in-office internships.
- Virtual internships got three times more applications than in-office, since a large chunk of students were the ones already enrolled in various courses, or preferred working from home.

Popular Fields to find Internships in



5 Internship portals have sprung up in the last three to four years and many of them already report healthy traffic per month. Reports suggest that on average, an internship portal company has around 200,000-plus students and some 8000 companies registered on it. It gets around two lakh visits online every month. The Managing Director of a leading executive search firm says that though these web platforms are working as an effective bridge between the industry and students, the most established companies are still reluctant to take too many interns on board for obvious reasons.

Source: Internshala

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

- (i) Select the correct inference with reference to the following; (1)
Over the last five years, more companies have been actively looking for intern profiles...
(A) The past five years have seen active applications by interns to several companies.
(B) The activity for intern profiling by the companies has reached a gradual downside over the past five years.
(C) There were lesser companies searching for intern profiles earlier, as compared to those in the recent five years.
(D) Several companies have initiated intern profiling five times a year in the recent past.
- (ii) Select the central idea of the paragraph 2. (1)
(A) Process of registering for internships
(B) Knowing more about internships
(C) Do's, and Don'ts for an internship interview
(D) Facts and data related to internships
- (iii) Select the option that displays the true statement with reference to the figure. (1)
(A) Internships for Engineering and Management are the top two favourites.
(B) Design and Architecture internships are significantly more popular than others.
(C) Internships for Media and others have nearly equal popularity percentages.
(D) Management internships' popularity is more than twice that of Media.
- (iv) Based on your reading of paragraphs 2 & 3, select the appropriate counter-argument to the given argument. (1)
Argument: I don't think you'll be considered for an internship just because you've been the Student Editor and Head of the Student Council.
(A) I think I have a fair chance because I'm applying for a virtual position rather than an in-office one.
(B) I have real-time experience in managing a team and many companies consider it more meritorious than a degree in management.
(C) I know that my stipend might be on the lower side but I think that it's a good earn while you learn using this opportunity.
(D) A lot of metro cities have a good percentage of positions open and I think I should definitely take a chance.
- (v) Select the option that displays the correct cause-effect relationship. (1)
(A) Cause - Several students have academic courses to complete; Effect- Students apply for online internship
(B) Cause-A large chunk of students prefer in-office internship; Effect- Applications are three times more for virtual internship
(C) Cause- A Great number of students want to work from home; Effect- Several students have courses to complete
(D) Cause-Students apply for online internship; Effect- An equal number of students apply for work from home

- (vi) The survey statistics mention the average stipend, indicating that: (1)
(A) 50% of interns were offered ₹ 85,000 yearly.
(B) ₹ 7000 was the lowest and ₹ 10,000 was the highest.
(C) Most interns were offered around ₹ 7000.
(D) No intern was offered more than ₹ 7000.
- (vii) Complete the statement appropriately, with reference to the passage. (1)
The phrase “healthy traffic” refers to the
- (viii) Read the two statements given below and select the option that suitably explains them. (1)
(1) Established companies are reluctant to take too many interns on board.
(2) Probability of interns leaving the company for a variety of reasons, is high.
(A) (1) is the problem and (2) is the solution for (1)
(B) (1) is false, but (2) correctly explains (1).
(C) (1) summarises (2).
(D) (1) is true and (2) is false
- (ix) The least popular field to find internships in, is (1)
- (x) Why is it fair to say that more companies have been actively looking for intern profiles? (1)

SECTION-B

CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 Marks)

Note: All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.

3. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below. (50 words) (4)
- A. The Environment Club of your school is organising a tree plantation drive on the World Environment Day around your school and in the neighbourhood. Write a notice in not more than 50 words inviting students to volunteer for the event. Give all the relevant details. You are the Secretary of the Club.
- OR**
- B. The Arts Club of your school is going to organise a drawing and painting competition. Write a notice in not more than 50 words, to be displayed on the school notice board, inviting students to participate in it. Give all the necessary details. You are Rishabh/Ridhima, Secretary, Arts Club, Sunrise Public School, Gurugram, and Haryana.
4. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below. (4)
- A. On 30 November, your school is going to hold its Annual Sports Day. You want Mr. Dhanraj Pillai, a noted hockey player to give away the prizes to the budding sportspersons of the school. Write a formal invitation in about 50 words requesting him to grace the occasion. You are Karuna/Karan, Sports Secretary, Sunrise Global School, Agra.
- OR**
- B. The Literary Club of your school is putting up the play 'Waiting for Godot.' As a secretary of the club, draft an invitation inviting the famous writer Sudesh Gupta to be the Guest of Honour at the function. Write the invitation in not more than 50 words. You are Govind/Gauri.
5. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below. (5)
- A. You feel that India will face a severe water crisis by the year 2025. Write a letter to the Editor of 'The National Daily' expressing your concern about it and requesting individuals and authorities to take steps to avert this crisis. You are Shalini/Shahen. (120-150 words)

OR

- B. Sunshine Public School, Pune requires two sports coaches (one male and one female). Each should be a degree holder in physical education as well as an SAI certified coach in athletics. You have seen their advertisement and you know that you have qualifications. Write an application in 120-150 words along with your resume. You are Praveen/Praveena, M-114, Najafgarh, Delhi.

SITUATION VACANT
SUNSHINE PUBLIC SCHOOL, PUNE

Required:

- 2 sports coaches (one male, one female)

Essential Requirements:

- Degree holder in Physical Education (B.P.Ed)
- SAI certified

For more details visit our website
www.sps.co.in

6. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below. (5)

- A. Rising prices of essential commodities make life difficult for the common man. You are Nalini/Ranbir. Write an article in 120-150 words describing the causes, possible solutions and how students can help their parents to cope with the problem.

OR

- B. A massive fire due to a short circuit gutted 50 odd shops in the congested area of Sadar Bazar in Delhi leading to loss of life and property. As a reporter with 'The Tribune', write the report for the newspaper. (120-150 words)

SECTION-C

LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40 marks)

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

- A. *Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o'er darkened ways
Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
From our dark spirits.*

- (i) In which of the following options can the underlined words be replaced with 'despondency'? (1)
- (A) The man paced about the room showing restlessness.
(B) A chat with a close friend can take away our blues.
(C) I was in jitters, seeing the boy trapped in the trench.
(D) Being dogged is what led him to negotiate the challenges.
- (ii) Pick the option that is NOT an example of 'unhealthy and o'er darkened ways'. (1)
- (A) A person who is egoistic and looks down upon others.
(B) A person who seeks God's help for all his problems.
(C) A person who uses evil ways to deceive others.
(D) A person who is corrupt and manipulative.

- (iii) Pick the option that enumerates what noble natures would include. (1)
1. Selflessness
 2. Enthusiasm
 3. Meticulousness
 4. Insensitivity
 5. Aggression
 6. Judiciousness
- (A) 1,4 and 5
 (B) 2,3 and 6
 (C) 2,4 and 5
 (D) 1,3 and 6
- (iv) Based on the poem, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below: (1)
- Statement 1: The earth without beautiful things is a place full of despair and unpleasantness.
- Statement 2: The ornate band created by human beings; ushers hope in their lives.
- (A) Statement 1 is true but Statement 2 is false.
 (B) Statement 1 is false but Statement 2 is true.
 (C) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 can be inferred.
 (D) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 cannot be inferred.
- (v) Explain the line “Some shape of beauty moves away the pall, From our dark spirits”. (1)
- (vi) Use the word ‘wreathing’ in your own sentence. (1)

OR

B. *Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,
 Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.
 They do not fear the men beneath the tree;
 They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.*

- (i) The tigers are called ‘Aunt Jennifer’s tigers’ because (1)
- (A) she has tamed them
 (B) she has trained them
 (C) she has sheltered him
 (D) she has embroidered them
- (ii) What does the phrase, ‘a world of green’ mean? (1)
- (iii) Identify the phrase/line from the extract that suggests that the tigers are different from their creator. (1)
- (iv) When the poet says ‘They pace in sleek chivalric certainty’, the word 'certainty' suggests (1)
- (v) Aunt Jennifer was a victim of (1)
- (A) Tigers
 (B) Patriarchal Society
 (C) her taming of the tigers.
 (D) her ordeals
- (vi) Which of the following character traits suit Aunt Jennifer? (1)
- (A) bold and chivalric.
 (B) old and submissive
 (C) cruel and tyrannical
 (D) powerful and authoritarian

8. Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.

A. *It was actually possible to walk the distance in ten minutes. But usually, it would take me thirty minutes at the very least to reach home.*

- (i) Who is the narrator of the above line? (1)
- (ii) The narrator was (1)
- (A) a small school-going child
(B) a housewife
(C) an elderly lady
(D) a landlady
- (iii) Why did the narrator take more time to reach home? (1)
- (iv) Which scene made the narrator double up? (1)
- (A) Of road vendors
(B) A lot of entertainment activities
(C) Of a grown-up elder, carrying a small packet by its strings without touching it.
(D) All of these

OR

B. *At that very moment, a great miracle took place. An astonishing phrase emerged from the lips of the ten-day-old Jilani Jung Bahadur, "O wise prophets!"*

- (i) In the phrase 'At that very moment' which moment is the author talking about? (1)
- (ii) What miracle did take place? (1)
- (A) Ten-year-old child asked a question to the astrologers
(B) Ten-day old child uttered a question to the astrologers
(C) Both (A) and (B)
(D) Neither (A) nor (B)
- (iii) Complete the sentence appropriately, with reference to the extract: (1)
- The child asked the prophets to*
- (iv) How did the astrologer react? (1)
- (A) He was afraid
(B) He was stupefied
(C) He got amazed
(D) He started trembling

9. Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given. (6)

A. *"I met Danny Casey", Sophie said.
He looked around abruptly. "Where?"
"In the arcade – funnily enough."
"It's never true."
"I did too."
"You told Dad?"*

- (i) Who is Danny Casey? (1)
- (A) An actor
(B) An English golf player
(C) A famous cricketer
(D) An Irish footballer
- (ii) Sophie told Geoff that Danny was unable to sign an autograph for her because (1)

- (iii) According to Sophie, where did she meet Danny Casey? (1)
- (A) Never met him
 (B) Met him incidentally outside the Royce's during window shopping
 (C) Met him personally outside the Royce's during window shopping
 (D) Met him personally after the match
- (iv) Who is 'he'? (1)
- (A) Geoff, Sophie's brother
 (B) Geoff, Jansie's brother
 (C) Derek, Sophie's brother
 (D) Derek, Jansie's brother
- (v) Why did 'she' share with 'him' the details of the secret meeting with Danny Casey? (1)
- (A) 'He' was a great fan of Danny Casey
 (B) She was confident that 'he' would keep it a secret
 (C) She wanted to impress and surprise him
 (D) All of these
- (vi) Complete the given statement, with reference to the text. (1)
- Geoff never took Sophie out with him because he thought she was*

OR

- B. *Literary fiction, academic texts, essays, children's books, newspaper articles-his written output is staggeringly large and wide-ranging. In 1980, he acquired the equivalent of intellectual superstardom with the publication of 'The Name of The Rose' which sold more than 10 million copies.*
- (i) By whom was 'he' interviewed? (1)
- (A) H.G. wells
 (B) Mukund Padmanabhan
 (C) Chirstopher Silvester
 (D) Caroline
- (ii) What was the secret of Eco's ability to accomplish so much of work? (1)
- (A) He used to write 8 hours a day
 (B) He started writing in early hours to get more time
 (C) He utilised time gaps between different pieces of work
 (D) All of these
- (iii) Mukund Padmanabhan mentions that much like his novels, Umberto Eco's "scholarly work has a certain playful and personal quality about it." To what is this attributed? (1)
- (A) Eco thought regular academic style was depersonalised, dry and boring.
 (B) Eco presented his first Doctoral dissertation in Italy in this style.
 (C) Eco realised that scholarly books should tell the story of the research.
 (D) Eco identified himself with the academic and scholarly community.
- (iv) Umberto Eco mentioned that he was not puzzled by the tremendous mass popularity of his novel, The Name of the Rose. What does this tell you about Umberto Eco? (1)
- (A) He believes he understands readership trends well and writes accordingly to ensure mass appeal.
 (B) He elevates himself above publishers and journalists who were surprised by the success of the book
 (C) He respects and understands that there are variations in people's reading choices and experiences.
 (D) He feels that the success of a book is a mystery, and there was no point pondering over it.

- (v) 'He' in the extract refers to (1)
- (vi) 'He' was a proficient writer of (1)
10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following in about 40-50 words each. (10)
- (i) Why did Gandhiji not accept C.F. Andrews' help during the Champaran Movement? (2)
- (ii) What does the writer mean by 'the fiery misery' of those subjected to make-up? (2)
- (iii) How would you evaluate Mukund Padmanabhan as an interviewer? Mention at least two qualities he displays in his interview, supported by textual evidence. (2)
- (iv) Why is Jansie so critical of Sophie? (2)
- (v) Kamala Das speaks of 'an old familiar ache ...' What do you think is the reason for this feeling? (2)
- (vi) In a world that is constantly running after 'more' chasing the next new thing, would it be fair to think of Neruda's call as merely a fanciful idea? (2)
11. Answer ANY TWO of following in about 40-50 words each. (4)
- (i) Do you think that the third level was a medium of escape for Charley? Why? (2)
- (ii) 'From that day onwards, it was celebration time for all tigers inhabiting Pratibandapuram'. Bring out the irony in this statement. (2)
- (iii) Based on the chapter, 'Journey to the end of the earth', elucidate any three consequences that global warming will have on Antarctica. (2)
12. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words. (5)
- A. Imagine an interview where Green is asked to explain more about his work and why he decided to initiate programmes for students. Keeping both Green and the interviewer's perspectives in mind, pen down his interview
- OR**
- B. Certain traditions and lineage, condemn thousands of children to a life of abject poverty and choke their aspirations. Do you agree? Explain. How can we change this? Suggest some ways to tackle this issue. (Lost Spring)
13. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words. (5)
- A. The servants of Sadao and Hana reflect a particular mindset of the general public in society towards the thinking and broad-minded human beings. Elaborate with the help of the story 'The Enemy'.
- OR**
- B. Both Derry and Lamb are physically impaired and lonely. It is the responsibility of society to understand and support people with infirmities so that they do not suffer from a sense of alienation. As a responsible citizen, write in about 120-150 words, what you would do to bring about a change in the lives of such people.