

MID-TERM EXAMINATION (2025-26)

CLASS : XII

SUBJECT : ENGLISH (301)

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 80

General Instructions :

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them.

- 1. This question paper has 13 questions. All the questions are compulsory.*
- 2. This question paper contains three sections*
Section A Reading skills
Section B Creative writing skills
Section C Literature
- 3. Attempt all the 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)

- 1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the given questions (12)**

“Calligraphy is the art of beautiful writing, it is like meditation where you nurture each stroke with love,” says Qamar Dagar, calligraphy artist and recipient of 2016 Naari Shakti Puraskar. Her skilful blending of Urdu and Hindi scripts is a visual treat. Qamar, who hails from the Dagar family renowned for its expertise in dhrupad music, grew up in a household that was always open to poets, painters and philosophers. Interested in the visual arts, she began designing posters for classical music programmes, paving her way to calligraphy. “I used to make up to 50 posters, all handwritten and repeating the same info,” says Qamar. With Hindi and Urdu close to her heart, Qamar says she would get excited by the idea of Hindi written from left to right and Urdu from right to left. Her art, she says, is the “coming together of two streams”. Inspired by Nature, music, and her

spiritual guide Hazrat Amin Abdullah Khan, Qamar's artworks engage audiences in a meaningful dialogue, exploring the abstractions of language and human emotions. Concerned about the limited number of calligraphers left due to a lack of opportunities, Qamar initiated a programme in 2010 aimed at preserving the art of calligraphy with sustainable space for artists. She founded the Qalamkari Calligraphy Creative Trust, prospering the idea of giving as you receive, in ink in a city racing towards the future, one man's ink holds back the tide. Mohammad Ghalib, 62, says calligraphy breathes life into letters, where ink becomes memory and every stroke whispers history. Urdu calligraphy, known as the 'bride of calligraphy scripts', is an art of preserving a language of love and resistance, he adds, as he dips a newly-sharpened bamboo reed, the tip honed to precision, in black ink to begin a work of art sitting inside the Kutub Khana Anjuman-e-Taraqqi-e-Urdu, a bookstore with a beautiful view of the majestic Jama Masjid. "Earlier calligraphers gave shape to beautiful letters, then the printing press snatched away the craftsmanship and produced artistically designed letters mechanically. Today a computer gets the same job done within a fraction of time, cost and effort. Back in the day, the Government helped to set up the Ghalib and the Urdu Academy to promote the art of calligraphy. "Art no longer serves as a sustainable means of living, people are not interested in pursuing it, rues Ghalib.

Answer the following questions, based on the above given passage.

1. Complete the following sentence: (1)

Qamar Dagar's calligraphy blends _____ scripts, creating a visual treat.

2. Read the sentence and pick the right option: (1)

"Calligraphy is the art of beautiful writing; it is like meditation.."

This suggests:

- A. It is a technical skill
- B. It is a stressful job
- ☒ C. It is a mindful, soothing activity
- D. It is a religious ritual

ATP EDUCATION

3. Read the sentence and pick the right option: (1)
- Qamar was drawn to calligraphy because:
- A. ☒ She wanted to earn money quickly
 - B. ☐ Her family forced her into it
 - C. ☐ She started making handwritten posters
 - D. ☐ She studied calligraphy at a university
4. What inspired Qamar Dagar's calligraphy art? (2)
5. "Printing press is to craftsmanship as computer is to ____." (1)
- A. ☐ Creativity
 - B. ☒ Speed
 - C. ☐ Art
 - D. ☐ Memory
6. What does Ghalib mean when he says "ink becomes memory"? (1)
- A. ☐ Ink fades easily
 - B. ☐ Each stroke holds history and meaning
 - C. ☒ Ink is more permanent than print
 - D. ☐ Calligraphy uses a lot of ink
7. Why does Qamar compare her work to "the coming together of two streams"? (1)
- A. ☐ She mixes calligraphy and painting
 - B. ☒ She uses two types of ink
 - C. ☐ She combines Urdu and Hindi writing styles
 - D. ☐ She copies ancient scripts

8. What was the name of the calligraphy trust founded by Qamar? Which award was she felicitated with in 2016? (2)
9. What traditional tool does Ghalib use for his calligraphy? (1)
10. Which word in the passage means 'protect'? (1)
 - A. Neglect
 - B. Preserve
 - C. Artistic
 - D. Memorable

Q2. Read the following passage carefully and answer the given questions (10)

Why is Africa far behind the rest of the world? This continent includes some of the most poverty-stricken countries in the world. Half of its countries have a low score on the United Nations Human Development Index (HDI Score 0.550), with Sub-Saharan countries such as South Sudan, Somalia and the Central African Republic consistently ranking the lowest. Twenty-four out of the 26 countries designated as low-income countries by the World Bank are in Africa. What are the key drivers of high levels of poverty in this continent? Firstly, poor governance and political instability marred by corruption and lack of institutional accountability lead to limited public investment in basic social services such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure. This unequal access to resources and opportunities in favour of a particular ethnic group fuels social unrest escalating into full-blown armed conflicts, civil wars, and genocides. At times, these conflicts can have a contagious effect and spread into neighbouring regions. Poverty rates in countries affected by conflicts are nearly three times as high as compared in countries not affected by conflict. Secondly, agriculture serves as the primary source of income for most of the population. Although smallholder farmers contribute up to 70% of the food supply, the low agricultural productivity lags behind the global average. Major cereal crop yields are 2.5 times lower than the global average. Irrigation is heavily dependent on rainwater. Only 6% of cultivated land is currently irrigated, compared to 14% in Latin America and 37% in Asia. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the value added per

ATP EDUCATION

worker is less than half of the global average as far as agricultural productivity is concerned, and the fertilizer application per hectare is only one-eighth. Climate change, such as droughts, floods, and unpredictable rainfall patterns, further reduces agricultural productivity, limits economic growth, and increases food insecurity, thus perpetuating the cycle of poverty. Thirdly, the lack of rail and road infrastructure, coupled with a small domestic market size, continues to hinder Africa's exports and intra-regional trade, thus restricting its economic growth. Inefficient logistics increases the cost of transportation and further impacts provision of social and economic services. Only 2% of Africa's freight and passenger traffic travels through its rails, and only 27% of its roads are paved. Historically, Africa has relied heavily on exporting primary commodities such as oil, minerals and agricultural products. Africa has only 2% of the world's total railway coverage and 3% of its roadways. Lastly, having a high annual population growth rate of 2.4% vs 0.85% globally puts strain on existing resources (land, water, food) and infrastructure (schools, hospitals, housing), making it harder to achieve economic development and improve living standards for all. Rapid population growth in Africa has outpaced economic growth, leading to a decline in per capita income and resulting in stresses in healthcare, education, and well-being. Through access to mass education and social programmes, technology, affordable funding for infrastructure and climate change, and agricultural best practices, actively supported by the developed and developing world, can alleviate much of the above challenges, thus giving the African people an opportunity to come out of extreme poverty.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

1. Complete the following sentence: (1)

Sub-Saharan African countries such as South Sudan, Somalia, and the Central African Republic consistently rank the lowest in _____

2. Read the sentence and pick the right option: (1)

"Poor governance and political instability primarily result in

ATP EDUCATION

- A. Rapid population growth
 - B. High agricultural productivity
 - C. Limited public investment in social services
 - D. Efficient infrastructure development
3. Read the sentence and pick the right option: (1)
- Why do ethnic divisions lead to conflict?
- A. Due to lack of religious beliefs
 - B. Because of unequal access to resources and opportunities
 - C. Because Africa has too many languages
 - D. Due to absence of rainfall
4. Why is agriculture not able to drive strong economic growth in Africa? Give 2 reasons. (2)
5. "Rain-fed agriculture is to unpredictability as irrigated agriculture is to ____." (1)
- A. Draught
 - B. Stability
 - C. Rainfall
 - D. Migration
6. What percentage of roads in Africa are paved, according to the passage? (1)
- A. 15%
 - B. 40%
 - C. 27%
 - D. 50%

ATP EDUCATION

7. What happens when population growth outpaces economic growth? (1)
- A. Wealth Increases for all
 - B. Per capita income declines and public systems are stressed
 - C. Exports rise
 - D. There is more agricultural land
8. Mention the ways suggested in the passage, that may help Africa to overcome poverty issues. (2)

SECTION-B (CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS)

Q3. Attempt any one of the two (A) or (B) in about 50 words. (4)

- (A) You are Tanvir/Tanu Secretary of Evergreen Housing Society Greater Noida. All the members of the society are keen to learn and practice yoga. Draft a notice informing the residents about a Yoga and Meditation Camp to be organised in the society giving all the necessary details. Put your notice in a box.

OR

- (B) You are Head of Legal Literacy Club of RK Public School, Kanpur. The Legal Literacy Club of your school is planning to invite an eminent lawyer to conduct a session to sensitize the students of class 11th and 12th on crime against women and redressal. Draft a notice informing the students and giving all the necessary details. Put your notice in a box. (4)

Q.4 Attempt any one of the two (A) or (B) in about 50 words. (4)

- (A) You are Arpit /Arpita school captain of Himalaya Public School. Draft an invitation for the grand celebration of Mother's Day in your school. Give all the necessary details, including the name of the chief guest.

OR

- (B) Mrs Ekta Sahni and Mr. Ravi Sahni have been invited by Mr Atul Sharma and Ms Seema Sharma to the 75th birthday celebration of their father. Draft a reply of acceptance.

ATP EDUCATION

Q.5 Attempt any one of the two (A) or (B) in about 120-150 words. (5)

- (A) You are Praveen/Presha resident of Meerut city. Write a letter to the editor of a national newspaper raising your concern about the lack of medical amenities in the hospitals and health centres in your area. Suggest some suitable measures as a solution

OR

- (B) You are Aseem/Sara a fresh graduate in Information Technology from a reputed Institute. You came across an advertisement for the position of Product Designer in Moonlight Enterprises, Seva Nagar Mumbai. Write a letter to the Chairman along with your biodata citing your suitability for the post.

Q.6 Attempt any one of the two (a) or (B) in about 120-150 words. (5)

- (A) As a student of class 12 you realise that your classmates are spending too many hours playing online games through various platforms, which is affecting their health and studies. Write an article for your School Magazine on the topic- Impact of Long Hours of Online Gaming. You are Rashmi/Rashim.

OR

- (B) The Ambience Learning Society in collaboration with the American Embassy conducted a Career Talk for the students of class 11th and 12th to discuss the career opportunities in various fields. Write a report for the student edition of the Mint newspaper. You are Avi/Avni.

SECTION-C (LITERATURE)

Q.7 Read the following extracts and solve any one of the given two, (A) or (B) (6x1=6)

- (A) "Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms;

And such-too is the grandeur of the dooms

All lovely tales that we have heard or read

An endless fountain of immortal drink,

Pouring unto us from heaven's brink

(A Thing of Beauty)

ATP EDUCATION

1. Statement and Reason : (1)

Statement : The poet refers to beautiful tales and heroic deaths as an “endless fountain of immortal drink.”

Reason: The poet believes that beauty in art and imagination gives eternal joy and nourishment to the soul.

Which of the following is correct? (1)

- A. Both Statement and Reason are true, and Reason explains the Statement
 - B. Statement is true, but Reason is false
 - C. Both Statement and Reason are false
 - D. Statement is false, but Reason is true
2. What is the “endless fountain of immortal drink” compared to? (1)
- A. A source of everlasting beauty and inspiration
 - B. A natural spring found in forests
 - C. The tears of the mighty dead
 - D. An overflowing cup of sorrow
3. Which poetic device is used in “an endless fountain of immortal drink”? (1)
4. “Musk-rose blooms is to nature’s beauty as “Immortal drink is to _____. (1)
- A. Time
 - B. Sadness
 - C. Spiritual nourishment and joy
 - D. Memory
5. Why does the poet refer to the grandeur of the dooms of the mighty dead? (1)

ATP EDUCATION

6. True/False

(1)

The poet believes that beautiful things provide temporary happiness.

OR

(B) For once on the face of the Earth

let's not speak in any language

let's stop for one second

and not move our arms so much

It would be an exotic moment

without rush, without engines,

we would all be together

in a sudden strangeness.

1. Statement and Reason :

Statement: The poet suggests stopping all speech and movement, even for just one second.

Reason: He wants humanity to experience a rare, peaceful, and united moment.

Which of the following is correct?

(1)

A. Both Statement and Reason are true, and Reason explains the Statement

B. Statement is true, but Reason is false

C. Both Statement and Reason are false

D. Statement is false, but Reason is true

2. The poet compares the moment of silence and stillness to:

(1)

A. A busy city street

B. A loud concert

C. An exotic, strange, yet peaceful experience.

D. The ticking of a clock

3. Which poetic device is used in “we would all be together in a sudden strangeness”? (1)
4. “Rush is to noise as the exotic moment is to.....” (1)
- A. Engines
- B. ✓ Silence and unity
- C. Action
- D. Sound
5. Why does the poet ask people to stop speaking in “any language”? (1)
6. True/False (1)

The poet desires long-term inactivity and silence as a way of life.

Q.8 Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two (A) or (B): (4x1=4)

- (A) The British officer's secretary sent word to the Maharaja through the dewan that the durai himself did not have to kill the tiger. The Maharaja could do the actual killing. What was important to the durai was a photograph of himself holding the gun and standing over the tiger's carcass. But the Maharaja would not agree even to this proposal. If he relented now, what would he do if other British officers turned up for tiger hunts?

Because he prevented a British officer from fulfilling his desire, the Maharaja stood in danger of losing his kingdom itself.

1. Which of the following statements does not align with the Maharaja's attitude in this passage? (1)
- A. ✓ The Maharaja was protective of his royal dignity.
- B. The Maharaja feared losing his kingdom to the British.
- C. The Maharaja valued the safety of wildlife over politics.
- D. The Maharaja refused even symbolic involvement of the British officer.

ATP EDUCATION

2. Why did the Maharaja reject the officer's request even when it was only for a photo with the tiger? (1)

3. True/False (1)

The Maharaja risked losing his kingdom by denying the British officer's request.

4. "Photograph is to memory as standing over the tiger's carcass is to ____." (1)

- A. Vanity
- B. Symbolic power
- C. Hunting ethics
- D. Diplomacy

OR

(B) "It was certainly very careless of me," the General said. "But you understand it was not a lack of patriotism or dereliction of duty. He looked anxiously at his doctor, "If the matter should come out you would understand that, wouldn't you?" "Certainly, Your Excellency, Sadao said. He suddenly comprehended that the General was in the palm of his hand and that as a consequence he himself was perfectly safe. I can swear to your loyalty, Excellency, he said to the old General, "and to your zeal against the enemy."

1. Why does the General insist that his actions were not due to a lack of patriotism? (1)

2. What does this moment reveal about Dr. Sadao's position in relation to the General? (1)

3. Which of the following best reflects the General's attitude in this passage? (1)

- A. He is proud and authoritative
- B. He is indifferent to consequences
- C. He is anxious and trying to justify himself
- D. He is aggressive and suspicious of Dr. Sadao

4. "General is to vulnerability as Dr. Sadao is to ____." (1)

- A. Betrayal
- B. Cowardice
- C. Control and moral strength
- D. Confusion

Q.9 Read the extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B) (6x1=6)

(A) Have I not often sent you to water my flowers instead of learning your lessons? And when I wanted to go fishing, did I not just give you a holiday?" Then, from one thing to another, M. Hamel went on to talk of the French language, saying that it was the most beautiful language in the world the clearest, the most logical; that we must guard it among us and never forget it, because when a people are enslaved, as long as they hold fast to their language it is as if they had the key to their prison. Then he opened the grammar and read us our lesson. I was amazed to see how well I understood it. All he said seemed so easy, so easy!

1. What does M. Hamel mean when he says, "when a people are enslaved, as long as they hold fast to their language it is as if they had the key to their prison"? (1)

2. Complete the sentence: (1)

The narrator was surprised at how well he understood the grammar lesson because_____.

- A. He had secretly studied the lesson in advance
- B. M. Hamel was teaching in a different language
- C. He was suddenly paying attention with deep respect and emotion
- D. The lesson was unusually simple

3. What does the passage reveal about M. Hamel's teaching on this final day? (1)

- A. He was angry and bitter
- B. He wanted to punish the students for neglecting studies
- C. He refused to teach the lesson
- D. He showed compassion and emphasized the importance of the French language

ATP EDUCATION

4. What is the antonym of the word “amazed” as used in the line “I was amazed to see how well I understood it?” (1)
- A. Surprised
- B. Shocked
- C. Unimpressed
- D. Curious
5. True/False (1)
- M. Hamel used the last lesson to express anger and disappointment only.
6. According to M. Hamel, why must people guard their language? (1)

OR

- (B) Tiny vestiges of the old terror would return. But now I could frown and say to that terror, Trying to scare me, eh? Well, here’s to you! Look!” And off I’d go for another length of the pool.

This went on until July. But I was still not satisfied. I was not sure that all the terror had left. So I went to Lake Wentworth in New Hampshire, dived off a dock at Triggs Island, and swam two miles across the lake to Stamp Act Island. I swam the crawl, breaststroke, side stroke, and back stroke. Only once did the terror return. When I was in the middle of the lake, I put my face under and saw nothing but bottomless water. The old sensation returned in miniature.

1. Why did the narrator swim across Lake Wentworth even after learning to swim? (1)
2. The narrator’s challenge to swim in Lake Wentworth shows that _____. (1)
- A. He had developed a passion for competition
- B. He wanted to become an athlete
- C. He was determined to conquer every trace of his lingering fear
- D. He wanted to impress others with his strength

ATP EDUCATION

3. **Statement:** The narrator still felt traces of fear while swimming in the lake.

Reason: Fear is sometimes deeply rooted and can return even after training and confidence-building

Which of the following is correct?

(1)

- A. Both Statement and Reason are true, and Reason explains the Statement
- B. Both are true, but Reason does not explain the Statement
- C. Statement is true, but Reason is false
- D. Both Statement and Reason are false

4. What technique did the narrator use to respond to his fear during swimming?

(1)

- A. He avoided deep water entirely
- B. He asked others to accompany him
- C. He meditated before swimming
- D. He confronted it directly and challenged it with courage

5. True/False

(1)

The narrator never felt afraid again after swimming the length of the pool.

6. Sentence Completion

(1)

When the narrator put his face underwater and saw nothing but bottomless water, _____

Q10. Attempt any five questions in 40-50 words each :

(5×2=10)

- I. What did Franz notice while going to school?
- II. Describe the life of Mukesh's grandfather.
- III. How did the instructor help Willian Douglas to learn swimming?
- IV. Why did the peddler rob the crofter?

- V. How does the phrase 'merry children spilling out of their homes' contribute to the tone of the poem 'My Mother at Sixty Six'?
- VI. Why was Gandhi not in favour of Charles Freer Andrews staying and helping the people of Champaran?

Q11. Attempt any two questions (Word limit: 40 words each)

(2x2=4)

- I. What solution did the dewan and the king figure out when the British officer desired to hunt the tiger?
- II. Describe the Third Level as seen by Charley.
- III. How did Dr Sadao help the American soldier to escape after he recovered from his injury?

Q12. Answer any one of the following two questions in about 120-150 words.

(5)

- (A) The common people are stuck in the vicious circle of greed and exploitation. Explain with reference to the chapter 'Lost spring' and 'Indigo'.

OR

- (B) 'Courage is Resistance to fear, mastery of fear - not absence of fear'. Giving the example of William Douglas motivate your classmates through a speech.

Q13. Attempt any one question (Word limit: 120-150 words)

(5)

- (A) Charlie's character displays escapism due to uncertainty and stress of day to day life. Write an article on 'Hobbies and activities can help a person to reduce stress and tension'.

OR

- (B) Human impact on the environment raises a major concern. Explain with reference to "Journey to the end of the Earth".