

**KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN, LUCKNOW REGION**  
**PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION (2024-2025)**  
**ENGLISH CORE (301)**  
**CLASS XII**

**Time: 3 Hrs**

**M.M. 80**

**General Instructions:-**

1. This question paper contains 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. The Question Paper is divided into THREE sections-READING, CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS and 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. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions .

**Section A (Reading Skills )22 marks**

**1. Read the given passage carefully:-**

**12**

The advent of technology in the 21st century has brought profound changes to our way of life. On one hand, it has made communication faster, improved healthcare, and brought the world closer by enabling access to information and services like never before. On the other hand, it has raised concerns over issues like privacy, mental health, and over-reliance on gadgets. One of the most significant changes has been the way people communicate. Social media platforms have become a major part of daily life for millions, allowing people to stay in touch, share experiences, and voice opinions. However, while this has brought a sense of connectivity, it has also led to concerns about superficial relationships and decreased face-to-face interactions. Many studies suggest that prolonged use of social media can lead to issues like anxiety, depression, and a skewed sense of self-worth, especially among teenagers. The introduction of technology in education has been a game-changer.

Online learning platforms, digital classrooms, and access to resources have democratized education, breaking down geographic barriers and providing opportunities for all. But it has also highlighted the digital divide, where those without access to technology are left behind, further exacerbating inequalities. In healthcare, the impact of technology is unmistakable. From robotic surgeries to telemedicine, patient care has improved dramatically. Patients in remote areas can now consult with specialists, and medical advancements have led to better treatments and early diagnosis of diseases. Nevertheless, the cost of technological healthcare can be prohibitive for many, leading to unequal access to these benefits. In conclusion, while technology has undoubtedly revolutionized our world in countless ways, it is crucial to strike a balance. Over-reliance on technology can lead to physical, social, and emotional issues. Societies must address these challenges, ensuring that technology serves as a tool for advancement without compromising human connection and well-being.

**On the basis of the reading of the above passage, answer the following questions:-**

1. What is one of the main concerns regarding social media usage? **1**
  - a. It improves face-to-face interaction
  - b. It leads to superficial relationships and less real-life interaction.
  - c. It fosters deep and meaningful relationships
  - d. It has no effect on relationships

2. How has technology affected education? 1
- a. It has reduced the quality of education
  - b. It has made education inaccessible to many
  - c. It has democratized education by breaking geographic barriers.
  - d. It has made education less relevant
3. What does the passage suggest about the future use of technology? 1
4. Which of the following is a benefit of technology in healthcare? 1
- a. Increased healthcare costs for everyone
  - b. Improved access to specialists through telemedicine
  - c. Less effective treatments
  - d. Poorer diagnosis methods
5. What is one of the disadvantages of technology in healthcare? 1
- a. Everyone has equal access to technological healthcare
  - b. It is too slow to implement in hospitals.
  - c. It can be expensive, leading to unequal access
  - d. It reduces the quality of care
6. What is the primary recommendation of the passage? 1
- a. Society should rely more on technology for everything
  - b. Technology should be banned in healthcare and education
  - c. Societies should balance the use of technology while addressing its challenges
  - d. Technology should replace human interaction.
7. How has technology changed the way people communicate in the 21st century? 2
8. What is the impact of technology on education, and what problem does it pose? 2
9. What are some of the disadvantages of over use of technology? 2

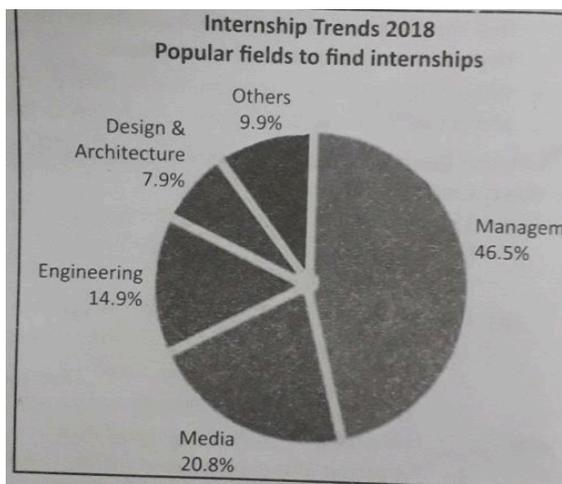
**2. Read the following passage carefully: -**

**1x10= 10**

1. 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 a 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.

2. 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 startups, MNCs and even government entities. The survey also revealed popular fields to find internships. 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-school masters.

3. 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 rupees 7000, while the maximum stipend went up to 85,000 rupees. According to statistics, a greater number of people considered virtual internship better 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.



4. 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 an 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 web platforms are working as an effective bridge between the industry and students, most established companies are still reluctant to take too many interns on board for obvious reasons that interns leave their job in between for the higher interns in the other companies

**Answer the following questions:-**

**1. Select the correct inference with reference to the following:**

Over the last five years, more companies have been actively looking for intern profiles...

- The past five years, more companies have seen active applications by several companies
- The activity for intern profiling by the companies has reached a gradual down slide over the past five years.
- There were lesser companies searching for intern profiles earlier, as compared to those in the recent five years
- Several companies have initiated intern profiling five times a year in the recent past.

**2. Select the option that displays the true statement with reference to the given figure:-**

- a. Internships for Engineering and Management are the top two favourites.
- b. Design & Architecture internships are significantly more popular than others.
- c. Internships for Media and others have nearly equal popularity percentage.
- d. Management internships’ popularity is more than twice that for Media.

**3. Based on your reading of paragraphs 2-3, select the appropriate counter-argument to the given argument.**

Argument : I don’t think you’ll be considered for an internship just because you have been the student editor and Head of Student Council.

- a. I think I have a fair chance because I’m applying for a virtual position 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 good ‘earn while you learn ‘opportunity.
- d. Lot of metro-cities have a good percentage of positions open and I think I should definitely take a chance.

**4. Select the option that displays the correct cause-effect relationship-**

(a)		(b)	
Cause	Effect	Cause	Effect
Several students had academic courses to complete	Students applied for online internship	A large chunk of students preferred in-office internships	Applications were three times more than for virtual internships
(c)		(d)	
Cause	Effect	Cause	Effect
A greater number of students wanted to work from home	Several students had courses to complete	Students applied for online internship	An equal number of students applied for work-from-home

- a. option b
- b. option c
- c. option d
- d. option a

5. What is the meaning of the phrase ‘Healthy Traffic’?

6. Which factor is the most instrumental in influencing the choices of internship?

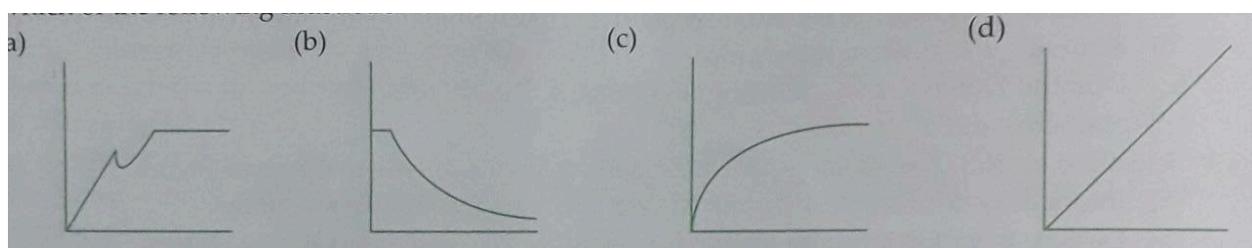
**7. The survey statistics mention the average stipend, indicating that-**

- a. 50% interns were offered 85,000 rupees
- b. 7,000 rupees was the lowest and 85,000 was the highest
- c. Most interns were offered an average of 7000 rupees
- d. No intern was offered more than 7000 rupees.

**8. Read the two statements given below and select the option that suitably explains them:-**

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
  - b. 1 is false but 2 correctly explains 1
  - c. 1 summarize 2
  - d. 1 is true and 2 is the reason for 1

**9. Which of the following illustration indicates the status of internship portal in the last three to four years-?**



- a. Picture a
- b. Picture b
- c. Picture c
- d. Picture d

10. Select the central idea of the paragraph likely to precede Para1;-

- a. Process of registering for internship
- b. Increasing trend of internship
- c. Dos and Don'ts for an internship interview
- d. Start-ups and internships

### **Section B (Creative Writing Skills) 18 marks**

**3. Attempt ANY ONE of the following:-**

**4**

A. You are Jairam Reddy, The Head of the English Club. On the occasion of the International Day of English Language, your school has decided to organize English week. You are required to call a meeting of the office bearers of the English Language Club to plan arrangements for the event. Draft a notice for the same. (Wordlimit: 50 words)

Or

B. You, as the School Secretary of the Social Science Club, have to write a notice to be put up on the school notice board regarding the need to raise funds for lepers (Hansen's disease) in your city. Funds collected will be sent to the Red Cross, New Delhi. Each donor will be issued a formal receipt for donation. The Red Cross will award a Red Cross to the donors donating more than rupees 500. (Word limit 50 words)

**4. Attempt ANY ONE of the following:-**

**4**

A. You are Khushi Singh/Kunal Singh, a student counsellor of N.J. Public School. You are invited by S.M. International School, New Delhi, to address Class XII students on Goal Setting and Time Management. Write a formal reply on his/her behalf, accepting the invitation and confirming your presence at the stated time. Include relevant detail.

Or

B. You are Rohan. You have been invited to attend the wedding of your friend's brother. Respond to the invitation regretting your inability to attend it. Invent necessary details and do not exceed 50 words.

**5. Attempt ANY ONE of the following:-**

**5**

A. Your school organised a week-long campaign to create awareness of the plight of senior citizens in old age homes and ways of volunteering to bring smiles to their faces. This effort by the students was greatly appreciated. You decide to write a letter to the editor of a local daily to create awareness amongst people all over the city. You are Deepak/Deepa, R.J. International School, New Delhi. You may combine your ideas with the cues given below:-

HELP THE SENIOR CITIZENS

MAKE THEM SMILE

- Panel Discussion on 'How to help the elderly'
- Visit to old age homes
- Distribution of hampers
- Cultural programmes
- Pledge to volunteer one hour a week.

Or

B. You are Preeti Singh, a resident of M-114, Model Town, New Delhi. You see the following advertisement in a newspaper and decide to apply for the same.

Situation Vacant

Required an M.A. Political Science, B.Ed, female to teach Senior Secondary classes in M.J. Model School. New Delhi. Candidates with technical knowledge and good communication skill will be preferred. Salary no bar for deserving candidates.

Apply with complete Resume latest by 20 March 20XX.

**6. Attempt ANY ONE of the following:-**

**5**

A. For admission to colleges, there is a lot of competition today. For one available seat, there are hundreds of candidates. Such a situation leads to stress on the minds of students in the schools. However, the practice of yoga can help them feel calm and stress-free. Write an article, in about 120-150 words, on the topic, 'Importance of Yoga for Students'. You are Karan/Karuna.

Or

B. The Ministry of Transport, New Delhi organised a one day 'Auto-Mela at the Institute of Driving, Saket, to motivate women drivers to take up commercial driving. The day long event was inaugurated by the Commissioner of Police, Mr. S.P. Mehra.

The event started with an introduction to commercial driving-its rules and regulations. This was followed by a basic training session in self-defence,a run through of the licensing procedures and a sale of second-hand cars. You are Anita/Anil, Staff Reporter of ‘The Daily News’. Write a report in 120-150 words mentioning date, main features, purpose and response of participants.

### Section C: Literature Text Book and Supplementary Reading Text (40)

7. Read the following extracts carefully and answer ANY ONE of them: -

1x6=6

**A. “When aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie  
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.  
The tigers in the panel that she made  
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.”**

a. Read the statement given below:-

Aunt Jennifer’s plight is best explained by her hands, they hold both her freedom and the instrument of her imprisonment.

Choose the option that best explains the above statement, as per the extract.

- i. Aunt Jennifer’s hands are terrified, but when she is dead, her tigers will roam free.
  - ii. Aunt Jennifer knits her desires, but is over powered by the wedding ring she wears.
  - iii. Aunt Jennifer’s tigers are proud and unafraid, but she is mastered by ringed ordeals.
  - iv. Aunt Jennifer makes panel of tigers when she has time from her responsibilities.
- b. Which of the following cannot be inferred from the given extract?
- i. Aunt Jennifer’s tigers will keep her alive in everyone’s memory.
  - ii. Aunt Jennifer feels oppressed and constricted in her marriage.
  - iii. Even in death, Aunt Jennifer cannot escape patriarchal subjugation.
  - iv. Aunt Jennifer’s tigers prance as a lasting symbol of her desires.
- c. What makes the tigers ‘proud and unafraid’?
- d. Choose the option that does not reflect the movement implied by ‘prancing’.
- i. Bounding
  - ii. Frolicking
  - iii. Strutting
  - iv. Shuffling
- e. Which poetic device is used in ‘terrified hands’?
- f. Choose the option that does not reflect what the tigers represent in the poem:-
- i. Aunt Jennifer’s undying hopes
  - ii. Aunt Jennifer’s falling marriage
  - iii. Aunt Jennifer’s artistic skill
  - iv. Aunt Jennifer’s frustrations

Or

**B.” And such is the grandeur of the dooms  
We have imagined for the mighty dead;  
All lovely tales that we have heard or read:  
An endless fountain of immortal drink,  
Pouring unto us from the heaven’s brink.”**

a. Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract?

- i. The beauty of nature
- ii. The power of imagination
- iii. The immortality of art and literature
- iv. The inevitability of death

b.State whether the given extract is True or False, with reference to the extract. By referring to the dead as ‘mighty’, the poet emphasizes their importance and the power they exerted on the people.

c. Complete the given sentence appropriately:-

The endless fountain of immortal drink is an apt analogy for the tales of the mighty dead because \_\_\_\_\_

d. The use of the word 'brink' in the extract suggests that the immortality that is being poured onto us is on the verge of **overflowing**. This creates a powerful image of \_\_\_\_\_

- e. Based on the poem's rhyme scheme, evident in 2-5 lines, which word would rhyme with line 1?
- said
  - think
  - tombs
  - none
- f. Select the option that is NOT true about the lack of punctuation at the end of the line 1 in the extract.
- Creates a sense of continuity and flow that connects the line with the second line.
  - Encourages the reader to continue reading seamlessly without any pause.
  - Create a sense of anticipation and expectation for the reader.
  - Encourages a revisit to the ideas in the preceding lines.

**8. Read the extracts given below and answer ANY ONE of them:-**

**1x4=4**

**A.** You lose all earthly sense of perspective and time here. The visual scale ranges from the microscopic to the mighty; midges and mites to blue whales and icebergs as big as countries. Days go on and on and on in surreal 24 hour austral summer; light, and a ubiquitous silence, interrupted only by the occasional avalanche or calving ice sheets, consecrates the place.

- a. The 'visual scale' refers to –
- A measuring device
  - Range of things one can see
  - Visionary's belief
  - The magnitude of preparation
- b. Four people give reason for the author's feeling while travelling. Choose the option that correctly summarizes it based on your understanding of the extract.
- Person 1: I think the author is being paranoid about leaving her hometown.
- Person 2: I think, she is bewildered by the travel
- Person 3: As far as I can judge, Tishani is being hypocritical because she is comparing the two places.
- Person 4: In my opinion, she is amazed by the grandeur of the icy region.
- Person 1
  - Person 2
  - Person 3
  - Person 4
- c. Select the option that correctly fits the category of 'microscopic to the mighty' out of the ones given below:-
- Trace of a skin cell : trace of a bird's eggs
  - A grain of rice : a field of rice
  - A scoop of ice-cream : an ice-cream cone
  - A drop of water; an ocean

- i. A,B
  - ii. C,D
  - iii. A, C
  - iv. B,D
- d. What can be the consequence of avalanche?

Or

B. "You are well", Sadao agreed. He lowered his voice. "You are so well that I think if I put my boat on the shore tonight, with food and extra clothing in it, you might be able to row to that little island not far from the coast. It is so near the coast that it has not been worth fortifying. Nobody lives on it because in storm it is submerged. But this is not the season of storm. You could live there until you saw a Korean fishing boat pass by. They pass quite near the island because the water is many fathoms deep there."

The young man stared at him, slowly comprehending. "Do I have to?" he asked.

"I think so", Sadao again said gently. "You understand-it is not hidden that you are here."

- a. "The arrangement of food and clothing by Dr. Sadao portray him as :
  - i. A kind and compassionate person
  - ii. An experienced sailor
  - iii. A good event organiser
  - iv. A good adviser
- b. "not been worth fortifying" What does it indicate?
- c. What is the speaker's tone in the expression: Do I have to?
- d. "It is not hidden you are here." Why did Dr. Sadao say so?
  - i. To explain why he cannot stay there anymore
  - ii. To remind him that he has tried to hide his presence.
  - iii. To explain that it is necessary and good for both of them
  - iv. To assert that his house is not a hiding place.

**9. Read the extracts given below and answer ANY ONE of them:-1x6=6**

A. "Suddenly the book assumed tremendous significance...the poet who had visited Gemini Studios! In a moment I felt a dark chamber of my mind lit up a hazy illumination."

- a. Which book is being referred to here?

- i. The Name of the Rose
- ii. Joatham Valley
- iii. The God That Saved
- iv. The God That Failed

- b. Where did the narrator come across this book?

- c. Name the poet who visited the Gemini Studios.

- d. Why was the Englishman's visit to the studio referred to as 'unexplained mystery'?

- i. Nobody took interest in his lecture

- ii. Nobody had any particular interest for English poetry.

- iii. None could understand the language of the poet.

- iv. Both ii and iii

- e. What was the reason of the cheap cost of the book?

- i. It was the offer given by the writers of the book

- ii. It was special student edition due to the anniversary of Russian Revolution.

iii. It was not worth reading.

iv. None of the above

f. The poet mentioned in the above lines is the editor of \_\_\_\_\_.

Or

B. "On Saturday they make their weekly pilgrimage to watch United. Sophie and her father and little Derek went down near the goal-Geoff, as always, went with his mates higher up. United won two-nil and Casey drove in the second goal, a blend of innocence and Irish genius, going round the two big defenders on the edge of the penalty area, with her father screaming for him to pass, and beating the hesitant goalkeeper from a dozen yards."

a. Their visit to the match was like a 'weekly pilgrimage' refers to-

i. Strong bond as a family

ii. love for a fixed routine

iii. similar feelings of devotion

iv. excitement for the match

b. Based on the following statements, choose the correct option.

Assertion : "Geoff, as always, went with his mates higher up."

Reason 1 : Geoff was not very close to his family and lived in his own world.

Reason 2 : Geoff was rude and indifferent towards everyone around him and didn't care about anyone at all.

i. Reason 1 and Reason 2 both can be inferred from the assertion.

ii. Reason 1 can be inferred but Reason 2 can't be inferred from the assertion.

iii. Reason 1 cannot be inferred but Reason 2 can be inferred.

iv. Reason 1 and Reason 2 cannot be inferred.

c. 'Sophie glowed with pride.' Her pride is the result of \_\_\_\_\_.

d. Choose the option listing the situation in which one would be 'ecstatic'.

Scenario 1 : Going to an old age home and listening to them share stories from the past.

Scenario 2 : Being seated next to your favourite pop singer during a short flight.

Scenario 3 : Going to a dog show and losing your pet there.

Scenario 4 : Coming home and finding that there are 11 messages from your Principal in your email inbox

a. Scenario 1

b. Scenario 2

c. Scenario 3

d. Scenario 4

e. What do you know about Danny Casey after reading the given extract?

f. What was the result of the match?'

**10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following questions in about 40-50 words:- 2x5=10**

- a. Who does the poet in A Roadside Stand accuse of being beneficent beast of prey and why?
- b. Rationalize why Keats uses the metaphor 'an endless fountain of immortal drink' in his poem, 'A Thing of Beauty'.
- c. Imagery was an effective literary device to bring out the contrast between the 'merry children' and 'mother'. Comment.(My Mother at Sixty Six )
- d. Gandhi makes it clear that money and finance are a secondary aspect of the struggle in Champaran. Comment on the aspect that you think was most important for Gandhi.
- e. How does Umberto Eco explain his capacity of doing so much work? What are interstices and how does Eco use them?
- f. What is 'linguistic chauvinism'? Analyse the order from Berlin in this light.(The Last Lesson)

**11. Answer ANY TWO of the following questions in about 40-50 words: - (2x2=4)**

- a. 'Students on Ice' is a programme that prepares global citizens. Discuss.
- b. What do you mean by 'waking dream wish fulfilment'? What would you describe as your 'waking dream wish fulfilment'? ( The Third Level )
- c. Why did Derry go back to Mr. Lamb's garden even after opposition by his mother ?

**12. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 120-150 words. 5**

A. The prose selections, Deep Water and Indigo, bring out the importance of overcoming fear, in order to be able to lead our lives successfully.

Imagine yourself to be a motivational speaker who has to address high school students. Write the address in about 120-150 words elaborating on occurrences from the two texts to inspire your audience and to convince them about the importance of overcoming fear.

You may begin like this-

Good Morning Students!

We all know what it's like to be afraid. Fear is our body's natural response to a perceived threat or danger.

Or

- B. "The daughter stood there quite embarrassed and hardly knew what to answer. That morning she had felt so happy when she thought how homelike and Christmassy she was going to make things for the poor hungry wretch." The tramp is a fraud, but he displays the beauty of his heart. On the other hand, the ironmaster's daughter is just opposite to her father.

Every human being is endowed with some positive characteristic or beauty of heart, and that comes out automatically when the time comes. Similarly, both the tramp and the daughter exchange the beauty of their hearts at the right time. How? Justify your answer.

**13. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 120-150 words: - (1x5=5)**

A. A grown up Zitkala-Sa, reflects on the incident about cutting of her long hair and is conflicted that she did not do enough to resist and surrendered easily.

She decided to write a diary entry as the grown-up Zitkala-Sa, expressing these thoughts. You can start like this:-

I find myself reflecting on an event that happened many years ago.

Or

B .Both the General (The Enemy) and the Maharaja (The Tiger King), deal with death. They are powerful figures confronted by a similar fate.

You wish to include the qualities of both these characters in your speech to speak about satire. Write the speech for a gathering of students of grade XII showing similarity between these two characters.