



Delhi Public School, Howrah

PERIODIC TEST II (2024-2025)

Class-XI

Care must be taken not to write anything on the question paper. All the questions must be attempted in the correct sequence.

SUBJECT: ENGLISH CORE (CODE - 301)

Time: - 3 Hours

Maximum Marks- 80

General instructions:

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-Section A - (READING), Section B- (WRITING) and Section C (LITERATURE).
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.
3. Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions and follow them.
4. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

Q. No	SECTION A – READING	26
1.	<p>Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow</p> <p>Sacred trees form an important part of the ecological heritage of India. Most temples, towns, villages – and even the dargahs – are associated with trees. Some plants are sacred to the individual deity; others are sacred to the place. Several plants have been worshipped in India from time immemorial. Wherever the tulsi grows – from the Indo-Gangetic plains to the shore of the Indian Ocean at Kanyakumari – it occupies a position of pride at the central courtyard of the house tended to carefully by the housewife.</p> <p>Apart from the elaborating myths connecting to Krishna, the tulsi plant has several medicinal properties. To protect and revere this plant with so many medicinal properties, it was designated as sacred, a fitting tribute to its role in providing invaluable healthcare. The worship of plant is an ancient phenomenon in India. It is probably the oldest form of worship. The association of a single tree with a sacred sthala or sthana is reflected in the chaityavriksha and sthalavriksha or literature and society.</p> <p>When people turned to food production, the Mother Goddess or Earth Mother became the chief deity. Fertility, creation and the world of plants and animals became her blessings to her devotees. The worship of the tree was the adoration of her creative abilities, symbolizing fertility so essential for the survival of the early people. Spirits – good or bad – were believed to reside in the trees. If the trees were worshipped, then the resident spirits were pleased. As sacred forests were replaced by agriculture, a single tree was left and was designated as the ‘sacred’ tree.</p> <p>The earliest temples were little more than images placed under trees. Later the tree and image were enclosed by a fence made of wood, followed even by a stone. Numerous references are made in literature to trees as abodes of gods.</p> <p>On the basis of your understanding of the passage, choose the most appropriate options for the questions that follow. (1x10=10)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">i) Which of these, form an important part of the ecological heritage of India?<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Indo-Gangetic plainsb) Mother Goddessc) Sacred treesd) Kanyakumari	10 marks

- ii) Determine which quote most effectively encapsulates the passage's main idea.
- To me, nature is sacred; trees are my temples and forests are my cathedrals. –Mikhael Gorbachev
 - Trees are poems the earth writes upon the sky. –Khalil Gibran
 - All the trees are losing their leaves, and not one of them is worried. –Donald Miller
 - Time spent amongst trees is never wasted time. –Katrina Mayer
- iii) Which feature best describes the 'tree' in the context: "It was designated as sacred, a fitting tribute to its role"?
- Medicinal
 - Nature's finest
 - Organic
 - None of these
- iv) The author of the passage attempts to _____ the reader through this article.
- Enlighten
 - Misinform
 - Warn
 - Obscure
- v) What is the idea conveyed in the last paragraph of the passage?
- Mother Goddess is the protector of mankind.
 - Spirits reside in trees.
 - Trees are regarded as abodes of gods.
 - Conserve Tulsi plant for its medicinal benefits.
- vi) Select the option that makes the correct use of 'elaborate' as used in the passage, to fill in the blank space.
- Together they _____ a clever scheme.
 - We sat beside an _____ lake in the evening.
 - They always give such _____ dinner parties.
 - The architect _____ a brilliant design.
- vii) Choose the option that states the most appropriate antonym of 'barren', as used in the passage.
- Production
 - Fertile
 - Adoration
 - Creation
- viii) Which statement does not align with the passage's claims?
- Spirits residing in the trees are pleased when these trees are worshipped.
 - Trees are worshipped for their creative abilities.
 - Trees are symbol of fertility.
 - Trees were considered sacred hence forests were not cut for agriculture purpose.
- ix) Which statement is least likely linked to mythology?
- The tulsi plant has several myths associated with Krishna.
 - Tulsi has been considered sacred since time immemorial due to its medicinal properties.
 - The association of a single tree with a sacred sthala or sthana is reflected in the chaityavriksha and sthalavriksha.
 - Some plants are sacred to the individual deity.
- x) ' - it occupies a position of pride at the central courtyard of the house tended to carefully by the housewife' – the following statement reflects _____
- The Indian culture and tradition
 - Importance of the position of the plant.
 - Duties of the housewife towards the plant
 - Practices of proud Indians

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow

1X8=8

2.

1. Tourism is a thriving business for earning valuable foreign exchange as well as providing an opportunity for cultural exchange and generating employment. India has a rich heritage of art, sculpture, music, dance and drama. Many European countries have promoted tourism as a trade. In some countries it is running like an industry. We, in India, are running it in a non-professional or amateurish manner.
2. Tourism in India is important for the country's economy and is growing rapidly. The World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTTC) calculated that tourism generated Rs 16.91 lakh crore or 9.2% of India's GDP in 2018 and supported 42.673 lakh jobs. Over one crore foreign tourists arrived in India in 2019. Domestic tourists visited all states and union territories numbered about 155 crores in 2019.
3. It is high time we must regard travel and tourism as an industry and launch action plans to accelerate the growth of tourism. A modal financial institution catering to the specific needs of tourism industry should be established.
4. The main stumbling blocks in the development of tourism at present are lack of infrastructure, inadequate ways of reaching hotels, tourist sites, gateways, etc, paucity in the number of coaches and cars (specially air-conditioned ones), ill-maintained roads. Conferences, cultural exchanges, tourist exchanges, leisure trips, educational trips, holiday trips or business trips should not be segregated and facilities available be publicized as an attractive package.
5. The need and aspiration of the various categories of tourists should be carefully analysed and adhered to in the sphere of accommodation, food, entertainment and guided tours. Last but not the least the hotel industry should adopt a business-like attitude in greeting and sending off the visitors with a smile. Give them a pleasant experience and prepare them to undertake a repeat visit soon.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, choose the most appropriate options for the questions that follow.

- i. According to WTTTC, in 2018, tourism generated:
 - a. 5.5% of India's GDP
 - b. 9.2% of India's GDP
 - c. 10.6% of India's GDP
 - d. 12.8% of India's GDP
- ii. In the phrase, "... a thriving business for earning," the term 'thriving' does NOT imply:
 - a. Flourishing
 - b. dying
 - c. progressing
 - d. expanding
- iii. Based on your understanding of the passage, choose the option that lists the benefits of booming tourism industry:
 1. Helps to earn valuable foreign exchange
 2. Increases credits
 3. Provides opportunity for cultural exchange
 4. Contributes to the rise in population
 5. Generates employment
 - a. 1, 2 and 5
 - b. 2, 3 and 4
 - c. 1, 4 and 5
 - d. 1, 3 and 5
- iv. State the main stumbling blocks in the development of tourism at present.



- v. Select the statement that is NOT TRUE:
- Publicity of the available facilities should be discouraged.
 - Special attention to the needs of the tourists should be given.
 - Tourism is very important for a country's economy.
 - WTTC stands for World Travel and Tourism Council.
- vi. Which of these countries have promoted tourism as a trade?
- African countries
 - South American countries
 - European countries
 - All of these
- vii. Consider a scenario where City 'A' has numerous tourist attractions but suffers from poor hotel accommodations. What is the most likely impact on tourism in this city?
- Increase in the number of tourists visiting the city
 - Increase in the number of newly constructed hotels
 - A strong fall in the number of tourists visiting the city
 - A pleasant and memorable experience.
- viii. Based on the visual data, arrange the countries in ascending order of their tourism contribution to GDP.
- India – Spain --- UK – Germany --- US
 - Spain – India – UK – Germany– US
 - US – Germany – UK – India – Spain
 - US – Spain – Germany – UK – India

3 Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow

Throughout history, women have faced significant inequalities compared to men. From restricted access to education and professional opportunities to limited participation in public and political life, women have been systematically marginalized. Historical norms and cultural practices have reinforced these disparities, often placing women in subservient roles. However, the struggle for gender equality has deep roots, with many brave individuals and movements working tirelessly to challenge these injustices and advocate for equal rights.

Achieving gender equality requires ensuring equal access to education and economic opportunities. Education is a powerful tool for empowerment, and it is essential that both girls and boys have the same opportunities to learn and excel. In the workplace, gender equality means addressing pay gaps, ensuring equal hiring practices, and providing equal opportunities for advancement. By creating an environment where both men and women can pursue their professional and academic goals without discrimination, we foster a more equitable and prosperous society.

Social and cultural norms often perpetuate gender inequalities by reinforcing traditional roles and expectations. Challenging these norms involves advocating for shared domestic responsibilities, encouraging diverse career choices, and promoting respectful and equal relationships. Media and public discourse play crucial roles in shaping these perceptions, and it is important to challenge stereotypes and promote positive representations of both men and women in various roles.

Promoting gender equality benefits society as a whole. Diverse perspectives contribute to more innovative solutions and better decision-making, while equal representation in leadership roles can drive more inclusive and effective policies. Societies that embrace gender equality often experience greater social cohesion, economic growth, and improved quality of life for all citizens. By working towards a more equitable world, we create a stronger, more inclusive community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

- a. On the basis of your reading of the passage make notes on it, using headings and sub-headings.

Use recognizable abbreviations (minimum 4). Also supply an appropriate title to it.

- b. Write a summary of the above passage in about 50 words.

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3

SECTION B – WRITING AND GRAMMAR		23
4.	Attempt any one from the questions given below. You are the secretary of your society. Draft a concise poster (maximum 50 words) to raise awareness about the importance of saving the girl child. Ensure the message is impactful and aimed at the general public. <p style="text-align: center;">Or</p> Design a poster to increase awareness among youth about blindness and the Importance of donating eyes. (Maximum 50 words)	3
5	Attempt any one from the questions given below. A. You are Priya/Rajesh. Draft a classified advertisement, in not more than 50 words, for the sale of a second-hand laptop. Include all relevant details. Contact number: 98765432. <p style="text-align: center;">Or</p> B. You are Anil/Neeta. Write a classified advertisement, in not more than 50 words, for the rental of a fully furnished apartment. Include essential details like location, rent, and amenities. The contact number is 45678901.	3
6	Attempt any one from the questions given below. A. Your local club is celebrating ‘Anti - Corruption Day’. Write a speech on the topic ‘Minimization of Human Wants is the only way to cleanse the society of all kinds of corruption. ‘You are Avni / Anuj of class XI. (120 – 150 words) <p style="text-align: center;">Or</p> B. Your school is commemorating ‘World Peace Day’. Write a speech on the topic ‘Promoting Peace Through Education’. You are Kabir / Kavya of class XI. (120 – 150 words)	5
7.	Attempt any one from the questions given below. A. You are Aakash / Priya from Greenfield School. Your school has organized an inter-house debate on “Artificial Intelligence: Beneficial Advancements vs. Ethical Concerns.” You will be participating in the debate. Prepare your arguments either supporting the benefits of AI or addressing the ethical issues it raises. (120 – 150 words) <p style="text-align: center;">Or</p> B. "Is it ethical to use animals for scientific research and testing, or should all forms of animal testing be prohibited in favor of alternative methods?" You are Asim/Asima, an animal right activist. Write a debate for/against the motion.(120 – 150 words)	5
8	Read the following paragraph and fill in the blanks with appropriate form of word given in the bracket. Education goes beyond the simplistic notion of merely (a) _____ (receive) information and the passive memorization of facts. It involves the intricate process of (b) _____ (understand) abstract concepts and (c) _____ (apply) them effectively in varied, real-world situations. Students are expected to cultivate sophisticated critical thinking skills and independently (d) _____ (solve) complex problems. This holistic educational approach is essential in (e) _____ (become) conscientious, well-informed individuals and proactive citizens.	1 X3 = 3
9.	Re-arrange the jumbled up words and phrases to construct a meaningful sentence. a) is a hardy \ climates \ herb \ that thrives \ in Mediterranean \ rosemary \ with fragrant leaves b) oil \ leaves \ produce an \ aromatic \ the \ essential \ widely used \ in cooking and medicine c) culinary dishes \ enhance \ used to \ flavor and \ is commonly \ it d) in \herbal \ has applications \ its oil \ remedies \ and aromatherapy \ various	1 x 4 = 4
SECTION C – LITERATURE		31
10.	Read the following extract and answer the questions accordingly. A. “Where did my childhood go? It went to some forgotten place, That’s hidden in an infant’s face,	1X3 = 3

That's all I know."

- i. In the line 'It went to some forgotten place,' the phrase 'forgotten place' suggests that:
- (a) Childhood memories have become distant and inaccessible.
 - (b) Childhood was a place of joy that the speaker has deliberately left behind.
 - (c) Childhood experiences are actively remembered but remain unspoken.
 - (d) Childhood was a literal place that the speaker has physically left.
- ii. The phrase 'hidden in an infant's face' implies that:
- (a) Childhood is lost in the physical appearance of infants, which the speaker does not understand.
 - (b) The memories of childhood are concealed within the speaker's own face.
 - (c) Infants represent a different stage of life that contrasts with the speaker's current experience.
 - (d) The essence of childhood is visible in the innocence and expressions of babies.
- iii. The speaker's sentiment in 'That's all I know' indicates:
- (a) A resignation to the elusive nature of childhood and its whereabouts.
 - (b) A confident understanding of where childhood has gone.
 - (c) A belief that childhood can be easily rediscovered through introspection.
 - (d) A detailed recollection of childhood events that are clear and accessible.

OR

B. "I descend to lave the droughts, atomies, dust-layers of the globe,
And all that in them without me were seeds only, latent, unborn;
And forever, by day and night, I give back life to my own origin,
And make pure and beautify it;"

- i. The word 'atomies' in this context can be understood as:
- (a) Specific locations where rain fails to reach and remains dry.
 - (b) Large aggregates of dust that form significant layers on the earth.
 - (c) Microscopic, almost imperceptible particles that are essential for life.
 - (d) Elements of the earth that are mostly unaffected by rain.
- ii. The statement 'And forever, by day and night, I give back life to my own origin' implies that the speaker:
- (a) Continuously returns to its source, maintaining a cycle of life and purity.
 - (b) Frequently disrupts natural processes to regenerate life.
 - (c) Reflects on its origin while observing the effects of its presence.
 - (d) Restores life to the earth only during specific times of the day.
- iii. In the line 'I descend to lave the droughts,' the term 'lave' most accurately conveys:
- (a) The continuous observation of the earth's surface from above.
 - (b) The act of causing droughts to disappear.
 - (c) A transformative cleansing process that revitalizes and renews.
 - (d) The act of depositing seeds into the ground.

- 11.** Read the following extract and answer the questions accordingly.
- A. "He was just a teenager when he died. The last heir of a powerful family that had ruled Egypt and its empire for centuries, he was laid to rest laden with gold and eventually forgotten."
- i. Who is the 'he' mentioned in the passage, and what is his significance?
- ii. Why do you think the young heir was 'eventually forgotten,' despite being part of a powerful dynasty?
- iii. What does the phrase 'laid to rest laden with gold' suggest about the burial customs and beliefs of the time?
- OR
- B. "When I decided to go abroad for further studies, I was sure my grandmother would be upset. I would be away for five years, and at her age one could never tell."

3x1=3

	<p>i. Why did the narrator believe his grandmother would be upset about his decision to study abroad?</p> <p>ii. What does the narrator's mention of their grandmother's age suggest about his feelings towards leaving for an extended period?</p> <p>iii. Identify the phrase in the excerpt that indicates the narrator's concern for his grandmother's well-being.</p>	
<p>12.</p>	<p>Read the following extract and answer the questions accordingly.</p> <p>A. "And what should I have done with them in a small rented room where the shreds of black-out paper still hung along the windows and no more than a handful of cutlery fitted in the narrow table drawer? I resolved to forget the address."</p> <p>i. What does the narrator's description of the "small rented room" reveal about their emotional state or circumstances?</p> <p>ii. In what ways does the reference to "shreds of black-out paper" enhance the mood of the excerpt, and how might this imagery be interpreted to reveal underlying themes or emotions?</p> <p>iii. What does the narrator's decision to "forget the address" primarily indicate about her attitude towards the situation described?</p> <p>iv. How do the mentions of the "small rented room" and "a handful of cutlery" contribute to the portrayal of the speaker's living conditions, and what deeper insights can be drawn about their socio-economic status or personal circumstances from these details?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>B. "And then, as by a miracle, the pigmy chest, which his hands enclosed, gave a short, convulsive heave, another... and another... Andrew turned giddy. The sense of life, springing beneath his fingers after all that unavailing striving, was so exquisite it almost made him faint."</p> <p>i. Bring out the central theme that this excerpt tries to highlight in the story "Birth".</p> <p>(a) The importance of perseverance in the face of difficulties.</p> <p>(b) The joy of personal relationships.</p> <p>(c) The significance of modern medical technology.</p> <p>(d) The inevitability of failure in challenging situations.</p> <p>ii. How does the revival of the baby affect Andrew's physical state?</p> <p>(a) It makes him feel more exhausted.</p> <p>(b) It causes him to lose hope.</p> <p>(c) It gives him a sense of giddiness and faintness.</p> <p>(d) It leads him to doubt his medical skills.</p> <p>iii. Andrew's emotional reaction to the baby's revival included which of the following?</p> <p>1. He felt faint.</p> <p>2. He was overcome with a sense of achievement.</p> <p>3. He was still worried about the mother.</p> <p>4. He remained calm and composed.</p> <p>(a) Only 1</p> <p>(b) 1 and 2</p> <p>(c) 3 and 4</p> <p>(d) Only 4</p> <p>iv. What does the phrase "as by a miracle" imply in the context of the story?</p> <p>(a) Andrew's sudden realization of his love for Christine.</p> <p>(b) The unexpected revival of the baby after many unsuccessful attempts.</p> <p>(c) Andrew's discovery of a new medical technique.</p> <p>(d) The mother's immediate recovery after childbirth</p>	<p>4x1=4</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p>Attempt any one question from each part in about 40-50 words each.</p> <p>PART A:</p> <p>i. How does the title "<i>We Are Not Afraid to Die... If We Can All Be Together</i>" reflect the central theme of the story?</p> <p>iii. What does the grandmother's daily routine reveal about her character and values?</p>	<p>3X2=6</p>

	<p>PART B:</p> <p>i. How does the poet's use of the 'photograph' function as a vehicle for exploring and conveying the theme of loss, and what deeper emotional or philosophical insights does this imagery provide?</p> <p>ii. In what ways does the poem The Laburnum Top reflect the interdependence between nature and life?</p>	
14.	<p>Attempt <u>any one</u> of following in about 40-50 words each.</p> <p>i. How does the horse impact the relationship between the narrator and his family?</p> <p>ii. How does Mrs. S's daughter's decision to forget the address reflect her emotional state, and what does this reveal about her underlying feelings or psychological conditions in the context of the narrative?</p>	3X1=3
15.	<p>Answer <u>any one</u> of the following questions in about 120-150 words.</p>	
	<p>i. 'When did my childhood go? Was it the day I ceased to be eleven?' In the poem "Childhood," Marcus Natten explores the theme of loss and the transition from innocence to experience. Comment.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>ii. In "The Voice of the Rain," Walt Whitman presents a dialogue between the poet and the rain, where the rain describes its eternal cycle of giving life to the earth and returning to its source. How does Whitman use the rain as a metaphor to explore the themes of creativity, renewal, and the interconnectedness of all things?</p>	1 x 6=6
16.	<p>Answer <u>any one</u> of the following questions in about 120-150 words.</p> <p>i. In "The Address," the theme of post-war trauma and the search for identity is intricately woven through the narrator's journey to retrieve her family's belongings. Discuss how the memories of the past and the reality of the present affect the narrator's perception of her identity and belonging.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>ii. Analyze the theme of <i>hope and perseverance</i> in A.J. Cronin's "The Birth." Discuss how the story portrays the idea that persistence and unwavering belief can lead to miraculous outcomes, even when the situation appears hopeless.</p>	1 x 6=6