



# Delhi Public School, Howrah

PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION (2024-2025)

Class-XII

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)

Maximum Marks- 80

Time: - 3 Hours

### General instructions:

- i. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
- ii. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.
- iii. Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions and follow them.
- iv. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

| Q.No | SECTION A – READING  | 22 |
|------|--|----|
| 1.   | <p>Read the passage given below.</p> <p>1) In the first decade of the twentieth century, science initiated a second American revolution. A nation on horseback was soon transformed by the internal combustion engine, manned flight and a multitude of other inventions. These technological innovations quickly changed the lives of ordinary men and women. But simultaneously an esoteric band of scientists was creating an even more fundamental revolution. Theoretical physicists across the globe were beginning to alter the way we understand space and time. Radioactivity was discovered in 1896, by the French physicist Henri Becquerel. Max Planck, Marie Curie and Pierre Curie and others provided further insights into the nature of the atom. And then, in 1905, Albert Einstein published his special Theory of Relativity.</p> <p>2) Suddenly, the universe appeared to have changed. Around the globe, scientists were soon to be celebrated as a new kind of hero, promising to usher in a renaissance of rationality, prosperity and social meritocracy. In America, reform movements were challenging the old order. Theodore Roosevelt was using the bully pulpit of the White House to argue that good government in alliance with science and applied technology could forge an enlightened new Progressive Era.</p> <p>3) Into this world of promise was born J. Robert Oppenheimer, on April 22, 1904. He came from a family of first and second-generation German immigrants striving to be American. Ethnically and culturally Jewish, the Oppenheims of New York belonged to no synagogue. Without rejecting their Jewishness, they choose to shape their identity within a uniquely American offshoot of Judaism—the Ethical Culture Society—that celebrated rationalism and a progressive brand of secular humanism. This was at the same time an innovative approach to the quandaries any immigrant to America faced—and yet for Robert Oppenheimer it reinforced a lifelong ambivalence about his Jewish identity.</p> <p>4) As its name suggests, Ethical Culture was not a religion but a way of life that promoted social justice over self-aggrandizement. It was no accident that the young boy who would become known as the Father of the Atomic Era was reared in a culture that valued independent inquiry, empirical exploration and the free- thinking mind—in short, the values of science. And yet, it was the irony of Robert Oppenheimer’s odyssey that a life devoted to social justice, rationality and science would become a metaphor for mass death beneath a mushroom cloud.</p> <p>(An excerpt from “American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer” written by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin)</p> | 12 |

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

- i. What technological innovations are mentioned as part of the second American Revolution in the early 20th century? 1
- A. Electricity and telegraph
  - B. Internal combustion engine and manned flight
  - C. Printing press and steam engine
  - D. Telephone and radio
- ii. What major scientific concept did Albert Einstein publish in 1905, as mentioned in the passage? 1
- A. Theory of Relativity
  - B. Theory of Evolution
  - C. Quantum Mechanics
  - D. Atomic Theory
- iii. Share evidence from the text, in about 40 words, to support the view that the tone of the writer is informative and reflective. 2
- iv. Explain in about 40 words the line, 'the Oppenheimer of New York belonged to no synagogue'. 2
- v. Why does the author say, 'And yet, it was the irony of Robert Oppenheimer's odyssey .....'? 2
- vi. Read the four headlines (A) – (D) given below, and identify the option that does not correspond with the occurrence in the passage. 1
- A. "Scientific Revolution and Irony: The Paradox of Robert Oppenheimer's Legacy"
  - B. "One Giant Leap for Mankind: The Apollo Moon Landing"
  - C. "Ethical Culture and Atomic Ambivalence: Oppenheimer's Journey"
  - D. "The Birth of Modern Science: Innovations and Ethical Dilemmas in the 20th Century"
- vii. Complete the sentence appropriately with a characteristic or its description. Based on the information given in the excerpt, one can infer that in America, reform movements were challenging the old order by \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- viii. Select the option that is similar in meaning to the writer's expression, "ushering in a renaissance of rationality" 1
- A. Herald a new age of intellect
  - B. Propelling a return to superstition
  - C. Bringing about an era of chaos
  - D. Igniting a revolution of emotion
- ix. Give a word from paragraph 4 that means - an adventurous journey, both in a literal and figurative sense, which involves various trials and tribulations. 1

2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

Generation Alpha Stats 2023 (Insights & Trends)

- By Rohit Shewale

10marks

People born between 2010 and 2025 are referred to as Gen alpha. Over 2.74 million Generation Alphas are borneach week globally. Every 9 seconds, a member is added to the Gen Alpha family in the United States. The stats further reveal that over 70% of Gen Alpha parents are Millennial. They are the first generation born in the 21st century and are surrounded by technology right, left and centre! They have a faster adaptation rate to everything tech, as compared to other generations as they are exposed to it since birth. Let us look at some interesting facts associated with them in this post: Generation Alpha Statistics: At a Glance:

- Over 2.74 million Generation Alpha are born worldwide each week as of 2023.
- The population of Gen Alpha will cross the benchmark of 2.2 billion by the end of 2025. 13% of the population in the United States is Gen Alpha as of 2023.

- Every nine seconds, a baby is born in the United States, increasing the population of Gen Alpha by 6.66 perminute.
- Gen Alpha is expected to have a 16% longer life expectancy than the Millennial. The highest number of Gen Alpha are Born in India, China, and Indonesia.
- 84% of the Gen Alpha in the United States use technology in their schools.
- 66% of Gen Alpha prefer to buy from companies and businesses that positively impact the world.

What is Generation Alpha? Generation Alpha is used to describe the generation of the people that are born between the years 2010 and 2025. This term came into the limelight after being used by an Australian Social researcher, Mark McCrindle, in a 2008 report.

Here are further differences between Gen Alpha and Gen Z.

| Parameter  | Gen Alpha   | Gen Z  |
|--|---|--|
| 1. Birth year                                      | Born between 2010 and 2025  | Born between 1995 and 2010                                   |
| 2. Age   | Younger than 14 years   | Between 13 and 27  |
| 3. Digitalization                                  | Will mark a new digital age   | First generation to witness digitalization                   |
| 4. Consumer behavior                               | Influences family purchase decisions from a younger age.                | Influences family purchases after reaching a certain age.    |
| 5. The role played by social media and smartphones | Born in a world where smartphones and social media are everywhere.      | Grew up with the evolution of Smartphones and social media   |
| 6. Optimism level                                  | Highly optimistic   | Low optimistic   |
| 7. Values  | More likely to be collaborative and value inclusivity                   | Like to be independent and value individuality.              |
| 8. Experience                                      | Is yet to experience economic challenges and new-age education reforms. | Has experienced an economic crisis and a student debt crisis |
| 9. Political and social engagement                 | Social and environmental awareness from a young age                     | More likely to be politically and socially engaged           |
| 10. Trust in institutions                          | Have greater trust in technology and institutions.                      | More skeptical and less trust in institutions                |

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

- i. There is a significant difference between Generation Alpha from Generation Z. How is that portrayed through this passage? Answer in 40 words. 2
- ii. What is the projected life expectancy of Generation Alpha when compared to Millennial? 1
- iii. Identify the generation which is likely to have more confidence and belief in the reliability, effectiveness, and honesty of technology and established organizations. 1
  - A. Baby Boomers
  - B. Generation Z
  - C. Millennial
  - D. Generation Alpha
- iv. What does the parameter on values suggest about Generation Alpha? 1
  - A. They are indifferent to environmental concerns.
  - B. They prefer to support businesses that positively impact the world.
  - C. They are highly skeptical of technology and its uses.
  - D. They prefer traditional business models over socially responsible ones.
- v. Which of the following is NOT a Gen Alpha trait? 1
  - A. Pessimistic
  - B. Trust in technology
  - C. Environmental Awareness
  - D. Apt at using smart-phones

|                               |  |                            |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
|                               | <p>vi. Gen Alpha is expected to have a longer life expectancy than the Millennial, why do you think so? Give two reasons in your own words.</p> <p>vii. Identify the most appropriate title for this passage, from the options given below.</p> <p>A. "Understanding Generation Alpha"<br/> B. "The Future of Generation Alpha"<br/> C. "Generation Alpha: A Tech-Savvy and Growing Force Shaping the Future"<br/> D. "Gen Alpha Trends"</p> <p>viii. State whether the given assertion is true or false, and justify your answer. 'The highest number of Gen Alpha is born in the United States.'</p>   | <p>2</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> |
| <b>SECTION B – WRITING</b>    |  | <b>18</b>                  |
| 3.                            | <p><b>Attempt any one from the questions given below.</b></p> <p>a. As Nitin, the Secretary of St. Mary's Convent's charitable organization 'Gift a Smile,' draft a notice in no more than 50 words for the school notice board to inform students about an upcoming bake sale on 22nd December. Also, invite volunteers to participate in this event.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p>b. As the Secretary of Oceanus Blue, an independent senior living community, draft a notice for the community notice board to inform residents about the new 24/7 in-house doctor. Include information about new facilities such as additional wheelchairs purchased by the society.</p>  | 4                          |
| 4                             | <p><b>Attempt any one from the questions given below.</b></p> <p>a. You are Stella/Stephen, residing at 11, MG Road, Pune. After seeing an advertisement in The Hindu for the position of a Trained Graduate Teacher (TGT), draft a letter applying for the job, including your detailed biodata. Limit your response to 120-150 words.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p>b. Public demonstrations on highways often disrupt the daily routines of citizens, causing significant delays and loss of opportunities. As Moksha/Mohit, write a letter within 120- 150 words to the Editor of a prominent national newspaper, emphasizing the need to discourage such protests and highlighting their negative impact on public life.</p>  | 4                          |
| 5.                            | <p><b>Attempt any one from the questions given below, within 120-150 words.</b></p> <p>a. As Rohit/Rachel, the Head Boy/Girl of Arya Public School, Bangalore, draft an invitation to the parents of your school, inviting them to a special felicitation ceremony honouring the brave individuals who heroically rescued three children from a fire in a slum. Ensure that all necessary details of the event are included.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Or</b></p> <p>b. You are Mathew/Mariam. Your grandfather, Mr. Thomas, has received a wedding invitation from a schoolmate who lives in the same city. The invitation is for the wedding of his son at the church, followed by a dinner reception. Your grandfather would love to attend the wedding but has dietary restrictions, making it difficult for him to stay for dinner. Write an appropriate reply accepting the invitation while explaining the reason for not staying for the dinner.</p> | 5                          |
| 6                             | <p><b>Attempt any one from the questions given below, within 120-150 words.</b></p> <p>a. In a few months, you'll be stepping into college life. How do you perceive this new chapter? Is it a carefree phase with fewer academic pressures, or the start of a journey filled with responsibilities and career-focused growth? Share your views in an article titled "My Thoughts on College Life" as Chaya/Chinmaya.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p>b. You are Roshini/Rahul, and recently you attended a Career Counselling Programme hosted by Media-Today. There, you had the opportunity to hear from professionals across various media sectors, and you discovered that the media industry is dynamic and ever-changing, offering a wide range of career possibilities. Write a report about the event for your school magazine.</p>   | 5                          |
| <b>SECTION C – LITERATURE</b> |  | <b>40</b>                  |
| Page 4 of 8                   |  |                            |

Read the following extract and answer the questions accordingly.  
Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given

6X1 = 6

A. That for themselves a cooling covert make

'Gainst the hot season; the mid forest brake,  
Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms;  
And such too 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 Thing of Beauty)

- i. Pick the quote that matches best with 'And such too is the grandeur of the dooms we have imagined for the mighty dead.'
  - A. In the night of death, hope sees a star, and listening love can hear the rustle of a wing.
  - B. When a great man dies, for years the light he leaves behind him, lies on the paths of men.
  - C. Endings are not always bad, most times they're just beginnings in disguise.
  - D. Cowards die many times before their death; the valiant never taste of death but once.
- ii. Pick the option that refers to what 'an endless fountain of immortal drink' suggests.
  1. inspirational deeds of great men
  2. a ceaseless series of dreams
  3. an infinite source of strength
  4. an elixir of life for the upliftment of the soul
  5. an eternal source of delight
  6. a boundless gift of love
  - A. 1, 4 and 5
  - B. 2, 3 and 5
  - C. 1, 2 and 6
  - D. 2, 4 and 6
- iii. Pick the option that pairs the TRUE statements based on the extract, from the list below.
  1. The bushes with fragrant flowers lift the human spirit and bring joy.
  2. Death is inevitable and everyone faces it no matter how powerful.
  3. Immortality is achieved by man when he drinks the nectar of joy.
  4. Legendary heroes and their heroic deeds instil inspiration in us.
  - A. 1 and 2
  - B. 2 and 4
  - C. 1 and 4
  - D. 2 and 3
- iv. The 'lovely tales' refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
- v. Identify the rhyme scheme of the given stanza.
- vi. According to the passage, what season does the "cooling covert" protect against?
  - A. Winter
  - B. Monsoon
  - C. Spring
  - D. Hot season

OR

B. The polished traffic passed with a mind ahead,  
Or if ever aside a moment, then out of sorts  
At having the landscape marred with the artless paint  
Of signs that with N turned wrong and S turned wrong...

- i. The 'polished traffic' in the extract refers to \_\_\_\_\_.

- ii. Fill in the blank with one word.  
The 'S' and 'N' signs that have been painted artlessly make the urban rich feel \_\_\_\_\_.
- iii. Explain the first line of the extract.
- iv. The passers-by find the sign artless but the landscape \_\_\_\_\_.
- animated
  - aesthetic
  - amusing
  - ancient
- v. Choose the option that correctly categorizes the given literary devices as per the given analogy.  
selfish cars: ..... :: .....metaphor
- personification; polished traffic
  - transferred epithet; flower of cities
  - metaphor; pitiful kin
  - oxymoron; greedy good-doers
- vi. Choose the option that correctly mentions the complaints made by the poet through this poem.
- The rich people drive carelessly on the road hitting the poor people on purpose.
  - The city-dwellers remain highly insensitive and offhand towards the poor people.
  - The urban people are unable to understand the struggles of the impoverished people.
  - The goods are not being bought by the wealthy people even at discounted rates.
- 1, 2
  - 2, 3
  - 3, 4
  - 1, 4

8. Read the following extract and answer the questions accordingly.

Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given:

A. It's got nothing to do with my face and what I look like. I don't care about that and it isn't important. It's what I think and feel and what I want to see and find out and hear. And I'm going back there. (On the Face of it)

i. Complete the sentence appropriately, with reference to the extract.

When Derry goes 'back there', he sees \_\_\_\_\_.

ii. What kind of a person has Derry become?

iii. What do Mr. Lamb and Derry suffer from?

- Burnt face
- Burnt leg
- Tin leg
- Both (a) and (c)

iv. What was the reason due to which Derry wanted to return to that place?

OR

B. The reason the programme has been so successful is because it's impossible to go anywhere near the South Pole and not be affected by it. It's easy to be blasé about polar ice-caps melting while sitting in the comfort zone of our respective latitude and longitude, but when you can visibly see glaciers retreating and ice shelves collapsing, you begin to realise that the threat of global warming is very real. (The Journey to the End of Earth)

i. Complete the sentence appropriately, with reference to the extract.

The reason behind the success of the programme 'Students on Ice' is the impossibility to \_\_\_\_\_.

ii. Select the most suitable title of the give extract.

- Students of the future
- Kalyuga power
- Global warming

4X1 = 4

D. Earth's End A Journey

- iii. Why is Antarctica and its understandings important for the survival of the world?  
iv. When does the threat of global warming become most evident?

9. Read the following extract and answer the questions accordingly.

6x1= 6

Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given:

A. Only the desks and benches had been worn smooth; the walnut-trees in the garden were taller, and the hopvine that he had planted himself twined about the windows to the roof. How it must have broken his heart to leave it all, poor man; to hear his sister moving about in the room above, packing their trunks! For they must leave the country next day. But he had the courage to hear every lesson to the very last. After the writing, we had a lesson in history, and then the babies chanted their ba, be bi, bo, bu. Down there at the back of the room old Hauser had put on his spectacles and, holding his primer in both hands, spelled the letters with them. You could see that he, too, was crying; his voice trembled with emotion, and it was so funny to hear him that we all wanted to laugh and cry. Ah, how well I remember it, that last lesson! (The Last Lesson)

- i. List any two sensory details present in this extract.  
ii. What qualities of M. Hamel have been reflected in this extract?  
A. patient, emotional  
B. impatient, insensitive  
C. proud, reproachful  
D. miserable, resigned

iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. M. Hamel was making preparations to \_\_\_\_\_.  
iv. Pick evidence from the extract that helps one infer that the atmosphere in the class was bitter sweet.

- v. What does 'courage to hear every lesson to the last' mean?  
vi. Select the most suitable option for the tone of the speaker in the given extract.

- A. Inquisitive  
B. Alert  
C. Monotonous  
D. Doleful

OR

B. I went to the pool when no one else was there. The place was quiet. The water was still and tiled bottom was as white and clean a bathtub. I was timid about going in alone, so I sat on the side of the pool to wait for others. I had not been there long when in came a big bruiser of a boy, probably eighteen years old. He had thick hair on his chest. He was a beautiful physical specimen, with legs and arms that showed rippling, muscles. He yelled. "Hi, Skinny! How'd you like to be ducked?" (Deep Water)

- i. What is the purpose of the description of the bully? Present your views.  
ii. How does the narrator employ the technique of foregrounding in the mentioned extract?  
iii. What did the big bruiser of a boy do?  
iv. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that the big boy was a bully.  
v. Why did the narrator sit on the side of the pool?  
A. To enjoy the beauty of the pool  
B. He was afraid of entering the pool alone  
C. To wait for the coach  
D. To prepare himself mentally to enter  
vi. Complete the sentence with one word. The word 'bruiser' in the extract means \_\_\_\_\_.

5x2=10

10. Answer any five of following in about 40-50 words each.

- i. Why is the Englishman's visit referred to as an unexplained mystery?  
ii. In The Rattrap by Selma Lagerlöf, explain the symbolic meaning of the rattrap.  
iii. Kamala Das refers to 'an old familiar ache'. What do you think causes this feeling in the poet?  
iv. What is the reason for the huge success of the novel, "The Name of the Rose"?  
v. Why does the writer suggest that 'little has moved with time' in Firozabad?  
vi. How does the poet's image of 'fingers fluttering through the wool' represent Aunt Jennifer's victimization?

|     |  |         |
|-----|--|---------|
| 11. | <p><b>Attempt any two of following in about 40-50 words each.</b></p> <p>i. "Judging others and offering advice is simple, but applying it to our own lives is much more challenging." Discuss this idea in relation to the character of Sam in "The Third Level".</p> <p>ii. Discuss one distinctive feature of the writing style employed by the author Kalki in "The Tiger King".</p> <p>iii. What evidence from The Enemy suggests that Dr. Sadao was both conscientious and loyal?</p>  | 2x2 = 4 |
| 12. | <p><b>Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words.</b></p> <p>a. In the story "Deep Water," the protagonist confronts his fear of drowning, which profoundly affects his life. In contrast, the poem "My Mother at Sixty-Six" reflects the narrator's fear of losing a loved one and facing the inevitability of death. Although both works delve into fears related to death, the emotional and psychological effects of these fears are significantly different. Discuss how the experiences and responses to fear in each work diverge.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p>b. Both 'A Thing of Beauty' and 'Keeping Quiet' center around the theme of nature. Imagine a dialogue between John Keats and Pablo Neruda, where they discuss their perspectives on nature and how it offers solutions to the challenges faced by humanity. How do their views on nature reflect their unique approaches to healing and peace?</p>   | 1x5 = 5 |
| 13. | <p><b>Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words.</b></p> <p>a. The king in the story 'The Tiger King' was driven by the single purpose of staying alive based on the prophecy that the hundredth tiger would kill him. He hunted tigers out of fear. Imagine that you are living in the Tiger King's times, and he has killed seventy tigers at this point. As someone who cares about animal welfare, write a letter to the king convincing him to stop hunting tigers. You may begin this way:</p> <p>My sincerest greetings to his majesty, I am Rajan, a subject of your kingdom, and I am writing to you today because....</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p>b. Imagine Zitkala-Sa and Bama meet each other. They both share their experience of being from marginalised communities. They reflect on instances of oppression they faced and how those instances proved to be the source of strength to fight against such oppression. Write down their discussion in a creative way, with reference to their experiences.</p> | 1x5 = 5 |