



Delhi Public School, Howrah

PERIODIC TEST III (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	<u>SECTION A – READING</u>	26
1.	<p>Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow</p> <p>1. On the outskirts of the bustling city of Jaipur, in a quiet village, stands an old banyan tree that has been there for centuries. The tree’s thick roots run deep into the earth, and its wide branches stretch across the sky, casting a cool shadow on the ground below. Locals say the tree has witnessed countless generations, standing as a silent guardian over the village. During the hottest summer days, villagers gather beneath the tree to escape the scorching sun, and in the evenings, the air is filled with the sounds of children laughing and playing around its base.</p> <p>2. The banyan tree is more than just a tree; it has become a part of the village’s daily life and traditions. Every year, during the festival of Makar Sankranti, the villagers tie colorful ribbons and small paper wishes to the tree’s branches, believing that the banyan will carry their hopes and dreams to the gods. The tree has become a sacred place where villagers come to offer their prayers, share stories, and seek peace. It stands as a symbol of resilience and faith, connecting the people to their roots and their ancestors.</p> <p>3. In the early mornings, when the village is still wrapped in mist, the tree appears almost mystical. The dew-covered leaves glisten as the first rays of sunlight touch them, and the soft rustle of the leaves in the breeze seems to whisper forgotten tales. Birds find refuge in the tree’s vast branches, singing their morning songs, while the villagers begin their day with quiet devotion at the tree’s base. Farmers often start their workday by bowing their heads in respect before the tree, believing it will bring them good fortune.</p> <p>4. As the seasons change, so does the appearance of the banyan tree. In spring, new leaves sprout, and the tree is full of life and activity, with birds building nests and children playing in its shade. In the monsoon, the tree’s roots absorb the nourishing rains, making it look even more vibrant and strong. Even in winter, when the air is cool and dry, the tree stands tall, a reminder of the cycles of nature and life.</p> <p>5. The banyan tree is not just a part of the landscape; it is woven into the fabric of the village’s identity. It is a symbol of endurance, a place of gathering, and a witness to the joys and sorrows</p>	10 marks

of the people who live beneath its branches. The villagers believe that as long as the banyan tree stands, their community will continue to thrive, rooted in tradition and connected to the natural world.

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

i. Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph 4:

spring: new leaves :: monsoon: _____

- (A) dry air (B) strong roots (C) colorful ribbons (D) changing appearance

ii. Why is it fair to say that the statement 'the banyan tree stands as a symbol of endurance' in paragraph 5 uses figurative language?

- (A) It highlights the tree's long-lasting presence in the village's history.
(B) It compares the tree to a protector of the villagers.
(C) It describes the physical strength of the banyan tree.
(D) It exaggerates the importance of the tree in the village.

iii. Assess the potential challenges or benefits of preserving the banyan tree, as suggested in paragraph 5.

iv. Why does the writer describe the banyan tree as a "symbol of resilience and faith" in paragraph 2?

Because

- (A) The tree has been standing for generations and plays a significant role in village traditions.
(B) The tree provides shelter to the villagers and protects them from the weather.
(C) It is the oldest tree in the village, and people believe it grants wishes.
(D) It is the place where villagers gather to offer sacrifices to their gods.

v. According to paragraph 1, why do the villagers gather under the banyan tree during the day?

vi. How does the author describe the significance of the banyan tree during the festival of Makar Sankranti, as mentioned in paragraph 2?

vii. Read and complete the following sentence suitably.

The phrase "woven into the fabric of the village's identity" in paragraph 5 suggests that the banyan tree is deeply connected to the daily lives and traditions of the villagers.

Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence. The banyan tree is important to the village because _____.

- (A) it provides shade during the day
(B) it represents the village's resilience and connection to their ancestors

viii. Complete the following with ONE example, with reference to paragraph 3 :

The banyan tree appears mystical in the morning because _____.

2. **Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:**

Through the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), the countries of the world have resolved to achieve universal access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene for all by 2030. The aim is to ensure the consumption of safe drinking water and practice safe sanitation and hygiene, resulting in lower exposure to a contaminated environment, resulting in lower morbidity and mortality, especially amongst children.

The Swachh Bharat Mission was launched by the Government of India on 2nd October, 2014 to achieve the vision of 'Swachh Bharat' by 2nd October, 2019. The Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin-SBM (G) endeavours to accelerate rural sanitation coverage, reduce open defecation and improve the management of solid and liquid wastes in rural areas. The implementation of SBM (G) is the responsibility of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS). The MDWS, while issuing guidelines for Open Defecation Free (ODF) verification stressed on "safe technology

1
1
2
1
2
2
1

1X8=8

option which aimed at no contamination of surface soil, ground water or surface water; excreta management inaccessible to flies or animals; no human handling of fresh excreta and freedom from odour and unsightly condition". Over the past 4 years, over 92 million new households have received access to household toilets and by the end of the SBM (G) programme, all 16.5 million rural households will have such access. However, the issue is of usage and thus, the goal is to create ODF communities and villages, with no one defecating in the open.

The status of ODF villages published on the website of MDWS indicates that as of 01.04.2019, over 99% of rural HHs in India have toilet access. The declared ODF villages at all India levels accounted for 556,824 spreading over 247,723 Gram Panchayats, 6,031 Blocks and 616 Districts. UNICEF in India accords high priority to the provision of safe sanitation and water services to people in rural areas and has over the past many years aided through catalytic technical support to MDWS, the Government of India and 15 state governments in the implementation of the various sanitation programmes and since 2014, specifically to the SBM (G). With the progress of the SBM (G) and the declaration of ODF communities, there is an emerging question on whether the campaign to eliminate open defecation and create ODF communities is resulting in a decrease in faecal contamination in the environment.

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

- i. The Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) primarily aims to:
 - a) Improve urban sanitation facilities
 - b) Achieve universal access to safe drinking water
 - c) Accelerate rural sanitation coverage and eliminate open defecation
 - d) Promote international cooperation in sanitation programs_.
- ii. Which statement about toilet access in rural households is true as of April 2019?
 - a) Over 90% of rural households have community toilets.
 - b) 50% of rural households lack proper sanitation facilities.
 - c) All rural households have been declared open defecation-free.
 - d) More than 99% of rural households have access to toilets
- iii. The main reason for launching SBM (G) was to:
 - a) Decrease faecal contamination in the environment
 - b) Build shared sanitation facilities across rural and urban areas
 - c) Promote water conservation efforts in rural India
 - d) Achieve the vision of a clean and hygienic India
- iv. The Swachh Bharat Mission was officially launched to commemorate:
 - a) World Water Day
 - b) Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary
 - c) International Environment Day
 - d) India's Independence Day
- v. The verification guidelines for ODF villages include ensuring:
 - a) Human handling of fresh excreta is reduced
 - b) Solid waste management practices are mandatory
 - c) No contamination of groundwater or exposure to flies
 - d) Proper technology is used for urban sanitation
- vi. Select the option that the given sentence refers to "Over the past 4 years, over 92 million new households have received access to household toilets."
 - (a) There is an increase in the usage of toilets among rural households.
 - (b) There is an increase in the construction of community-shared toilets.
 - (c) There is an increase in the building of toilets inside households.
 - (d) There is an increase in access to toilets but are not being used by the villagers.
- vii. The phrase "laboured ease of loss" from the context refers to:
 - (a) Struggles in implementing SBM (G)
 - (b) Coping with loss while appreciating memories
 - (c) The challenge of reducing faecal contamination
 - (d) Rural communities adapting to sanitation programs
- viii. Why is the government successful in providing access to toilets to over 99% of rural

	<p>households?</p> <p>(a) Government is giving false data.</p> <p>(b) Villagers also want to have access to toilets to minimize the negative impact of open defecation.</p> <p>(c) Villagers are cooperative.</p> <p>(d) Rural households have become educated.</p>	
3	<p>Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow</p> <p>1. Leadership does not exist without followership. A leader has to be accepted by the group which the former is supposed to lead. To gain acceptability, the leader should cause an emotive impact on the group members.</p> <p>2. The strength of character exhibited by leaders makes them dear to their followers. A leader is one who effectively inspires followers to achieve worthwhile things. What character of the leader motivates the followers? It is not pomp and show, neither flattery nor sanctioning more incentives. Pomp and show create a sense of awe and the leader is deified rather than emulated. Flattery is unrealistic and cannot serve as a long term motivational tool. A leader's style should be one that can be emulated by all irrespective of cadre, class and calibre. Simplicity in one's day-to-day conduct is the only thing that can be adopted by all. When the leader is simple, he is counted as one belonging to the group of which he is the leader. That's enough to motivate the people. Motivation is the innate quality that enables an individual or group to contribute unlimitedly with limited means. It is the proud prerogative of enlightened human beings.</p> <p>3. A leader needs to assume the role of a guide; quintessential of fulfilling the role is knowledge ability. Technical and administrative knowledge of the guide in balanced quantity and of right kind are essential. Technical knowledge is too vast to be acquired by a leader. At best he/she is either 'Jack of all' or 'Master of few'. But he/she has to master the human relations aspect of administration in all detail. And when the leader is good at this, his/her guidance is sought and accepted, then he/she fulfils the role of a guide. The leader is a negotiator within and outside the organisation.</p> <p>4. The leader shapes people and moulds character. To achieve this the leader should maintain equanimity. Equanimity is keeping oneself poised and balanced at all times. A leader is simply great if he/she can mould his/her followers with his frame of mind. He/she does this by his/her own example.</p> <p>a. On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary-minimum four) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it.</p> <p>b. Write a summary of the passage in about 50 words.</p>	5 3
SECTION B – WRITING AND GRAMMAR		23
4.	<p>Attempt any one from the questions given below.</p> <p>A. On the occasion of World Heritage Day, design a poster to be put on your school Notice Board highlighting the need to preserve old monuments which are a testimony to history. You are Sarla / Sharan, the President of the History Club of your school. (50 words)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>B. CBSE Board exams are just round the corner and there is a pressure on the students. Design a poster on behalf of CBSE to be displayed in various schools asking students to take the help of counsellors. (50 words)</p>	3
5	<p>Attempt any one from the questions given below.</p> <p>A. You are Ram/Ranjani. Draft a classified advertisement, to be published in a popular daily for the sale of a used motor car giving all the necessary details. (50 words)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>B. You own a three-storey bungalow in Dwarka. You want to let out the first and the second floor on rent. Draft an advertisement to be published in 'Times classified'. (50 words)</p>	3
6	<p>Attempt any one from the questions given below.</p> <p>A. The importance of unconventional careers has grown significantly. Fields like sports</p>	5

	<p>iii. Mrs. Fitzgerald's tone in the extract can best be described as: a) Sympathetic and apologetic c) Impressive and commanding b) Dismissive and indifferent d) Lighthearted and humorous</p> <p>iv. The underlying message in Mrs. Fitzgerald's advice is to: a) Test if a stern demeanor influences others c) Completely stop being kind to others b) Always give explanations for one's actions d) Avoid all forms of communication</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>B. "Andrew handed her the child. He felt weak and dazed. About him the room lay in a shuddering litter: blankets, towels, basins, soiled instruments, the hypodermic syringe impaled by its point in the linoleum, the ewer knocked over, the kettle on its side in a puddle of water. Upon the huddled bed the mother still dreamed her way quietly through the anaesthetic. The old woman still stood against the wall. But her hands were together, her lips moved without sound. She was praying".</p> <p>i. Andrew felt weak and dazed because a) he was exhausted after his efforts to save the child. b) the room was in disarray, and he was overwhelmed. c) he was frustrated with the situation. d) the mother's condition was deteriorating.</p> <p>ii. The room is described as being in a "shuddering litter" to: a) highlight the disorder caused by Andrew's frantic efforts. b) emphasize the negligence of the household. c) show the emotional state of the old woman. d) suggest the difficulty of medical practices in that era.</p> <p>iii. The old woman's actions in the room signify a) her concern for the child's health. c) her disapproval of Andrew's methods. b) her indifference to the situation. d) her gratitude and relief.</p> <p>iv. The phrase "her lips moved without sound" indicates a) she was giving instructions to Andrew. c) she was silently praying. b) she was talking to herself. d) she was too shocked to speak.</p>	
13.	<p>Attempt <u>any one</u> question from each part in about 40-50 words each.</p> <p>PART A: i. State the reason for scanning Tut's mummy with a CT machine. ii. How did the grandmother respond to the narrator's move to the city?</p> <p>PART B: i. Write a short note on the conflict presented in the poem Father to Son. ii. What is the impact of growing up as reflected in the poem 'Childhood'?</p>	3X2=6
14.	<p>Attempt <u>any one</u> of following in about 40-50 words each.</p> <p>i. The King's decision-making process illustrates about his character. Comment. ii. State the reason behind the narrator's decision to leave Mrs. Dorling's house.</p>	3X1=3
15.	<p>Answer <u>any one</u> of the following questions in about 120-150 words.</p>	
	<p>1. Discuss the emotional conflict between the father and son in the poem 'Father to Son' and its resolution.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>2. How does the poem "Laburnum Top" reflect the relationship between life and death, and how does the poet use the imagery of the bird and the tree to convey this theme?</p>	1 x 6=6
16.	<p>Answer <u>any one</u> of the following questions in about 120-150 words.</p> <p>i. Analyze the role of cultural values and family relationships in shaping the characters' actions in the story "The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse".</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>ii. Explain the theme of life and death in the poem "Birth" and how the poet conveys the transition between them.</p>	1 x 6=6