



Delhi Public School, Howrah

PERIODIC TEST I (2025-2026)

Class-XII

Do not 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:

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

Q.No.

SECTION A – READING

22

12

1. Read the passage given below.

- In recent months, renewed global tensions have sparked serious debates about the possibility of nuclear warfare. With conflicts intensifying in Eastern Europe and parts of Asia, several world leaders have made veiled threats involving nuclear capabilities. According to a March 2025 report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), over 13,000 nuclear warheads exist globally, with more than 90% controlled by the United States and Russia. China, India, North Korea, and Pakistan have also been expanding or modernizing their nuclear arsenals.
- What has raised global alarm is not just the size of these stockpiles, but the shift in nuclear doctrines. Countries are increasingly leaning toward doctrines that suggest a possibility of "first use" rather than the traditional deterrence-based policies. This change has intensified the risk of escalation due to miscommunication or miscalculation. Furthermore, artificial intelligence and hypersonic missile technology are being integrated into nuclear delivery systems, reducing response time and complicating crisis management.
- The United Nations and various peace organizations have urged immediate diplomatic engagement and arms control agreements to prevent catastrophic consequences. Yet, experts argue that existing treaties, such as the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), are becoming ineffective due to non-compliance and lack of enforcement. A recent survey conducted by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) found that nearly 70% of the global population supports a complete ban on nuclear arms.
- Despite the growing concerns, nuclear weapons continue to be perceived by many nations as symbols of power and security. Analysts warn that unless urgent steps are taken toward disarmament and conflict resolution, the world may be closer to a nuclear confrontation than at any time since the Cold War.

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

- "This change has intensified the risk of escalation due to miscommunication or miscalculation." – Which change is the author referring to? 2
- Mention any one reason why traditional arms treaties like the NPT are becoming ineffective. 1
- Assertion (A): AI and hypersonic technology are making nuclear command systems more reliable and safer. 1
Reason (R): These technologies increase response time and allow for careful decision-making during crises.
A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.

C. A is true, but R is false.

D. A is false, but R is true.

iv. How might the integration of artificial intelligence into nuclear delivery systems inadvertently increase the chances of a nuclear war?

v. Which word in the passage is an antonym to "compliance"?

vi. The author believes that some nations still consider nuclear weapons as symbols of power. Elucidate in not more than 40 words.

vii. What has made crisis management more difficult, as per the passage?

A. Lack of trained diplomats

B. Integration of AI and hypersonic technologies

C. Withdrawal from the United Nations

D. Economic sanctions

viii. According to the SIPRI report, _____ and _____ are the countries that control majority of nuclear weapons.

ix. What percentage of the global population supports a nuclear weapons ban, according to ICAN?

A. 90%

B. 50%

C. 70%

D. 30%

Read the passage given below:

1) Over the past decade, India has seen rapid economic growth, digital transformation, and infrastructural development. However, despite these achievements, recurring inefficiencies in levels of governance continue to hinder the equitable delivery of public services.

2) In its 2024 report, the Centre for Policy Research (CPR) highlighted significant administrative delays, bureaucratic red tape, and inadequate policy implementation as primary factors behind poor governance. Public grievances related to basic services such as water supply, electricity, road maintenance, and digital access have seen a 17% rise over the last three years.

3) A growing concern is the underutilization of allocated budgets. According to the Ministry of Finance's 2023-24 audit, over ₹2.3 lakh crore across central welfare schemes remained unspent. This reflects a deeper issue of inefficient coordination between central and state agencies, as well as a lack of monitoring mechanisms.

4) Another indicator is the declining satisfaction levels among citizens, as seen in the Governance Perception Index (GPI) compiled in late 2024.

5) Experts argue that technology and transparency tools like e-governance portals and real-time grievance redressal dashboards can bridge gaps. But until there is political will, administrative accountability, and citizen-centric policymaking, inefficiency will continue to plague governance in India. Below are two tables that provides us with the vivid details of what is being spoken.

Chart 1: Public Satisfaction Levels by Sector (India, 2024):

Sector	Satisfaction (%)
Health Services	52%
Public Transport	47%
Road Infrastructure	38%
Water and Sanitation	34%
Digital Services	63%

Chart 2: Budget Utilization by Key Ministries (2023–24)

Ministry	Allocation (₹ Crore)	Utilized (%)
Ministry of Rural Development	1,38,204	69%
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare	89,155	74%
Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs	76,540	58%
Ministry of Skill Development	43,000	46%

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

- i. Mention any two sectors where public satisfaction was below 40% as per the GPI chart. 1
- ii. State TRUE OR FALSE- Underutilization of allocated government budgets is due to a balanced coordination between the state and the central governments. 1
- iii. Referring to Chart 2, Analyse how budget utilization reflects the efficiency of governance. 2
- iv. _____ in the passage is synonymous to the phrase "fair and just for all sections of society". 1
- v. According to the passage, how much money remained unspent across central welfare schemes? 1
 - A. ₹2.3 crore
 - B. ₹2.3 lakh crore
 - C. ₹2300 crore
 - D. ₹2.3 billion
- vi. Assertion (A): Budget underutilization is a major sign of poor governance. 1
Reason (R): Funds that remain unspent indicate efficient financial savings and foresight.
 - A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
 - B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
 - C. A is true, but R is false.
 - D. A is false, but R is true.
- vii. Refer to Chart 2. 2
Analyse the relationship between budget allocation and utilization. Does a higher allocation always ensure better performance in governance? Support your answer with evidence from the chart.
- viii. What solution is suggested by experts to reduce governance inefficiency? 1
 - A. More private investment
 - B. Reducing taxes
 - C. Greater administrative transparency and digital governance
 - D. Changing political parties frequently

SECTION B – WRITING

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| 3. | <p>Attempt any one from the questions given below.</p> <p>a. Your school has partnered with a local NGO to organise a "Zero-Waste Week". As the Environment Club Secretary, draft a notice informing students about the initiative, participation guidelines, and incentive system for eco-friendly behaviour.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>b. The school has decided to organise a Model United Nations (MUN) event focused on the theme: "Global Cooperation in the Age of Climate Disasters." As the Organising Committee Secretary, write a notice inviting interested delegates.</p> | 18 |
| 4 | <p>Attempt any one from the questions given below.</p> <p>a. A nearby school experienced a fire accident due to an electrical short circuit. To show readiness for any unwanted circumstance your school is conducting an Emergency Preparedness Drill for students and staff. Draft a notice as the school Head Boy with instructions and assigned responsibilities.</p> | 4 |

	OR b. A recent anonymous complaint has been received about unfair exam practices. The school is now forming a Student Integrity Council. Draft a notice as the School Captain inviting applications for student representatives and outlining selection criteria.	
5.	Attempt any one from the questions given below. a. You are Aarav/Aarushi, a Class XII student and the Environment Club Secretary of your school, Green Valley Senior Secondary School, Kolkata. You and your team recently conducted a study that revealed alarming levels of water wastage and dependency on groundwater in your school and several other public schools in the locality. In light of growing water scarcity and the urgent need for sustainable practices, your Environment Club has decided to initiate a student-led proposal. Write a formal letter in about 120-150 words to the Local MLA of your constituency urging the installation of rainwater harvesting systems in all public schools. Explain the environmental importance of the project, its feasibility, and how it can serve as a model for student-led climate action. Also, request the MLA's support in allocating local development funds or connecting with relevant civic bodies. OR b. Write a formal letter to the Dean of Admissions at Horizon Institute of Liberal and Technical Studies, Bengaluru, requesting detailed clarification on whether the college offers any lateral entry or skill-based admission routes. Mention the need to recognise diverse student strengths and suggest how incorporating portfolios, certificates, or entrance tasks could make the process more inclusive and forward-looking. You are Karan/Kavya, a Class 12 student of Bright Future Public School, Bengaluru.	5
6.	Attempt any one from the questions given below, within 120-150 words. a. You are Risabh/ Ruvanshi from ISSPC School, Delhi. You have been working on endangered languages for quite some time and have been asked by a reputed daily to write an article on "Vanishing Languages, Vanishing Culture" for their esteemed column. Frame an article expressing your views on whether schools should play a central role in teaching endangered languages as a means of cultural preservation. OR b. You are Riya/Rahul, Cultural Secretary of your school. An inter-class poster exhibition titled "Visual Voices" was recently held in your school for students of Classes XI and XII to raise awareness about gender equality. The exhibition aimed to challenge stereotypes, promote inclusivity, and express solidarity through art. <u>VISUAL VOICES:</u> • Theme: Gender equality, bias, and inclusivity • Participants: Students of Classes XI and XII • Medium: Handmade posters using eco-friendly materials • Display Venue: School auditorium • Judgement Criteria: Originality, message clarity, visual impact, and social relevance • Special Feature: Viewers were encouraged to leave feedback on sticky notes next to posters. Write a report in about 150–200 words for your school magazine covering the highlights of the event. Mention student creativity, the audience's response, and the overall message of the exhibition.	5
SECTION C – LITERATURE		40
7.	Read the following extract and answer the questions accordingly. Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given A. "If we were not so single-minded about keeping our lives moving,	6X1 = 6

and for once could do nothing,
perhaps a huge silence
might interrupt this sadness
of never understanding ourselves
and of threatening ourselves with death."

i. Justify the title "Keeping Quiet" in light of the above lines.

ii. What does the phrase "this sadness" in the poem Keeping Quiet refer to?

- A. The grief of losing loved ones
- B. The sorrow caused by lack of silence in nature
- C. The emotional burden of living without self-awareness and causing self-destruction
- D. The sadness of not achieving material success

iii. Complete the given analogy.

Stillness : Silence :: Haste : _____

iv. Briefly elucidate the significance of the phrase "threatening ourselves with death."

v. The rhyming scheme of the given lines is _____

vi. State TRUE or FALSE and correct if FALSE:

The poet recommends inactivity as a way to escape responsibilities in the given lines.

OR

B. "...I looked again at her, wan,
pale as a late winter's moon
and felt that old
familiar ache, my childhood's fear,
but all I said was, see you soon, Amma,
all I did was smile and smile and smile..."

i. Bring out the significance of the simile "pale as a late winter's moon."

ii. Which of the following best reflects the complex emotional response of the poet on observing her mother's "wan, pale" face?

- A. A sudden realization of the responsibilities of adulthood
- B. A reawakening of a deep-seated fear of loss rooted in childhood memory
- C. A sense of irritation at her mother's physical frailty
- D. A moment of joyful nostalgia mixed with hopeful anticipation

iii. State the literary device used in "my childhood's fear."

iv. Why does the poet smile repeatedly at the end of the poem?

v. The tone of the given lines of the poem is _____

vi. Assertion (A): The poet refers to her mother as "wan, pale as a late winter's moon" to highlight her physical beauty.

Reason (R): The comparison to the moon is often used in poetry to signify elegance and charm.

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C. A is false, but R is true.
- D. Both A and R are false.

8.	Read the following extract and answer the questions accordingly. Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given: A. "The Presidents of the New York Central and the New Haven and Hartford railroads will swear on a stack of timetables that there are only two. But I say there are three, because I've been on the third level of the Grand Central Station." i. Why do the presidents of the railroads swear there are only two levels? ii. The phrase "swear on a stack of timetables" is used to indicate: A. Religious oath B. Sarcasm and disbelief C. Historical truth D. Legal promise iii. Assertion (A): The narrator claims there are three levels at Grand Central Station. Reason (R): He physically visited the third level. A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A C. A is true, R is false D. A is false, R is true iv. The figure of speech in "swear on a stack of timetables" is _____. OR B. "It was at this moment that both Dr. Sadao and Hana saw something black come out of the mist. It was a man. He was flung up out of the ocean—flung, it seemed, to his feet by a breaker. He staggered a few steps, his body outlined on the mist, his arms above his head. Then the curled mist hid him again." i. The man's sudden appearance through the mist symbolises the unpredictability of _____ during wartime. ii. How does this moment set up the moral and ethical dilemma that the rest of the story explores? iii. The word staggered in the passage most likely means: A. Marched forward quickly B. Collapsed in confusion C. Walked unsteadily due to weakness D. Jumped with excitement iv. Why is the phrase "flung up out of the ocean" significant in the way the man is introduced?	4X1 = 4
9.	Read the following extract and answer the questions accordingly. Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given: A. "I had counted on the commotion to get to my desk without being seen; but, of course, that day everything had to be as quiet as Sunday morning. Through the window I saw my classmates, already in their places, and M. Hamel walking up and down with his terrible iron ruler under his arm." i. What does "as quiet as Sunday morning" symbolize in the context of this extract? A. Nervous tension B. Peace and reflection C. Sudden discipline D. Fear and guilt	6x1= 6
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ii. The narrator refers to M. Hamel's ruler as "terrible" because it was a symbol of _____.

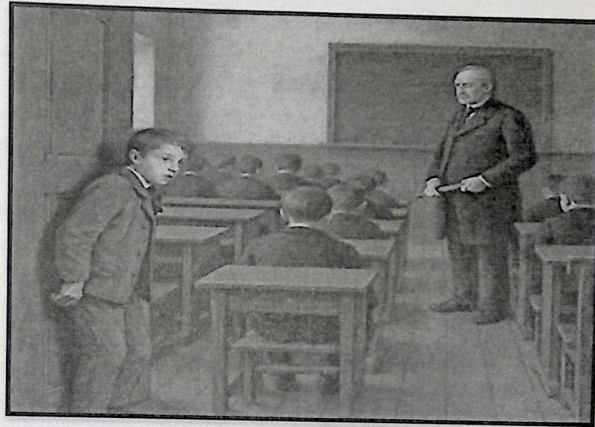
iii. Why did Franz count on the usual "commotion" to sneak in?

iv. Assertion (A): Franz was surprised by the silence in the classroom.
Reason (R): It was the last French lesson.

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
- B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- C. A is true, R is false
- D. A is false, R is true

v. How does the shift in the usual classroom behaviour mirror the larger historical event unfolding in Alsace?

vi.



Looking at the image and recalling the story The Last Lesson, what feeling best describes Franz's state of mind when he saw the scene in the classroom?

- A. Embarrassed unease masked by casual defiance
- B. A growing anxiety rooted in sudden awareness
- C. Passive detachment due to routine indifference
- D. Quiet amusement at the unexpected orderliness

OR,

B. "The world had never been kind to him, so it gave him unwanted joy to think ill of it in this way. It became a cherished pastime for him during many dreary ploddings to think of people he knew who had been caught in the trap and some day would come to wring their necks."

i. What does the metaphor of the world being a "rattrap" symbolize for the peddler?

- A. That humans are naturally selfish
- B. That life offers choices and freedom
- C. That the world is full of temptation and deception
- D. That justice always prevails

ii. What emotion does the word "unwanted joy" convey in the peddler's attitude toward society?

iii. Based on the extract and your understanding of the peddler's character, which of the following would best fit under the 'Threat' category of a SWOT analysis?

- A. His philosophical view that the world is a rattrap
- B. His dependence on handouts and stealing for survival
- C. The kindness shown to him by the iron master and his daughter

	D. His natural talent for storytelling and observation iv. The phrase dreary ploddings in the passage most likely refers to: A. His boring routine journeys B. His rapid success C. His energetic travels D. His confident decisions v. Why does the peddler "cherish" the idea of the rattrap despite its cynicism? vi. The peddler took pleasure in seeing others suffer because he himself had been treated with _____ by the world.	
10.	Answer any five of following in about 40-50 words each. i. What contrast does the author draw between the children of Seemapuri and those in Firozabad in the story Lost Spring? ii. "What does the Champaran episode in the story Indigo reveal about Gandhi's method of solving social problems? iii. How is silence presented not as an absence, but as a presence in the poem Keeping Quiet? iv. In the poem My Mother at Sixty-six, does the poet's decision to hide her feelings from her mother suggest strength or denial? Discuss. v. Do you think people value things more when they are about to lose them? How is this shown in Franz's attitude in the story The Last Lesson? vi. Describe the role of the instructor in helping Douglas overcome his fear in the story Deep Water.	5x2=10
11.	Attempt any two of following in about 40-50 words each. i. What proof did Charley receive that the third level might actually exist in the story The Third Level? ii. How did Hana react when she first saw the wounded American soldier in the story The Enemy? iii. Can moral duty override national loyalty during wartime? Justify your answer with reference to Dr. Sadao's actions in the story The Enemy.	2x2 = 4
12.	Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words. a. "You never know how strong you are until being strong is your only choice." – Bob Marley In the context of Deep Water, evaluate how Douglas's traumatic experience pushed him to confront his limitations. What does this teach us about the role of adversity in shaping one's character? OR b. "The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members." – Mahatma Gandhi How does the Champaran episode, as described in Indigo, reflect Gandhi's moral and social vision? Discuss how his methods addressed both justice and human dignity.	1x5 = 5
13.	Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words. a. "The past is a place of reference, not a place of residence." – Roy T. Bennett Discuss how Charley's desire to return to the year 1894 reveals both a longing for simplicity and an inability to deal with the complexities of the present. OR b. "Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see." – Mark Twain How does the story The Enemy depict kindness as a universal value that transcends nationality, race, and politics? Discuss with examples from the story and your own views on humanitarianism.	1x5 = 5