



Delhi Public School, Howrah

PERIODIC TEST - II (2025-26)

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.

SECTION A-READING (26 marks)

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

(10)

India's global policy has evolved from a largely non-aligned, defensive stance to a more assertive, multidimensional, and strategic engagement with the world. Historically, India's foreign policy was anchored in Nehruvian ideals of non-alignment, peaceful coexistence, and strategic autonomy. These principles allowed India to maintain a neutral stance during the Cold War while championing the interests of newly independent nations. However, in the post-liberalization era of the 1990s, India gradually pivoted towards a more pragmatic foreign policy, characterized by economic diplomacy and multilateral engagement.

One of the most significant markers of India's current global policy is its Act East initiative, which has expanded its diplomatic and strategic ties with Southeast Asia and the Indo-Pacific. India is also a member of key multilateral forums such as BRICS, G20, QUAD, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), using these platforms to assert its voice on issues ranging from climate change and counterterrorism to trade and cybersecurity.

India's "Neighbourhood First" policy underscores its commitment to regional stability and development. Through infrastructural investments, humanitarian aid, and cultural diplomacy, India has sought to counterbalance China's influence in South Asia. Initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance (ISA) further demonstrate India's intent to lead on global environmental issues.

A cornerstone of India's global approach is strategic autonomy—maintaining independent decision-making while forging strong partnerships. This is exemplified by India's balanced relations with rival powers: it shares robust defence and economic ties with the United States while maintaining historical ties with Russia.

India's economic diplomacy has also taken centre stage. As the world's fifth-largest economy and an emerging technology hub, India is leveraging trade, investment, and digital innovation as instruments of influence. The recent push for Make in India, Digital India, and Viksit Bharat 2047 aligns domestic development with global competitiveness. However, India's global policy is not without challenges. Border tensions with China, concerns over internal democratic practices, and the balancing act between energy security and environmental responsibility require constant recalibration. Additionally, India must address its structural issues—education, healthcare, infrastructure—and ensure inclusive growth. In conclusion, India's global policy is a blend of realism and idealism—anchored in its civilizational ethos yet responsive to modern geopolitical dynamics.

i. What is the meaning of the word "*multidimensional*" as used in the context of India's foreign policy? (1)

- A. Having one objective
- B. Dealing with many aspects or fields
- C. Focused only on economic issues
- D. Limited to regional alliances

ii. Which of the following best explains India's strategic autonomy in global policy? (1)

- A. India refuses to form alliances with any country.
- B. India avoids participating in global forums.
- C. India makes independent decisions while maintaining partnerships with diverse global powers.
- D. India follows only the policies set by the United Nations.

iii. Why is India's membership in organisations like BRICS, G20, and QUAD significant in shaping its global role? (1)

- A. They allow India to import oil at subsidised rates.
- B. They provide platforms to isolate China diplomatically.
- C. They enable India to engage in multilateral decision-making on global issues.
- D. They make India immune to international sanctions.

iv. Which initiative reflects India's leadership in global environmental issues? (1)

- A. Neighbourhood First
- B. International Solar Alliance
- C. Digital India
- D. QUAD

v. Which of the following statements are true regarding India's foreign policy? (1)

- 1. India's foreign policy is rooted solely in economic goals.
- 2. India maintains balanced relationships with rival global powers.
- 3. India refuses to participate in defence collaborations.
- 4. India aspires to shape global narratives.

- A. 1 and 3
- B. 2, 3, and 4
- C. 1, 2, and 4
- D. 2 and 4

vi. Read the following Assertion (A) and Reason (R) and choose the correct option: (1)

Assertion (A): India has adopted a "Neighbourhood First" policy to engage with surrounding nations.

Reason (R): India seeks to counterbalance growing Chinese influence in the region.

- 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. How does India's current foreign policy reflect a shift from its historical approach of non-alignment? (2)

viii. In what ways does India's pursuit of strategic autonomy influence its relationships with major global powers? (2)

2. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow: (8)

India has over 50% of its population under the age of 25. This youth bulge presents both potential and peril. While rapid technological advancement and evolving industry demands are reshaping career landscapes, Indian youth still

grapple with traditional pressures, a lack of guidance, and systemic challenges. A comprehensive survey conducted in early 2024 by the National Sample Career Observatory (NSCO) covered 20,000 students aged 16–24 across metropolitan, semi-urban, and rural India. The results were as follows:

Career Path	Percentage Choosing It
Engineering	25%
Medicine	15%
Management	12%
Civil Service	8%
Entrepreneurship	10%
Arts & Humanities	12%
IT & Data Science	10%
Skilled Trades	8%

Over 68% of the respondents in a national survey admitted that their career choice was heavily influenced by their parents. An interesting case study presents an insight into the current scene. Rohan Mehta, 18, from Navi Mumbai, was an academically gifted student with a passion for graphic design. However, under familial pressure, he enrolled in a reputed engineering college. Despite putting in sincere effort, he found himself demotivated and underperforming. It wasn't until a severe bout of anxiety and academic burnout that he sought counselling. With guidance, Rohan transitioned to a Bachelor's program in Visual Communication. Within a year, his grades, confidence, and mental well-being saw a drastic improvement. Today, he works as a freelance designer for multiple startups and plans to launch his own design studio. Rohan's story is reflective of a larger trend—career mismatches due to social expectations, limited counselling, and fear of uncertainty.

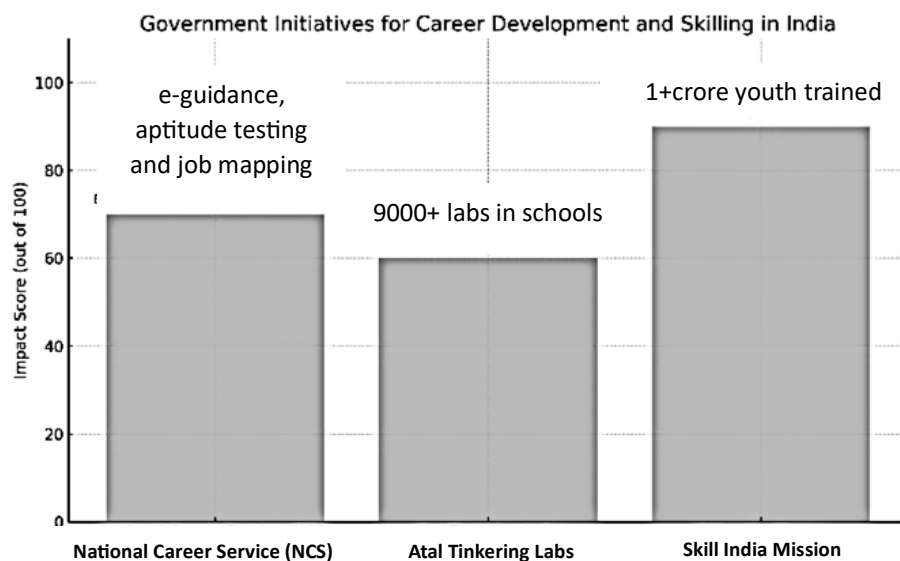
Another critical issue is the lack of structured career counselling. Only 22% of surveyed students reported having access to any form of formal career guidance during school. This deficiency leaves a large portion of the youth unaware of emerging and lucrative fields such as data science, cybersecurity, behavioural economics, and environmental technology. The situation is more severe in Tier II and Tier III towns, where schools often lack trained professionals to provide career advice tailored to individual aptitude and interest. Without this support, students are left to navigate complex career decisions with minimal information.

Financial limitations significantly restrict career choices for many young Indians. For middle and lower-income families, job security and financial stability often take precedence, making government jobs, banking, and core engineering appear as safe bets. These practical concerns frequently override students' interests or talents, limiting exploration of unconventional fields. Peer influence also plays a subtle yet strong role. In smaller towns and semi-urban areas, students often choose careers their friends pursue, driven by a herd mentality and limited exposure to diverse options. The urban-rural divide further compounds this issue. Students in cities are 30% more likely to opt for non-traditional careers, benefiting from better exposure, digital infrastructure, and access to mentorship. In contrast, rural youth, constrained by fewer resources, often struggle to envision careers beyond traditional domains.

Despite challenges, India is witnessing encouraging shifts:

- Entrepreneurship is gaining traction, especially among urban youth, thanks to schemes like Startup India, the Digital India Initiative, and easier access to funding through platforms like Shark Tank India and AngelList.
- Digital Careers (data science, AI, gaming, and UI/UX design) are becoming aspirational, with platforms like Coursera, Udemy, and Skill India equipping students with relevant skills.
- NEP 2020 has introduced multidisciplinary learning, flexibility in subject combinations, and vocational training from Class 6 onwards—offering a more personalized career trajectory.

Here is a data-driven chart illustrating the impact of key government initiatives related to career development and skilling in India:



India stands at the crossroads of a demographic revolution. The career decisions made by today's youth will determine the country's capacity to lead in the global economy.

- i. Which of the following BEST reflects the central issue faced by Rohan in the passage? (1)
 - A. Poor grades in engineering
 - B. Lack of passion for design
 - C. Financial constraints during college
 - D. A misalignment between aptitude and chosen field

- ii. Career counselling is to informed choice as peer pressure is to: (1)
 - A. Personal empowerment
 - B. Group conformity
 - C. Independent decision-making
 - D. Professional autonomy

- iii. Which of the following statements is TRUE based on the passage? (1)
 - A. Counselling is available to all rural students.
 - B. Peer influence plays no role in urban areas.
 - C. Government initiatives are actively promoting skill development.
 - D. Only arts students face confusion about career choices.

- iv. A student from a well-connected urban school is introduced to coding, entrepreneurship, and AI applications by the age of 16. Based on the trends discussed in the passage, what is the student most likely to do? (1)
 - A. Reject non-traditional careers due to uncertainty
 - B. Wait until graduation to consider career paths
 - C. Avoid innovation-focused sectors like technology
 - D. Explore emerging fields with confidence

- v. What can be inferred about the government's approach to career development? (1)
 - A. It supports skilling and innovation through multiple schemes.
 - B. It excludes rural students from participation.
 - C. It is focused only on technical education.
 - D. It replaces traditional education with online learning.

vi. Which strategy would most effectively prevent career mismatches as the case-study in the passage intends to inform? (1)

- A. Mandatory parental counselling sessions
- B. Early exposure to corporate internships
- C. Stronger career counselling systems in schools
- D. Enforcing a standard career path nationwide

vii. “The situation is more severe in Tier II and Tier III towns, where schools often lack trained professionals to provide career advice *tailored* to individual aptitude and interest.”

Which of the following words can best replace *tailored* in the above sentence without changing its meaning?

- A. Adjusted
- B. Devised
- C. Expanded
- D. Complicated

viii. Which initiative had the broadest reach in terms of sheer numbers impacted, according to the chart? (1)

- A. National Career Service (NCS)
- B. Atal Tinkering Labs
- C. Skill India Mission
- D. All of the above

3. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow: (8)

In an era increasingly defined by digital acceleration and geopolitical flux, the concept of “strategic autonomy” has emerged as a pivotal framework for understanding a nation’s posture in global affairs. Unlike traditional non-alignment, strategic autonomy does not imply disengagement from power structures but instead signifies the ability to make sovereign decisions in a multipolar world without being tethered to any single bloc or ideology.

India’s pursuit of strategic autonomy is a calculated response to the evolving global order. It seeks to harmonise its historical ethos of independence with the exigencies of modern diplomacy. This manifests in India’s simultaneous participation in diverse global groupings such as BRICS, QUAD, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation—entities that often represent conflicting geopolitical interests. Yet, India has adeptly navigated these complexities, forging partnerships based on mutual benefit rather than ideological conformity.

This policy is also deeply rooted in economic considerations. As one of the fastest-growing major economies, India must balance the imperatives of trade, energy security, and technological self-reliance. Initiatives like Atmanirbhar Bharat and the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes reflect an inward-looking economic resilience, while extensive Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and foreign investments signal outward engagement. This dual-track strategy strengthens India’s negotiating position in global fora.

Furthermore, strategic autonomy enables India to articulate independent stances on contentious issues—be it climate negotiations, global conflicts like the Russia–Ukraine war, or emerging domains such as cyberspace governance. This autonomy, however, demands sophisticated statecraft, where national interest is dynamically recalibrated against global currents.

In essence, strategic autonomy is not an act of balancing for its own sake but a nuanced doctrine that underlines sovereignty, flexibility, and realism. It recognises that the ability to pivot without compromising core values is indispensable in a world where alliances are fluid and interests are transactional.

i. On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognisable abbreviations (wherever necessary-minimum four) and a format you consider suitable. Also, supply an appropriate title to it. (5)

ii. Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. (3)

SECTION B- WRITING AND GRAMMAR (23 marks)

4. Attempt any one of the questions given below.

(3)

A. You are Prateek/Prisha Mehra, the manager of Pearl Fitness Studio, a newly launched unisex gym in South Delhi. Write a display advertisement, in not more than 50 words, to be published in a national daily, highlighting your gym's opening offers, unique facilities, and contact details.

OR

B. You are Sakshi/Sameer Roy, a graduate in Mass Communication from a reputed university. You are looking for a suitable job in a media house. Write a classified advertisement, in not more than 50 words, under the column "Situation Wanted" to be published in a national daily. Mention key qualifications and contact details.

5. Attempt any one of the questions given below.

(3)

A. Suppose you are Manju/Manas, the Head Student Counsellor of Green Valley Senior Secondary School, Delhi. Draft an eye-catching poster in not more than 50 words to spread awareness about mental health among teenagers. Highlight the importance of emotional well-being, self-care, and seeking support. Suggest simple, student-friendly measures.

OR

B. Suppose you are Vidya/Vedant, a member of the Road Safety Club of Lotus Public School, Noida. Prepare a poster in not more than 50 words to promote awareness about road safety among students and the community. Use persuasive slogans and suggest key safety practices to prevent accidents.

6. Attempt any one of the questions given below.

(5)

A. You are Kavya/Karan. You strongly believe in the power of democracy and want to inspire your fellow students to become responsible future citizens. Write a speech in 120–150 words on the topic 'The Importance of Voting in a Democratic Society' to be delivered during the morning assembly at your school.

OR

B. You are Neha/Nishan. You have realized that many students lack basic knowledge about managing money. Write a speech in 120–150 words on the topic 'The Growing Need for Financial Literacy among Students' to be delivered during the school's Commerce Week celebrations.

7. Attempt any one of the questions given below.

(5)

A. Space missions require massive funding, high-end technology, and decades of commitment. While developing countries like India face issues like poverty, illiteracy, and unemployment, many believe national resources should be prioritised for immediate needs. You are Rahul/Ritika. You are asked to debate on the topic '*Space Exploration is a Waste of Resources for a Developing Nation*'. Write your debate in 120–150 words, either in favour or against the motion.

OR

B. Fast fashion promotes low-cost, disposable clothing, contributing significantly to global pollution and unethical labour practices. On the other hand, it provides affordable style to the masses and supports the fashion economy. You are Rahul/Ritika. You are asked to debate on the topic '*Banning Fast Fashion is the Only Way to Save the Environment*'. Write your debate in 120–150 words, either in favour or against the motion.

8. Read the passage given below and fill in the blanks from the options that follow. (0.5x4=2)

In the midst of technological progress we may ask: Are we moving towards a future (a) _____ convenience takes precedence over ethics? Or are we building systems (b) _____ may one day surpass our control? While innovation fuels growth, it also raises questions (c) _____ cannot be ignored if we are to ensure that technology serves humanity rather than the other way (d) _____.

- (a) (1) where
(2) when
(3) which
(4) who

- (b) (1) whom
(2) which
(3) that
(4) what

- (c) (1) we
(2) one
(3) that
(4) this

- (d) (1) around
(2) along
(3) about
(4) round

9. Do as directed: (1x2=2)

a. Re-arrange the jumbled-up words and phrases to construct a meaningful sentence:

- i. as / the/ of Peace and Trust / 2025 / International Year / declare / to / resolution / a / adopted / has / the General Assembly
ii. inclusive dialogue / conflicts / the resolution / negotiation / international community / to resolve / on / through / the / calls / and

b. Complete these sentences using the clause indicated: (1x3=3)

- i. He spoke highly of his country _____ (Adverb Clause)
ii. We need a leader _____ (Adjective Clause)
iii. I wish _____ (Noun Clause)

SECTION C- LITERATURE (31 marks)

10. Read the following extract and answer the questions accordingly. (1x3=3)

A. Eternal I rise impalpable out of the land and
the bottomless sea,
Upward to heaven, whence, vaguely form'd, altogether
changed, and yet the same,
I descend to lave the droughts, atomies, dust-layers of
the globe,

- i. The word *impalpable* in the extract most nearly means: (1)
A. Visible and tangible
B. Unable to be touched or perceived by the senses
C. Strong and forceful
D. Vast and limitless
- ii. The poet's use of "*bottomless sea*" refers to: (1)
A. Hyperbole
B. Irony
C. Personification
D. Metaphor
- iii. What effect does the rain describe when it says, "*I descend to lave the droughts, atomies, dust-layers of the globe*"? (1)
A. It washes away life completely
B. It refreshes and renews the Earth
C. It erodes to create new landforms
D. It creates a rhythmic noise while

OR

B. When did my childhood go?

Was it the day I ceased to be eleven,
Was it the time I realised that Hell and Heaven,
Could not be found in Geography,
And therefore could not be,
Was that the day!

- i. The central idea reflected in this extract is: (1)
- A. The delight associated with entering adolescence
 - B. The quiet, almost unnoticed erosion of childhood innocence
 - C. The gradual shift from unquestioning belief to rational thought
 - D. The symbolic connection between maps and moral concepts
- ii. In the extract, the term *Geography* is used to refer to: (1)
- A. Physical maps and locations
 - B. The study of celestial bodies
 - C. Imaginary worlds
 - D. Literal and measurable realities
- iii. The repeated question "*Was that the day!*" is an example of:
- A. Rhetorical question
 - B. Paradox
 - C. Hyperbole
 - D. Simile

11. Read the following extract and answer the questions accordingly. (1x3=3)

A. Twenty minutes later two men emerged, sprinted for an office nearby, and returned with a pair of white plastic fans. The million-dollar scanner had quit because of sand in a cooler fan. "Curse of the pharaoh," joked a guard nervously."

- i. The tone of the guard's remark, "Curse of the pharaoh", can be best described as: (1)
- A. Mockery
 - B. Nervous humour
 - C. Sarcastic criticism
 - D. Lighthearted amusement
- ii. Tut's head was scanned in _____ millimetre slices to register its intricate structures. (1)
- A. 0.66
 - B. 0.63
 - C. 0.61
 - D. 0.62
- iii. The use of the phrase "swirling sand" primarily appeals to the reader's sense of: (1)
- A. Hearing
 - B. Sight
 - C. Touch
 - D. Smell

OR

B. At that moment, a tousled head appeared by my bunk. "Can I have a hug?" Jonathan asked. Sue was right behind him.

"Why am I getting a hug now?" I asked.

"Because you are the best daddy in the whole world — and the best captain," my son replied.

"Not today, Jon, I'm afraid."

i. The word *tousled* in "a tousled head appeared by my bunk" means: (1)

- A. Messy and dishevelled
- B. Smooth and neat
- C. Large and round
- D. Shiny and wet

ii. The narrator's "Not today, Jon, I'm afraid" suggests: (1)

- A. He is not in the mood to be hugged
- B. He has already hugged him earlier
- C. He is frustrated with Jonathan
- D. He doubts his capability due to the situation

iii. What was the narrator's state of mind before this conversation? (1)

12. Read the following extract and answer the questions accordingly. (1x4=4)

A. He let his chin sink upon his chest, stretched out his legs, stared broodingly into the fire. He remained like this so long, and his thoughts were so filled with Christine, that he started when the old woman opposite suddenly addressed him. Her meditation had pursued a different course.

i. Read the following statements about the narrator's state of mind: (1)

- 1. The image of Cardiff station evokes a sense of unease that lingers as he waits in the kitchen.
- 2. His thoughts about Christine lead him to question the certainty of marital happiness.
- 3. The old woman's quiet presence allows him to drift deeper into personal reflection.
- 4. He experiences a pull between detached reasoning and the warmth of emotional attachment.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

ii. Which detail from the scenes mentioned earlier best conveys a sense of quiet tension? (1)

- A. Morgan's footsteps echoing in the street as he paced outside
- B. The narrator noting the progress made upstairs
- C. The rustle of a cinder in the grate and the slow tick-tock of the wall
- D. The old woman wearing a black dress

iii. What request had Susan made regarding chloroform? (1)

- A. Not to be given chloroform unless she was in severe pain
- B. To use chloroform only if it would not harm the baby
- C. To avoid chloroform completely during childbirth
- D. To give her chloroform regardless of the risk

iv. In which small Welsh mining town does the story open? (1)

- A. Blaenelly
- B. Cardiff
- C. Aberystwyth
- D. Llanelli

OR

B. Perhaps I was mistaken, I thought, perhaps it isn't her. I had seen her only once, fleetingly, and that was years ago. It was most probable that I had rung the wrong bell. The woman let go of the door and stepped to the side.

i. Why did the narrator initially think she might have rung the wrong bell? (1)

- A. The house looked abandoned
- B. The woman showed no sign of recognition
- C. The door was not locked
- D. The woman refused to speak

ii. What was distinctive about the wooden buttons on the green cardigan? (1)

- A. They were carved with floral designs
- B. They had become pale from frequent washing
- C. They were missing from the cardigan
- D. They had been replaced with metal buttons

iii. The movement of the curtain in the bay window suggests: (1)

- A. Someone inside was secretly observing the narrator
- B. The curtain was blown by the wind
- C. The woman was tidying up
- D. The narrator was imagining things

iv. The word "fleetingly" in the passage most likely means: (1)

- A. Without much attention
- B. In an unclear or vague manner
- C. With deliberate slowness
- D. For a very short time

13. Attempt any two of the given questions in about 40-50 words each. (3x2=6)

- i. What is the purpose of the refrain 'When did my childhood go?' in the poem 'Childhood'?
- ii. Why does the Laburnum tree subside 'to empty'? Bring out the significance of the phrase as used in the poem 'The Laburnum Top'.
- iii. How does the description of Tutankhamun's mummification process reflect the ancient Egyptians' beliefs about life after death?
- iv. What changes followed after the "turning-point" in the relationship between the narrator and his grandmother in the story 'The Portrait of a Lady'?

14. Attempt any one question from each part in about 40-50 words each. (3x1=3)

- A. Describe Aram's experience of riding the horse in the story 'The Summer of a Beautiful White Horse'?
- B. What was the narrator's perception of her mother's belongings lying with Mrs Dorling in the story 'The Address'?

15. Answer any one of the following questions in about 120-150 words. (6x1=6)

- A. How does the modern scientific investigation of Tutankhamun's remains, as described in *Discovering King Tut's Tomb*, reveal the evolving relationship between archaeology and technology? Support your answer with examples from the text.

OR

- B. How far is the view – "the narrator's experience at sea reveals the interplay between human endurance and the unpredictable forces of nature" – true in the context of the story "We Are Not Afraid to Die"? Discuss with reference to the challenges faced during the voyage.

16. Answer any one of the following questions in about 120-150 words. (6x1=6)

- A. In the light of the statement, "*I've done something; oh, God! I've done something real at last*", analyse, referring to 'Birth' by A.J. Cronin, how Andrew's actions during the childbirth reflect his professional growth and personal fulfilment.

OR

- B. Justify, with suitable textual references, the title of the story 'The Address' by Marga Minco.