



Delhi Public School, Howrah

PERIODIC TEST II (2025-2026)

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 LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (CODE - 301)

Time: - 3 Hours

Maximum

Marks - 80

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.

SECTION A – READING

(22)

Q1. Read the following passage.

(12)

(1) In a world increasingly driven by data and logic, it might seem surprising that ancient belief systems like numerology still captivate the minds of many. Numerology is the idea that numbers carry spiritual vibrations and hidden meanings that can influence a person's life path, personality, and destiny. Whether you believe in it or not, numerology continues to gain popularity across cultures, from Eastern mysticism to Western personality profiling.

(2) A basic tenet of numerology is that every name and date of birth can be reduced to a core number—usually between 1 and 9—each with unique attributes. For instance, those with the number 1 are said to be natural leaders, while number 7s are associated with introspection and spiritual depth. Even businesses consult numerologists to finalize brand names or launch dates believed to be “lucky.”

(3) Critics argue that numerology lacks scientific basis and falls under the realm of pseudoscience. But supporters claim it provides insight, comfort, and clarity in uncertain times. Psychologists suggest that people are drawn to numerology not because of its factual accuracy, but due to a phenomenon known as “confirmation bias”—we tend to notice things that confirm what we already believe.

(4) Regardless of its authenticity, numerology has become a cultural phenomenon. From social media influencers analyzing “angel numbers” (like 11:11) to celebrities changing the spelling of their names for better “vibrations,” the influence of numbers seems to go far beyond basic arithmetic.

(5) So, is numerology a mystical map of our lives or just a clever way to interpret randomness? The answer, perhaps, lies not in the numbers themselves, but in how much meaning we choose to assign to them.

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

- i. According to the passage, the appeal of numerology across cultures can be best attributed to: (1)
- A. Its scientific backing
 - B. Its ability to predict the future with precision
 - C. Its psychological resonance and cultural integration
 - D. Its alignment with religious doctrines

- ii. The term “confirmation bias” as used in the passage refers to: (1)
- A. The tendency to disbelieve facts that contradict our opinions
 - B. The inclination to reject non-scientific ideas
 - C. The tendency to focus on evidence that supports preexisting beliefs
 - D. The mental ability to confirm new information accurately

iii. Assertion (A): Numerology continues to influence major decisions in business and branding. (1)

Reason (R): Numerologists use complex statistical models to predict success.

- 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. A is true, but R is false

iv. Choose the option that best completes the analogy: (1)

Numerology: Pseudoscience :: Astrology: _____

- A. Divination
- B. Quantum Mechanics
- C. Empirical Study
- D. Anthropology

v. Numerology asserts that every name or date of birth can be reduced to a _____ number, each representing distinct personality traits. (1)

vi. What is the **closest synonym** for “*captivate*” as used in the line: (1)

“...ancient belief systems like numerology still **captivate** the minds of many”?

- A. Confuse
- B. Delight
- C. Enslave
- D. Attract

vii. Examine the fictional data below and answer the question. (1)

Survey on Numerology Belief (N = 1000 people)

- Strong Believers: 35%
- Casual Followers: 25%
- Skeptics (acknowledge it but do not believe): 20%
- Non-believers (reject completely): 20%

If this data supports the passage, which of the following conclusions is most logically valid?

- A. More than half the population sees some value or belief in numerology.
- B. Most people reject numerology outright.
- C. Only a small minority has heard of numerology.
- D. The popularity of numerology is on the decline.

viii. What is the central idea of paragraph 3? (1)

- A. Numerology is proven by science
- B. Critics and supporters differ on numerology's value
- C. Psychologists recommend numerology
- D. Numerology is based entirely on logic

ix. What is meant by “angel numbers” as mentioned in the passage? Give an example. (2)

x. What is the central question raised by the author in the concluding paragraph, and what does it imply? (2)

Q2. Read the following passage.

(10)

Natural Disasters in the Hills: A Growing Concern

In recent years, India has witnessed a sharp increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, particularly cloudbursts and landslides, especially in its Himalayan states. These disasters have had devastating consequences on lives, livelihoods, and the environment.

Cloudbursts refer to intense, short-duration rainfall in a localized area, often leading to flash floods and landslides. They are most common in hilly regions like Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and parts of Jammu & Kashmir. On the other hand, landslides are the downhill movement of rock, debris, or earth triggered by rain, seismic activity, or deforestation.

The table below presents data on the number of reported cloudbursts and landslides in select Indian states over the past five years (2020–2024):

State	Cloudbursts (2020–2024)	Landslides (2020–2024)
Uttarakhand	48	127
Himachal Pradesh	41	102
Jammu & Kashmir	36	88
Sikkim	19	54
Arunachal Pradesh	15	39
Kerala	9	67

Experts attribute this increase to a combination of factors such as climate change, unregulated construction, and deforestation. The fragile mountain ecosystem has been unable to withstand the strain caused by rapid urbanization and tourism-related infrastructure.

A study by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) indicates that the frequency of cloudbursts in the Himalayan belt has increased by 15% over the past decade. Similarly, landslide-prone zones have expanded by nearly 20%, with many vulnerable areas now lying outside previously identified risk zones.

While early warning systems have improved in recent years, gaps remain in terms of timely communication and ground-level preparedness. States like Uttarakhand have begun installing Doppler radars to track cloud formations more effectively. However, disaster preparedness and response still vary widely across regions.

The question now is not whether such disasters will occur, but whether communities and governments can adapt fast enough to mitigate the damage.

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

i. Which state reported the **highest number of landslides** between 2020–2024? (1)

- A. Sikkim
- B. Kerala
- C. Uttarakhand
- D. Himachal Pradesh

ii. **Assertion (A):** Deforestation is directly responsible for increased landslide activity in the northeastern states.

Reason (R): Tree roots stabilize slopes by holding the soil together, and their absence makes slopes more prone to failure. (1)

- 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.

iii. Complete the analogy: (1)

Seismograph : Earthquake prediction :: Doppler radars : _____

iv. The shifting of landslide-prone zones to previously unaffected areas indicates that traditional hazard maps have become _____ and need urgent revision.

v. Choose the **best antonym** of “mitigate” as used in the line: (1)

“...whether communities and governments can adapt fast enough to **mitigate** the damage.”

- A. Intensify
- B. Alleviate
- C. Prevent
- D. Erase

vi. Despite technological improvements like Doppler radars, the passage mentions continuing “gaps” in disaster management. What does this imply about India’s disaster response system? (1)

- A. It is technologically advanced but lacks in policy innovation.
- B. It is fully equipped but underutilized.
- C. It has improved infrastructure but lacks uniform execution and community integration.
- D. It is only active in western states.

vii. Why might early warning systems, despite being installed in high-risk states, still fail to significantly reduce disaster impacts? (2)

viii. How do cloudbursts and landslides reflect the interconnectedness between climate change and human activity in hill regions? (2)

SECTION B – WRITING

(18)

Q3. Attempt any one from the questions given below (A) or (B) in about 50 words. (4)

A. As the Head Girl/ Head Boy of Green Valley School, draft a notice informing students about a mental health awareness workshop being organized in collaboration with a reputed NGO. Include timing, venue, and registration details. Put the notice in a box.

B. You are Arjun / Aanya, the Secretary of the Language Club of your school. Your school is offering a Foreign Language Certification Course in French and German for senior secondary students in collaboration with the Goethe-Institute and Alliance Française. Draft a notice informing interested students about the course, including essential details such as:

- Duration of the course
- Eligibility
- Last date to register
- Whom to contact for further details

Write the notice in not more than 50 words and put your notice in a box.

Q4. Attempt any one from the questions given below (A) or (B) in about 50 words. (4)

A. You are Amit/Amita Mehra, the Marketing Head of Tech Solutions Pvt. Ltd. Your company is hosting a Product Launch Event to introduce a new smart home automation system. The event will be held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, Mumbai on 29th September 2025, starting at 6 PM.

Write a formal invitation to be sent to potential clients and business partners, inviting them to the launch event.

B. You are Dr. Meera Singh, a well-known nutritionist. You have received a formal invitation to be the guest speaker at a Health & Wellness Seminar in a school. However, you are unable to attend due to prior professional commitments. Write a formal reply in not more than 50 words expressing regret.

Q5. Attempt any one from the questions given below (A) or (B) within 120-150 words. (5)

A. You are Neha Agarwal, a regular commuter on the Delhi Metro. Write a formal letter to the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, complaining about the overcrowded trains during peak hours and requesting additional trains or modifications to the existing schedule to alleviate this issue.

B. You are Amit Sharma, a recent graduate with a degree in Computer Science from XYZ University, New Delhi. You have seen an advertisement in the Employment News for the position of Software Developer at Infotech Solutions Pvt. Ltd. The company is seeking candidates who are proficient in Java, Python, and C++, with good analytical skills and an ability to work under pressure.

Write a job application for the position, highlighting your academic background, technical skills, and any internships or projects that make you a suitable candidate. Also, mention why you are eager to work with this company.

Q6. Attempt any one from the questions given below (A) or (B) within 120-150 words. (5)

A. *The Role of Youth in Nation Building*

Young people have always been an integral part of a nation's development. In the current era, they play a vital role in shaping the future of the country through education, innovation, entrepreneurship, and social activism.

Write an article on the topic, "The Role of Youth in Nation Building". Discuss the importance of youth participation in various sectors like politics, education, and entrepreneurship. Include examples of young achievers and their contributions to society.

B. You are a member of the Eco-Club at your school. The school organized an Environmental Awareness Campaign to educate students and staff about the importance of recycling and reducing waste.

Write a report on the Environmental Awareness Campaign, highlighting the activities conducted, student participation, and the outcome of the campaign. Mention any notable speeches or workshops and the success of the campaign in spreading awareness.

SECTION C- LITERATURE

(40)

Q7. Read the following extract and answer the questions accordingly.

Attempt **ANY ONE** of two extracts given.

(6x1=6)

A. "Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty."

i. In the phrase "bright topaz denizens of a world of green", the tigers are compared to –

- A. Jewels in a crown
- B. Golden sunlight in the field
- C. Yellow gemstones in a forest
- D. Fierce guards in a palace

ii. The word "chivalric" here mostly means:

- A. Aggressive
- B. Polite and honourable
- C. Calm and reserved
- D. Royal and magnificent

iii. The rhyme scheme of the above stanza is:

- A. AABB
- B. ABAB
- C. ABCB
- D. ABBA

iv. Complete the analogy.

Tigers : Defiance :: Aunt Jennifer : _____

v. Why do the tigers not fear "the men beneath the tree"?

vi. **Assertion (A):** Aunt Jennifer finds embroidery a relaxing activity.

Reason (R): She cannot even pull the needle due to internalized trauma and burden.

- A. A is true; R is true
- B. A is false; R is true
- C. A is true; R is false
- D. Both A and R are false

B. "A thing of beauty is a joy for ever:

Its loveliness increases; it will never

Pass into nothingness; but still will keep

A bower quiet for us, and a sleep

Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing."

i. According to Keats, beauty is:

- A. Temporary and fragile
- B. Subject to decay
- C. Eternal and ever-increasing
- D. Painful but powerful

ii. What is the most suitable interpretation of the phrase "*a bower quiet for us*"?

- A. A lonely, dark shelter
- B. A peaceful retreat offered by nature or beauty
- C. A symbol of religious sanctuary
- D. A metaphor for death

iii. Assertion (A): Keats believes that beauty remains untouched by the ravages of time.

Reason (R): He claims that it “will never pass into nothingness.”

- A. Both A and R are true; R explains A
- B. Both A and R are true; R does not explain A
- C. A is true, R is false
- D. A is false, R is true

iv. How does Keats justify the permanence of beauty in these lines?

v. **Which poetic device is used in “a bower quiet for us”?**

- A. Simile
- B. Metaphor
- C. Hyperbole
- D. Personification

vi. The overall tone of these lines can be described as:

- A. Melancholic
- B. Hopeful and comforting
- C. Angry
- D. Indifferent

Q8. Read the following extract and answer the questions accordingly.

Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given:

(4X1=4)

A. "The child will grow up to become the warrior of warriors, hero of heroes, champion of champions. But..." they bit their lips and swallowed hard. When compelled to continue, the astrologers came out with it. "This is a secret which should not be revealed at all. And yet we are forced to speak out. The child born under this star will one day have to meet its death."

i. What literary device is used in the phrase “warrior of warriors, hero of heroes, champion of champions”?

- A. Simile
- B. Hyperbole
- C. Anaphora
- D. Antithesis

ii. The astrologers’ hesitation before revealing the secret primarily suggests:

- A. They are unsure of the prophecy
- B. The secret is dangerous and feared
- C. They want to delay telling the king
- D. They think the secret is unimportant

iii. The word “compelled” in the line “*When compelled to continue*” means:

- A. Encouraged
- B. Forced
- C. Ignored
- D. Freed

iv. The astrologers say they are “forced to speak out.” From a literary perspective, what purpose does this compelled confession serve in advancing the plot?

B. Derry: You think.... ‘Here’s a boy.’ You look at me...and then you see my face and you think. ‘That’s bad. That’s a terrible thing. That’s the ugliest thing I ever saw.’ You think, ‘Poor boy.’ But I’m not. Not poor. Underneath, you are afraid. 48 Vistas Reprint 2025-26 Anybody would be. I am. When I look in the mirror, and see it, I’m afraid of me.

i. What dominant emotion does Derry express in these lines?

- A. Rage
- B. Helplessness
- C. Bitterness mixed with self-loathing
- D. Indifference

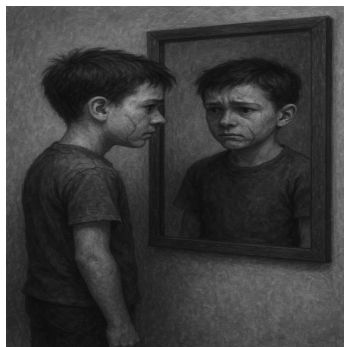
ii. In the line “*Underneath, you are afraid,*” what does “underneath” most likely refer to?

- A. Physically beneath his skin
- B. Below the mirror
- C. Deep inside a person’s subconscious
- D. Under one’s feet

iii. Which central theme of the play is best reflected in this passage?

- A. Social injustice
- B. Acceptance and identity
- C. Economic disparity
- D. Childhood innocence

iv. Look at the image below.



Observe the image of the boy looking at his reflection in the mirror. In the context of the given extract, which deeper truth does the image symbolise about Derry's feelings?

- A. He is vain about his appearance.
- B. He is frightened by his own disfigurement.
- C. He is trying to memorise his face.
- D. He is proud of his scars.

Q9. Read the following extract and answer the questions accordingly.

Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given:

(6X1=6)

A. "Pancake was the brand name of the make-up material that Gemini Studios bought in truck-loads. The brand name was an uninspiring metaphor; for a pancake is a flat, lifeless item in comparison to the bright make-up material. Actors and actresses who wore pancake looked grotesque in bright sunlight."

i. The narrator's choice of words "flat, lifeless" and "grotesque" suggest:

- A. A subtle appreciation for foreign make-up brands
- B. A satirical disapproval of the studio's obsession with appearance
- C. Indifference towards the subject of make-up
- D. A nostalgic memory of his early work days

ii. Complete the analogy.

"Pancake" : Make-up :: _____ : _____

- A. Script : Dialogue delivery
- B. Brush : Painting
- C. Cloak : Disguise
- D. Prop : Scene setting

iii. You see an actor on stage wearing extremely heavy, glossy make-up under artificial lights. Based on the extract, which TWO inferences are most accurate?

- 1. The make-up was probably from the brand 'Pancake.'
- 2. The lighting was intentionally harsh to expose flaws.
- 3. The make-up was designed for such lighting conditions.
- 4. The actor would appear more natural under bright sunlight.

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

iv. Find the word from the extract that means 'ugly in a distorted way'.

v. Why is the poet not happy about the make-up brand being named as 'Pancake'?

vi. Assertion (A): The narrator called 'Pancake' an uninspiring metaphor.

Reason (R) : The narrator himself wanted to popularise and create a monopoly of his own brand for make-up.

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.

B. "When Gandhi received the summons to appear in court the next day, he telegraphed Rajendra Prasad to come from Bihar with influential friends. He sent instructions to the ashram to send more workers. He wired a full report to the Viceroy. By morning, Motihari was full of peasants. They had heard that their champion was in trouble with the authorities."

i. Why did Gandhi immediately involve multiple sources of support after receiving the summons?

A. To ensure personal safety from arrest

B. To create moral and political pressure on the authorities

C. To increase media coverage of the trial

D. To organise a legal defence team only

ii. **Assertion (A):** Gandhi's summons led to a large gathering of peasants in Motihari.

Reason (R): The peasants viewed Gandhi's legal trouble as symbolic of their own struggle against injustice.

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.

iii. From the extract, which actions show Gandhi's strategic planning?

1. Sending a telegram to Rajendra Prasad with a request for influential friends

2. Ordering immediate withdrawal from Champaran

3. Instructing the ashram to send more workers

4. Wiring a full report to the Viceroy

A. 1 and 2

B. 1 and 3

C. 1, 3, and 4

D. 2, 3, and 4

iv. How did Gandhi's response to the summons transform the incident from a legal matter into a mass movement?

v. Complete the table.

Event	Cause	Effect
Gandhi telegraphs Rajendra Prasad		

vi. Fill in the blank.

The arrival of peasants in Motihari was not just a show of support but also a _____ against the colonial authorities.

Q10. Attempt any five of following in about 40-50 words each.

(5X2=10)

- i. Does the poem The Roadside Stand suggest that charity alone can resolve rural poverty? Justify briefly.
- ii. Why does Anees Jung in the text The Lost Spring say that the children of Seemapuri “live in perpetual poverty”?
- iii. How does Keats’ view of beauty in the poem A Thing of Beauty challenge the idea that beauty is only a visual experience?
- iv. What role did determination play in Douglas’s eventual triumph over his fear of water in the story Deep Waters?
- v. What is the significance of the “young sprinting trees” in contrast to the poet’s mother in the poem My Mother at Sixty-Six?
- vi. How does M. Hamel’s wearing of his special green coat, frilled shirt, and cap symbolise the significance of the day in the story The Last Lesson?

Q11. Attempt ANY TWO of following in about 40-50 words each.

(2X2=4)

- i. What does the King’s obsession with killing tigers reveal about the misuse of power?
- ii. How does the setting of Mr. Lamb’s garden symbolise his worldview?
- iii. Why does Hana’s reaction to the wounded soldier evolve over the course of the story?

Q12. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words.

(5)

A. In the poem, the city dwellers believe they are doing good for the countryside, yet the poet calls their promises “greedy good-doers.” Critically analyse this phrase in the context of the poem’s social commentary.

B. Romantic philosophy values emotion, imagination, and individual experience over reason, celebrating a deep spiritual connection with nature and beauty. It believes that truth can be found through intuition, creativity, and harmony with the natural world. Keats’ idea of beauty is deeply connected to Romantic philosophy. Discuss how the poem A Thing of Beauty reflects Romantic ideals of truth, imagination, and harmony with nature.

Q13. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words.

(5)

A. Satire is a powerful literary tool. Discuss how Kalki uses satire in *The Tiger King* to expose the absurdities of power, arrogance, and superstition.

B. The ending of the play is ambiguous and open to interpretation. Do you think it conveys hope, tragedy, or both? Support your answer with evidence from the text.