# *Delhi Public School, Howrah*

**PERIODIC TEST III (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**

Read the following instructions very carefully and follow them:

i. This question paper has 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.

ii. This question paper contains three sections:

Section A: Reading Skills,

Section B: Creative Writing Skills

Section C: Literature.

iii. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.

iv. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.

v. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions

## SECTION A

## READING (22 marks)

**1. Read the following passage.** 12

"All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others." This famous line from Orwell's Animal Farm captures the central irony of the animals' rebellion. At the beginning of the story, the animals dream of creating a society where everyone works fairly and shares the benefits equally. Their hopes are sincere, and the commandments they paint on the barn wall represent unity, justice, and freedom. However, as time passes, these ideals begin to weaken. The pigs, who assume leadership after the rebellion, slowly start altering the commandments to suit their own interests.

What makes this change particularly disturbing is the animals' inability to recognize what is happening. Most of them are overworked, tired, and not well-educated, which makes it difficult for them to question the pigs' explanations. Whenever they sense something is wrong—such as a commandment sounding slightly different—they immediately doubt their own memory instead of challenging authority. This atmosphere of confusion allows the pigs to gain complete control without open resistance. The manipulation of language becomes their strongest tool, helping them justify every unfair action.

Meanwhile, the pigs begin adopting human habits. They walk on two legs, sleep in beds, and trade with farmers—actions that were once forbidden. These behaviours symbolize how the new leaders gradually resemble the very oppressors they had once overthrown. The altered commandment quoted above becomes the final proof of this corruption. What was once a promise of equality is twisted into a justification for inequality.

By the time the animals realize that the pigs and humans look almost the same, the original spirit of the rebellion has collapsed. Orwell uses this transformation to warn readers about the danger of blindly trusting leaders and the importance of staying alert to misuse of power. The downfall of the farm is not sudden; it happens slowly, as the animals surrender their right to think critically. Their silent acceptance becomes the reason the revolution fails.

- Excerpt (from George Orwell's *Animal Farm)*

**Answer the following questions, based on the given passage.**

I. The animals fail to recognize the pigs' manipulation mainly because: 1

A. They distrust the pigs
B. They are exhausted and poorly educated
C. They secretly support the pigs
D. The commandments remain unchanged

II. Read the statement below and answer accordingly. 1

The downfall of the farm is not sudden; it happens slowly, as the animals surrender their right to think critically.
What does the word 'critically' mean in this context?

III. The pigs' adoption of human habits symbolizes: 1

A. Progress and modernization
B. The beginning of freedom
C. Their growing resemblance to the old oppressors
D. The start of better relations with humans

IV. Choose the option that best completes the analogy: 1

Language : Communication :: Manipulated Language : _____

A. Persuasion
B. Clarification
C. Control
D. Interpretation

V. Complete the following with a suitable reason: 1

The animals doubt their memory instead of questioning authority because _____.

VI. Read the case given below and answer the question that follows: 2

A school elects a student committee to promote fairness and transparency. Over time, the top leaders begin changing decisions without informing others and rewrite meeting notes to favour themselves. Most students remain silent because they are busy and trust the leaders blindly.
Mention one similarity between this scenario and the farm situation and suggest one step that could prevent such manipulation.

VII. State the main reason for the farm's downfall. 1

VIII. Give the antonym of "equality" suggested by the altered commandment 1

IX. Which of the following is a fact stated in the passage? 1

A. The pigs walk on two legs.
B. The pigs are the most intelligent animals.
C. The rebellion was destined to fail.
D. The animals enjoyed the pigs' leadership.

X. Why do the animals fail to recognize the pigs becoming identical to humans until the very end? 2

**2. Read the following passage.** **10**

Over the past two decades, the Indian Women's Cricket Team has evolved into a global powerhouse. Their progress is not just about inspirational stories—it is backed by solid data, historic wins, and growing competitiveness. According to ICC rankings, India has consistently remained among the Top 4 women's cricket teams in both ODI and T20 formats since around 2017, reflecting their rising stature.

A major turning point came in 2005, when India reached its first Women's World Cup Final under Mithali Raj. Although they finished as runners-up, the milestone laid a strong foundation. In 2017, India reached the World Cup Final again, and according to BCCI reports, the event increased women's cricket viewership in India by nearly 500%—a turning point for popularity.

In the T20 format, India's growth has been particularly impressive. The team reached the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Final in 2020, remaining unbeaten until that match. Between 2018 and 2023, India maintained an approximate 60–65% win rate in T20Is—among the best in the world. Their performance at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, where they won a Silver Medal, also showcased their ability to compete at major multi-sport events.

In 2023, they achieved a historic Test win over Australia, their first in nearly a decade, demonstrating that they are not just a white-ball team. Bilateral series wins against England, South Africa, and Sri Lanka further strengthened their international credentials.

The crowning achievement, however, arrived in 2025, when India won the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup for the first time. In the final at DY Patil Stadium, Navi Mumbai, India scored 298/7, and bowled out South Africa for 246, securing victory by 52 runs. Shafali Verma was named Player of the Match for her explosive 87 runs, while Deepti Sharma earned Player of the Tournament honours with over 200 runs and more than 20 wickets—a balanced all-round performance.

Supporting this growth is structural change at home: the Women's Premier League (WPL), launched in 2023, has expanded domestic opportunities significantly, strengthening the pipeline for future talent.

From historic finals to a long-awaited world title, the Indian Women's Cricket Team now stands as a symbol of determination, skill, and data-driven excellence, inspiring millions across India.

**Answer the following questions, based on the given passage.**

I. Which of the following best explains why the 2017 World Cup significantly influenced women's cricket in India? 1

A. India won the match by a large margin
B. The tournament marked the retirement of senior players
C. The event caused a dramatic rise in national viewership
D. It was the first time India played against South Africa

II. Read the statement below and answer accordingly. 1

In 2023, they achieved a historic Test win over Australia, their first in nearly a decade, demonstrating that they are not just <u>a white-ball team</u>.

What does the phrase 'a white-ball team' signify?

III. Complete the analogy: 1

World Cup Victory : National Pride :: Rising Win Rate : _____

A. Unpredictability
B. Declining morale
C. Global recognition
D. Institutional conflict

IV. If India achieved a 72% overall win rate in the 2025 Champions Trophy, what inference is accurate? 1

A. India struggled in the group stage
B. India was consistently superior to other top-ranked teams
C. India lost most matches but won the final
D. India depended entirely on spin bowling

V. Complete the following suitably. 1

The word "formidable" (used to describe the team) means _____.

VI. Choose the sentence where "structural" is used correctly: 1

A. The structural win was decided by a single run.
B. India's structural reforms in women's cricket strengthened domestic opportunities.
C. The captain structural the team to victory.
D. Structural are temporary challenges in sports contexts.

VII. How did India secure victory in the 2025 World Cup final, based on the data presented in the passage? 2

VIII. What role does the passage attribute to structural reforms in shaping India's cricketing success by 2025? 2

**SECTION B**

**CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS** **(18 marks)**

***All the names and addresses used in the questions are fictitious. Resemblance, if any, is purely coincidental.***

**3. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words** **1x4=4**

A. You are Tanvi Raghav, Head of the Literary Club at Sunshine High School, Hyderabad. Your club is organizing a week-long Reading Marathon from 12th to 17th December 2025, which will include book reviews, author interactions, and creative writing workshops. Students of Classes IX–XII must register individually by 8th December to participate and receive certificates. As Head of the Literary Club, draft a notice in about 50 words for the school notice board, giving relevant details.

**OR**

B. You are Aryan Joshi, President of the Science Society at Maple International School, Noida. Your school is organizing an Inter-School Science Exhibition on 5th–6th December 2025 in the school hall. Students of Classes X–XII who are interested in showcasing their projects must register by 1st December. Draft a notice in about 50 words for the school notice board with relevant details.

**4. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words** **1x4=4**

A. You are Sneha, the Cultural Secretary of Rosewood International School, Chennai. Draft a formal invitation inviting the principal and staff of a neighbouring school to attend your school's Annual Drama Performance as special guests on 5th February 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the school auditorium.

**OR**

B. You have received an invitation to attend a charity run for cancer awareness. Write a formal reply accepting the invitation and mentioning how you support cancer awareness and related causes.

**5. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in 120-150 words** **1x5=5**

A. Write a formal letter to the local park management requesting the installation of benches and shaded areas in the park to make it more accessible and comfortable for elderly people.

**OR**

B. You are Simran, a Class 12 student passionate about event management. Write a job application to Event Pro Solutions applying for an internship as an Event Coordinator. Mention your organizational skills, experience in coordinating school events, and your interest in working on larger-scale events.

**6. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in 120-150 words** **1x5=5**

A. Write an article on "The Benefits of Volunteering for Students" discussing how engaging in volunteer work can help students develop empathy, social responsibility, and life skills, along with suggestions on how schools can encourage community service.

**OR**

B. Our school organized a sports day event to promote physical fitness and teamwork. As the School Captain, write a detailed report for your school magazine, describing the events, the spirit of competition, and how such activities can contribute to building a positive school culture and promoting health.

**SECTION C**

**LITERATURE** **(40 marks)**

**7. Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B).** **1x6=6**

A. "…Driving from my parent's
home to Cochin last Friday
morning, I saw my mother,
beside me,
doze, open mouthed, her face
ashen like that
of a corpse and realised with
pain
that she was as old as she…"

I. Complete the following with the correct option.
In the line “doze, open-mouthed”, the mother’s posture primarily suggests _____ (a peaceful sleep /a loss of vitality and unconscious fragility/ a moment of deep relaxation).

II. Complete the following suitably.
In the image “her face ashen… like that of a corpse”, the poet emphasizes on _____

III. In the line “her face ashen… like that of a corpse”, the literary device serves primarily to:
A. Suggest emotional detachment by portraying her mother as lifeless and remote
B. Function as hyperbolic imagery to dramatize a fleeting moment of fatigue
C. Evoke the fragility and inevitability of aging through a figurative comparison
D. Present a literal observation of her mother’s pale appearance without symbolic meaning

IV. Complete the following with a suitable reason.
The poet’s realization in the line “realised with pain” functions as a moment of epiphany because _____.

V. How does the juxtaposition of journey and mortality in this stanza heighten the emotional tension for the poet?

VI. All of the following are true for the extract EXCEPT –
A. The imagery of the “ashen face” symbolizes the overwhelming nature of the speaker's emotions.
B. The poem explores themes of happiness and belongingness through its vivid descriptions.
C. The use of harsh, jarring words contributes to a tone of melancholy and nostalgia.
D. The speaker’s internal monologue creates an emotionally intense connection with the reader.

**OR**

B. " Of all the unhealthy and o’er-darkened ways
Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
From our dark spirits. Such the sun, the moon,
Trees old, and young, sprouting a shady boon
For simple sheep; and such are daffodils…"

I. Explain how the poet’s reference to "sun, the moon, trees old, and young… daffodils" conveys the idea of nature’s impact on the human spirit.

II. In the lines “Some shape of beauty moves away the pall / From our dark spirits”, which literary device is primarily used?
A. Personification, because abstract concepts like beauty and spirits are given human-like influence
B. Metaphor, because beauty is directly equated to a physical object that removes darkness
C. Hyperbole, because the poet exaggerates the effect of beauty on human suffering
D. Simile, because the effect of beauty is compared to sunlight with “like”

III. The phrase “sprouting a shady boon / For simple sheep” functions to:

A. Highlight the practical utility of nature over its aesthetic appeal
B. Contrast human suffering with the carefree life of animals
C. Symbolize the quiet generosity of beauty that benefits all living beings
D. Suggest that beauty is restricted to rural, pastoral life

IV. Explain how the poet transforms “dark spirits” through the imagery of nature.

V. State the significance of the phrase “shady boons” in the given excerpt.

VI. Complete the following with the correct option.

The tone of the poem in this extract can best be described as _____(despondent and melancholic / reverent and uplifting / didactic and commanding)

**8. Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B). 4x1=4**

A. “You needn’t think they haven’t all told me that fairy story before. ‘It’s not what you look like, it’s what you are inside. Handsome is as handsome does. Beauty loved the monstrous beast for himself and when she kissed him he changed into a handsome prince.’ Only he wouldn’t, he’d have stayed a monstrous beast. I won’t change.”

I. Derry refers to the “fairy story” to emphasise that—

A. People often rely on clichés to comfort him without understanding his feelings
B. He enjoys listening to fairy tales
C. He believes inner beauty is more important than appearance
D. He thinks his life will soon transform magically

II. Complete the following with the correct option.

When Derry says, “Only he wouldn’t, he’d have stayed a monstrous beast,” he is primarily expressing _____ (Frustration with Mr. Lamb’s stories/ Deep cynicism about love and acceptance/ Admiration for fairy tales)

III. Complete the following suitably.
In the line “Handsome is as handsome does,” the literary device used is _____.

IV. Why does Derry dismiss the idea that “Beauty loved the monstrous beast for himself”?

B. “I Just then, an elder of our street came along from the direction of the bazaar. The manner in which he was walking along made me want to double up. I wanted to shriek with laughter at the sight of such a big man carrying a small packet in that fashion… I stood there thinking to myself, if he holds it like that, won’t the package come undone, and the vadais fall out?’”

I. Complete the following suitably.
The narrator’s reaction to the elder’s appearance (“I wanted to shriek with laughter…”) reveals _____.

II. What literary device is present in the line “made me want to double up”?

A. Hyperbole
B. Metaphor
C. Irony
D. Personification

III. Why is the narrator concerned that the packet might “come undone”?

IV. How does this episode reflect the narrator’s blend of innocence and quick judgement?

**9. Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B). 1x6=6**

A “You saw Subbu always with The Boss but in the attendance rolls, he was grouped under a department called the Story Department comprising a lawyer and an assembly of writers and poets. The lawyer was also officially known as the legal adviser, but everybody referred to him as the opposite. An extremely talented actress, who was also extremely temperamental, once blew over on the sets. While everyone stood stunned, the lawyer quietly switched on the recording equipment. When the actress paused for breath, the lawyer said to her, “One minute, please,” and played back the recording. There was nothing incriminating or unmentionably foul about the actress’s tirade against the producer.”

I. What does the lawyer’s calm action primarily symbolize?

A. The triumph of professionalism over chaos
B. The manipulation of evidence to control others
C. Passive approval of the actress’s outburst
D. The hierarchy and strict rules of the Story Department

II. Identify the literary device in the phrase:
"the lawyer was also officially known as the legal adviser, but everybody referred to him as the opposite"

III. Based on the extract, which TWO inferences are most accurate?

1. The Story Department comprises eccentric and talented individuals.
2. The actress’s tirade was intentionally incriminating.
3. The lawyer remains calm and practical even in stressful situations.
4. Subbu is distant from the Boss and uninvolved in departmental matters.

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

IV. In the extract, the phrase “extremely talented” could be replaced by which of the following words without changing the meaning?

A. Incompetent
B. Proficient
C. Adequate
D. Inept

V. Why did the lawyer quietly switch on the recording equipment while the actress blew over on the sets?

VI. Complete the following with the correct option.

The central theme highlighted in the extract is _____ (The conflict between talent and temperament in creative environments/ The importance of professionalism and composure in handling chaos /The rigid hierarchy and bureaucratic control in organizations)

B. “And then sheer, stark terror seized me, terror that knows no understanding, terror that knows no control, terror that no one can understand who has not experienced it. I was shrieking under water. I was paralysed under water — stiff, rigid with fear. Even the screams in my throat were frozen. Only my heart, and the pounding in my head, said that I was still alive.”

I. The narrator’s experience in the extract primarily depicts:

A. A moment of exhilaration and joy at swimming
B. The overwhelming and uncontrollable nature of fear
C. A calm reflection on life and survival
D. The narrator’s mastery over underwater skills

II. Complete the following suitably.
The tone of the extract can best be described as _____.

III. Complete the following with the correct option.
The phrase “Even the screams in my throat were frozen” suggests that _____ (the narrator had lost the ability to speak because of cold water/ fear can physically paralyze a person, making even screams impossible/ the narrator was exaggerating to scare the reader)

IV. Why does the narrator emphasize **“**terror that knows no understanding, terror that knows no control”?

V. The antonym of “sheer” in the phrase “sheer, stark terror” is:

A. Partial
B. Complete
C. Severe
D. Absolute

VI. Identify and explain the literary device in “stiff, rigid with fear” and “Even the screams in my throat were frozen.”

**10. Answer any five of the following six questions in 40-50 words each : 5x2=10**

I. In ‘Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers,’ how does Rich use the contrast between Aunt Jennifer’s trembling hands and her fearless tigers to highlight the theme of patriarchal oppression? 2

II. In ‘Going Places’, how does Sophie’s unrealistic imagination create disappointment for her, especially regarding Danny Casey? 2

III. In ‘Keeping Quiet’, why does the poet warn readers not to confuse his call for stillness with “total inactivity” or death? 2

IV. In 'Lost Spring', what does Mukesh's desire to become a motor mechanic reveal about hope and breaking free from inherited suffering? 2

V. According to 'The Interview', why does Eco believe some writers dislike being interviewed? 2

VI. In 'The Rattrap', what makes the peddler suddenly stop in the middle of the forest and feel that "the world had indeed closed in on him like a rattrap"? 2

**11. Answer any two of the following three questions in 40 -50 words each : 2X2=4**

I. How does General Takima justify not arresting Dr. Sadao for harbouring an enemy in 'The Enemy? 2

II. Why does Zitkala-Sa feel "like one of many little animals driven by a herder" in 'Cutting My Long Hair'? 2

III. The experience of walking alongside seals and penguins affects the students in 'Journey to the End of the Earth'. Elucidate. 2

**12. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 1x5=5**

A. Discuss how Gandhi's non-violent struggle in Indigo and Neruda's call for stillness in Keeping Quiet both emphasise the power of unity and shared responsibility.

**OR**

B. How do The Roadside Stand and Going Places show that unrealistic dreams can disappoint people? Explain how both the poor farmers and Sophie suffer because they imagine a life very different from reality.

**13. . Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 1x5=5**

A. In what way does the behaviour of the courtiers and staff highlight the theme of blind obedience and its role in supporting unjust power in the story 'The Tiger King'?

**OR**

B. Compare how The Third Level and The Enemy depict human responses to fear and pressure.