



PRINCE ACADEMY

OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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BOARD SAMPLE PAPER-I (2025-26)

SUBJECT : ENGLISH CORE (301)

TIME : 03:00 Hours

CLASS - XII

M.M. : 80

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly 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 SKILLS (22 Marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully.

12

1. The term Artificial Intelligence spells a future in which this emerging technology will impact every aspect of human existence. In fact, little do we know, it has already crept into our lives, slowly, but surely. Look around your education, health care, industry, innovation, robots, robotic surgeries, transportation, home service-it's already there. It will change the lifestyle of everyone from the technology industry to normal people.

2. The past fifteen years have seen considerable AI advances in education. You enter school and AI takes your attendance using face recognition. Various applications are in wide use by educators and learners today. AI technologies assist teachers in the classroom. Learning at home is likely to expand significantly, along with learning based on virtual reality applications. Though quality education will always require active engagement by human teachers, AI promises to enhance education at all levels, especially by providing personalization at scale.

3. The evolution of new technologies, mobile, and the Internet are changing lifestyles. Artificial intelligence is playing an important role in every sector such as banking, driving, education, e-commerce, electronics, robotics. Systems of artificial intelligence are aiming to stimulate execution and decision-making that is human-like. In targeted applications, substantial increases in the future uses of AI technologies, including more driverless cars, healthcare diagnostics and targeted treatments, and physical assistance for elder care can be expected. AI and robotics will also be applied across the globe in industries struggling such as agriculture, food processing and factories. They will facilitate delivery of online purchases through flying drones, self-driving trucks or robots.

4. AI-based applications could improve health outcomes and quality of life for millions of people coaching, automated devices to assist in surgery or patient care, and management of healthcare in the coming years-prime applications include clinical decision support, patient monitoring and learning to predict patients at risk, and robotics to support surgery have expanded a sense of systems. Recent successes, such as mining social media to infer possible health risks, machine possibility for AI in healthcare.

5. People's future relationships with machines will become ever more personalized as AI systems learn to adapt to individual personalities, ambitions and goals. These AI applications will help monitor people's well-being, alert them to the impending risks, and deliver services when needed or wanted. (375 Words)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

(a) According to paragraph 2, what is the connection between face recognition and AI? 1

(b) With evidence from the text, explain, two ways in which AI will help in the healthcare sector. 1

(c) Complete the following with a suitable reason. 1

Artificial Intelligence has already impacted many areas of our lives because

(d) Which one of the following options best explains the phrase "Creeped into our lives"? 1

(i) Gradually became a part of our daily lives without us noticing it directly.

(ii) Did not become a part of our life.

(iii) Lack of enthusiasm

(e) Why does the author refer to AI as 'future' in paragraph 1? 1

Because-

(i) This emerging technology will impact every aspect of human existence.

(ii) It will not change the lifestyle of everyone from the technology industry to normal people.

(iii) The evolution of new technologies, mobile, and the Internet are not changing lifestyles.

(iv) Artificial intelligence is playing an important role in every sector.

(f) Provide ONE textual evidence with reference to paragraph 2, to prove the following: "The past fifteen years have seen considerable AI advances in education." (Answer in 40 words.) 2

(g) In the line, Recent successes, such as mining social media to infer possible health risks, machine learning to predict patients at risk, and robotics to support surgery have expanded a sense of possibility for AI in healthcare.' What does a 'sense of possibility' refer to? [Paragraph 4] 1

(h) What is the main focus of the passage? 1

(i) The disadvantages of AI in modern society. 1

(ii) The role of AI in healthcare only

(iii) The growing presence and impact of AI in all aspects of life

(iv) The history of AI development

(i) Why is it fair to say that the statement, "People's future relationships with machines will become ever more personalized as AI systems learn to adapt to individual personalities, ambitions and goals" from paragraph 5 employs a fact? 1

(i) AI will not prove beneficial to mankind.

(ii) Because AI applications will help people do a lot and also alert them to the impending risks.

(iii) AI is costly.

(iv) AI will not alert people about any danger.

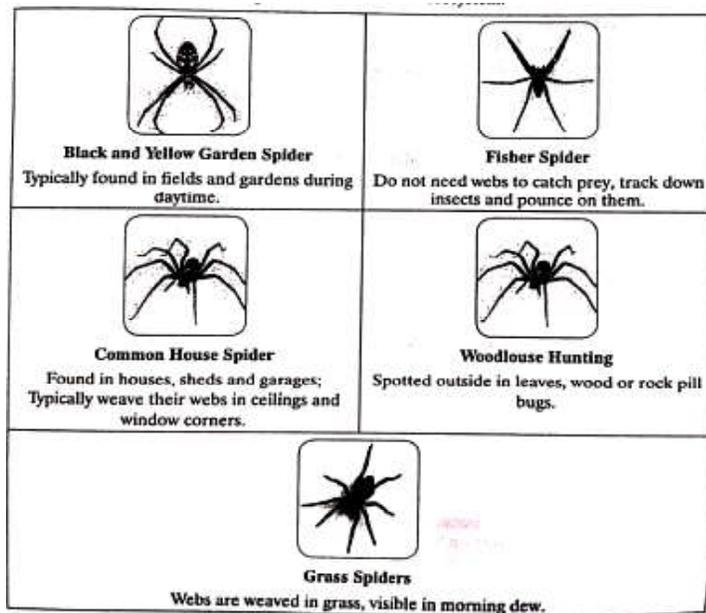
(j) According to the passage, why does the author conclude that people's relationships with machines will become more personalised? (Answer in 40 words.) 2

2. Read the following passage carefully. 10

1. The most characteristic feature of spiders is their ability to produce silken threads. Spiders normally have six finger-like silk glands, called 'spinnerets' located beneath their abdomen. To spin a web, the spider squeezes the silk out of its body through two small holes. The liquid silk is thicker than water and dries into a fine thread as soon as it comes in contact with air. Spider silk is much stronger than steel and resists breakage because of its elasticity. It can stretch up to 140 per cent of its original length. The diameter of these silken threads is about 10,000 of an inch. Spiders use this silk to make webs to trap their prey. The egg sacs of some spiders are also made of silk which pretreats the unborn progeny. Sometimes the spider can also use its silk as a safety feature. A certain species of spider 'phidippus apacheanecs' trails a safety line of fine silk as it jumps. It uses the silk line to recover if it misses its target. The silk of 'Naphils Spider' is the strongest natural fibre.

2. The spinning of webs is a remarkable example of instinctive behaviour. A spider does not have to learn how to make a web, although spinning itself can be adopted to unique circumstances. For example, 'orb' webs are circular in shape and take an hour to build. Funnel spiders pin a net-like entrance to their homes, which helps to trap food. Similarly, trap door spiders dig their homes and spin a trap door out of their silk for trapping insects.

3. As integral components of our biosphere, spiders have an intrinsic existence value. They are efficient predators that play an important role in controlling the pests of cotton. They are also a source of food for other creatures such as birds and wasps. Thus, the presence of spiders is an ecological indicator signalling the health of natural ecosystem.



Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

(a) Complete the following suitably. 1

The presence of spiders is an ecological indicator,

(b) Which of the following is a characteristic feature of grass spiders? 1

(i) They do not need webs to catch its prey.

(ii) Webs are weaved in grass.

(iii) They are found in fields and gardens.

(iv) They weave its web in corners of the room.

(c) Infer any two features of spiders from the given passage. (Ref: Paragraph 1) 2

(d) Fill in the blank with the correct option from those given in brackets. Spider silk can stretch upto (111%, 130%, 140%) of its original length. 1

(e) Read the following. 1

Spider 1: I am usually found in houses, sheds and garages and typically weave my webs in ceilings and window corners. Spider 2: I do not need webs to catch prey, track down insects and pounce on them. Spider 3: My webs are weaved in grass, visible in morning dew.

Identify the correct category all three spiders belong to.

(i) Spider 1-fisher spiders; Spider 2 - Common house spiders; Spider 3 - grass spiders

(ii) Spider 1-fisher spiders; Spider 2 - grass spiders; Spider 3 - common house spiders

(iii) Spider 1-grass spiders; Spider 2 - Common house spiders; Spider 3 - fisher spiders

(iv) Spider 1-Common house spiders; Spider 2 - fisher spiders; Spider 3 - grass spiders

(f) Which of the following types of webs is NOT described in the passage? 1

(i) Orb webs (ii) Funnel webs (iii) Sheet webs

(iv) Trap-door webs (v) Naphils Spider

(g) What important role do spiders play as a predator? 2

(h) Which of the following is the reason for the importance of spiders for birds and wasps? 1

(i) Spiders squeeze the silk out of its body through two small holes. 1

(ii) The liquid silk is thicker than water and dries into a fine thread as soon as it comes in contact with air.

(iii) Spider silk is much stronger than steel and resists breakage because of its elasticity.

(iv) Spiders are the source of food for them.

SECTION B: CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 Marks)

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

A. The Centre for Environment is organising a workshop on July 15 and 16, 20XX from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to create awareness about environmental concerns. Put up a notice in about 50 words inviting interested students of classes XI-XII to participate in the workshop.

OR

B. You are Secretary of Vasant Vihar Residents' Association. Write a notice in about 50 words to be placed on the Association noticeboard, informing the members regarding a free medical camp for heart check-up and blood test for the residents of the apartment to be organized by your association in collaboration with Life Med Hospital, Chennai. You are Mohan Mohini.

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

A. Your friend, P.V. Sathish, has invited you to attend the wedding of his sister, Jaya. You find that you have a pre-board examination on the day of the wedding, thus you cannot attend the event. Write in about 50 words a formal reply to the invitation expressing your regret. You are Puneet /Puneeta Vij, M-114, Fort Road, Chennai.

OR

B. You are Ranjit/Rani Chopra, a celebrated short story writer. You have been invited by the Literary Club, Sunshine Public School, Karnal, to deliver a lecture on 'Literature and Life. Draft a formal acceptance of the invitation in about 50 words. Address it to the Principal.

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

A. You are Nitin/Natasha Arela, a student of Class XII, K.R. Mangalam World School, Delhi. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily highlighting the kind of pressures an adolescent faces and suggest the ways to cope with them.

Cue/s

- pressure faced by adolescents
- adolescents-adopt crime, verbal and physical abuses, drug trafficking
- thrown in the criminal world at tender age
- must be handled with care

OR

B. You are Meera/Mohan Yadav of 46, Dayal Bagh, Agra. You have read an advertisement for the post of vice principal. Write an application and a detailed resume which you would like to send to the Director of Holy Child Public School, Agra.

Holy Child Public School

WANTED

Vice Principal

WHO DO WE NEED?

Only Experienced Welcome.

Required: PGT in concerned subject/Doctorate

Skills: Good and effective administrative skills, ability to handle any situation, good communication skills.

Please send your resumes to: The Director, Holy Child Public School, Taj Road, Agra Latest by 10 July 20XX

6. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in 120-150 words. 1×5=5
- A. You recently visited Kerala and felt that there is vast potential for tourism in India that remains untapped. Write an article in 120 150 words on "The Importance of Tourism in India'. Use the given cue/s.

Cue/s

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| • Tourism a key industry | • India-the hub of tourism |
| • heritage sites, natural scenery attract tourists | • source of earning foreign exchange |
| • Tourism contributes 6.23 to GDP | • generates employment |

OR

B. You recently attended a meeting organised by the Delhi Police to recommend a policy on safety in transportation of school children. Write a report in 120-150 words to be published in the school magazine.

Cue/s

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| • proper training to drivers of buses/vans | • valid licence |
| • fixed speed guards | • no unauthorised entry |
| • lady escorts a must | |
| • boarding and deboarding points must be demarcated | |

SECTION C: LITERATURE (40 Marks)

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two-A or B. 1×6=6
- A.** Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.
The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.
- (Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)
- (a) How is wedding band associated with her husband? 1

- (b) Why are Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering? 1
- (i) Because she cannot sit still. (ii) Because she has grown strong with age.
- (iii) Because she is nervous and insecure. (iv) Because she sits on her hand.
- (c) Complete the following suitably. 1
- The use of the words "massive weight" creates a powerful image of
- (d) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank. 1
- The fingers fluttering through her wool symbolise her (ego/nervousness).
- (e) Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract. 1
- Assertion:** Aunt Jennifer is nervous and traumatised because of the constraints of her marriage.
- Reason:** Aunt Jennifer is the victim of male domination.
- Choose the correct option regarding the statements.**
- (i) Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion..
- (ii) Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.
- (iii) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
- (iv) The assertion is false, but the reason is true.
- (f) What has the poet tried to portray through the given extract? 1

OR

*B. Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways
Made for our searching:*

(A Thing of Beauty)

- (a) What does the lack of punctuation at the end of line 3 in the extract show? 1
- (b) Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract? 1
- (i) The beautiful things in nature (ii) Things that cause unhappiness
- (iii) The immortality of human beings (iv) The early morning fragrance of flowers
- (c) Complete the following suitably. 1
- We wreath for ourselves a flowery band every morrow because
- (d) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank. 1
- The use of the word 'dearth' creates a powerful image of lack of (nobility/mobility).
- (e) Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract. 1
- Assertion:** Man has an immortal connection with nature,
- Reason:** Objects of beauty appeal and fascinate him.
- Choose the correct option regarding the statements.
- (i) Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
- (ii) Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.
- (iii) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
- (iv) The assertion is false, but the reason is true.
- (f) Choose an example of alliteration in the given extract. 1
8. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (A) or (B). 4
- A. If I am able, are you?" Sadao asked.
"No" Hana said, "Bui if you can do it alone..."
Sadao hesitated again. "The strange thing is," he said, "that if the man were whole I could turn him
over to the police without difficulty. I care nothing for him. He is my enemy. All Americans are my enemy.
And he is only a common fellow. You see how foolish his face is. But since he is wounded..." (The Enemy)*
- (a) Complete the following suitably. 1
- The dilemma faced by the couple was
- (b) Explain the expression: "if the man were whole." 1

- (c) What does Hana ask Dr. Sadao to do alone? 1
- (i) Treat the wounded soldier (ii) Give him shelter in the outhouse
- (iii) Throw him back into the sea (iv) Hand him over to the authorities
- (d) Dr. Sadao says, "All Americans are my enemy." What character trait of Dr. Sadao does it reflect? 1

OR

- B. Derry** : *I'd not come to steal anything.*
- Mr. Lamb** : *No, no. The young lads steal... scrump the apples. You're not so young.*
- Derry** : *I just... wanted to come in. Into the garden.*
- Mr. Lamb** : *So you did. Here we are, then.*
- Derry** : *You don't know who I am.*
- Mr. Lamb** : *A boy. Thirteen or so.*
- Derry** : *Fourteen. [Pause] But I've got to go now. Good-bye.*
- Mr. Lamb** : *Nothing to be afraid of. Just a garden. Just me.*
- Derry** : *But I'm not... I'm not afraid. [Pause] People are afraid of me.*

(On the Face Of It)

- (a) Complete the following suitably. 1
People are afraid of Derry because
- (b) Cite instances from the extract which show that Mr. Lamb is trying to put Derry at ease. 1
- (c) Choose the correct statement: 1
- (i) Derry entered the garden as he was fascinated by the bees.
- (ii) Derry came to meet Mr. Lamb.
- (iii) They were well acquainted with each other.
- (iv) Derry entered as he wanted to see the garden.
- (d) Why does Mr. Lamb feel that Derry has not come to steal? 1
9. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, A or B. 6
- A. *"Children grow up in them, becoming partners in survival. And survival in Seemapuri means ragpicking. Through the years, it has acquired the proportions of a fine art. Garbage to them is gold. It is their daily bread, a roof over their heads, even if it is a leaking roof. But for a child it is even more.*
- (Lost Spring)
- (a) Why does the author say 'survival in Seemapuri means rag-picking'? 1
- (b) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank. 1
'Garbage to them is gold' implies that it is a means of (survival/identity) for the ragpickers.
- (c) Complete the following suitably. 1
Children become partners in survival suggests that
- (d) What does the phrase "for a child it is even more" reveal about the children's dreams? 1
- (e) Ragpicking has acquired the proportion of a fine art means: 1
- (i) artistic bend of mind is required. (ii) it has proportionately displaced art.
- (ii) it has become a highly skilful activity. (iv) it has discovered pieces of art.
- (f) What does the following line from the extract, showcase? 1
Through the years, it has acquired the proportion of a fine art.
- (i) an imagination (ii) skilful activity (iii) confusion (iv) realisation

OR

- B. *This settlement was adopted unanimously by the commission. Gandhi explained that the amount of the refund was less important than the fact that the landlords had been obliged to surrender part of the money and, with it, part of their prestige. Therefore, as far as the peasants were concerned, the planters had behaved as lords above the law. Now the peasant saw that he had rights and defenders.*
- He learned courage.* (Indigo)
- (a) What was Gandhi's purpose in agreeing to the settlement, even at a lesser amount? 1
- (b) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank. 1
The commission agreed by common consent, or in other words, they agreed to the settlement (unanimously/dividedly).

- (c) Complete the following suitably. 1
 The phrase 'lords above the law suggests that
- (d) Explain the impact on the landlords as a result of the settlement. 1
- (e) Based on the content provided in the extract, select the most likely option about the behaviour of the landlords. 1
- (i) The landlords were sorry for their behaviour.
 (ii) The landlords were obstinate and refused Gandhi's suggestion.
 (iii) The landlords had to refund the money.
 (iv) The landlords and the planters became partners in the Indigo plantation.
- (f) What did the peasants realise from the Champaran incident? 1
- (i) They realised that they can do nothing.
 (ii) They realised that they too had courage.
 (iii) They realised that peasants are above all.
 (iv) They realised that peasants have no importance.

- 10. Answer any five of the following six questions in 40-50 words each: 5×2=10**
- (a) What was the outcome of the neglect of the French language in the region? (The Last Lesson)
 (b) What are the differences in the ambitions of Saheb and Mukesh? (Lost Spring)
 (c) "The thing of beauty is an everlasting joy." What are the beauties of nature that the poet mentions in the poem 'A Thing of Beauty'?
 (d) Aunt Jennifer was a true victim. How does the poet use the image of 'fingers fluttering through the wool' to highlight this? (Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)
 (e) Rajkumar Shukla is described as being 'resolute'. Give reason. (Indigo)
 (f) What message does the poet give through 'A Roadside Stand'?

- 11. Answer any two of the following three questions in 40-50 words each: 2×2=4**
- (a) How did the tiger king acquire his name? (The Tiger King)
 (b) What kind of relationship did Dr Sadao Hoki share with his father? (The Enemy)
 (c) How do geological phenomena help us to know about the history of humankind? (Journey to the End of the Earth)

- 12. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5**
- A. The prose sections, The Last Lesson and Poets and Pancakes, bring out situational irony and gentle humour as well as satire to point out human foibles.
 Imagining yourself Rohit/Roshni of class-XII, write a speech in about 120-150 words elaborating on the occurrences from the two texts to inspire others about the importance of humour in real life.
 You may begin like this:
 Good morning Principal, Teachers and my dear friends!
 I, Rohit of Class-XII, is trying to emphasise on the importance of

OR

B. The prose section 'Poets and Pancakes' includes this comment, "What is an English poet doing in a film studio which makes Tamil films for the simplest sort of people?" on Stephen Spender. In Keeping Quiet, we are told that "It would be an exotic moment without rush, without engines, we would all be together in a sudden strangeness."
 Imagine a conversation between you and Stephen Spender about your dream goals. Create this exchange with reference to the two extracts given above.

- 13. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5**
- A. The Maharaja's servants were obedient and adoring. Despite this, the Maharaja missed the chance to murder the hundredth tiger.
 As a part of the research, discuss whether you find them truly sincere towards him or not. Are they driven by fear when they obey him? Do we find a similarity in today's political order?

OR

B. There are moments in life when we have to make hard choices between our roles as private individuals and as citizens with a sense of national loyalty. Which, according to you is higher -humanity or patriotism? Write a paragraph on the topic 'Humanity versus Patriotism' in about 120-150 words.