



PRINCE ACADEMY

OF HIGHER EDUCATION

[Co-edu. Sr. Sec. School, Affiliated to CBSE, Affiliation No. - 1730387]

Palwas Road, Near Jaipur - Bikaner Bypass Crossing, SIKAR - 332001 (Raj.) INDIA

Mob. : 9610-75-2222, 9610-76-2222

www.princeeduhub.com | E-mail : princeacademy31@gmail.com

BOARD SAMPLE PAPER (2024-25)

SUBJECT : ENGLISH CORE (301)

TIME : 03 : 00 HOURS

CLASS - XII

M.M. : 80

General Instructions:

- 15-minute prior reading time allotted for question-paper reading.
- The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
- Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number in your answer sheet to indicate the option/s being attempted.

[Section-A]

Reading Skills (22 Marks)

1. Read the following text. 12

(1) Today's woman is a highly self-directed person, alive to the sense of her dignity and the importance of her functions in the private domestic domain and the public domain of the world of work. Women are rational in approach, careful in handling situations and want to do things as best as possible. The Fourth World Conference of Women held in Beijing in September 1995 had emphasized that no enduring solution of society's most threatening social, economic and political problems could be found without the participation and empowerment of the women. The 1995 World Summit for Social Development had also emphasized the pivotal role of women in eradicating poverty and mending the social fabric.

(2) The Constitution of India had conferred on women equal rights and opportunities political, social, educational and employment with men. Because of oppressive traditions, superstitions, exploitation and corruption, a majority of women are not allowed to enjoy the rights and opportunities, bestowed on them. One of the major reasons for this state of affairs is the lack of literacy and awareness among women. Education is the main instrument through which we can narrow down the prevailing inequality and accelerate the process of economic and political change in the status of women.

(3) The role of women in a society is very important. Women's education is the key to a better life in the future. A recent World Bank study says that educating girls is not a charity, it is good economics and if developing nations are to eradicate poverty, they must educate the girls. The report says that the economic and social returns on investment in education of the girls considerably affect the human development index of the nation. Society would progress only if the status of women is respected and the presence of an educated woman in the family would ensure education of the family itself. Education and empowerment of women are closely related.

(4) Women's education has not received due care and attention from the planners and policymakers. The National Commission for Women has rightly pointed out that even after 50 years of independence; women continue to be treated as the single largest group of backward citizens of India. The role of women in overall development has not been fully understood nor has it been given its full weight in the struggle to eliminate poverty, hunger, injustice and inequality at the national level. Even when we are at the threshold of the 21st century, our society still discriminated against women in matters of their rights and privileges and prevents

them from participating in the process of national and societal progress.

(5) Various Committees and Commissions have been constituted before and after the independence to evaluate the progress in women's education and to suggest ways and means to enhance the status of women. The female literacy rate has gone up in the 20th Century from 0.6 per cent in 1901 to 39.29 percent in 1991 but India still possesses the largest number of illiterate women in the world. The female literacy index for the year 1991 shows that there are eight States, which fall below the national average. The most populous States of the country, UP, MP, Bihar and Rajasthan fall in the Category of most backwards States as far as female literacy is concerned.

(6) The prevailing cultural norms of gender behaviour and the perceived domestic and reproductive roles of women tend to affect the education of girls. Negative attitude towards sending girls to schools, restrictions on their mobility, early marriage, poverty and illiteracy of parents affect the girl's participation in education.

(7) Women's political empowerment got a big boost with the Panchayati Raj Act of 1993, which gave them 30 percent reservation in Village Panchayats, Block Samities and Zila Parishads through out the country. The National Commission for women was also set up in 1992 to act as a lobby for women's issues. The educational system is the only institution, which can counteract the deep foundation of inequality of sexes that are built in the minds of people through the socialization process. Education is the most important instrument of human resource development. Educational system should be used to revolutionize the traditional attitudes and inculcate new values of equality.

Answer the following questions based on the passage above.

- (i) Select the option that classifies women's pivotal role in eradicating poverty and mending the social fabric. 1
(a) They are rational in approach
(b) They are careful in handling every situation
(c) They have urge to do things as best as possible
(d) All of these
- (ii) How can we narrow down the prevailing inequality and accelerate the process of economic and political change in the status of women? 1
(a) By introducing policies on women empowerment
(b) Through education
(c) By giving women political rights
(d) By changing social structure
- (iii) Share evidence from the text in about 40 words to support the view that the modern woman is referred to as a highly self-directed person? 2
- (iv) Mention suitable reasons as to why despite of having equal rights and opportunities women are not able to enjoy their constitutional rights_____ 1
- (v) How did the enactment of the Panchayati Raj Act of 1993 give a major boost to Women's political empowerment? 1
(a) By giving them 60 percent reservation in Village Panchayats, Block Samities and Zila Parishads.
(b) By giving them 30 percent reservation in Village Panchayats, Block Samities and Zila parishads
(c) By giving them 40 percent reservation in Village Panchayats, Block Samities and Zila Parishads
(d) None of the above
- (vi) Explain, by what process can we remove the sense of inequality of sexes from the minds of the people? 1
- (vii) The sentence states that "educating girls is not a charity, it is good economics." Please explain this statement. 2
- (viii) **How does the the followssing impact the reader ? Even after 50 years of independence, woman continue to be treated as the single group of backward citizens in India. (Answer in 40 Words)**
- (ix) **Read the five headlines (a) - e) given below** 2
(a) WOMEN ARE STILL VICTIMS
(b) ONLY EDUCATION CAN ENSURE DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN
(c) VARIOUS IMPEDIMENTS TO WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

(d) WOMEN ARE THE MOST POWERFUL

(e) WOMEN MUST STAND UP FOR THEIR RIGHTS

Identify the headline that best fits the passage's content and is an appropriate headline for the passage.

1

(a) Only (a)

(b) Only (b)

(c) Only (a) and (e)

(d) Only (c) and (e)

2. **Read the following text**

10

(1) Call it a blessing or a curse of Mother Nature, we have to breathe in over 10,000 litres of air in a day (more than four million in a year) to remain alive. By making it essential for life. God has wished that we tried to keep the air we breathe clean. Everyone can see the food that is not clean and perhaps refrain from eating it, but one cannot stop breathing even if one can feel the air to be polluted. Several harmful and noxious substances can contaminate the air we breathe. Generally, much is said and written about outdoor air pollution, most of which is due to vehicular and industrial exhausts.

(2) Given the fact that most of us spend over 90% of our time indoors, it is most important to recognise that the air we breathe in at home or in offices can be polluted. It can be a cause of ill health. Air pollutants that are generally present in very low concentrations can assume significance in closed ill ventilated places. The indoor air pollution can lead to allergic reactions and cause irritation to the skin, the eyes and the nose. However, as is logical to assume, the brunt of insult by pollutants is borne by the lungs. It can lead to the development of fresh breathing problems, especially in those who have allergic tendencies, or it can worsen the existing respiratory illness like asthma and bronchitis.

(3) There can be several sources of indoor air pollution. Tobacco smoke is one of the most important air pollutants in closed places. "passive smoking" or environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) pollution can lead to all the harmful effects of tobacco smoking seen in the smokers in their non-smoking companions. To all the harmful effects of tobacco smoking seen in the smokers in their non-smoking companions. ETS as a health hazard has been unequivocally proven and is also getting social recognition now. one can occasionally see signs displaying the all-important message: "Your smoking is injurious to my health" in offices and homes. The children of smoking parents are among the worst affected person.

(4) The exposure of young children to ETS leads to increased respiratory problems and hospital admissions as compared to non-exposed children. Several studies, including those done at the PGI, have shown an increased risk of lung cancer among women exposed to passive smoking. ETS also worsens the existing lung diseases like asthma and bronchitis. It may be responsible for the development of asthma in children.

(5) The next most important source of indoor air pollution is the allergens. House dust mites (HDM) are very small insects not visible to the naked eye and are the commonest source of allergy in the house. They are ubiquitous and thrive in a warm and moist atmosphere. They breed very fast and are very difficult to eradicate. Modern houses present ample breeding spaces for them in the form of carpets, curtains, mattresses, pillows, etc.

(6) Exposure to HDM can be prevented by the frequent washing of linen and by encasing the mattresses and pillows in a non-permeable cover. Pets form an important part of life for some of us. Nevertheless, they can add plenty of allergens to our indoor atmosphere. Cats are notorious for doing this. Fine particles from feline fur can remain stuck to the upholstery and carpets for a long time* even after the removal of the animal and lead to the worsening of asthma and skin allergies. Fortunately, owing to religious and social customs cats are not very popular pets in India. Dogs, however, are quite popular and can be as troublesome. Pets should be kept out of the bedrooms and washed frequently. To remove the fur particles one has to use vacuum cleaners as the ordinary broom and mop are not effective.

Moulds, fungi and several other microorganisms thrive in damp conditions and can lead to allergies as well as infections. Humidifiers in the air-conditioning plants provide an ideal environment for certain types of bacteria and have led to major outbreaks of pneumonia. It is important to clean regularly the coolers, air-conditioners and damp areas of the house such as cupboards, lifts, etc. to minimise this risk.

(7) Toxic gases can also pollute the indoor environment. Biomass fuels(wood, cow dung, dried plants) and coal, if burned inside, can lead to severe contamination by carbon monoxide (CO): The poor quality of stoves and other cooking or heating appliances that cause incomplete combustion of LPG can also lead to the emission of CO or nitrogen dioxide. Formaldehyde (a gas) can be released from adhesives that are used for fixing carpets, upholstery and also in making plywood and particleboard. The gases are very toxic in high concentrations as may be encountered during industrial accidents, but even in very minimal amounts, as may be prevalent in homes and offices, they can cause irritation to the skin or the eyes, rashes, headache, dizziness and nausea. Improving the ventilation is an important preventive measure, besides trying to eliminate the source that may not be always feasible.

(8) Other indoor pollutants are toxic chemicals like cleansing agents, pesticides, paints, solvents and inferior-quality personal-care products, especially aerosols. Very old crumbling pipes, boilers, insulation or false roofing can also be important sources. Asbestors is a hazardous product that can cause cancer in humans. It is important to realise that the air we breathe at home may not be clean always and we must try to eliminate the source of pollution. We should give due consideration to ventilation.

Answer the following questions based on the passage above.

- (i) How much air has Mother Nature mandatory for us to breathe each day, and why? 2
- (ii) The Almighty wants that human beings_____ 1
 - (a) should try to breathe clean air
 - (b) should not pay attention to pollutants
 - (c) must ignore ETS
 - (d) should become passive smokers
- (iii) List the eight most significant indoor air pollution sources from the passage above. 2
- (iv) Read the lines that follow to find out how our indoor environment may cause illness. 1
 - (a) Given the fact that most of us spend over 90% of our time indoors, it is most important to recognise that the air we breathe in at home or in offices can be polluted.
 - (b) It can be a cause of ill health. Air pollutants that are generally present in very low concentrations can assume significance in closed ill-ventilated places.
- (v) Who is most negatively impacted by passive smoking, often known as the undeniably harmful environment tobacco smoke (ETS) from paragraph 2 ? 1
 - (a) The children of smoking parents
 - (b) The elderly persons
 - (c) The serious patients
 - (d) The middle-aged people
- (vi) What is the most important source of indoor air pollution especially in modern houses? 1
- (vii) Complete the following sentence appropriately. 1
 Pets should be kept out of the bedrooms and washed frequently because _____
- (viii) State TRUE or False 1
 The title, “The Chocking Truth: Unveiling the causes of Air Pollution”, is appropriate for this passage.

[Section-B]

Creative Writing Skills (18 Marks)

- 3. Attempt any one of the two, in about 50 words. 4
 - (A) As sports secretary of G.D.G. Public School, Pune, Draft a notice for your school notice board informing the students about the sale of old sport goods of your school. You are Rohini/Rohit.
 - (B) You are Manpreet/Anushka. You have planned a two week creative writing workshop to be arranged to inspire and educate young aspiring writers of Modern School, Banglore to hone their creative writing skills. Draft a notice stating the objective of the cause, also provide the necessary details and requesting students to participate in the workshop.
- 4. Attempt any one of the two, in about 50 words 4
 - (A) You are Rohan/Rani. You have been invited to participate in a seminar on ‘Fundamental Rights of Women’, organized by the Rotary club of your district. Respond to the invitation (Accepting) by writing a letter to the Secretary of the club.

OR

(B) You are Navin/Neha, the secretary of the Youth club of your locality. You are organising an inter-school group-song competition. Write an invitation to invite Mr. Sonu Nigam, a prominent singer to be one of the judges.

Attempt any one of the two, in about 120-150 words

5

(A) You are Minu Sen, an intern in a software company in Hyderabad. You feel that the growing relationship of companies with non-profit organizations have made Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) the buzzword today. Your own involvement in one such project for your company has convinced you that CSR looks beyond the company profits and focuses on benefiting the greater community. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, sharing your opinion about CSR its advantages and provide suggestions to make it an integral part of every organisation. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this letter.

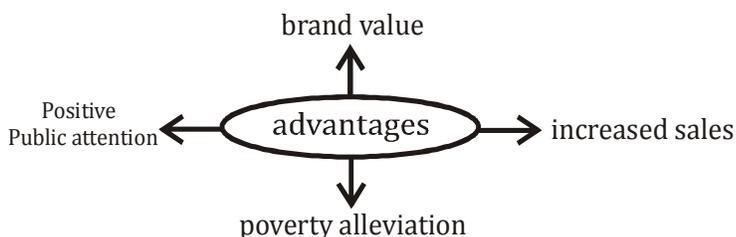
4 types of CSR efforts.

→ environmental invitation

→ Charity Work

→ ethical labour practices

→ volunteer projects



OR

(B) You are Kirti/Ketan of 34, Raj Lanes, Delhi-12. You saw an advertisement in The Hindu for the Post of accountant in a reputed firm. Write an application to the Area Manager, ABC Consultants, Chandni Chowk, New Delhi-06, giving your detailed bio-data.

6. **Attempt any one of the two, in about 120-150 words.**

5

(A) Write an article on the pressure that students face today. Talk about how parents can play an important role in saving their mental health.

OR

(B) You are Lata/Lalit of Gurugram. You attended the inaugural ceremony of the newly opened vocational stream and hobby classes at the secondary school level in Paras Public School, Gurugram. Draft a report to be published in 'Gurugram Times' Invent other details.

[Section-C]

LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40 MARKS)

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given

6

(A) Fishermen in the cold sea,

Would not harm whales

And the men gathering salt

Would look at his hurt hands.

(Keeping Quiet)

(i) What is the primary theme conveyed in the above lines?

1

(A) The joy of fishing in cold seas.

(B) The danger of gathering salt

(C) The unintentional harm caused by human actions

(D) The beauty of nature in the sea

(ii) State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract.

1

The lines suggest that people should be mindful for the pain and suffering they cause to nature and to fellow humans.

- (iii) The poet's lines encourage people to look at their hurt hands while gathering salt in order to _____. 1
- (iv) How can the message conveyed in these lines be applied to real-life situations or environmental conservation efforts? 1
- (v) What is the overall tone used by the poet in these lines- 1
 - (A) Joyful (B) Indifferent
 - (C) Compassionate (D) Critical
- (vi) What does the poet want to emphasize through these lines? 1
 - (A) The need for more harmful fishing practices
 - (B) The indifference of fishermen to whales
 - (C) The importance of preserving nature
 - (D) The benefits of salt gathering

OR

(B) It is in the news that all these pitiful kin
 Are to be bought out and mercifully gathered in
 To live in villages, next to the theatre and the store,
 Where they won't have to think for themselves
 anymore,
 while greedy good-doers, beneficent beasts of prey.

(A Roadside Stand)

- (i) In the poem "A Roadside Stand" by Robert Frost, who are the "merciful" mentioned in the lines? 1
 - (A) Kind-hearted villagers (B) Crooked politicians
 - (C) Greedy businessmen (D) Neighbouring farmers
 - (ii) State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract. The "merciful" in the poem are genuinely compassionate and caring individuals. 1
 - (iii) Complete the statement appropriately. 1

In the poem "A Roadside Stand" by Robert Frost, the "merciful" are described as "greedy good-doers" because.

 - (iv) What message or social commentary do you think the poet is trying to convey through the poem "A Roadside Stand"? 1
 - (v) Why won't the poor people have to think for themselves anymore in the poem? 1
 - (A) They will be provided with free education.
 - (B) The merciful will make all their decisions for them
 - (C) They will be relocated to a place with abundant resources
 - (D) They will be given the freedom to choose their own path
 - (vi) Which literary device is prominently used in the poem to convey the poet's message about the "merciful" individuals? 1
 - (A) Alliteration (B) Simile
 - (C) Irony (D) Foreshadowing
8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for Any One of the two given. 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 swallowd 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 dilemma do the astrologers face in the passage, and why is it difficult for them to reveal the secret about the child's future? 1

- (ii) What prediction do the astrologers make about the child born under a particular star? 1
 (A) The child will have a life filled with happiness and prosperity.
 (B) The child will become a great hero and champion.
 (C) The child will never experience any difficulties or challenges.
 (D) The child will have to meet its death one day.
- (iii) The astrologers express their hesitation to disclose the full prediction about the child's future because they believe that _____. 1
- (iv) How does the passage illustrate the conflict between the astrologers' duty to reveal the truth and their concern for the emotional well-being of the child's family? 1

OR

(B) The man moaned with pain in his stupor but he did not awaken. "The best thing that we could do would be to put him back in the sea", "Sadao said, answering himself. Now that the bleeding was stopped for the moment he stood up and dusted the sand from his hands. "Yes, undoubtedly that would be the best," Hana said steadily. But she continued to stare down at the motionless man. "If we sheltered a white man in our house we would be arrested and if we turned him over as a prisoner, he would certainly die, "The kindest thing would be to put him back into the sea," Hana said. But neither of them moved. They were staring with curious repulsion upon the inert figure.

- (i) **Compae the sentence appropriately.** 1
 The, moral dilemma faced by Sadao and Hana was that_____.
- (ii) **In which of the following options can be underlined words NOT be replaced with 'stupor'?** 1
 (A) She hung up the phone feeling as though she had woken up from a slumber.
 (B) The manager complained about the employee's sluggishness.
 (C) He seemed to be in a trance when the doctor called upon him last week.
 (D) Seeing him in a daze, the lawyer decided not to place him in the witness box.
- (iii) Why does Sadao suggest putting the man back into the sea? 1
- (iv) What Can be some of the plausible explanations for the inaction of Sadao and Hana thus far? 1
9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for Any one of the two given. 6

(A) Usually, when school began, there was a great bustle, which could be heard in the street, the opening and closing of desks, lessons repeated in unison, very loud, with our hands, over our ears to understand better, and the teacher's great ruler rapping on the table. But now it was all so still! I had counted on the commotion to get to my desk without being seen; but, of course, that day everything had to be as quiet as Sunday morning. Through the window I saw my classmates, already in their places, and M. Hamel walking up and down with his terrible iron ruler in his arm. I had to open the door and go in before everybody. You can imagine how blushed and how frightened I was.

(The Last Lesson)

- (i) List any two sensory details present in this extract. 1
- (ii) Why does the protagonist feel anxious about entering the classroom on this particular day? 1
 (a) The classmates have started the lesson
 (b) The teacher is in a bad mood
 (c) The classroom is too quiet
 (d) The protagonist is running late
- (iii) Complete the sentence appropriately. The phrase "as quiet as Sunday morning" suggests that ____ 1
- (iv) Pick evidence from the extract that helps one infer that this was not the protagonist's first time being late to school. 1
- (v) What does the term 'terrible iron' indicate about M. Hamel? 1
- (vi) Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the extract? 1
 (a) The Fears of Latecomer (b)The Importance of Punctuality
 (c) The Rigidity of the School System (d)The Anxiety of a Young Student

OR

(B) A girl from the countryside, she hadn't gone through all the stages of worldly experience that generally preceded a position of importance and sophistication that she had found herself catapulted into. She never quite recovered from the terror she felt that day. That was the end of a brief and brilliant acting career – the legal adviser, who was also a member of the Story Department, had unwittingly brought about that sad end. While every other member of the Department wore a kind of uniform – khadi dhoti with a slightly oversized and clumsily tailored white khadi shirt – the legal adviser wore pants and a tie and sometimes a coat that looked like a coat of mail, he looked alone and helpless....

(Poets and Pancakes)

- (i) How did the legal advisor ruin an actress' career? 1
- (ii) The phrase "Stages of worldly experience" would be most appropriate in the following context : 1
- (a) Good education to gain knowledge.
- (b) Situations that require one to be street smart
- (c) Smaller, not so important roles in acting
- (d) Training in soft skills
- (iii) Based on the excerpt above, select any one that corresponds to the legal advisor: 1
- (a) He disliked the actress from the countryside
- (b) He acted after thinking through things carefully
- (c) He did not get well with others in the Department
- (d) He was always dressed smartly
- (iv) identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that the writer is sympathetic towards the professional fate of the actor. 1
- (v) Based on the content provided in the extract above, select the correct option to fill in the blank. 1
- The harm done to the actress was a/an _____
- (a) Well-planned act (b) unintentional act
- (c) act of jealousy (d) act of male dominance
- (vi) Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation, as per the extract. The writer uses the word 'uniform' to refer to the outfits of the Department members because just like a uniform _____. 1
10. Answer Any five of the following in about 40-50 words each. 2×5=10
- (i) How was Mukesh different from his family members?
- (ii) Once Douglas took courage and the fear disappeared How did it happen?
- (iii) Raj kumar Shukla was a strong-head Justify the statement in the light of the chapter 'Indigo'.
- (iv) How was Franz's opinion changed about Mr. Hamel on the last day of school?
- (v) Why did the Ironmaster not hand over the peddler to the Sheriff.
- (vi) What does the poet try to convey through the poem 'A Thing of Beauty'?
11. Answer Any two of the following in about 40-50 words each. 2×2=4
- (A) What was the impact of Mr. Lamb's meeting with Derry?
- (B) How did the Maharaja set the name Tiger king?
- (C) How would you justify that the third level was a medium of escape for Charley?
12. Answer any one of the following in about 120-150 words. 5×1=5
- (A) Our language is our identity and we should always proud of it. Discuss with reference to the scene of the classroom which M.Hamel was addressing and the emotion attached to the villagers.

OR

(B) Describe the peddler's meeting with the ironmaster. Why did he decline this invitation?

13. Answer Any one of the of the following in about 120-150 words. 5×1=5
- (i) Dr. Sadao Faced a dilemma. Should he use his surgical skills to save the life of a wounded American pow or should he hand him over to the Japanese police ? How did he resolve the class of values ?

OR

(ii) The feeling of loneliness and social ignorance are the common subject in the lesson. 'On the Face of It' Both Derry and Mr. Lamb feel comfortable in each other's company. Discuss.