



PRINCE ACADEMY

OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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SAMPLE PAPER SET - 03 (2024-25)

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. Read the following passage carefully

1. South India is known for its music, art and literature. Madras or Chennai can be called the cultural capital and the soul of Mother India. The city is built low in pleasant contrast to the ghoulish tall structures of Mumbai and Kolkata. The majestic spacious Mount Road looks like a river, wide and deep. A stroll on the Marina beach in the evening with the sea glistening in your face is refreshing. The breeze soothes the body, refreshes the mind, sharpens the tongue and brightens the intellect.

2. One can never feel dull in Chennai. The intellectual and cultural life of the city is a marvel. Every street corner of Chennai has a literary forum, a debating society, music, dance and dramatic club. The intelligent arguments, the sparkling wit and dashing irony enliven both the political and the literary meetings. There is a young men's association which attracts brilliant speakers and equally brilliant listeners to its meetings. It is a treat to watch the speakers use their oratorical weapons. Chennai speakers are urbane, though the cantankerous, fire-eating variety is quite often witnessed in political campaigning. The urbane speakers weave their arguments slowly like the unfolding of a leisurely Carnatic raga.

3. Music concerts and dance performances draw packed houses. There is hardly any cultural family in Chennai that does not learn and patronise music and dance in its pristine purity. Rukmani Devi Arundale's 'Kalakshetra' is a renowned international centre. It has turned out hundreds of celebrated maestros and dancers who have brought name and glory to our country. Carnatic music has a peculiar charm of its own. It has the moon's soft beauty and moon's soft pace. Thousands of people flock to the temple maidans' to get drunk with the mellifluous melodies of their favourite singers. They sit

out all night in the grueling heat, swaying to the rhythm of 'nadaswaram' and rollicking with the measured beats of 'mridangam'. M.S. Subbulakshmi is considered to be the 'Nightingale of the South'.

4. The gods might descend from heaven to see a South Indian damsel dancing. There are varieties of South Indian dance - Bharatnatyam, Kuchipudi, Kathakali, etc. Age cannot wither nor custom stale its beautiful variety. Bharatnatyam is the most graceful and enchanting dance form, whereas Kathakali is the most masculine and virile. South Indian dances combine voluptuousness with purity. Here, every muscle and fibre of the body vibrates into life, and as the tempo increases, a divine flame-like passion bodies forth as if making an assault on heaven.

5. South Indian dress, particularly of the males, is puritanically simple. One cannot distinguish a judge from an arдали by their dress. South Indian ladies look charming and graceful in their colourful Kanjeevaram and Mysore silk sarees,

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- (a) According to paragraph 1, how does a stroll on the Marina beach help us? 2
(b) What are the characteristics of South Indian dances, in general? 2
(c) Read and complete the following sentence suitably 1
Music concerts and dance performances draw packed houses

Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence.

The concern this analogy points towards is about

- (i) the cultural families of Chennai who know music and dance in its pristine purity
(ii) the cultural families of Chennai who do not know even the basics of music and dance
(d) Complete the sentence appropriately with a characteristic or its description. 1

Based on the information given in the extract, one can infer that all cultural families in Chennai learn and patronise

- (e) Why is South India mainly known for? (Paragraph-1) 1

- (i) tasty food (ii) music, art and literature
(iii) scenic beauty (iv) delicate and precise ways

(f) In the line, "The urbane speaker weave their arguments slowly like unfolding of a leisurely Carnatic raga What does the word 'urbane' mean? (Paragraph-2) 1

- (g) Complete the following analogy with ONE word from the paragraph 2. 1
pure : impure :: old :

- (h) Why can one never feel dull in Chennai? 1

- (i) There are a number of literary forums, debating society, music and dance clubs.
(ii) The sparkling wit, intelligent arguments and dashing irony enliven the political and the literary meetings.

- (iii) Both (1) and (ii)

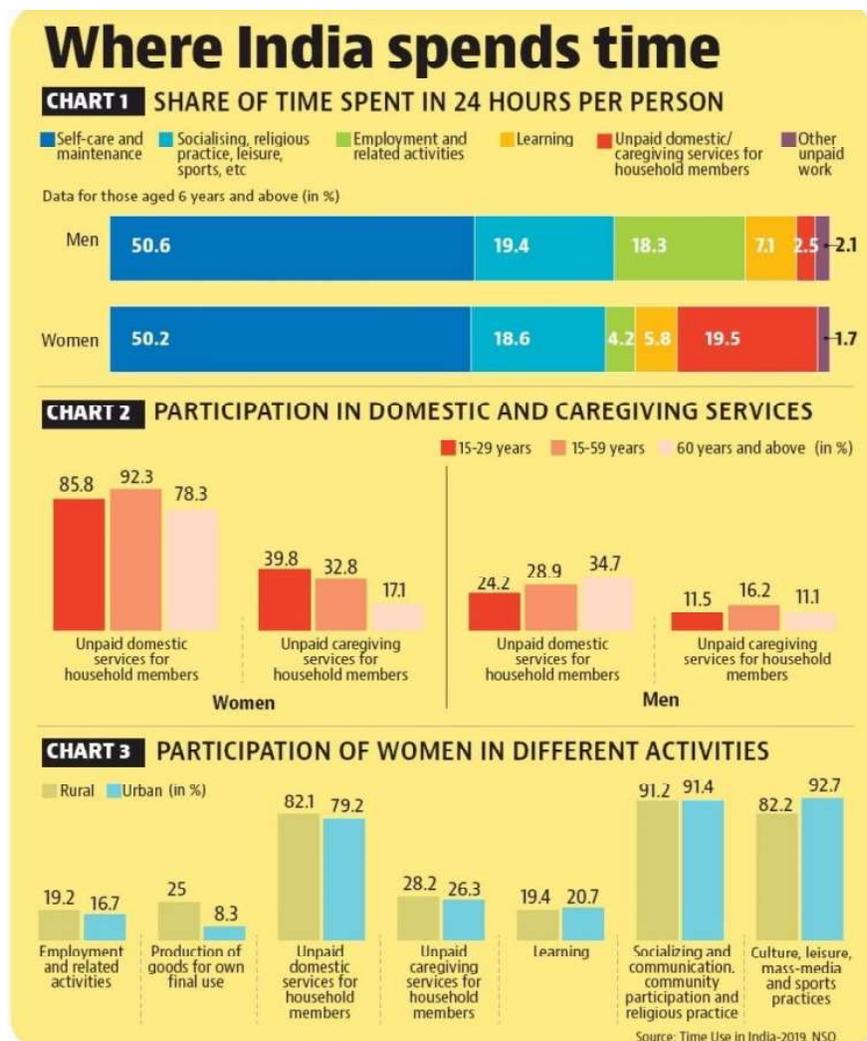
- (iv) There is nothing in Chennai to be proud of

- (i) State about the South Indian dresses of male and female. 2

2. Read the following carefully. 10

1. The average Indian woman spends 243 minutes, a little over four hours, on these, which is almost ten times; the 25 minutes the average man does. Thanks to the greater burden of domestic work, men spend more time than women in every other activity-working, studying, even just taking care of themselves. "It has been widely known, and for long, that Indian women undertake a lot of unpaid domestic work. The time use survey only reveals the extent of the disproportionate burden on women. Interestingly, there seems to be an inverse relationship between age and the amount of time spent by women on household chores, but a direct one between age and the time spent by men on these. While women above the age of 60 see a sharp fall in their domestic work burden, men tend to devote a greater time to domestic work when they cross 60.

2. The report is based on a survey of 138,000 households in 2019 and looked at anyone over the age of six. While this may seem too young, it is a fact that, especially in poor households, and in rural India, young boys, and more often, young girls, are asked to perform chores. An average Indian woman spends 19.5% of her time engaged in either unpaid domestic work or unpaid care-giving services, according to the survey conducted between January and December 2019. Men spend just 2.5% of a 24-hour period on these activities. In every other group of activities- from employment and learning to socializing, leisure, and self-care activities like sleeping and eating-men spend a higher share of their daily time than women.



3. In terms of participation, 81% women take on domestic chores, compared to just 26% of men. Even within domestic work, there is a gender-based division of responsibilities. It is only when they turn 60 that women seem to find a respite from domestic work. A broad age-group wise breakup suggests that above the age of 60, the participation of women in unpaid domestic and care-giving services reduces drastically.

4. There are also differences in participation of women in daily activities depending on where they live. Rural women participate more on paid or unpaid work, whereas the urban women participate more in learning, socializing or leisure activities.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- (a) Complete the following suitably. 1
 Even within domestic work, there is a gender based
- (b) In what sort of activities do men spend a higher share of their daily time than women? 1
 (i) From employment and learning to socializing, leisure
 (ii) Self-care activities like sleeping and eating

(iii) Household chores only

(iv) Both (i) and (ii)

(c) How much time does an average Indian woman spend either in unpaid domestic work or unpaid care-giving services? 2

(d) Paragraph 4 includes two words rural and "urban". 1

Classify the following sentences as 'rural' or 'urban'.

Sentence 1: The English countryside looks its best in the spring.

Sentence 2: I would not like to live in a big city.

(e) Read the following 1

Seema regularly travels to a nearby town in her own car. Mohan, her neighbour, prefers to go by bus and sometimes on foot, occasionally to a nearby village. Arindam, who lives across, often tends to use metro and his own scooter, in between months

Select the option that identifies the correct category Seema, Mohan and Arindam belong to

(i) Seema rural, Mohan metropolitan city, Arindam urban

(ii) Seema urban, Mohan metropolitan city, Arindam rural

(iii) Seema rural: Mohan urban: Arindam metropolitan city

(iv) Seema urban, Mohan rural, Arindam metropolitan city

(f) Do you think even within domestic work, there is a gender-based division of responsibilities? Support your answer with reference to the text. 1

(g) What are the findings of the survey conducted between January and December, 2019? (Paragraph-2) 2

(h) For women, unpaid domestic work seems to increase when they are young and when they are above 60. 1

(i) increases

(ii) drastically reduces

(iii) gradually decreases

(iv) becomes steady

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 wreathe 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 'thunderclap' the narrator received as M. Hamel began the lesson?

(The Last Lesson)

(b) Explain the sentence "an army of barefoot boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon."

(Lost Spring)

(c) The lesson 'The Rattrap' is both entertaining and philosophical. Do you agree with the statement? Give reasons.

(The Rattrap)

(d) Bring out the contrast between Jansie and Sophie in the story 'Going Places'.

(Going Places)

(e) How was there a great deal of national integration in the make-up department?

(Poets and Pancakes)

(f) Did Umberto Eco like to be identified as a novelist? Give reasons in support of your answer.

(The Interview)

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

(a) Do you think the prediction made by the state astrologer "was indisputably disproved"! Give reasons in support of your answer.

(The Tiger King)

(b) "Then I lost my spirit." What are the incidents that led Zitkala-Sa to feel this way?

(Memories of Childhood)

(c) Tishani Doshi considered the program 'Students on Ice' a success. Do you agree with her? Why/Why not?

(Journey to the End of the Earth)

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

A. Franz in "The Last Lesson" realises the importance of going to school while Saheb in "Lost Spring" yearns to go to school. Write some paragraphs exploring the different perspectives of these two young boys on learning and education.

OR

B. Write a comparative analysis for your study group focusing on how the poems "Keeping Quiet" and "My Mother at Sixty-six" illuminate the different facets of human introspection and the significance of quiet reflection in understanding oneself.

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

A. It may take a long time for oppression to be resisted, but the seeds of rebellion are sowed early in life. How did Zitkala-Sa face oppression as a child and how did she overcome it?

OR

B. Justify the title of the story "The Tiger King".