

**O. P. JINDAL SCHOOL, SAVITRI NAGAR**  
**Half Yearly Examination - 2024 – 2025**

**Class: XI****MM: 80****Subject: English Core (301)****Time: 03 Hours**

15 minutes Extra will be given for reading the Question Paper.

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections – (A) READING (B) WRITING and (C) LITERATURE.
2. 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 (26 marks)**

**Q. 1 - Read the following passage carefully:**

**(1x8 = 8)**

**Red Cross: How Hope Evolved**

On June 24, 1859, Emperors Napoleon III and Franz Joseph I engaged in the Battle of Solferino, commanding a combined total of about 270,000 troops onto the field for a single day of battle. Nearly 40,000 were either dead, injured, or missing, many of whom were simply left to die on the battlefield. Later, spectators crowded the fields, looking for loved ones, searching for items they could sell, or simply taking in the horrors of the battle. A Swiss businessman and social activist Jean Henri Dunant, who was travelling in Solferino witnessed all this.

Jean Henri Dunant witnessed the atrocities of war as well as the countries not prepared or equipped to ease the suffering of those who had been injured in the Battle of Solferino. Dunant organized a group of volunteers to help bring water and food to the injured, to assist with medical treatment, or write letters to the families of those who were dying and he urged the public to create an organization which would assist the wounded, regardless of which side they fought for during times of war. After that moment, he wrote the book, A Memory of Solferino, which urged the public to create an organization which would assist the wounded, regardless of which side they fought for during times of war. His writing inspired countless others to rally behind him in the creation of the International Federation of the Red Cross.

The modern-day Red Cross began by devoting itself largely to disaster relief and epidemic treatment. This effort continues to this day. One of the easiest ways you can help the Red Cross is to make sure you are able to donate blood and make an appointment at the Red Cross website. But, donating blood isn't the only way you can help out—the Red Cross also encourages donating your time if you can. This is what the Red Cross wants everyone to know.

**On the basis of your reading of the passage given above, answer the following questions:**

(i) How many soldiers fought in the battle of Solferino on June 24?

- A. 2,30,000      B. 23,000      C. 2,70,000      D. 40,000

(ii) What is the correct order of the information given below:

I. Dunant organised a camp of volunteers.

II. Emperor Napoleon III and Franz Joseph I fought a battle.

III. The book 'A Memory of Solferino' was written.

IV. Dunant travelled in Solferino.

A. II, IV, I, III

B. I, II, III, IV

C. II, I, IV, III

D. IV, III, II, I

(iii) The writer of 'A Memory of Solferino' was:

A. Jean Henri Dunant

B. Franz Joseph I

C. Emperor Napoleon III

D. International Red Cross

(iv) The modern day Red Cross does not deal with:

A. Blood donation

B. Writing a book

C. Epidemic Treatment

D. Disaster Relief

(v) The most appropriate sub-heading to para 2 of the passage is:

A. The Contributions of Jean Henri Dunant

B. Functions of Red Cross

C. How International Federation of Red Cross Evolved!

D. The Battle of Solferino

(vi) The aid provided by Dunant's volunteers during the battle of Solferino was:

I. to help bring water and food to the injured

II. to assist with medical treatment

III. to write a book

IV. to give relief in epidemic

A. I and II

B. III and IV

C. I and III

D. II and III

(vii) You can donate your blood and your \_\_\_\_\_ to Red Cross.

(viii) Jean Henri Dunant participated in the war. (True/ False)

**Q. 2 – Read the following passage carefully:**

**(1x10 = 10)**

### **India Covid-19 numbers explained**

1. With novel Coronavirus spreading rapidly all over the country, there are only three states right now, Meghalaya, Sikkim and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, that have less than 1,000 people infected with the disease.

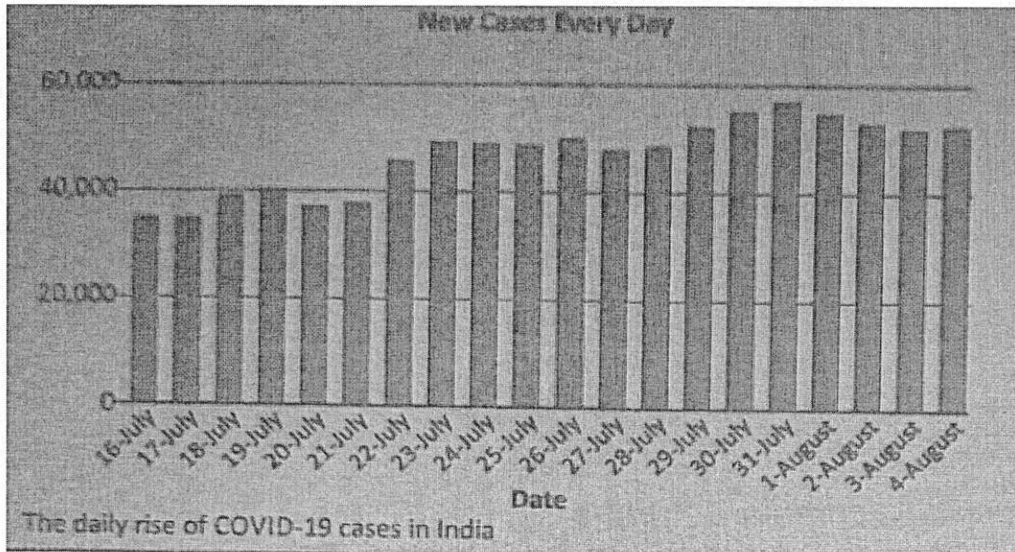
2. Lakshadweep, of course, still hasn't reported even a single case till now, the only region in India entirely free of the epidemic.

3. Otherwise, even the relatively smaller states now have significantly large spread of the disease. Goa, for example, has seen more than 7,000 of its people infected by the virus till now. Tripura has over 5,500 cases, while Manipur has more than 3,000, and Nagaland a little less than 2,500. Puducherry has more than 4,000 cases, while even Daman and Diu has over 1,300 people infected.

4. And in each of these states, the numbers are rising at a fast pace, at a rate higher than the national level. The infections had initially reached these states in the first and second week of May, when the lockdown was relaxed for the first time to enable people stuck in different parts of the country to return to their native places.

5. After a period of very slow growth, the number of cases have begun to rise rapidly in the last one month. In Goa, for example, the total number of infected people has nearly doubled in the last 15 days. Same has happened in Puducherry, as well.

6. Tuesday was one of those rare occasions when the number of active cases in the country, those who are yet to recover from the disease, went down compared to the previous day. That is because the number of recoveries, combined with the number of deaths, exceeded the new cases that were detected on Tuesday.



7. With over 52,500 new cases detected in the country, the total number of infections crossed 19 lakh, out of which 12.82 lakh people have recovered from the disease. The number of dead is now close to 40,000.

8. The number of recoveries on Tuesday was the highest-ever for a single day. More than 51,700 people were declared to have been recovered. Three days earlier, the number of recoveries had crossed 50,000 for the first time, but in the next two days the number had fallen to much lower levels.

**Choose the correct option to answer the questions based on the above passage and graphics. Do any ten.**

(i) How are these three states – Meghalaya, Sikkim and Andaman and Nicobar Islands – different from the rest of India?

- A. they are the only states to have less than 2,000 people infected with novel coronavirus
- B. they are three of the five states to have less than 1,000 people infected with novel coronavirus
- C. they are the only states to have less than 1,000 people infected with novel coronavirus
- D. none of these

(ii) \_\_\_\_\_ is the only region in India which is entirely free of the epidemic.

- A. Lakshadweep
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- D. Tripura

(iii) What is common among Goa, Tripura, Manipur, Nagaland, Puducherry and Daman and Diu?

- A. the numbers are rising at a fast pace at rates higher than the national level
- B. the numbers are falling at a fast pace at rates equal than the national level
- C. the numbers are rising at a fast pace at rates lower than the national level
- D. none of these

(iv) Based on your understanding of the passage, choose the option that lists the inherent qualities of climate in the present times.

- A. 1 and 3      B. 2 and 6      C. 1 and 4      D. 3 and 5

(v) Which date in the graph shows the highest jump of detected cases in a day?

- A. July 31      B. July 30      C. August 1      D. August 2

(vi) Of the 19 lakh infected cases, how many have recovered?

- A. 11.82 lakh      B. 13.82 lakh      C. 12.82 lakh      D. 12.81 lakh

(vii) More than 51,700 people were declared to have been recovered on \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Tuesday      B. Sunday      C. Wednesday      D. Monday

(viii) When had the number of recoveries crossed 50,000 for the first time?

- A. three days earlier than Tuesday      B. Tuesday      C. two days earlier      D. none of these

(ix) Which word in the passage means the same as “quickly”?

- A. native      B. significantly      C. rapidly      D. rare

(x) Which word in the passage is opposite in meaning to “indigenous”?

- A. native      B. significantly      C. rapidly      D. rare

**Q. 3 – Read the following passage carefully: (08 M)**

Sikkim is not just another mountain region; it is a unique treasure that stands out for its unparalleled geography. Unlike regions known merely for their subjective beauty, Sikkim's natural wonders are backed by undeniable facts. Often overlooked, this area holds a geographical significance that is unmatched anywhere in the world. Just as Everest is synonymous with peaks, Sikkim embodies the essence of mountainous grandeur.

One of Sikkim's most striking features is the rapid elevation from the plains to the peak of Kangchenjunga, the world's third-highest mountain, in just 80 kilometers. This dramatic rise is unparalleled and sets Sikkim apart from any other region. The area is also home to a dense concentration of 7,000-meter-plus peaks, packed within a confined space, contributing to its second claim to fame. The extreme variation in altitude results in an extraordinary diversity of flora and fauna, a third distinguishing feature.

Moreover, Sikkim's climate is another marvel, ranging from tropical to arctic conditions within a small area. The region's remoteness and sparse population further add to its mystique. Despite its small size—about the same as India's National Capital Region—Sikkim's geographical extremes offer a unique and adventurous experience for mountaineers and trekkers alike. The proximity to towering peaks during treks and the challenging acclimatization process only enhance its allure.

In essence, Sikkim is a rare and remarkable destination, offering an experience that no other mountain region can rival.

(a) On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary-minimum four) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it. (5)

(b) Write a summary of the passage in about 50 words. (3)

## Section B: READING SKILLS (23 marks)

**Q. 4** - Fill the blank by choosing the correct option:

(1x4 = 4)

(i) By the end of this month, she \_\_\_\_\_ (complete) the manuscript that she has been working on for two years.

- A. will complete  
B. will be completing  
C. will have completed  
D. will have been completing

(ii) He \_\_\_\_\_ (write) the novel by the time the publisher contacted him, but he had not yet submitted it.

- A. wrote                      B. had written                      C. has written                      D. was writing

(iii) By next year, she \_\_\_\_\_ (teach) at this university for a decade.

- A. will have been teaching      B. will be teaching      C. would teach      D. would have taught

(iv) The committee \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) for several hours before they finally reached a decision.

- A. meets                      B. has met                      C. had met                      D. was meeting

**Q. 5** – Rearrange the given words to make correct and meaningful sentences. **(Any 3)**      **(1x3 =3)**

(i) strategies / implement / organizations / to / must / effectively / adapt / the / changing / environment

(ii) theoretical / hypotheses / provide / framework / to / scientists / test / a / for / research

(iii) policy / must / implications / carefully / consider / lawmakers / the / potential / of / changes

(iv) ethical / considerations / critical / in / ensuring / are / research / integrity / upholding

**Q. 6** – Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two questions given in not more than 50 words:

(03)

**[A]** The Drama Club of KMN International School is staging an adaptation of the popular Shakespearean tragedy, *Julius Caesar*, the proceeds of which will be used for a charitable cause. Design a visually appealing poster for this. Include all relevant details.

**[B]** You are the director of the healthcare system in the state of Mizoram. It is necessary to raise awareness among the general population about the necessity of oral polio immunisation for children under the age of two. Create a straightforward and eye-catching science day poster that can be put in all of the state's most visible locations.

**Q. 7** - Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two questions given in not more than 50 words:

(03)

**[A]** You are Arnit/Arnika .You want to sell your car as you are planning to buy a new one. Draft a suitable advertisement to be published in the Vehicles column of a newspaper.

**[B]** You are Krishna/Tisha, Secretary, Greenland Enterprises Ltd, Delhi-110006. Your Chairman has asked you to draft an advertisement for a local daily under the classified columns for the vacant posts of one accountant and two office assistants. Draft an advertisement.

**Q. 8** – Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two questions given in 120-150 words:

(05)

[A] You are Mukul / Mahima of Alps Public School. Your school has organized a debate on ‘Social Media and It’s Effects’ and you will be participating from your school. Prepare your views either FOR or AGAINST the motion.

[B] Draft a debate on the topic – “Possession of material commodities makes human beings happy”. Put forth your views and opinions either FOR or AGAINST the motion.

**Q. 9** - Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two questions given in 120-150 words: **(05)**

[A] On the occasion of World Health Day prepare a speech for the morning assembly on healthy eating habits in the face of a fast 10 paced stressful lifestyle.

[B] Your school has invited you to address your former school mates during a special assembly after you have successfully cleared the UPSC Civil Services Examination with top honours. Prepare your speech, motivating and giving them tips on how to achieve success in the examination.

**Section C: LITERATURE (31 marks)**

**Q. 10** – Read the given extracts and answer the following questions: (Any One Extract) **(1x3 = 3)**

[A] *“And who art thou? said I to the soft-falling shower,*

*Which, strange to tell, gave me an answer, as here translated:*

*I am the Poem of Earth, said the voice of the rain,”*

(i) What is the difference between the two ‘I’ in the given lines?

- A. One is of the poet and the other is of the rain
- B. One is with love and other is with surprise
- C. One asks the question and the other answer
- D. Both (a) and (c)

(ii) The poet specifically says that the answer was given by ‘The Voice of the Rain’. The emphasis on voice of rain adds a hint of ..... to the poem.

- A. mystery      B. thrill      C. drama      D. doubt

(iii) What do you understand by the phrase ‘strange to tell’?

- A. Unusualness of the answer for the poet      B. Stupidness of the answer for the earth
- C. Ordinarity of the answer for the poet      D. Commonness of the answer for the raindrops

[B] *The cardboard shows me how it was  
When the two girl cousins went paddling,  
Each one holding one of my mother’s hands,  
And she the big girl — some twelve years or so.*

(i) What literary device is employed in the phrase "The cardboard shows me how it was"?  
A. Metaphor                      B. Simile                      C. Personification                      D. Symbolism

(ii) How does the speaker feel as she look at the cardboard?  
A. Joyful nostalgia                      B. Profound sadness                      C. Indifference                      D. Confusion

(iii) In the line "And she the big girl — some twelve years or so," what emotion is associated with the phrase "the big girl"?  
A. Pride                      B. Maturity                      C. Regret                      D. Envy

**Q. 11** – Read the given extracts and answer the following questions: (Any One Extract) (**1x3 = 3**)

**[A]** The world's most famous mummy glided head first into a CT scanner brought here to probe the lingering medical mysteries of this little understood young ruler who died more than 3,300 years ago. All afternoon the usual line of tourists from around the world had descended into the cramped, rock-cut tomb some 26 feet underground to pay their respects.

(i) Which part of the mummy was first put into the CT scanner?  
A. Hand                      B. Head                      C. Legs                      D. None of the above

(ii) Which word as used in the extract means 'investigate'?  
A. Lingering                      B. Descended                      C. Probe                      D. Understood

(iii) The tomb was constructed in  
A. Earth                      B. Wood                      C. Gold                      D. Rock

**[B]** The first indication of impending disaster came at about 6 p.m., with an ominous silence. The wind dropped, and the sky immediately grew dark. Then came a growing roar, and an enormous cloud towered aft of the ship. With horror, I realized that it was not a cloud, but a wave like no other I had ever seen. It appeared perfectly vertical and almost twice the height of the other waves, with a frightful breaking crest.

(i) What do you mean by 'the wind dropped'?  
A. wind fell down                      B. wind slipped out of the hands of author  
C. speed of wind greatly reduced                      D. wind started coming from below the ship.

(ii) Which of the following was not a sign of impending disaster?  
A. ominous silence    B. wind dropped    C. a growing roar    D. clock struck at 6 p.m.

(iii) Which word in the extract means 'forthcoming'?  
A. growing                      B. roaring                      C. impending                      D. ominous

**Q. 12** – Read the given extracts and answer the following questions: (Any One Extract) (1x4 = 4)

**[A]** “It wasn’t morning yet, but it was summer and with day break not many minutes around the corner of the world it was light enough for me to know I wasn’t dreaming. My cousin Mourad was sitting on a beautiful white horse. I stuck my head out of the window and rubbed my eyes. Yes, he said in Armenian. It’s a horse. You are not dreaming. Make it quick if you want to ride.”

(i) Who is the narrator of the story “The Summer of a Beautiful White Horse”?

- A. William Saroyan      B. Aram      C. John Byro      D. Mourad

(ii) Why couldn’t Aram believe when he saw Mourad with the horse?

- A. Because Mourad was crazy and did crazy things  
B. Because they were too poor to afford a horse  
C. Because he was sleepy and would not see well in the faint light  
D. Because he was dreaming and was rudely woken up

(iii) ‘Make it quick’ here means .....

- A. to be sad      B. to hurry up      C. to hide      D. to be content

(iv) Why did Mourad wake his cousin up? Answer in short.

**[B]** Perhaps I was mistaken. I thought, perhaps it isn’t her. I had seen her only once, fleetingly, and that was years ago. It was most probable that I had rung the wrong bell. The woman let go of the door and stepped to the side. She was wearing my mother’s green knitted cardigan. The wooden buttons were rather pale from washing. She saw that I was looking at the cardigan and half hid herself again behind the door. But I knew now that I was right.

(i) The lady hid herself behind the door because the author was looking at \_\_\_\_\_

- A. the lady      B. things placed in the house      C. the cardigan      D. the name plate

(ii) What was the colour of the cardigan?

- A. green      B. pale      C. red      D. pink

(iii) Which of the following doubts the author had about the lady of the house?

(I) author had reached the wrong house (II) author was not wearing red cardigan (III) author forgot to carry proof of address (IV) author could not recognize the face of the lady (v) probably it was not the lady she was looking for

- A. I, II, III      B. I, IV, V      C. II, IV, V      D. III, IV, I

(iv) Why did the colour of the buttons of the cardigan fade?

- A. due to heat      B. due to washing      C. due to dying      D. none of the above

**Q. 13** – Answer the following questions in 40-50 words. [Attempt ANY ONE - A or B]. **(3x2 = 6)**

**[A]** (i) “This was the turning point in our relationship”. What was the turning point? (*The Portrait of a Lady*)

(ii) What is the significance of ‘yellow’ in the poem? (*The Laburnum Top*)

**[B]** (i) “But our respite was short-lived.” Why does the narrator say so? (*We’re Not Afraid to Die ...*)

(ii) How does the rain justify its claim “I am the Poem of Earth”? (*The Voice of the Rain*)

**Q. 14** - Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 40-50 words. **(3x1 = 3)**

**[A]** What does the writer suggest by beginning the story with the following words, “One day back there in good old days ...”? (*The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse*)

**[B]** What was the narrator’s mother’s opinion about Mrs. Dorling? (*The Address*)

**Q. 15** – Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 120-150 words. **(6x1 = 6)**

**[A]** Elaborate on the beautiful bond of love and friendship between the author and his grandmother. (*The Portrait of a Lady*)

**[B]** Nature echoed the unnatural happenings with King Tut’s body. Comment. (*Discovering Tut*)

**Q. 16** – Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 120-150 words. **(6x1 = 6)**

**[A]** Describe the narrator’s second visit to Mrs. Dorling’s house. (*The Address*)

**[B]** Write a brief note on the Garoghlanian family as perceived by the narrator. (*Summer of the Beautiful White Horse*)

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