

O. P. JINDAL SCHOOL, SAVITRI NAGAR
Annual Examination (2025 – 2026)

Class: XI
Subject: English Core

MM: 80
Time: 3 Hrs.

(Fifteen Minutes Extra will be given for reading the Question Paper.)

General Instructions:

Read the instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. This question paper comprises 16 questions. All questions are compulsory.
 2. The question paper contains THREE sections –
Section – A: Reading Skills
Section – B: Writing Skills & Grammar
Section – C: Literature
 3. Attempt all the questions based on specific instructions for each section.
 4. Strictly adhere to the word limit. Marks will be deducted for exceeding the word limit.
 5. All the questions must be correctly numbered as in the question paper and written in the answer sheet provided to you.
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Section A - Reading Skills [26 Marks]

Q1. Read the passage given below:

Ours was the marsh country, down by the river, within twenty miles of the sea. My first most vivid and broad impression of the identity of things seems to me to have been gained on a memorable raw afternoon towards evening. The low leaden line beyond was the river; and that the distant savage lair from which the wind was rushing was the sea; and that the small bundle of shivers growing afraid of it all and beginning to cry, was Pip.

“Hold your noise!” cried a terrible voice, as a man started up from among the graves at the side of the bushes. “Keep still, or I’ll make you pay!”

A fearful man, all in coarse grey, with a great iron on his leg. A man with no hat, and with broken shoes, and with an old rag tied round his head. A man who had been soaked in water, and smothered in mud, limped, and shivered, and glared, and growled; and whose teeth chattered in his head as he seized me.

“Tell us your name!” said the man. “Quick! Give it mouth!”

“Pip. Pip, sir.”

“Show us where you live,” said the man. “Point out the place!”

The man, after looking at me for a moment, emptied my pockets. There was nothing in them but a piece of bread which he ate ravenously.

“Now lookee here!” said the man. “Where’s your mother?”

“There, sir!” said I.

He started, made a short run, and stopped and looked over his shoulder.

“Oh!” said he, coming back. “Who’s that?” he asked, pointing.

“My sister, sir, —Mrs. Joe Gargery, —wife of Joe Gargery, the blacksmith, sir.”

“Blacksmith, eh?” said he. And looked down at his leg.

After darkly looking at his leg, he came close to me, took me by both arms, and tilted me back as far as he could hold me; so that his eyes looked most powerfully down into mine, and mine looked most helplessly up into his.

“Now lookee here,” he said, “You know what a file and wittles is?”

“Yes, sir.”

After each question he tilted me over a little more, so as to give me a greater sense of helplessness and

danger.

"You get me a file."

He tilted me again. "And wittles." He tilted me again. "You bring 'em both to me."

I was dreadfully frightened, and so giddy that I clung to him with both hands, and said, "If you would kindly please to let me keep upright, sir, perhaps I shouldn't be sick, and perhaps I could attend more."

He did. Then, he held me by the arms, in an upright position, and went on with his terms.

(Source: *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens)

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below: (10X1=10 Marks)

I. Which textual evidence tells us that Pip was trembling?

II. Complete the following with a suitable reason.

The writer refers to the sea as a 'savage lair' in order to tell the reader that _____.

III. The writer emphasises Pip's vulnerability in all of the following ways EXCEPT —

- A. through the description of the harsh landscape B. via the behaviour of the frightening man
C. through Pip's helplessness and fear D. via Pip's knowledge of the surrounding area

IV. What type of statement is made in the phrase "Keep still, or I'll make you pay!"?

- A. caution B. threat C. prediction D. announcement

V. Based on his initial appearance, how can we say that the 'fearful man' was in a state of discomfort? (Any one reason)

VI. Which one of the following statements best explains the phrase "Give it mouth!"?

- A. Speak loudly B. Open your mouth wide C. Answer the question D. None of them

VII. The man ate the bread 'ravenously'. What does this suggest about his condition?

VIII. State whether TRUE or FALSE:

Pip looked utterly disheveled. (TRUE/FALSE)

IX. What does the highlighted word mean in the given lines?

Ours was the marsh country, down by the river, within twenty miles of the sea. My first most **vivid** and broad impression of the identity of things seems to me to have been gained on a memorable raw afternoon towards evening.

X. Complete the following with the most suitable option.

The main idea of the text is _____.

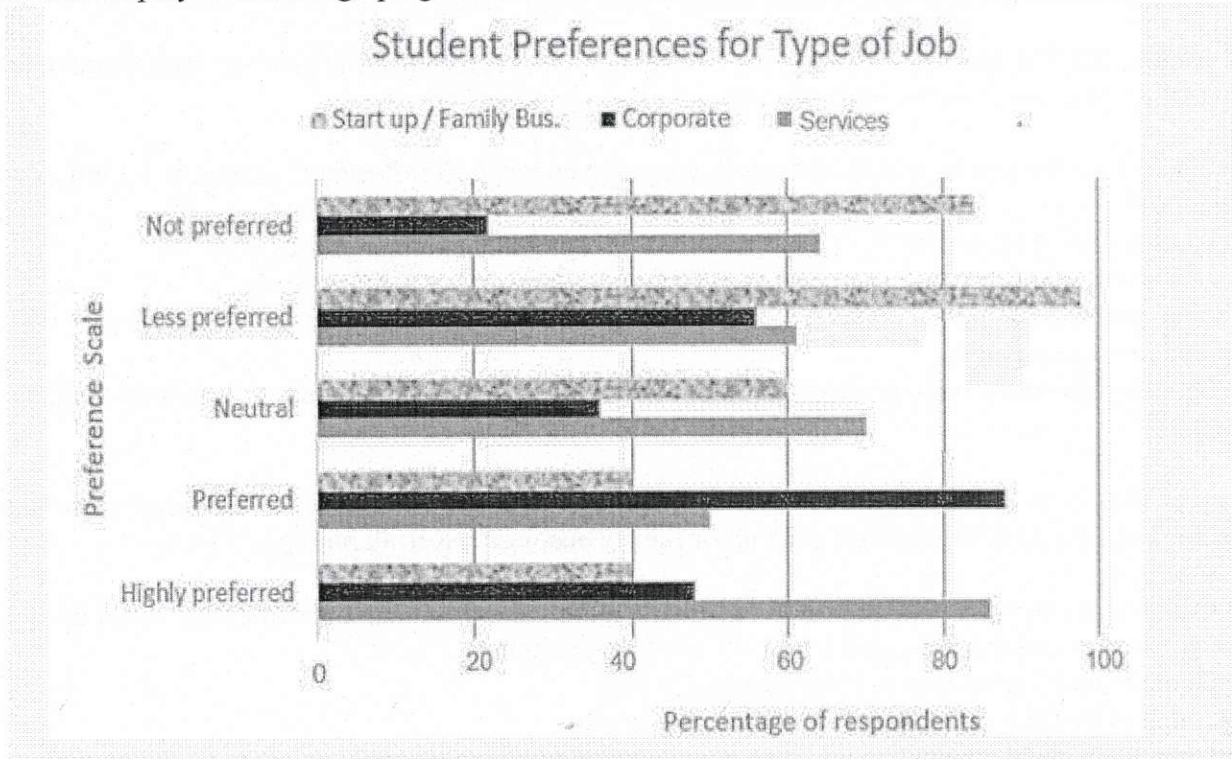
- A. Pip's encounter with a frightening man who demands information
B. the harshness of Pip's environment and the fear it creates
C. Pip's struggle to understand the man's intentions and stay calm
D. the importance of family relationships in Pip's life

Q2. Read the passage given below:

1. A recent survey was conducted among 2,000 college students and young professionals to analyse preferences for different types of jobs, including corporate roles, personal start-ups or family businesses, and service professions (example - defense, nursing, police). The study aimed to identify trends in career aspirations, the factors influencing these preferences, and their implications for workforce planning and education systems. Participants were asked to rank their preferences on a five-point scale.

2. The study covered respondents across urban and semi-urban areas, representing diverse educational, economic, and cultural backgrounds. Researchers ensured diversity in gender, socioeconomic status, and

career stages to make the findings representative of a broad spectrum of opinions. Data collection involved online questionnaires and in-person interviews, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of job preferences. The data was displayed as a bar graph given below.



3. Corporate jobs were commonly associated with financial stability, growth opportunities, and access to structured career paths. Start-ups and family businesses, on the other hand, appealed to those valuing autonomy, creativity, and the chance to work in more flexible environments. Service professions were perceived as fulfilling and prestigious, especially among individuals motivated by a sense of duty.

4. The survey also highlighted several challenges. Geographic variations were significant, with urban respondents gravitating more toward corporate roles, while semi-urban participants showed a stronger inclination for service professions and family businesses. Respondents indicated limited mentorship opportunities and a lack of clarity about the long-term prospects of non-corporate careers as barriers influencing their decisions.

5. The findings provide a foundation for further research into how cultural, regional, and generational influences shape career choices. Future studies could explore factors such as gender-based preferences, emerging industries, mentorship availability, and the role of technological advancements in shaping job markets. Additionally, longitudinal research could track how these preferences evolve as respondents advance in their careers. This could help educational institutions and employers develop tailored strategies to better align with the aspirations and values of young job seekers. Moreover, policies encouraging skill development and mentorship programmes may bridge the gaps identified in this survey, ensuring more informed career decisions among youth.

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Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below: (8X1=8 Marks)

I. What was the main purpose of the survey conducted among 2,000 college students and young professionals?

- A. To determine the popularity of specific jobs in rural areas versus urban areas
- B. To explore patterns in career aspirations and the factors influencing them
- C. To analyse the success rate of startups and family businesses
- D. To assess the salary expectations of young professionals opting for jobs

II. Fill in the blank with the correct option from those given in brackets.

The study ensured diversity in gender, socioeconomic status, and career stages to make the findings _____ (accurate / representative / specific).

III. Complete the statement with reference to the given bar graph chart. The profession preference for which policymakers primarily need to provide encouraging incentives is _____.

IV. Based on the bar graph, which of the following statements best reflects the correct trend in job preferences?

- A. Corporate jobs are more in the 'Least preferred' category than service professions.
- B. Service professions are less preferred than corporate jobs on the 'Neutral' scale.
- C. Service professions have a higher percentage of respondents marking them as 'Highly Preferred' compared to corporate jobs.
- D. Corporate jobs and service professions have an equal percentage of respondents marking them as 'Preferred.'

V. Riya wishes to have a regular salary and defined growth in her career. Why is a corporate job better suited for her compared to joining a start-up or family business? (Ref: Paragraphs 3 & 4)

VI. When the researcher says 'Respondents indicated limited mentorship opportunities,' what does s/he mean by 'limited mentorship opportunities'? (Ref: Paragraph 4)

- A. Lack of financial resources to hire mentors for jobs
- B. Absence of training programmes in semi-urban areas
- C. Reluctance of respondents to seek career advice from unknown people
- D. Difficulty in finding experienced professionals to guide career paths

VII. State whether TRUE or FALSE:

The researchers in the study ensured diversity in gender, caste, socioeconomic status, and career stages to make the findings representative of a broad spectrum of opinions. (TRUE/FALSE)

VIII. Select the option that is NOT addressed in this study.

- A. The purpose of the survey
- B. The impact of gender on career preferences
- C. Regional and demographic variations in preferences
- D. Challenges faced by respondents
- E. The methodology used for data collection

Q3. Read the following passage carefully:

(8 Marks)

1. The growing preference for indigenous craft items is a welcome trend in today's globalised world, where mass-produced goods often dominate markets. These handcrafted products, rooted in the cultural and artistic traditions of their regions, offer more than just aesthetic appeal. They symbolise sustainability, support local economies, and preserve the heritage of diverse communities.

2. One of the primary reasons for choosing indigenous crafts is their eco-friendliness. Unlike factory-made products, most traditional crafts are created using natural, locally sourced materials. Artisans often employ time-tested methods that minimise waste and avoid harmful industrial processes. For example, pottery made from local clay, hand-woven textiles using organic dyes, and bamboo-based crafts all have a much lower environmental footprint compared to their machine-made counterparts. By opting for these items, consumers indirectly contribute to reducing pollution and promoting sustainable practices.

3. Supporting indigenous crafts also strengthens local economies. Many artisans depend solely on their craft for livelihood, often working in small communities where opportunities for other forms of employment are

limited. When people purchase their products, it provides a direct income to these artisans, empowering them and encouraging their craftsmanship. Initiatives like fair trade further ensure that artisans receive fair wages, fostering economic stability within their communities.

4. Moreover, indigenous craft items help preserve cultural heritage. Every handcrafted product carries a story—a glimpse into the traditions, beliefs, and skills passed down through generations. In India, whether it's paintings, terracotta jewellery, sculptures, athangudi tiles, mud work frames or many others, each item reflects the unique identity of its region. By choosing these crafts, people not only appreciate the artistry but also help keep these traditions alive in an era where cultural homogenisation threatens diversity.

5. In addition to their economic and cultural value, indigenous crafts add a personal touch to homes and wardrobes. Unlike mass-produced items, which often lack individuality, handcrafted products are unique. Each piece bears the imprint of the artisan's effort, creativity, and dedication, making it special for the buyer. 6 However, the preference for indigenous crafts requires sustained efforts to thrive. Governments, organisations, and consumers all have roles to play. Policies that promote local craftsmanship, provide training to artisans, and create global platforms for showcasing their work can boost the visibility and demand for these products. Consumers, too, must actively seek out and invest in handmade crafts rather than opting for cheaper, factory-made alternatives. Choosing indigenous craft items is a meaningful step toward a more sustainable and culturally enriched world.

- I. Supply an appropriate title to the above passage. 1
- II. On the basis of your reading of the passage make notes on it, using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary, minimum 4) and a format you consider suitable. 4
- III. Write a summary of the above passage in about not more than 80 words. 3

Section B – Grammar & Creative Writing Skills [23 Marks]

Q4. Do as directed (ANY FOUR):

(4X1=4 Marks)

I. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the verb given in bracket to complete the sentence.

The special subscriptions of newspapers are well _____ (illustrate), to make reading interesting for school students.

II. Select the word which is wrongly used in the following line and supply the correction too:

For a personal appointment, visit Monday to Sunday except in lunch hours between 1 PM and 3 PM.

Error	Correction

III. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the conclusion of a letter of placing order.

There would be no compromise _____ the quality of items supplied.

- A. regards B. regard C. regardless D. regarding

IV. Fill in the blank to complete the sentence in a teacher's diary by choosing the correct option.

_____ student in the class submitted their assignment on time.

- A. All B. One C. Every D. A

V. Choose the correct option to fill the blank.

I looked inside the bucket and saw there was _____ water in it, so they had to add more to use.

- A. little B. a little C. the little D. least

Q5. Rearrange the jumbled words/phrases to make meaningful sentences:

(3X1=3 Marks)

- a. to/ Taplow/ being encouraged by/ against/ Frank/ speak out/ was/ Crocker
- b. Poet began/ her/ an/ miss/ viewing/ after/ mother/ to/ image/ of her/the
- c. been/ Brand Ambassador /as the/ has/ Sachin Tendulkar/ named / Rio Olympics'

Q6.A. You are Amit / Amita, the HR Manager of NextGen Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Gurugram. Your company requires a well-qualified Computer Engineer. Draft a suitable advertisement to be published in a local daily, clearly mentioning the age limit, qualifications, experience, skills required, and mode of application, in about 50 words. 3

OR

B. You are Rohit / Riya of 14, Rosewood Enclave, New Delhi. You wish to sell your independent two-storey house located in a prime residential area. Draft a suitable advertisement to be published in a local daily, in about 50 words, giving necessary details such as location, area, number of rooms, modern amenities, parking facility, and contact information. 3

Q7.A. Every year, 5th June is observed as World Environment Day to create awareness about environmental protection and sustainable living. Design a poster in not more than 50 words encouraging people to reduce plastic use and protect nature. You are Ayaan / Aditi, a student of Class XI of Evergreen Public School, Chandigarh. 3

OR

B. To address the growing concern of mental health among students, your school is organising an Awareness Drive. Design a poster in not more than 50 words highlighting the importance of emotional well-being, stress management, and seeking help without hesitation. You are Kabir / Kriti, a student of Class XI of Silver Oak International School, Indore. 3

Q8. A. In today's fast-paced digital age, students often neglect physical activity and balanced nutrition, leading to health-related issues. As the Secretary of the Wellness Committee of your school, write a speech in 120–150 words to be delivered during a special assembly, motivating students to adopt an active lifestyle, eat mindfully, and maintain emotional balance. You are Riya / Rohan of Springfield Senior Secondary School, Dehradun. 5

OR

B. In an era of increasing social media influence and peer pressure, students often struggle to make responsible choices. As the Head of the Discipline Committee of your school, write a speech in 120–150 words to be delivered during the morning assembly, advising students on the importance of self-discipline, ethical behaviour, and responsible use of social media. You are Neha / Nikhil of St. Xavier's Senior Secondary School, Bhopal. 5

Q9. A. Your school is organising an inter-school debate competition for the students of Class XI on the topic "Online learning can never replace classroom teaching." You wish to participate in the debate representing your school. As Aman / Amrita, a student of Class XI of your school, write a debate either for or against the motion in 120–150 words. 5

OR

B. An inter-school debate competition is being organised for the students of Class XI on the topic "Examinations are not the true measure of a student's intelligence." You wish to participate in the debate representing your school. As Kunal / Kavita, a student of Class XI of your school, write a debate either for or against the motion in 120–150 words. 5

Section C – Literature [31 Marks]

Q10. Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two:

(3 Marks)

A. "When did my childhood go?
Was it the day I ceased to be eleven,
Was it the time I realised that Hell and Heaven
Could not be found in Geography,"

(Childhood)

- I.** Which literary device is used in the repeated questioning in the extract? 1
 a) Simile b) Metaphor c) Rhetorical question d) Alliteration
- II.** What does the poet realise through “Hell and Heaven / Could not be found in Geography”? 1
 a) Religion is imaginary b) Childhood beliefs are naive and literal
 c) Geography is a boring subject d) Childhood is full of fear
- III.** What does the poet’s questioning indicate? 1
 a) Confusion and loss of innocence b) Joy of learning
 c) Fear of adulthood d) Rebellion against society

OR

B. *“I do not understand this child
 Though we have lived together now
 In the same house for years.”* (Father to Son)

- I.** Who is the poet of the poem from which the extract has been taken? 1
- II.** Choose the appropriate option: 1
Assertion (A): The father feels emotionally distant from his son despite living together.
Reason (R): The generation gap has created a lack of understanding between them.
 A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
 B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
 C. A is true, but R is false.
 D. A is false, but R is true.

- III.** What is the central emotion expressed by the father in the extract? 1
 a) Anger b) Alienation c) Pride d) Indifference

Q11. Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two: (3 Marks)

A. *“If he had not been caught in time, the Maratha forces would have defeated the British army. This single battle could have changed the course of Indian history.”* (The Adventure)

- I.** What historical event is being referred to in the extract? 1
 a) Battle of Plassey b) Battle of Panipat
 c) Battle of Buxar d) Battle of Assaye
- II.** What is the central idea conveyed through this reflection? 1
 a) History is always predictable b) Small events can alter the course of history
 c) British rule was inevitable d) Wars have no consequences
- III.** Which concept forms the basis of the story *The Adventure*? 1
 a) Fantasy and magic b) Scientific fantasy
 c) Alternative history and time travel d) Biography

OR

B. *“At first, I felt that all I needed was a few hours’ rest, but gradually I realised that the altitude was taking its toll on my body.”* (Silk Road)

- I.** What physical condition is the narrator experiencing in the extract? 1
 a) Food poisoning b) Heat exhaustion
 c) Effects of high altitude d) Dehydration
- II.** What does the phrase “taking its toll” suggest about the journey was? 1

III. The narrator's realisation that the altitude was affecting his body reveals which of the following emotional responses? (Select all that apply.) 1

- i) Physical vulnerability ii) Determination to continue the journey
iii) Calm awareness of the situation iv) Panic and loss of control

Options:

- A. i, ii, iii B. i, iii C. i, iv D. iii, iv

Q12. Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two: (4 Marks)

A. "I've been keeping this family together for years, and I'm not going to be treated like dirt any longer. If you don't realise my value now, you'll regret it later." (Mother's Day)

I. Who is the speaker of the above lines? 1

- A. Doris B. Switched Personality Mrs. Fitzgerald
C. Switched Personality Mrs. Pearson D. Cyril

II. What emotion is most strongly conveyed through the speaker's words? 1

- A. Fear B. Self-pity C. Assertion of self-respect D. Helplessness

III. Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below: 1

Assertion (A): The speaker feels neglected and undervalued in her family.

Reason (R): She has been performing her responsibilities for years without receiving respect or appreciation from her family members.

Options:

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
C. A is true, but R is false.
D. A is false, but R is true.

IV. Which value is highlighted through the speaker's demand for respect? 1

OR

B. He hesitated, torn between his desire to attempt to resuscitate the child, and his obligation towards the mother, who was herself in a desperate state. The dilemma was so urgent he did not solve it consciously. (Birth)

I. Who is 'he' in the above lines? 1

- A. The nurse B. The child's father C. Dr. Andrew Manson D. Joe Morgan

II. What does the word "resuscitate" in the passage most nearly mean? 1

- A. Comfort B. Revive C. Examine D. Treat

III. What dilemma was the man facing in the given situation? 1

- A. Choosing between saving the child or helping the mother
B. Deciding whether to call for help
C. Whether to leave the place or stay
D. Whether the child was alive or dead

IV. What can be inferred from the line "he did not solve it consciously"? 1

- A. He was confused and panicked B. He avoided taking responsibility
C. He acted instinctively under pressure D. He ignored both the child and the mother

Q13. Answer the following questions, in about 40-50 words each:

(2x3=6 marks)

I.A. Why has Amenhotep IV reign been described as one of the strangest periods in 'the history of ancient Egypt'? (Discovering Tut)

OR

B. The narrator '*slept very soundly. Like a log, not a dead man*'. Explain. (Silk Road)

II.A. Explain "*I give life to my own origin*" in the poem 'The Voice of the Rain'. (The Voice of the Rain)

OR

B. How does the poem expose man and present him in true colours? (Childhood)

Q14. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 40-50 words: (3x1=3 marks)

I. What is Mrs Fitzgerald's final advice to Mrs Pearson after reversion to their original personalities? (Mother's Day)

OR

II. What impression of Andrew Manson do you form on the basis of the story 'Birth'? (Birth)

Q15. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words: (1x6=6 marks)

A. The poem 'Father to Son' talks about the universal problem of generation gap. Why does such a situation exist? How can someone avoid such confrontations? Express your views.

OR

B. *The grandmother herself was not formally educated but was serious about the author's education.* How does the text support this? (Portrait of a Lady)

Q16. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words: (1x6=6 marks)

A. '*The Tale of Melon City*' tells the story of a king who either does not govern or misgoverns. It is a satire on a ruler who has no concern for justice or welfare of the people in his kingdom, blame gets shifted from one to the other.

Do you think the poem echoes the misgovernance prevailing in modern India/world? Write an essay giving your suggestions of what steps the people and the government need to take to put the country on the track of progress and growth.

OR

B. "*Of all the things I had to forget, that would be the easiest*". What does the speaker mean by 'that'? What is its significance in the story 'The Address'?
