

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

Class: XII
Subject: English Core

MM: 80
Time: 3 Hrs.

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

General Instructions:

1. This paper is divided into three parts: A, B & C. All questions are compulsory.
2. Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary.
3. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.
4. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION - A Reading Skills (22 marks)

Q1. Read the text given below :

(1) Five enterprises received approval and grants for prototype development of sustainable educational toys.

(2) The government authorities, educational institutions and EdTech start-ups are planning to introduce state-of-the-art, made-in-India educational toys that not only throw light on Indian values and civilizations, but also help in developing children's critical thinking, and decision-making skills.

(3) "One such enterprise is working on different types of projects that can teach children how electromagnets and magnetic fields work. These projects can resolve a lot of issues in many schools in tier two and three cities that don't have proper infrastructure. Another is working on an excavation site to teach children about ancient Indian civilizations. It has implanted a few artifacts at the site, which the children will have to find so that they are able to learn how to preserve and label artifacts. Another start up has proposed to create miniaturized labs for schools in tier 2 and 3 cities where children can learn concepts of Physics. "We will ensure that these prototypes are developed within a year and then the production can be scaled up," says the senior manager of the project talking about the importance of indigenously-built educational toys.

(4) Playtime is vital for the cognitive development of children and toys are an essential component that helps enhance specific cognitive abilities and skill sets. "Well-designed toys ignite students' curiosity, increase focus and can be very beneficial in helping them master a skill and enhance understanding. These can be in the form of visuals, auditory aids, kinesthetic, or a mixture of all three." Says HOD, Early Childhood Education.

(5) Toys offer an engaging avenue to teach mathematical, verbal, problem-solving skills. "Toys that engage students in experiential learning enhance their special awareness and fine motor skills. Those

designed for two or more players help students develop better social skills as they learn to negotiate, settle differences, etc, with their peers."

(6) Experiential gadgets and toys enable students to learn faster and retain lessons longer. "A child's interest is piqued when he is taught in a contextual framework as opposed to rote learning. The Indian education system has been witnessing several innovations with the development of toys and gadgets that can be used and felt in person or through VR platforms across subjects, be it Science, Technology, Maths or Engineering.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage given above : (12 Marks)

(i) By tier 2 and tier 3 cities, the author refers to _____ 1

(A) Metro cities (B) Cities with huge population
(C) Underdeveloped cities (D) Cities with less population

(ii) Complete the sentence with evidence from the text.

The made-in-India educational toys serve dual purpose of _____. 1

(iii) The author's point of view that can be inferred from the above passage is that _____. 1

(A) educational toys are the booming business.
(B) educational toys are meant to entertain children.
(C) educational toys will replace teachers.
(D) educational toys will make education more pragmatic.

(iv) Complete the following sentence appropriately : 1

Educational toys enhance the personality of children by ____.

(v) Read the five headlines (a) – (e), given below : 1

(a) Sustainable Educational Toys are Developmentally Appropriate.
(b) Sustainable Educational Toys Promote Free play.
(c) Sustainable Educational Toys – Free and Widespread.
(d) Sustainable Educational Toys – Experiential Learning.
(e) Sustainable Educational Toys – Hinder Interaction with people.

Identify the option that displays the headline that DOES/DO NOT correspond with what the passage highlights.

(A) Only (e) (B) (a) and (b) (C) (c) and (e) (D) Only (d)

(vi) What evidences do you gather from the passage to state that educational system is revolutionized by educational toys ? Answer in about 40 words. 2

(vii) Explain in about 40 words, how education at grassroot level is benefitted by these projects. 2

(viii) As opposed to learning by heart, experiential toys 1

(A) ignite interest (B) challenge the teachers
(C) replace textbooks (D) confuse learners

(ix) Playing is usually considered a distraction. Is it justified on the part of the narrator to assert that playing is an important aspect of education ? Write your answer in about 40 words. 2

Q2. Read the passage given below :

(1) News – If you can't remember the last time, you saw a teenager reading a book, newspaper or magazine, you're not alone. In recent years, less than 20 percent of teens report reading a book, magazine or newspaper daily for pleasure. More than 80 percent say they use social media every day, according to research published by the World Psychological Association.

(2) "Compared with previous generations, teens in the 2010s spent more time online and less time with traditional media, such as books, magazines and television," said lead author of the book yGen and professor of psychology at ABC University. "Time on digital media has displaced time once spent enjoying a book or watching TV."

(3) Swaner and her colleagues analysed data concluded from an ongoing study of a nationally representative sample of approximately 50,000 eighth, tenth and twelfth grade students annually. They looked at survey results from 1976 to 2016, representing more than 1 million teenagers. While the study started with only twelfth-graders in the 1970s, eighth- and tenth-graders were added in 1991.

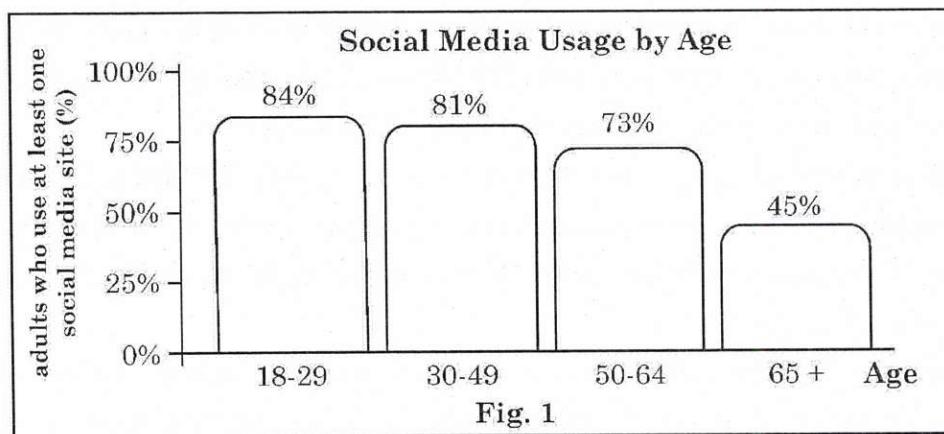
(4) Use of digital media increased substantially from 2006 to 2016. Among twelfth-graders, internet use during leisure time doubled from one to two hours per day during that period. It also increased 75 percent for tenth-graders and 68 percent for eighth-graders.

(5) "In the mid-2010s, the average twelfth-grader reported spending approximately two hours a day texting, just over two hours a day on the internet – which included gaming – and just under two hours a day on social media," said Swaner. That's a total of about six hours per day on just three digital media activities during their leisure time."

(6) In comparison, tenth-graders reported a total of five hours per day and eighth-graders reported four hours per day on those three digital activities. Consequently the spent time in the digital world is seriously degrading the time they spend on more traditional media such as print book and newspapers.

(7) The decline in reading print media was especially steep. In the early 1990s, 33 percent of tenth-graders said they read a newspaper almost every day. By 2016, that number was only 2 percent. In the late 1970s, 60 percent of twelfth-graders said they read a book or a magazine almost every day; by 2016, only 16 percent did. Twelfth graders also reported reading fewer books each year in 2016 compared to how much they read in 1976, and approximately one third did not read a book (including e-books) for pleasure in the year prior to the 2016 survey.

(8) There's no lack of intelligence among young people. However due to over dependence on digital media they find it difficult to focus for long periods of time and to read long-form text. Subsequently they find it challenging to understand complex issues and develop critical thinking skills.



On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the questions : $10 \times 1 = 10$ Marks

(i) Does the following statement agree with the information given in paragraph 1 ?

The writer believes that very few teens indulge in reading as a pleasurable activity.

Select from the following :

True : if the statement agrees with the information.

False : if the statement contradicts the information.

Not given : if there is no information on this.

(ii) Select the option that displays the most likely reason for this research.

In order to find out

(A) reading choices of teenagers.	(B) digital competency of teenagers.
(C) speed of reading text.	(D) the decline of time spent on traditional media.

(iii) Complete the sentence based on the following :

Traditional media has been replaced by digital media, we can say this because _____.

(iv) Do you think that the researchers of study added tenth and eighth graders to the survey deliberately?

Support your answer with reference to the text.

(v) Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option :

The concluding sentence of the text makes a clear case for _____ by listing it as a core competency for analysis and application.

(A) following social media	(B) reading long texts
(C) building focus and concentration	(D) developing constructive habits

(vi) Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option :

The digital activities that the twelfth-graders indulge in are ____.

(A) texting, gaming, television (B) texting, gaming, social media
(C) newspaper, books, magazine (D) television, books, gaming

(vii) Complete the sentence appropriately with one/two words :

Teens today hardly read print media for ____.

(viii) Based on the reading of the text, state a point to challenge the given statement:

"Time on digital media has displaced time once spent enjoying a book or watching T.V."

(ix) What does the author mean by 'degrading the time' in para 6 ?

(A) spending less time (B) waste of time
(C) consuming more time (D) saving time

(x) As per Fig. 1, the percentage of people above 50 yrs is ___ the percentage of teenagers using social media.

(A) greater than (B) less than (C) equal to (D) negligible to

SECTION - B Creative Writing Skills (18 marks)

Q3. Attempt any ONE from (a) and (b) given below:

(a) The Debating Society of your school is organising an inter-school debate. The last date for submitting names for audition is Friday 17th March. There will be on the spot trials. Draft a notice in about 50 words informing students about the team selection time, date and venue. You are Sarita / Sarit, President, Debating Society, Flora International School. **(4 Marks)**

OR

(b) There has been an increase in the number of cyber bullying cases in your school. This has led to parents and students getting very anxious. As the school counsellor, you are organising a talk during morning assembly by Mr. Kakkar, Director, Cyber crime Department inviting both students and parents. Draft a notice in about 50 words informing students of the same mentioning day, date, time and venue.

Q4. Attempt any one of the two, (a) and (b), in about 50 words.

(a) You are Tisha/Trilok Swami, Student Head, Morning Star High School, Hawapur. Your school is organising a 4-day health camp for parents and students of your school. Create a formal invitation card inviting the parents for the health camp where renowned doctors, nutritionists, and fitness experts will address the gathering. Invent necessary details. **(4 Marks)**

OR

(b) Your mother, Shagun Gupta has received an invitation from a nearby Women Wellness Center in Vayu town to participate in a two days Detox Programme at its Center. Draft an appropriate reply accepting the invitation. You are Vanya/Vineet. Invent necessary details.

Q5. Attempt any one of the two, (a) and (b), in 120 – 150 words.

(a) You are Anil/Anu Lamba, a fresh graduate. You come across an advertisement for a part time job which will give you time to pursue higher education. You wish to apply for the position advertised. Write to Retail Sales Associate, AJ Retailers, Gulab Nagar along with your bio-data, expressing your interest in the advertised post. (5 Marks)

WANTED INTERNS
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED

Part Time Job :

To facilitate and support the company's mission of helping clients with the best of our services.

Position : H.R. Recruitment Intern

Key Requisites : · Good Communication Skills

- Troubleshooting Attitude
- Sincere Worker

Qualification : Graduate

Interested candidates can share the biodata on ajretailers@gmail.com

OR

(b) You are Animesh/Anisha, a resident of Ambernath, Mompur. While walking you see a lot of construction debris dumped on the roadside claiming the footpaths and creating garbage dumps. As you are a concerned citizen, you decide to write a letter to the editor of a national daily, sharing your concern for the insensitive attitude of builders dumping their construction debris on roadsides endangering peoples' health and barring paths for walking. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this letter.

Problem · Construction material dumped on roadside

Causes · No checks

- Can get away with irregularities

Suggestions · Action by Municipal Corporation

- Stricter laws and their implementation
- Create awareness

Q6. Attempt any one of the two, (a) and (b), in 120 – 150 words.

(a) You are Hitesh/Henna, a 'blog' writer. You are also a voracious reader and keep yourself abreast with the current topics of the day. Reading about the trends in Digital Marketing, you decide to write

an article on "Digital Marketing has gained tremendous momentum in the past couple of years." Use the following cues along with your own ideas to compose this article. Invent necessary details.

(5 Marks)

Digital Marketing

Importance • Connects with customers

- Allows you to get creative

Benefits • Hands-on experience

- Easy to target right audience
- Cost effective
- Access to global markets

OR

(b) You are Indrajeet/Indrani, Press Reporter of 'Daily News'. You were invited by Hotel Grand to witness a 'Foodie Women' contest where 25 women participated in a cooking competition. Some of them were renowned chefs. Write a report for 'Daily News' covering the event. Invent necessary details. Support your ideas with the outline cues given below to craft your report :

Objective • Showcase culinary skills and creativity

- Participants
- Venue
- Participants provided with ingredients, equipment
- Evaluation criteria – taste, flavor, texture, aroma and presentation
- Results

SECTION – C Literature (40 Marks)

Q7. Read the following extract and answer the questions: Attempt any ONE. (6 X 1 = 6 Marks)

(a) A thing of beauty is a joy forever

Its loveliness increases, it will never

Pass into nothingness: but will keep

A bower quiet for us, and a sleep

Full of sweet dreams, and health and quiet breathing.

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,

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Of all the unhealthy and o'er darkened ways

Made for our searching:

(i) Keats defines beauty as _____ 1

(A) transient (B) eternal (C) illusionary (D) short lived

(ii) 'will keep a bower quiet for us' means all of the following EXCEPT _____ 1

(A) create a peaceful, shady place (B) provide a shelter
(C) will decrease noise pollution (D) nature's canopy

(iii) On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below: 1

1. Beautiful things uplift the soul.
2. Beauty is ever-changing.
(A) 1 can be inferred from the extract but 2 cannot.
(B) 2 can be inferred from the extract but 1 cannot.
(C) both 1 and 2 can be inferred from the extract.
(D) both 1 and 2 cannot be inferred from the extract.

(iv) The things that cause unhappiness are _____ 1

(1) lack of noble nature (2) old tunes (3) dull days
(4) calm mind (5) a flowery band (6) strong relationships

Choose the most appropriate option :

(A) (1) and (2) (B) (1) and (3) (C) (4) and (5) (D) (3) and (6)

(v) Complete the analogy. Do not repeat from used example : 1

flowery band : metaphor :: _____ : alliteration

(vi) According to the poet 'every morrow' we are _____. 1

OR

(b) I looked again at her, wan,

pale

as a late winter's moon and felt that

old

familiar ache, my childhod's fear

but all I said was, see you soon,

Amma,

all I did was smile and smile and

smile ...

(i) The poem My Mother at Sixty-Six captures the _____ of the narrator. 1

I. happiness

- II. fear
- III. dismay
- IV. anxiety

Choose the most appropriate option :

- (A) Only I
- (B) I and IV
- (C) II and IV
- (D) Only III

(ii) Identify the phrase from the extract that suggests the following : 1

She was overwhelmed with emotion and could not speak much.

(iii) The word 'wan' in the given context mostly nearly means 1

- (A) pale
- (B) old
- (C) unwell
- (D) anxious

(iv) Complete the following analogy correctly. Do not repeat from the example used. 1

Trees sprinting : personification :: _____ : simile

(v) On the basis of the extract, study the two statements, I and II given below : 1

I. The poet accepts the reality of her mother's declining health and old age.

II. She is nostalgic about her childhood days spent with her mother.

Choose the most appropriate option :

- (A) I is true, but II is false
- (B) Both I and II are true
- (C) II is the reason for I
- (D) II cannot be inferred from the extract

(vi) Explain the following statement with reference to the above extract : 1

All I did was smile and smile and smile.

Q8. Read the following extract and answer the questions. Attempt any ONE : (4 X 1 = 4 Marks)

(a) To make sure, I walked over the newsboy and glanced at the stack of papers at his feet. It was The World and The World hasn't been published for years. The lead story said something about President Cleveland. I've found that front page since, in the Public library files, and it was printed June 11, 1894. I turned toward the ticket windows knowing that here – on the third level at Grand Central – I could buy tickets that would take Louisa and me anywhere in the United States we wanted to go. In the year 1894. And I wanted two tickets to Galesburg, Illinois.

(i) The newspaper that covered the lead story about President Cleveland was _____ 1

- (A) The Pioneer
- (B) The New York Times
- (C) The World
- (D) The Times

(ii) The narrator wanted to buy tickets to _____. 1

(iii) Which of the following in the extract most nearly means the opposite of 'stare' ? 1

- (A) glance
- (B) peek
- (C) ignore
- (D) examine

(iv) Charley wanted two tickets because he wanted to go with _____. 1

- (A) Sam
- (B) Cleveland
- (C) Louisa
- (D) the Psychiatrist

OR

(b) "At midnight when the town slept in peace, the dewan and his aged wife dragged the tiger to the car and shoved it into the seat. The dewan himself drove the car straight to the forest where the Maharaja was hunting. When they reached the forest the tiger launched its satyagraha and refused to get out of the car. The dewan was thoroughly exhausted in his efforts to haul the beast out of the car and push it down to the ground. On the following day, the same old tiger wandered into the Maharaja's presence and stood as if in humble supplication, "Master, what do you command of me?" It was with boundless joy that the Maharaja took careful aim at the beast. The tiger fell in a crumpled heap.

(The Tiger King)

(i) Complete the sentence appropriately :

The reason for the dewan and his aged wife to drag the tiger to the car was _____.

1

(ii) The author described the tiger's action as 'satyagraha' because _____

1

- (A) he was poor in health, old, and weak.
- (B) he had become a man eater, and only ate humans.
- (C) he did not like the dewan and his wife's ways of handling him.
- (D) he refused to comply with what the dewan wanted.

(iii) What is the role of the dewan ?

1

(iv) Explain the phrase 'in humble supplication'.

1

Q9. Read the following extract and answer the questions. Attempt any ONE. (6 X 1 = 6 Marks)

(a) "I sometimes find a rupee, even a ten rupee note", Saheb says, his eyes lighting up when you can find a silver coin in a heap of garbage, you don't stop scrabbling, for there is hope of finding more. It seems that for children, garbage has a meaning different from what it means to their parents. For the children it is wrapped in wonder, for the elders it is a means of survival. One winter morning I see Saheb standing by the fenced gate of the neighbourhood club, watching two young men dressed in white, playing tennis. "I like the game", he hums, content to watch it standing behind the fence. "I go inside when no one is around" he admits. "The gate keeper lets me use the swing."

(i) Saheb found a rupee _____

1

- (A) on the street
- (B) in the garbage dump
- (C) in Firozabad
- (D) on the tennis court

(ii) Which emotion of Saheb is revealed in the phrase 'his eyes lighting up' ?

1

- (A) anxiety
- (B) envy
- (C) happiness
- (D) greed

(iii) For the elders garbage is _____ and for children it is _____.

1

(iv) On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to I and II given below : 1

I. Saheb watches the game from outside.

II. Saheb had lost the previous match.

(A) I is true but II is not	(B) II is true but I is not
(C) Both I and II are true	(D) Both I and II are untrue

(v) 'Scrounging' in the passage most nearly means. 1

(A) digging (B) searching (C) flinging (D) burying

(vi) 'There is hope for finding more'. Explain with reference to the above extract. 1

OR

(b) My introduction to the Y.M.C.A. swimming pool revived unpleasant memories and stirred childish fears. But in a little while I gathered confidence. I paddled with my new water wings, watching the other boys and trying to learn by aping them. I did this two or three times on different days.

(Deep Water)

(i) Identify the phrase from the given extract that bears evidence to the fact that the narrators association with 'childish fears' was not a recent one. 1

(ii) How does the writer try to learn it ? Mention any two ways. 1

(iii) What did the Y.M.C.A. pool bring back to Douglas ? 1

(A) Unpleasant memories (B) Memory of a boat

(C) Meeting a bruiser of a boy (D) Memory of his visit to the Yakima River

(iv) The two emotions of Douglas mentioned in the given extract are _____ and _____. 1

(v) Why did Douglas ape the other boys? 1

(vi) The writing style of the extract is autobiographical because _____. 1

Q10. Answer any FIVE out of six questions given in about 40-50 words: (5 X 2 = 10 Marks)

(i) What does the expression 'polished traffic' refer to ? What does it reveal about city people ?

(ii) Why did the iron master compare Edla to a parson?

(iii) What is the significance of the word 'but' in 'but all I said was see you soon, Amma'? (My Mother at Sixty-Six)

(iv) What handicap did Doughlas suffer from? How did he overcome that?

(v) Do we experience things of beauty only for short moments or do they make a lasting impression? Explain. (A Thing of Beauty)

(vi) Explain the metaphor of the rattrap.

11. Answer any TWO of the following in about 40-50 words each : (2 X 2 = 4 Marks)

(i) What was the servants' reaction to Sadao's decision of treating the American soldier?

(ii) How did the 'duraisani' behave on receiving the gifts ?

(iii) What extraordinary experience did Charley have when he went to the Grand station ?

Q12. Answer any ONE in about 120-150 words: (5 Marks)

(a) Franz from the 'Last Lesson' and the peddler from 'The Rattrap' demonstrate the importance of learning from one's mistakes and rising up to evolve as a better person. Write an article based on the two texts on how a man evolves after learning from his mistakes.

OR

(b) 'Lost Spring' and 'Indigo' highlight the apathy of society and exploitation by those in power.

Elaborate

13. Answer any ONE in about 120-150 words:

(5 Marks)

(a) Louisa, the protagonist's wife in 'The Third Level' is amazed at Sam's suggestions that her husband is unhappy. In her state of anger, she expresses her feelings by writing in her diary. As Louisa, Charley's wife, write this diary entry. Support your response with reference to the story.

You may begin this way :

"I have been married to Charley for a few years now and I have always known him to be an intelligent man with an imaginative mind. However, his recent obsession with finding the Third Level has"

OR

(b) The boy drank the milk of an English cow, was brought up by an English nanny, tutored in English

.....

(The Tiger King)

You realise that western influence on Indian culture is deep rooted since the days of Tiger King.

Write an article using material from the text, on the pros and cons of western influence on Indian society.

You may begin like this

Indian's exposure to English language and western influence