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कक्षा बारहवीं प्री-बोर्ड I परीक्षा 2025-26

Pre-Board I Examination 2025-26 for Class XII

SUBJECT: ENGLISH CORE (301)

SET – A

M.M.: 80

Time: 3 Hours

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions very carefully and 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 passage given below:

12

1. Vanilla is the second most expensive spice in the world, after saffron, as a result of its long and labour-intensive cultivation. Part of the orchid family, vanilla beans are hand-pollinated on family farms. Each flower opens for only one part of a day during the season, if it is not pollinated on that day, no pod is produced. Once picked, the curing process, which involves drying the beans in the sun by day and allowing them to sweat in a box at night, takes three to six months. The main producers of food grade vanilla, known as black vanilla because of the colour of the dried pods, are Madagascar, followed by Mexico and Tahiti. Vanilla from each country has its own distinctive characteristics but it is Madagascar vanilla that produces the creamy, sweet flavour beloved of Britons.

2. One can get vanilla extract all over the world but Madagascar vanilla is chosen because it has the greatest depth of flavour. There are three main commercial preparations of whole beans, powder and extract. Extract is sold by the "fold" – a unit that denotes the weight of vanilla beans per gallon. Silver Spoon, which distributes the American Nielsen-Massey vanilla brand in the U.K., said: "The market price of vanilla has risen over the past 12 months and sharply over the last 12 weeks. This has been driven largely by a poor-quality harvest in Madagascar. Soaring prices will hurt companies that use the ingredient in everything from soft drinks to cakes and perfumes. But the pain will be felt most acutely by ice-cream makers, as it is the most expensive ingredient in the production process and some will be forced to pass on the increased cost to consumers."

3. When prices are high, market experts say, farmers are tempted to pick beans early. That leads to a less intense flavour, compounding problems in the market. The high-value crop is also a target for criminals. There are reports that vanilla farmers in the Madagascar harvested their 2015 crop prematurely, in fear of losing their production to thieves. This, coupled with inadequate drying in order to increase profits from their crop, has led to lower quality vanilla. The combination of high process and poor quality means some manufacturers are turning to synthetic alternatives. But many food brands are not open to using artificial flavourings.

4. Vanilla is every ice-cream company's biggest-selling product. You can bring out a niche flavour but vanilla will still be on top. You've just got to take the hit on it because customers would notice the difference.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

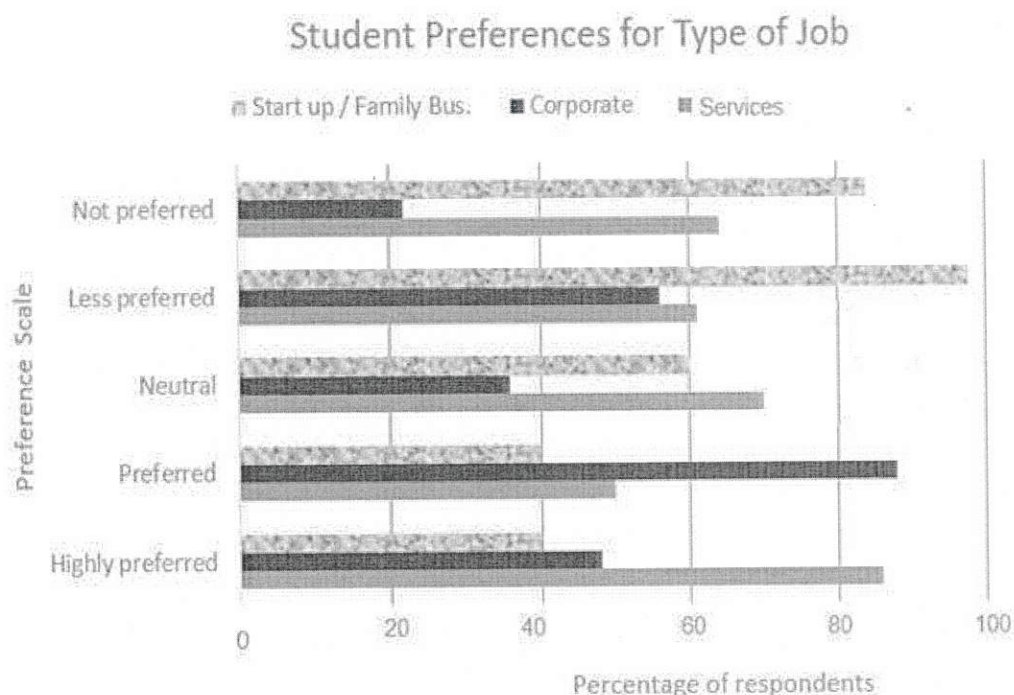
- | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|
| I. | Which textual evidence tells us that vanilla cultivation is labour-intensive? | 1 |
| II. | Complete the following with a suitable reason.
The flower is pollinated on the same day it opens because
..... | 1 |
| III. | The rise in vanilla prices has impacted all of the following industries EXCEPT—

a. confectionery b. perfumes c. ice-cream d. footwear | 1 |
| IV. | Which type of statement is made in the phrase ' <i>customers would notice the difference</i> '?
a. complaint b. warning c. prediction d. request | 1 |
| V. | Based on the passage, how can we say that harvesting vanilla is time - sensitive? (Any one reason) | 1 |
| VI. | The phrase 'greatest depth of flavour' in paragraph 2 suggests that Madagascar vanilla is –
a. very expensive
b. rich and intense in taste
c. available only in Madagascar
d. grown using artificial means | 1 |
| VII. | 'The beans were dried and allowed to 'sweat' at night'. What does this suggest about the curing process? | 1 |
| VIII. | What does the information about farmers harvesting crops early and poor drying suggest about their situation? (Answer in about 40 words.) | 2 |
| IX. | How does the fear of theft affect the quality of vanilla in Madagascar? (Answer in about 40 words.) | 2 |
| X. | Complete the following with the most suitable option.
The main idea of the passage is
a. Madagascar's dominance in vanilla cultivation
b. the high cost and challenges of vanilla cultivation
c. how synthetic vanilla is replacing real vanilla
d. the love for vanilla flavour in Britain | 1 |
| 2. | Read the following passage carefully: | 10 |

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 towards 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.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- I. What was the main purpose of the survey conducted among 2,000 college students and young professionals? 1

- 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 start-ups 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. 1

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

- III Fill in the blank with reference to the given bar graph chart. 1

The profession preference for which policymakers primarily need to provide encouraging incentives is

For the Visually Impaired Candidates

Complete the following suitably.

When the researcher uses the phrase 'a broad spectrum of opinions' in the line 'to make the findings representative of a broad spectrum of opinions', the researcher refers to (Ref: Paragraph 2)

- IV Based on the bar graph, which of the following statements best reflects the correct trend in job preferences? 1

- a. Corporate jobs are more in the 'Less 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'.

For the Visually Impaired Candidates

Why does the researcher associate start-ups and family businesses with individuals who value autonomy? (Ref: Paragraph 3)

- a. They allow individuals to independently make decisions and innovate.
- c. They guarantee long-term financial security and growth.
- c. They require minimal risk-taking and provide fixed schedules.
- d. They are managed by corporate guidelines ensuring stability.

- 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) 2
- VI When the researcher says, "Respondents indicated limited mentorship opportunities", what does s/he mean by 'limited mentorship opportunities'? 1
(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 How might further studies in the understanding of emerging industries and technological advancements empower youth to make well-informed career decisions? (Ref: Paragraph 5) 2
- VIII Select the option that is **NOT** addressed in this study. 1
- 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

SECTION B – CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS – 18 MARKS

3. **Attempt ANY ONE of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words:** 4
- A. You are Aditya/Aditi, working as the students' representative, School Development committee. The committee is going to meet next week to prepare a 'Calendar of Activities' for the school for the year 2025-26. To ensure that you play your role effectively at the proposed meeting you have decided to invite the students' suggestions on this subject. Write a notice in this regard in not more than 50 words to be put up on your school notice board.
- OR**
- B. As Anoop Bajaj, the Guest Relations Manager, draft a notice for the guests at your resort, Sunrise Resorts, Manali, requesting them to stay indoors owing to heavy rains and bad weather. Invent the necessary details.
4. **Attempt ANY ONE of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words:** 4
- A. You are a student of Victor Public School, New Delhi. The school is holding its annual function on Friday, 21st November, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. The Health Minister, Dr. Rajshri Joshi, has consented to be the chief guest. Design an invitation card to be sent to the parents and other invitees. Do not exceed 50 words.
- OR**
- B. You are Bina Bedekar, currently residing at 45, Ashok Vihar, Nagpur. You have been invited to inaugurate a science exhibition at your alma mater, National Public School, Mumbai. Write a formal reply in about 50 words, accepting the invitation and expressing your gratitude.
5. **Attempt ANY ONE of the two in 120 – 150 words:** 5
- A. While initiatives such as 'Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan' strive to promote universal education and facilitate the enrollment of underprivileged children into schools, there are still many children who do not go to school, or have never seen a school. It is indeed disturbing. You decide to write a letter to the editor of a newspaper expressing your views and the steps to be taken. Write the

letter in 120-150 words using the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this letter.

Value Points:

- Importance of education
- Reality of the education system
- Urgent need to take actions
- Volunteering in events

OR

- B.** You have read an advertisement in the newspaper, 'Hyderabad Times' for the post of software engineer in Telenox, Hyderabad. You believe that you possess the requisite qualifications and experience, and your innovative ideas will prove an asset to the company. Write an application in 120 – 150 words, emphasising your strong points and your suitability for the post. Also, include your bio-data. You are Alka /Ayan, residing at 9 / R Romi Vihar, Hyderabad.

Join the Telenox Team: Software Engineer Position in Hyderabad

Are you a passionate Software Engineer looking for an opportunity to thrive in a dynamic tech environment?

WHAT DO WE NEED?

Freshers, Experienced, both welcome

Required – A Degree in Software Engineering

How to Apply?

Send your resume and a cover letter highlighting your relevant experience and innovative thinking.

Application Deadline: 15th December, 2025

- 6. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 120-150 words:**

5

- A.** Travel serves as an invaluable source of education, enriching one's understanding of the world in multifaceted ways. Beyond the traditional classrooms, it offers profound lessons in manners, costumes, languages and history, ultimately broadening the horizons of one's social and cultural awareness. Write an article on the topic "Travel, an Important Source of Education". Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this article.

VALUE POINTS:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of travelling • Benefits to students • Practical-based learning • Experiential learning • Cultural awareness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language and communication skills • Historical and geographical knowledge • Character building • Environmental awareness • Long-lasting learning |
|---|--|

OR

- B.** A super-speciality hospital was inaugurated in the city by the Health Minister. As a reporter from 'The Delhi Times', write a report in not more than 120-150 words on the same to be published in the newspaper. You are Aryaman Saxena, the staff reporter. Use the given cues along with your ideas to compose this report.

VALUE POINTS:

- 600 – bed hospital
- Fully equipped with ventilators, oxygen supply, life support ambulances, etc.
- In-house blood bank
- 5500 square meters area
- Thirty crore rupees expenditure

SECTION C: LITERATURE – 40 MARKS

**40
6**

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

- A.** For once on the face of the Earth
let's not speak in any language,
let's stop for one second,
and not move our arms so much.
It would be an exotic moment
without rush, without engines,
we would all be together
in a sudden strangeness.

(Keeping Quiet)

- i. The poet uses the word "let's" to _____ 1
 - a. initiate a conversation between the poet and the readers.
 - b. invite readers as part of the poem's larger call to humanity.
 - c. welcome readers into the world of the poem and its subject.
 - d. address readers as fellow members of the human race.
- ii. Complete the given sentence appropriately. 1
Based on the extract, silence would help humanity to_____.
- iii. What does the speaker mean when he describes people as 'single-minded'? 1
 - a. People who only work towards understanding themselves.
 - b. People who are driven by only one passion in their life.
 - c. People who only focus on their own progress.
 - d. People who can focus on only one task at a time.
- iv. Margaret Atwood said, "Language divides us into fragments, I wanted to be whole." 1
Choose the option that correctly comments on the relationship between Margaret Atwood's words and the line from the above extract —"let's not speak in any language".
 - a. Atwood endorses Neruda's call not to speak in any language.
 - b. Atwood justifies Neruda's request not to engage in any speaking.
 - c. Atwood undermines Neruda's intent to stop and not speak in any language.
 - d. Atwood surrenders to Neruda's desire for silence and not speak in any language.
- v. Why do you think the poet employs words like "exotic" and "strangeness"? 1
 - a. To highlight the importance of everyone being together suddenly for once.
 - b. To emphasize the frenetic activity and chaos that usually envelopes human life.
 - c. To indicate the unfamiliarity of a sudden moment without rush or without engine.
 - d. To direct us towards keeping quiet and how we would all be together in that silence
- vi. Choose the option that correctly matches the idioms given in column A with their meanings in Column B. 1

Column A	Column B
1. On the face of the earth	i. in existence
2. What on earth	ii. to do all possible to accomplish something
3. Move heaven and earth	iii. to express surprise or shock
4. The salt of the earth	iv. to be good and worthy

- a. 1 - (i); 2 - (iv); 3 - (iii); 4 - (ii)
b. 1 - (i); 2 - (iii); 3 - (ii); 4 - (iv)
c. 1 - (ii); 2 - (i); 3 - (iv); 4 - (iii)
d. 1 - (iv); 2 - (ii); 3 - (iii); 4 - (i)

OR

- B** Driving from my parent's home to Cochin last Friday morning,
I saw my mother,
beside me, doze, open mouthed,
her face ashen like that of a corpse and realized with pain
that she was as old as she looked but soon
put that thought away...and
looked out at Young
Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling
out of their homes,
- i Why does the poet compare her mother's face to a corpse? Answer in one sentence. 1
- ii What effect does the phrase 'open mouthed' have on the poem? 1
- a. It builds a mood of surprise and shock in the poem.
b. It reveals the speaker's fear of her own death and mortality.
c. It adds to the imagery of the speaker's mother appearing dead.
d. It highlights the speaker's attempt at hiding her emotions from her mother.
- iii Complete the given sentence appropriately. 1
The contrast present in the given extract is between_____.
- iv Choose the option that applies correctly to the two statements given below. 1
Assertion: The poet wards off the thought of her mother getting old quickly.
Reason: The poet didn't want to confront the inevitability of fate that was to dawn upon her mother.
a. Assertion can be inferred but the Reason cannot be inferred.
b. Assertion cannot be inferred but the Reason can be inferred.
c. Both Assertion and Reason can be inferred.
d. Both Assertion and Reason cannot be inferred.
- v Which of these phrases uses the same poetic device as the following line from the extract? 1
Looked out at Young Trees sprinting...
a. That restaurant is as nice as the Big Fish
b. the pen became my highway to success
c. that fluffy cloud crying with sadness
d. the tall trees with many branches
- vi Where is the poet travelling to? 1
- 8. Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B):** 4

- A.** My three hundred dollars bought less than two hundred in old-style bills, but I didn't care; eggs were thirteen cents a dozen in 1894. But I've never again found the corridor that leads to the third level at Grand Central Station, although I've tried often enough. Louisa was pretty worried when I told her all this, and didn't want me to look for the third level any more, and after a while I stopped; I went back to my stamps. But now we're both looking, every weekend...

(The Third Level)

- i. What does Charley's indifference to the cost of old-style bills and his focus on the price of eggs in 1894 suggest about his view of the past? 1
- ii. Complete the sentence suitably. 1
Charley has been unsuccessful in finding the corridor to the third level despite ____.
- iii. Where is the irony in Louisa's reaction to Charley's search for the third level in this extract? 1
- iv. Complete the following with a correct option based on the context in the extract. 1
The phrase 'I went back to my stamps' suggests ____.

- a. finding comfort in a hobby that is familiar
- b. choosing a new hobby to forget earlier pursuits
- c. attempting to engage together in a new hobby
- d. approaching a familiar hobby with enthusiasm

OR

- B** The mists screened them now completely, and at this time of day no one came by. The fishermen had gone home and even the chance beachcombers would have considered the day at an end. "What shall we do with this man?" Sadao muttered. But his trained hands seemed of their own will to be doing what they could to stanch the fearful bleeding. He packed the wound with the sea moss that strewed the beach. The man moaned with pain in his stupor but he did not awaken. "The best thing that we could do would be to put him back in the sea," Sadao said, answering himself.

(The Enemy)

- i. What does the speaker mean by 'The mists screened them'? 1
- ii. Who is a beachcomber? 1
 - a. A vagrant living on beach
 - b. A person walks along a beach looking for valuables
 - c. A wanderer searching for things on the beach
 - d. All of these
- iii. What does the word 'strewed' mean? 1
 - a. spread out
 - b. protected
 - c. uncovered
 - d. unavailable
- iv. Why did they want to throw the man back into the sea? 1

9 Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two: 6

- A** Months passed. Shukla was sitting on his haunches at the appointed spot in Calcutta when Gandhi arrived; he waited till Gandhi was free. Then the two of them boarded a train for the city of Patna in Bihar. There Shukla led him to the house of a lawyer named Rajendra Prasad who later became President of the Congress party and of India. Rajendra Prasad was out of town, but the servants knew Shukla as a poor yeoman who pestered their master to help the indigo sharecroppers. So they let him stay on the grounds with his companion, Gandhi, whom they took to be another peasant. But Gandhi was

not permitted to draw water from the well lest some drops from his bucket pollute the entire source; how did they know that he was not an untouchable?

- i Which of the following best reflects Gandhi's attitude towards Shukla, as conveyed in the extract? 1

- (I) Patient and respectful
- (II) Skeptical and cautious
- (III) Dismissive and indifferent
- (IV) Encouraging and supportive
- (V) Curious and surprised

Select the most suitable option.

- a. (I) and (IV)
- b. (II) and (IV)
- c. (I), (III) and (V)
- d. (II), (III) and (IV)

- ii Complete the following suitably. 1

The line, '*he waited till Gandhi was free*' suggests about Shukla's characteristic trait that

- iii Fill in the blank with a correct option from those given in the brackets, based on the information in the extract. 1

"*Shukla was sitting on his haunches at the appointed spot in Calcutta when Gandhi arrived.*" This showcases his

- a. patience
- b. anger
- c. confusion
- d. frustration

- iv Justify with an evidence from the extract that untouchability was practised in India. 1

- v What might have been the most likely purpose of the author in describing Shukla as a 'poor yeoman' in the context of the story? 1

- vi Select the option that is closest to the central idea of the extract. 1

- a. The harsh reality of the poor ones
- b. The result of determination
- c. The anxiety of an oppressed
- d. The role of mentorship

B. ... it was a big and confusing forest which he had gotten into. He tried, to be sure, to walk in a definite direction, but the paths twisted back and forth so strangely! He walked and walked without coming to the end of the wood, and finally he realized that he had only been walking around in the same part of the forest. All at once he recalled his thoughts about the world and the rattrap. Now his own turn had come. He had let himself be fooled by a bait and had been caught. The whole forest, with its trunks and branches, its thickets and fallen logs, closed in upon him like an impenetrable prison from which he could never escape.

- i How would you characterize the mood of the above extract? 1

- a. mysterious, restful
- b. ominous, despairing
- c. thoughtful, whimsical
- d. philosophical, anguished

- ii By what bait had the peddler been fooled? 1

- a. He had chosen to take the 'safe' forest route.
- b. He had decided to avoid the public highway.
- c. He had stolen money from the trusting crofter.
- d. He didn't realize the power of his rattrap analogy.

- iii The consequence of his own turn having come was that the peddler had 1

- a. got irreversibly lost in the thick forest
- b. been fooled and imprisoned in a hopeless prison
- c. been walking around the same part of the forest
- d. walked the whole forest without finding the end.

- | | | |
|-----------|---|-----------------|
| iv | What did he recall all at once? | 1 |
| v | Which figure of speech has been used in the last line? | 1 |
| vi | Find a word in the extract which is opposite to 'passable'. | 1 |
| 10 | Attempt ANY FIVE of the following six questions in about 40-50 words each: | 5x2 = 10 |
| i | Based on the imagery of the passing cars, how can one recognise the feeling of ignorance as showcased by the city people? | 2 |
| ii | What is the significance of the line, ' <i>I work in empty spaces</i> '? | 2 |
| iii | What does the reference of counting till twelve signify in 'Keeping Quiet'? | 2 |
| iv | What does the description of the scene outside the court in 'Indigo' represent, and how does it contribute to the overall tone and mood of the story? | 2 |
| v | The rattrap seller had philosophical insights, yet failed to resist temptations. How can we confirm it? | 2 |
| vi | How are Aunt Jennifer's tigers different from her? | 2 |
| 11 | Attempt ANY TWO of the following three questions in about 40-50 words. | 2x2=4 |
| i | Discuss how the inclusion of several instances of satire in 'The Tiger King' reveal the risk of the writer being perceived as too cynical. | 2 |
| ii | What does Bama's description of the old man holding the vadai packet from its strings reveal about the discrimination faced by Dalits? | 2 |
| iii | How can a visit to Antarctica help raise awareness about the potential consequences of global warming for the future of humanity? | 2 |
| 12 | Attempt ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 120-150 words | 1x5 = 5 |
| i | How do 'Going Places' by A.R. Barton and 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' by Adrienne Rich reveal the struggles faced by women in a restrictive society? | |
| ii | How do the stories 'Deep Water' and 'Indigo' explore the theme of maintaining resilience in the face of the challenges? | |
| 13 | Attempt ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 120-150 words | 1x5 = 5 |
| i | The influence of personal experiences and reflections on the environment can significantly impact narrative techniques such as tone, theme, and character development. Analyse how Tishani Doshi has incorporated her reflections on Antarctica and humanity's role in the destruction of the Earth to enhance these narrative elements in her writing. Support your analysis with relevant references from the text. | |
| ii | Justify how Mr. Lamb's character is more central in understanding various facets of life than Derry. | |