

O. P. JINDAL SCHOOL, SAVITRI NAGAR
Annual Examination (2024 – 2025)
SET – 1 [B]

Class : XI
 Subject: English Core

MM : 80
 Time: 03 Hrs.

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

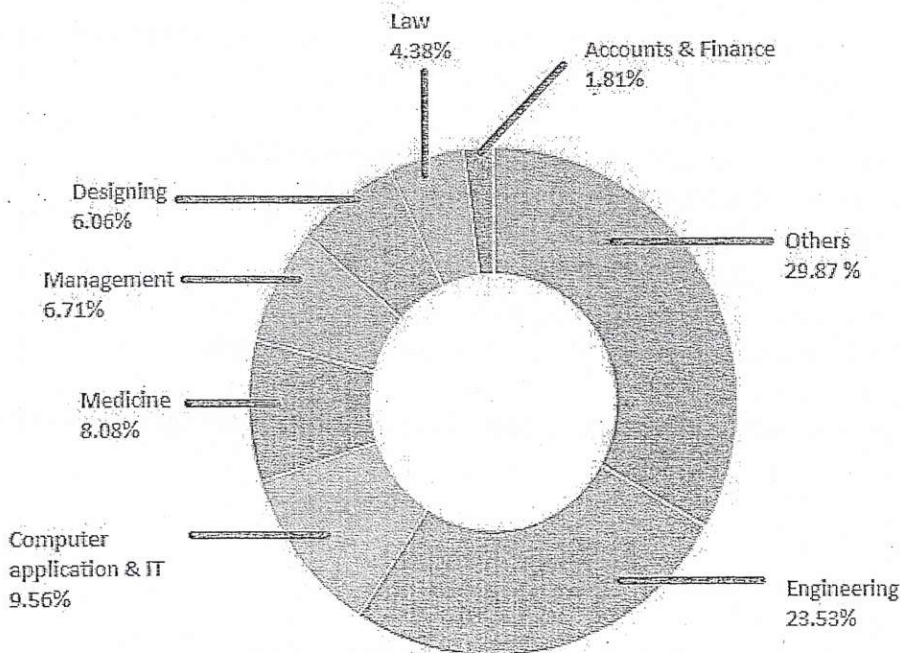
General Instructions:

- 1 This Question Paper is divided into three sections – A, B and C. All the questions are compulsory.
- 2 Separate instructions are given with every section and question wherever necessary. Read the instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.
- 3 Do not exceed the word limit while answering the questions.
- 4 You may attempt any section at one time but try to attempt the questions of a section together.

SECTION – A (READING SKILLS) (26 MARKS)

Q. 1 - Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: (1x8=8)

The average age of India will be just 27 in 2020, which means that the majority of the Country will comprise young students and youth. But even now with the clock ticking. The unemployment crisis is raging the country and the main reason behind this problem is that there are a huge number of youth passing out from schools and colleges every year and there are many new career options and job roles being added to various industries as well.



However, the youth do not have the kind of skills the new industries want which results in a wide skill gap. A recent survey by Mindler, an online career-counselling platform, has proved that the majority of Indian students are aware of just seven career paths, even though there are 250 career options that can be pursued in India – most new and in-demand.

The survey on the awareness of career options among Indian students in the age group of 14-20 was conducted among 10,000 participants. The responses collected in the survey showed that a staggering 93% of the students who participated in the survey were aware of just seven career options – law, engineering, medicine, accounts and finance, design, computer applications and IT and management.

According to researchers, India has a variety of 250 career options available across 40 domains covering 5,000 job types. This shocking lack of awareness among Indian students regarding their future career options can spell a death knell for the economic bonus that could have come to India due to its demographic dividend the time period where its population is young and earning.

Thus, if parents and teachers can build their own awareness regarding new career options coming up. Then they can be a very helpful part in their child's career decisions rather than being one of those parents who push their child into one of the most common careers simply because they are unable to understand which area would be the perfect fit for their child.

If parents utilise the available technology and tools available, they can become more aware of which careers will help their children grow the most and career counselling can help both parties get the desired satisfaction.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below.

- (i) Does the following statement agree with the information given in Paragraph 2? The youth of today do have the kind of skills the new industries want
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) Do you think the researchers of the study aimed to change the students outlook towards the new career options? Support your answer with reference to the text.
- (iii) What is the main essence of the passage?
a) There is a huge gap between education and employment opportunities.
b) There is a lack of awareness regarding new professions available
c) Parents must be involved in the process of career selection
d) Only 7 professional fields are popular in India
- (iv) Complete the sentence based on the following statement.
Most of the parents push their child into one of the most common careers.
This happens simply because.....
- (v) According to the passage, the lack of awareness regarding various career options results in
a) Unemployment
b) Frustration and depression
c) Economic stagnation with any bonus
d) Lack of economic bonus
- (vi) Complete the given statement by selecting the most appropriate option.
Career counselling can help the students and To get satisfactory results.

- a) Teachers
 - b) Parents
 - c) Survey team
 - d) Employees
- (vii) How. According to you, is lack of awareness regarding various career options is affecting our country?
- (viii) How can parents become more aware?
- a) By using available tools and technology
 - b) By talking to their children
 - c) By providing career counselling to their children
 - d) By finding which career options are best fit for their children

Q. 2 - Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: (1x10=10)

1. While there is no denying that the world loves a winner, it is important that you recognise the signs of stress in your behaviour and be healthy enough to enjoy your success. Stress Can strike anytime, in a fashion that may leave you unaware of its presence in your life. While a certain amount of pressure is necessary for performance, it is important to be able to recognise your individual limit.

2. Stress is a body reaction to any demands or changes in its internal or external environment. Whenever there is a change in the external environment such as temperature, pollutants, humidity and working conditions, it leads to stress. In these days of Competition, when a person makes up his mind to surpass what has been achieved by others, there is an imbalance between demands and resources, which causes psycho-social stress.

3. Stress reduces productivity and pressure to the management of organisations. Today companies prefer women to men as employees because of the hope that they bring additional qualities such as innovation, patience and dedication in the workplace. But due to increased pressure for women both at the workplace and at home, they face stress. Thus any employee will make the maximum effort and give the maximum contribution when kept happy and without any stress. Hence, to increase productivity, it is the responsibility of the employer to keep the employees free from stress. Hence, it is essential to take steps minimise the effects of determinants of stress and help individuals and organisations evolve newer and more effective coping strategies.

4. Stress takes a different meaning. Depending on the stage of life you are in. The loss of a toy or a reprimand from the parents might create a stress shock in a child. An adolescent who fails in examination may feel as if everything has been lost and life has no further meaning. In an adult, the loss of his or her companion, job or professional failure may appear as it there is nothing more to be achieved.

5. Such signs appear, in the attitude and behaviour of the individual, as muscle tension in various parts of the body, palpitation and high blood pressure, indigestion and hyperacidity. Ultimately the result is self-destructive behaviour such as eating and drinking too much. Smoking excessively or relying on tranquilisers. There are other signs of stress such as trembling, shaking, nervous blinking, dryness of throat and mouth and difficulty in swallowing. The professional under stress behaves as if he is a perfectionist.

6. A person under stress reacts in different ways and the common ones are flight, fight or flee depending upon the nature of the stress and capabilities of the person. The three responses can be

elegantly chosen to cope with stress so that stress does not damage the system and become distress.

7. When a stress Crosses the limit peculiar to an individual, it lowers his performance capacity. Frequent crossings of the limit may result in chronic fatigue, in which a person feels lethargic, disinterested and is not easily motivated to achieve anything. This may make the person mentally undecided, confused and accident prone as well. Diet, massage, food supplements, herbal medicines, hobbies, relaxation techniques and dance movements are excellent stress busters.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer ANY TEN of the following questions.

- (i) Complete the sentence by choosing an appropriate option.
A certain amount of pressure is.....
 - (a) not necessary for performance
 - (b) necessary for under performance
 - (c) necessary for performance
 - (d) necessary for failure
- (ii) List the ways in which a person under stress behaves.
- (iii) What does the word 'determinant' in Paragraph 3 refer to in the context of stress?
 - (a) A factor that contributes to stress
 - (b) A method to reduce stress
 - (c) A solution to eliminate stress
 - (d) A temporary phase of stress
- (iv) List the symptoms of stress in individuals.
- (v) Complete the give sentence with an inference with respect to the following.
The writer quotes the example of a child, an adolescent and an adult in Paragraph 4 in order to highlight that.....
- (vi) The writer would not agree with the given statements based on paragraph three, EXCEPT
 - (a) Stress increases productivity.
 - (b) Women face stress only due to increased pressure at home.
 - (c) An employee will give an average contribution when kept happy and without stress.
 - (d) To increases productivity the employer should keep his employees free from stress.
- (vii) What causes psycho-social stress?
- (viii) How can the solutions suggested in the last paragraph best be described?
 - (a) Practical
 - (b) Presentable
 - (c) Popular
 - (d) Prejudiced
- (ix) When does 'chronic fatigue' occur? How does it affect a person?
- (x) Select the most suitable title for the above passage
 - (a) Stress and its importance in Today's Life
 - (b) What are stress busters?
 - (c) Stress and its Effects
 - (d) How to Cope with Stress?
- (xi) External environment includes
 - (a) temperature
 - (b) attitudes
 - (c) working conditions
 - (d) Both (a) and (c)

Q. 3 - Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Fashion is a force - a powerful force of constantly altering patterns of change and growth. Its Constant movement affects the fate of the designers and manufacturers who distribute it, and of course, the lives of the consumers who follow what it dictates. All of its facets taken together add up to a multi-million dollar industry. Fashion today means mega bucks.

Fashion is also a science. Surprising, isn't it? However, it is well-known that it involves known facts and basic principles and its actions and reactions can be predicted, as these are based on those facts and principles. Fashion is one of those distinct and unique trades that is highly dependent on the environment, and the changes that are continuously taking place in it. These have to be understood by the designers if they want to become successful.

For one to make it to the top in the fashion business and stay there, one has to continue to discover and innovate to fulfil the needs and wants of the customers. For this, most of the top designers such as Yves Saint Laurent, Karl Lagerfeld, Claiborne etc., all rely upon their creativity backed by years of invaluable experience. In this line of work, instinct and intuition play a very major role besides the knowledge of past successes and failures.

As the power of fashion to influence our lives grows, a number of misconceptions about it continue to abound. The most common of these is that designers and retailers dictate what the fashion will be, by accepting or rejecting the styles and trends that are offered. They are truly, as one 'fashion guru' once said, 'Variety vultures'. However, it is not so- actually customers dictate the trends.

The second misconception is that fashion acts as an influence on women only. However, actually, men today are as much influenced by, and responsive to, fashion as women. In point of fact, the male fashion industry has been growing at a dizzying rate. Yes, there was a time when menswear was not exactly worth talking about. It was staid and unimaginative. But that does not mean that men did not dress up according to the latest trends of the day.

Fashion today is more lifestyle oriented and quite practical. The modern male and female want to dress differently for office and leisure. Designers are becoming more daring so that the women well as the men have a wide choice. There are different designs for every moment of a busy social schedule - from work, lunch to afternoon tea, cocktails, dinner and gala banquets.

Questions:

2.1 - On the basis of your reading of the given passage, make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary (minimum four). Supply an appropriate title to it. (5)

2.2 - Write a summary of the given passage in about 50 words. (3)

SECTION: B (CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR) (23 MARKS)

Q. 4 - Reorder the given words to make correct and meaningful sentences. (ANY THREE) (1x3=3)

- (a) always / helps / who / in / need / others / respected / is
- (b) you / succeed / work / if / hard / will / you
- (c) achievements / in / who / despite / failures / succeeds / his / is / great
- (d) that / was / he / when / said / surprised / completely / she

Q. 5 - Complete the following sentences by filling in the correct form of the verb:

(1x4=4)

In the last hundred years, now travelling (a) _____ (become) much easier and very comfortable. In the 19th century, it (b) _____ (take) two or three days to cross North America by a covered wagon. The trip (c) _____ (be) very rough and often dangerous. Things (d) _____ (change) a great deal in the last hundred and fifty years. Now you can fly from New York to Los Angeles in a matter of hours.

Q. 6 - Attempt ANY ONE of Two, in about 50 words.

(1x3=3)

[A] Your school is going to "Samarpan", a charitable event to help the needy. Design a poster to inform the students about it.

[B] You are the Secretary of the local legal help unit of 'Chetna' an NGO. Prepare a poster to be put up outside the office, creating awareness and inviting residents to the legal awareness camp being organised at the unit. Invent all the necessary details.

Q. 7 - Attempt ANY ONE of Two, in about 50 words.

(1x3=3)

[A] Anamika wishes to let out a portion of her newly built shop. Draft an advertisement for publication in "To Let" column of TOI, giving all the necessary details.

[B] You are the Manager at IPS Academy, Bhopal. Your Academy is specialized in giving coaching to students for JEE and NEET. Your Director has asked you to draft an advertisement for the vacant post of Mentor for Chemistry. Draft an advertisement for a national daily under the classified columns.

Q. 8 - Attempt ANY ONE of Two, in 120-150 words.

(5)

[A] Write a debate either for or against the motion: "Laziness and not bad luck is the only obstacle in one's success in life".

[B] Write a debate either for or against the motion: "Artificial Intelligence is a Threat to Human Jobs."

Q. 9 - Attempt ANY ONE of Two, in 120-150 words.

(5)

[A] With the rise of social media platforms, people tend to share personal information without considering privacy risks. Write a speech on "The Importance of Digital Privacy and Responsible Social Media Usage" to be delivered in a public awareness campaign.

[B] Books are often considered the best friends of a person. However, in the digital age, reading habits are declining. Write a speech on "The Importance of Reading Books in the Age of Digital Distractions" to be delivered at a literary event.

SECTION 'C' (LITERATURE) (31 MARKS)

Q. 10 - Read the extract given below and answer the questions. (Any ONE Extract):

(1x3=3)

[A] *I do not understand this child
Though we have lived together now
In the same house for years. I know
Nothing of him, so try to build
Up a relationship from how
He was when small.*

- (a) Who are 'I' and 'This child' in the above lines?
- (b) What does the speaker complain about?
- (c) What does the speaker want?

[B] *When did my childhood go?
Was it when I found my mind was really mine,
To use whichever way I choose,*

*Producing thoughts that were not those of
Other people, But my own, and mine alone
Was that the day!*

- (a) Explain 'my mind was really mine'.
- (b) What did the poet realise?
- (c) Did the poet find an answer to his question?

Q. 11 - Read the extract given below and answer the questions. (Any ONE Extract): (1x3=3)

[A] Prepared as he was for many shocks, Professor Gaitonde had not expected this. The East India Company had been wound up shortly after the events of 1857 — at least, that is what history books said. Yet, here it was, not only alive but flourishing. So, history had taken a different turn, perhaps before 1857. How and when had it happened? He had to find out.

As he walked along Hornby Road, as it was called, he found a different set of shops and office buildings. There was no Handloom House building. Instead, there were Boots and Woolworth departmental stores, imposing offices of Lloyds, Barclays and other British banks, as in a typical high street of a town in England.

- (i) What unexpected discovery did Professor Gaitonde make about the East India Company?
- (ii) What does the presence of British banks and departmental stores suggest about the historical events in this alternate timeline?
- (iii) Find a word from the passage that means 'thriving' or 'prospering.'

[B] We took a short cut to get off the Changtang. Tsetan knew a route that would take us south-west, almost directly towards Mount Kailash. It involved crossing several fairly high mountain passes, he said. "But no problem, sir", he assured us, "if there is no snow." What was the likelihood of that I asked. "Not knowing, sir, until we get there."

From the gently rolling hills of Ravu, the short cut took us across vast open plains with nothing in them except a few gazelles that would look up from nibbling the arid pastures and frown before bounding away into the void. Further on, where the plains became more stony than grassy, a great herd of wild ass came into view. Tsetan told us we were approaching them long before they appeared. "Kyang," he said, pointing towards a far-off pall of dust. When we drew near, I could see the herd galloping en masse, wheeling and turning in tight formation as if they were practising manoeuvres on some predetermined course. Plumes of dust billowed into the crisp, clean air.

- (i) What might have posed an obstacle to the writer's progress?
- (ii) How did Tsetan anticipate their imminent encounter with a herd of 'kyangs'?
- (iii) What do you mean by the word 'manoeuvres'?

Q. 12 - Read the extract given below and answer the questions. (Any ONE Extract): (1x4=4)

[A] As he gazed at the still form a shiver of horror passed over Andrew. After all that he had promised! His face, heated with his own exertions, chilled suddenly. 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. Blindly, instinctively, he gave the child to the nurse and turned his attention to Susan Morgan who now lay collapsed, almost pulseless, and not yet out of the ether, upon her side. His haste was desperate, a frantic race against her ebbing strength. It took him only an instant to smash a glass ampule and inject the medicine. Then he flung down the hypodermic syringe and worked unsparingly to restore the flaccid woman. After a few minutes of feverish effort, her heart strengthened; he saw that he might safely leave her. He swung round, in his shirt sleeves, his hair sticking to his damp brow.

- (i) What internal conflict did Andrew face in the passage?
- A) Whether to call for another doctor or handle the situation alone
 - B) Whether to save the mother or attempt to revive the child first
 - C) Whether to use traditional medicine or a modern technique
 - D) Whether to allow the nurse to take full responsibility for the case
- (ii) What does the phrase "a frantic race against her ebbing strength" suggest about Susan Morgan's condition?
- A) She was regaining consciousness but very slowly
 - B) She was nearing death, and urgent action was needed
 - C) She was struggling to communicate with Andrew
 - D) She was reacting violently to the treatment
- (iii) What does the description of Andrew's physical state ("his hair sticking to his damp brow") imply about his efforts?
- A) He was overwhelmed with fear and panic
 - B) He was exhausted but fully dedicated to saving lives
 - C) He was feeling frustrated and ready to give up
 - D) He was indecisive and uncertain about his actions
- (iv) What is the meaning of the word "flaccid" as used in the passage?
- A) Strong and rigid
 - B) Soft and lacking firmness
 - C) Weak but recovering
 - D) Cold and lifeless

[B] MRS PEARSON: I've plenty of time.

CYRIL: Yes, but I haven't. Got a busy night tonight. [moving left to the door] Did you put my things out?

MRS PEARSON: [coolly] Can't remember. But I doubt it.

CYRIL: [moving to the table; protesting] Now—look. When I asked you this morning, you promised. You said you'd have to look through 'em first in case there was any mending.

MRS PEARSON: Yes — well now I've decided I don't like mending.

CYRIL: That's a nice way to talk — what would happen if we all talked like that?

MRS PEARSON: You all do talk like that. If there's something at home you don't want to do, you don't do it. If it's something at your work, you get the Union to bar it. Now all that's happened is that I've joined the movement.

CYRIL: [staggered] I don't get this, Mum. What's going on?

MRS PEARSON: [laconic and sinister] Changes.

- (i) What does Mrs. Pearson's response, "Can't remember. But I doubt it," suggest about her attitude?
- A) She genuinely forgot to do what Cyril asked
 - B) She is deliberately asserting her independence
 - C) She feels guilty for not keeping her promise
 - D) She is confused and uncertain about her actions
- (ii) What does Cyril's line, "That's a nice way to talk — what would happen if we all talked like that?" reveal about his character?
- A) He is trying to make his mother feel guilty
 - B) He is genuinely worried about his family's future
 - C) He is mocking his mother's new attitude
 - D) He is reflecting on his own behavior

(iii) What is the significance of Mrs. Pearson's final word, "Changes"?

- A) She is warning Cyril that she will stop speaking to him
- B) She is announcing her decision to leave the household
- C) She is declaring her new approach to family life
- D) She is hinting at a major external event affecting them

(iv) What does the word "laconic" in "Mrs. Pearson: [laconic and sinister] Changes." mean?

- A) Speaking in a short and direct way
- B) Speaking in an emotional and dramatic manner
- C) Speaking in a confused and hesitant way
- D) Speaking in an exaggerated and boastful manner

Q. 13 - Answer ANY TWO of the following questions in 40-50 words each.

(3x2=6)

- (i) Which movement of the goldfinch compared with lizard? What is the basis for this comparison? (The laburnum Top)
- (ii) How did the sparrows express their grief over grandmother's death in the chapter "The Portrait of a lady?"
- (iii) What preparations did the narrator, and his wife make for their round-the world sea voyage in the chapter 'We're not Afraid to Die'?
- (iv) What is the poet's feeling towards his childhood in the poem 'Childhood'?

Q. 14 - Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 40-50 words.

(3x1=3)

What did people say about Mourad? From whom had he inherited those traits? OR
Who is the first person to face Mrs Pearson's anger and what happens to the person?

Q. 15 - Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 120-150 words.

(6)

What according to the poem 'Childhood' is involved in the process of growing up?

OR

Justify the title 'Silk Road'

Q. 16 - Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 120-150 words.

(6)

Who stole the beautiful white horse and why? How did they use the horse and what made them return the horse to its true owner?

OR

The chapter is about an autobiographical note at one level, while at another it portrays how futile the war is. What are your views regarding war? Is it fruitful? Base your views on the chapter 'The Address'.
