

# ENGLISH CORE

Time allowed : 3 hours

Maximum marks : 80

## General Instructions :

- (i) This paper is divided into two parts: A and B. All questions are compulsory.
- (ii) Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.
- (iii) Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

## PART - A (40 Marks)

### READING (20 Marks)

#### 1. Read the passage given below.

- (1) Thick black smoke curling out of smokestacks, horrible-tasting chemicals in your drinking water, pesticides in your food -- these are examples of pollution. Pollution is any contamination of the environment which causes harm to the environment or the inhabitants of the environment. There are many kinds of pollution, and there are many pollutants. Some obvious kinds of pollution are pollution of the air, soil, and water. Some less obvious, or less salient, kinds of pollution are radioactivity, noise and light pollution, and pollution by green-house gasses.
- (2) Air pollution can be caused by particles, liquids, or gases that make the air harmful to breathe. There are two main types of air pollution: primary and secondary. Primary pollutants enter the air directly, like smoke from factories and car exhaust. Secondary pollutants are chemicals that mix together to pollute the air, like mixtures of emissions, or waste output, from vehicles and factory smoke that change to form more dangerous pollutants in the air and sunlight.
- (3) Soil pollution can be caused by pesticides, leakage from chemical tanks, oil spills, and other chemicals which get into the soil by dumping or accidental contamination. Soil pollution can also cause water pollution when underground water becomes contaminated by coming in contact with the polluted soil. Water pollution can be caused by waste products, sewage, oil spills, and litter in streams, rivers, lakes, and oceans. Some scientists believe that water pollution is the largest cause of death and disease in the world, causing about 14,000 deaths in the world each day.
- (4) Radioactive pollution can be caused by leaks or spills of radioactive materials. These materials can come from medical sources, nuclear power plants, or laboratories which handle radioactive materials. Air, soil, and water can be polluted by radioactivity. It can cause damage to animals, both internally and externally, by eating, drinking, or touching it. It can cause birth defects and genetic problems. It can cause certain cancers and other deadly diseases.
- (5) Noise pollution can be caused by vehicle, aircraft, and industrial noise. It can also be caused by military or experimental sonar. Noise has health effects on people and animals. In people, it can cause high blood pressure, heart problems, sleep disturbances, and hearing problems. In animals, it can cause communication, reproductive, and navigation problems – they have difficulty finding their direction. Sonar has even caused whales to beach themselves because they respond to the sonar as if it were another whale.
- (6) Light pollution can be caused by advertising signs, stadium and city lighting, and other artificial lighting (like the light caused by night traffic). Artificial lighting has health effects on humans and animals. In people, it

can cause high blood pressure and affect sleeping and waking rhythms and immunity. It might be a factor in some cancers, such as breast cancer. In animals, it can affect sleeping and waking rhythms, navigation, and reproduction.

- (7) In addition, greenhouse gases have caused a warming effect on the earth's climate. The greenhouse gases are water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, and ozone. They are naturally-occurring gases in the atmosphere, but human activity has increased their concentration in the atmosphere. For example, the levels of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the atmosphere have risen due to the burning of fossil fuels. The effect is a rise in global temperatures. The higher temperatures cause the melting of glaciers, a rise in the water level of oceans, and the disruption of both land and marine life, including that of humans. Although carbon dioxide is necessary for plants to survive, it is also considered to be a kind of pollution because high levels of carbon dioxide have caused the oceans to become more acidic.
- (8) It is not possible for anyone to predict the exact timing and effects of global pollution and global climate change brought about by pollution. There is general agreement by scientists that the global climate will continue to change, that the intensity of weather effects will continue to increase, and that some species of animals will become extinct. There is also general agreement, or consensus, that humans need to take steps to reduce emissions of waste products and greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, make adaptations to the changes that are occurring, and figure out ways of reversing the trends of pollution and global warming.

**On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the eleven given below.** **(1 × 10 = 10)**

- (i) Examples of pollution are \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(a) smokestacks (b) contaminated drinking water  
(c) pesticides in the food (d) all of these
- (ii) According to the given passage, there are \_\_\_\_\_ types of pollution.  
(a) three (b) five (c) six (d) seven
- (iii) Air pollution makes \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(a) air harmful to breathe (b) people fall ill  
(c) factories to work (d) children obese
- (iv) A factor in some cancers, such as breast cancer is \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(a) noise pollution (b) greenhouse gases (c) light pollution (d) soil pollution
- (v) Burning of fossil fuels gave rise to \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(a) high levels of CO<sub>2</sub> (b) radioactive materials (c) sonar (d) polluted soil
- (vi) \_\_\_\_\_ can cause certain cancers and deadly diseases.  
(a) Car exhaust (b) Radioactive pollutants  
(c) Smoke stacks (d) None of these
- (vii) Air pollution can be caused by \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(a) particles (b) liquids (c) gases (d) all of these
- (viii) Pick out the options that are the primary pollutants of air pollution.  
1. Factory smoke    2. Pesticides    3. Car exhaust    4. City lights  
(a) Both 1 and 3    (b) Only 2    (c) Both 3 and 4    (d) Only 4
- (ix) What problems can noise pollution cause in human beings?  
(a) High blood pressure and heart problems (b) Communication problem  
(c) Navigation problems (d) Both (a) and (c)
- (x) According to the passage greenhouse gases include \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(a) oxygen and hydrogen (b) methane and carbon dioxide  
(c) Ozone and water vapour (d) both (b) and (c)

- (xi) Which of the following pollution can cause effects to the habitation of whales?
- |                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| (a) Air pollution   | (b) Radioactive pollution |
| (c) Light pollution | (d) Noise pollution       |

**2. Read the passage given below.**

- (1) From the moment a baby first opens its eyes, it is learning. Sight and sensation spark off a learning process which will determine in large measure, the sort of person it will become. Language stands head and shoulders over all other tools as an instrument of learning. It is the language that gives man his lead in intelligence over all the other creatures. No other creature can assemble a list of ideas, consider them, draw conclusions and then explain his reasoning. Man can do all this because he possesses language. And if thought depends on language, the quality of an individual's thought will depend on that person's language—rudimentary or sophisticated, precise or approximate, stereotyped or original.
- (2) Very young babies are soothed by human voice uttering comforting words close to them. This essentially-emotional response provides early evidence that feeling is an important component of language learning. Children learn to use language in interaction with other human beings and this learning proceeds best against a background of affectionate feedback from the person who is closest to them. This is seen to perfection in the interaction between parent and a baby: eyes locked together, the adult almost physically drawing 'verbal' response from the baby, both engulfed by that unique experience of intimate and joyful 'connecting', which sets the pattern of the relationship between two people.
- (3) Thus, long before they can speak, children are involved in a two-way process of communication, which is steadily building a foundation on which their later use of language will be based. Constantly surrounded by language, they are unconsciously building structures in their minds into which their speech and reading will later fit grammatical constructions, tense sequences and so on. The forms of these structures will depend on the amount and complexity of speech they hear. Fortunate are those children who listen to articulate adults, expressing ideas and defending opinions. They will know, long before they can contribute themselves and understand, that relationships are forged through this process of speaking and listening; that warmth and humour have a place in the process, as have all other human emotions.
- (4) Using books is the most important means of ensuring a child's adequate language development. None of us can endlessly initiate and maintain speech with very small children; we run out of ideas or just get plain sick of it. Their lives are confined to a limited circle and they do not have enough experience to provide raw material for constant verbal interaction.
- (5) Parents and children who share books share the same frame of reference. Incidents in everyday life constantly remind one or the other of a situation, a character, an action, from a jointly enjoyed book, with all the generation of warmth and well-being that is attendant upon such sharing. All too often, there is a breakdown of communication between parents and children when the problems of adolescence arise. In most cases, this is most acute when the give-and-take of shared opinions and ideas have not been constantly practised throughout childhood. Books can play a major role in the establishment of this verbal give-and-take because they are rooted in language.
- (6) Young children's understanding greatly outruns their capacity for expression as their speech strains to encompass their awareness, to represent reality as they see it. Shades of meaning which may be quite unavailable to the child of limited verbal experience are startlingly talked to toddler. All the wonderful modifying words—later, nearly, tomorrow, almost, wait, half, lend, etc. begin to steer the child away from the simple extremes of "Yes" and "No" towards the adult word of compromise from the child's black and white world to the subtle shades and tints of the real world. The range of imaginative experience opened up by books expands the inevitably limited horizons of children's surroundings and allows them to make joyful, intrigued, awestruck acquaintance with countless people, animals, objects and ideas in their first years of life.
- (7) Books also open children to new points of view, besides their own as they unconsciously put themselves into other people's places—'if that could happen to him, it could happen to me'. This imaginative self-awareness brings apprehensions and fears as well as heightened hopes and joys.

- (8) In books, children can experience language which is subtle, resourceful, exhilarating and harmonious; languages that provide the human ear (and understanding) with a pointed and precise pleasure, the searing illuminating impact of good and true words.

**On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the eleven that follow.**

**(1 × 10 = 10)**

- (i) According to the passage, what does a baby start doing just after opening its eyes?  
(a) Reading (b) Speaking (c) Learning (d) Laughing
- (ii) What are the things that spark off the learning process of a child?  
(a) See and hear (b) Listen and speak  
(c) Sight and sensation (d) Analysing other people's actions
- (iii) What makes a man superior over all the other creatures?  
(a) Their way of observing things (b) Their language  
(c) Their body-language (d) Their skills
- (iv) What is an important component of language learning?  
(a) Environment (b) Education (c) Feeling (d) Books of literature
- (v) What are the most important means of ensuring a child's adequate language development?  
(a) Maintaining speech  
(b) Providing raw material for constant verbal interaction  
(c) Two-way process of communication  
(d) Using books
- (vi) The parents can't rely only on constant verbal interactions because  
(a) they will run out of ideas and get sick of it.  
(b) that will become an obstacle for them in maintaining social relations  
(c) their warmth and love will get effected  
(d) they will go into depression
- (vii) Why does a book play a major role in the establishment of verbal given and take?  
(a) Because they can create an imaginary world  
(b) Because they help us learn grammar  
(c) Because they deal with variety of topics  
(d) Because they are rooted in language
- (viii) What brings apprehensions and fears as well as heightened hopes and joys in children?  
(a) Encompassing awareness into reality  
(b) Awestruck acquaintance with countless people  
(c) Imaginative self-awareness that is acquired by reading books  
(d) Problems of adolescence
- (ix) What are the advantages of books mentioned in the above passage?  
(a) It creates self awareness in children.  
(b) It enables children to see things from other's point of view.  
(c) Expose children to a wide range of vocabulary.  
(d) All of these
- (x) Find out the word from paragraph-3 which means the same as 'eloquent'.  
(a) Communication (b) Complexity (c) Articulate (d) Forged
- (xi) The correct antonym of the word 'engulfed' is \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) underwhelm (b) overflow (c) immerse (d) plunge

LITERATURE (20 Marks)

3. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY TWO of the three given by answering the questions that follow. (4 + 4 = 8)

A. Then, from one thing to another, M.Hamel went on to talk of the French language saying that it was the most beautiful language in the world the clearest, the most logical; that we must guard it among us and never forget it, because when people are enslaved, as long as they hold fast to their language it is as if they had the key to that prison.

- (i) Why did M.Hamel call the French language the most beautiful?  
(a) Because he and other villagers were from France  
(b) Because it was the most easy language  
(c) Because it was the clearest and the most logical  
(d) Because it was his national language
- (ii) According to M.Hamel, what key do the people have to the prison when they are enslaved?  
(a) Their behaviour (b) Their power and strength  
(c) Their unity (d) Their mother tongue
- (iii) Who was M.Hamel?  
(a) A school principal (b) A clerk (c) A language teacher (d) An agent
- (iv) Who is the author of this chapter?  
(a) Vikram seth (b) Alphonse Daudet (c) Louis Fisher (d) Amitav Ghosh

B. She is the wife of Mukesh's elder brother. Not much older in years, she has begun to command respect as the bahu, the daughter-in-law of the house, already in charge of three men-her husband, Mukesh and their father. When the older man enters, she gently withdraws behind the broken wall brings her veil closer to her face. As custom demands, daughters-in-law must veil their faces before male elders. In this case the elder is an impoverished bangle maker. Despite long years of hard labour, first as a tailor then a bangle maker, he has failed to renovate a house, send his two sons to school. All he has managed to do is teach them what he knows - The art of making bangles.

- (i) What kind of custom prevails in the family of Mukesh?  
(a) Children should say 'Good morning!' to the elders.  
(b) Elders should be served first.  
(c) Youngers should not speak in front of the elders members of the family.  
(d) Daughters-in-law must veil their faces before male elders.
- (ii) What was the profession of Mukesh's father before he became a bangle-maker?  
(a) Driver (b) Plumber (c) Tailor (d) Merchant
- (iii) "He has failed to renovate a house ..." . 'He' refers to  
(a) The author (b) Mukesh (c) Mukesh's father (d) Saheb
- (iv) What is the name of the chapter from which the above extract has been taken?  
(a) The Enemy (b) The Last Lesson (c) The Lost Spring (d) Deep Water

C. "Evans the Break" as the prison officers called him. Thrice he'd escaped from prison, and but for the recent wave of unrest in the maximum-security establishments up north, he wouldn't now be gracing the Governor's premises in Oxford! And the Governor was going to make absolutely certain that he wouldn't be disgracing them. Not that Evans was a real burden; just a persistent, nagging presence. He'd be all right in oxford, though : the Governor would see to that would see to it personally.

- (i) Who has escaped from the prison?  
(a) Mr. Jackson (b) Stephens (c) Evans (d) McLeery

- (ii) What was Evans called by the prison officers?  
 (a) A real burden (b) Evans the break (c) The breaker Evan (d) Both 'a' and 'b'
- (iii) Who is the author of this chapter?  
 (a) Jack Finney (b) Kalki (c) Susan Hill (d) Colin Dexter
- (iv) How many times did Evans escape from the prison?  
 (a) Five times (b) Three times (c) Six times (d) Two times

4. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE of the two given by answering the questions that follow. (1 × 4 = 4)

A. Old

Familiar ache, my childhood's fear,  
 but all I said was, see you soon,  
 Amma,  
 all I did was smile and smile and  
 smile... ..

- (i) What does the phrase, 'familiar ache' refer to?  
 (a) The pain that her mother was growing old  
 (b) The fear of separation from her mother.  
 (c) Both (a) and (b)  
 (d) Only (a)
- (ii) Why does the poet smile and smile?  
 (a) To make her mother happy (b) To hide her happiness  
 (c) To hide her old age (d) To hide her fear
- (iii) The expression 'Childhood fear' refers to the fear of  
 (a) exams (b) losing toys  
 (c) separation from mother (d) taking medicines
- (iv) What did the poet say to her mother while separating from her?  
 (a) See you soon (b) Miss you soon (c) Meet you soon (d) Call you soon

OR

B. Surely, Shakespeare is wicked, the map a bad example,  
 With ships and sun and love tempting them to steal –  
 For lives that slyly turn in their cramped holes  
 From fog to endless night?

- (i) 'Them' in the second line refers to  
 (a) Shakespeare and his contemporaries (b) The poor and emaciated children of the slum  
 (c) the poet and his friends (d) all the people living in poverty
- (ii) Pick the option that describe the things that tempted the children of the slum.  
 1. They were tempted by all the beautiful things of the world.  
 2. They were tempted by the photograph of Shakespeare.  
 3. They were tempted by the luxuries and the lifestyle the rich people enjoy.  
 4. They were tempted by the big houses built in their neighbourhood.  
 (a) 1 and 4 (b) 2 and 3 (c) 2 and 4 (d) 1 and 3
- (iii) Pick out the option that is NOT TRUE about the living style of the children described in the poem.  
 1. They dwell in beautiful houses all decorated with flowers and carpets.  
 2. They live amidst dry surroundings in cramped houses.  
 3. Their houses are dark and unpleasant.  
 4. They live in houses filled with light and have beautiful gardens.  
 (a) Only 1 (b) Both 2 and 3 (c) Only 4 (d) Both 1 and 4

- (iv) Name the poem from which the above stanza has been taken.
- (a) A Thing of Beauty (b) An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum  
(c) My Mother at Sixty-six (d) Keeping Quiet

5. Attempt ANY EIGHT questions of following from the ten given below. (1 × 8 = 8)

- (i) What was the proposal made by the landlords?  
(a) It was of 50% share. (b) It was of 25% share.  
(c) It was of 80% share. (d) It was of 30% share.
- (ii) What does the poet want each one of us to practice?  
(a) To practice speaking fluently (b) To practice expressing our ideas clearly  
(c) To practice silence (d) To practice speaking out mother-tongue
- (iii) Where does Roger Skunk's mother hit the wizard?  
(a) On his checks (b) On his back (c) On his forehead (d) On his head
- (iv) Who occupied the last benches of the class?  
(a) M. Hamel (b) Franz  
(c) the prussian soldiers (d) The old people of the village
- (v) How much Saheb used to get in garbage sometimes?  
(a) A silver coin (b) A ten rupee note  
(c) Some dumped toys (d) Some old chappals or shoes
- (vi) Where does the crofter used to work?  
(a) At church (b) At a mill  
(c) At Ramjõ Ironworks (d) In a forest as a woodcutter
- (vii) Which figure of speech has been used by the poet in the phrase "Like that of a corpse"?  
(a) Simile (b) Metaphor (c) Pun (d) Synecdoche
- (viii) Why do the servants leave Sadao and Hana?  
(a) They do not agree with Dr. Sadao and Hana's decision.  
(b) They like Hana but not Sadao.  
(c) They were afraid of the General.  
(d) They were not satisfied with their pay.
- (ix) Which of the following techniques is used for writing a story within a story as used in "Should Wizard Hit Mommy"?  
(a) *Medias res* (b) Quibble (c) Hypodiegesis (d) Deus ex machina
- (x) Which poetic device has been used in the phrase 'Mighty dead'?  
(a) Metaphor (b) Litotes (c) Hyperbole (d) Oxymoron

## PART - B (40 Marks)

### WRITING (16 Marks)

6. Attempt ANY ONE of the following : (1 × 3 = 3)

A. You are Harshal/Harshita of 15, Kurla, Mumbai. You want to well your house as you are shifting to another city for work. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more that 50 words to be published in the Mumbai Times under the classified columns.

OR

B. As Teacher Co-ordinator of the Quiz Club of AMM School, Pune, draft a notice in not more than 50 words informing students of the inter-class quiz contest asking them to register their names with the Secretary of the Club within a week.

7. **Attempt ANY ONE of the following :** (1 × 3 = 3)  
A. As secretary of the literary club of St. Mary school, Kolkata, draft a formal invitation in not more than 50 words for the inauguration of the club in your school.

**OR**

- B. You have the honour of being invited as the judge at a talent hunt competition organised by St. Martins School, Delhi. However, due to prior commitments, you will not be attending the same. Draft a suitable reply in 50 words.

8. **Attempt ANY ONE of the following :** (1 × 5 = 5)

- A. You are the newly appointed Tourism Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir. Write a letter to the Tourism Minister on how you propose to bring more tourists to the state. (120-150 words)

**OR**

- B. Write a letter to your friend and congratulate him/her on his/her success in class 12 board exam.

9. **Attempt ANY ONE of the following :** (1 × 5 = 5)

- A. Your school started cleanliness drive in the neighbourhood. As a student representative of your school's Eco Club, write a report in 150-200 words giving details of the programme. You are Mahua of S.G. International School, Delhi.

**OR**

- B. You are Satish/Saba, associated with an NGO, which works to uplift the socio-economic conditions of child labourers by counselling their parents and helping them to go to school. Write an article in about 120-150 words on the role of 'Literacy in eradicating the evil practice of child labour from society'.

#### LITERATURE (24 Marks)

10. **Attempt ANY FIVE out of the six questions given below, in 30-40 words each.** (2 × 5 = 10)

- (i) How do we know that ordinary people too contributed to the freedom movement ?
- (ii) What spreads the pall of despondence over our dark spirits? How is it removed?
- (iii) How do the words, 'denizens' and 'chivalric' add to our understanding of Aunt Jennifer's Tigers?
- (iv) What hospitality did the peddler receive from the crofter?
- (v) Who occupied the back benches in the class room on the day of the last lesson? Why?
- (vi) How did the incident at the YMCA pool affect Douglas?

11. **Attempt ANY TWO out of the three questions given below in 30-40 words each.** (2 × 2 = 4)

- (i) How did Sam's mail reach Charley?
- (ii) How does Jo want the story to end and why?
- (iii) What did Derry's mother think of Mr. Lamb?

12. **Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 120-150 words.** (1 × 5 = 5)

- A. What do you understand by the title 'Lost Spring'? Discuss.

**OR**

- B. Why did the ironmaster's invitation to the peddler to spend Christmas Eve with him make him think that he was going to fall into a trap?

13. **Attempt ANY ONE out of the following questions in 120-150 words** (1 × 5 = 5)

- A. How did Mr. Lamb try to give courage and confidence to Derry?

**OR**

- B. What precautions were taken by the prison authorities to ensure that the German exam was conducted smoothly and also under strict security?