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INDIAN SCHOOL SALALAH
FIRST TERM EXAMINATION – SEPTEMBER 2025



English Core (301)

Class: XII

Date: 18.9.25

Time: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions

- 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 following text.

12 marks

1. In this jet age, everyone is interested in having an easy life. Thanks to the advancement in science and technology, these days' life has become more easy and comfortable than earlier with a lot of domestic gadgets as well as instantaneous food recipes available in the market. This has resulted in making people develop a mindset of having everything immediately without waiting for even at the traffic signals!

2. A piano teacher described an interesting encounter she had with a young lady who came to inquire about music lessons. The young lady asked her, "How long will this course take? My father tells me that it is in fashion now to be able to play musical instruments and that I should learn one quickly. I want something that will be quick, fast and easy, like..." When the amused teacher explained that it would take a lifetime of meticulous practice to learn music, her face fell and, needless to say, she never came back.

3. The single most important factor that distinguishes those of us who succeed in any venture from those of us who don't is this 'instant-coffee' attitude. Most of us want results quickly. We want to reach the

top immediately and get worked up when things go wrong. Perseverance and patience are forgotten words. We get upset, frustrated and angry when a skill or activity requires us to put in a lot of effort and time. We get dejected and want to give it up.

4. Success, real success and happiness come to those who have a ‘bread-making’ attitude. Those who are willing to knead the dough, wait for hours for it to rise only to punch it down and knead some more, wait for another couple of hours for it to rise again, then bake it before it is ready to be eaten. Nothing is instantaneous. For every endeavour — whether in the area of career, academics, music, sports, relationships, physical fitness or even in spirituality — it is a long arduous journey.

5. The major problem with these ‘instant-coffee’ solutions is that they are invariable short-lived. If we stubbornly refuse to give up this search for quick solutions, all we do is end up on the wrong track. We never gain anything lasting from them. However, if we just pause to analyse what we are doing, we will realize how much time we are wasting searching for such magical solutions which simply do not exist. We actually save time when we stop this futile search and accept the proven methods of treading the straight and narrow path however difficult it may seem initially. (437 words)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

i. Complete the sentence by choosing an appropriate option. 1

According to the author, modern life can be compared to the jet age due to _____.

- A. everything being fast, easy and comfortable.
- B. availability of domestic gadgets.
- C. advancement in science and technology.
- D. instantaneous food recipes.

ii. Comment on the writer’s reference to the traffic signals in paragraph one, as a social problem for Indian society. 1

iii. The author gives a reference to an anecdote between a piano teacher and a young lady who wished to learn music. List two reasons why the deal fell through. 2

- 1. _____.
- 2. _____.

iv. The writer would not agree with the given statements based on paragraph three, EXCEPT 1

- A. Getting worked up will help you succeed in any venture.
- B. Perseverance and patience are nevertheless prized by some.
- C. Excessive effort and time make us unruffled.
- D. We give up a little too soon on ventures.

v. For every endeavour—whether in the area of career, academics, music, sports, relationships, physical fitness or even in spirituality—it is a long arduous journey 2

Based on your understanding of paragraph four, list one major reason in about 40 words why the author labels the journey of every endeavour in life ‘arduous.’

vi. Why is it fair to say that adopting a ‘bread-making’ attitude in life is a sure-shot recipe for real success and happiness and both go hand-in-hand? 2

vii. Complete the given sentence with an appropriate inference, with respect to the following: The writer quotes the example of the ‘instant-coffee’ attitude (Paragraph 3), in order to _____. 1

viii. Read the following options from (i) to (vi). 1

(i) Popular (ii) practical (iii) unfeasible (iv) naïve (v) viable (vi) empirical

Identify the option/options that describes/describe solutions as given in paragraph 5.

A. (ii), (v), (vi) B. (iv), (v), (vi) C. (ii), (iii), (iv) D. only (ii)

ix. Select the most suitable title for the above passage. 1

A. The ‘Instant- coffee’ Attitude B. The ‘Bread- making’ Attitude

C. The Magic of Quick Solutions D. The Mirage of Instant Results

Q2.Read the following text.

10 marks

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 I Gen 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.

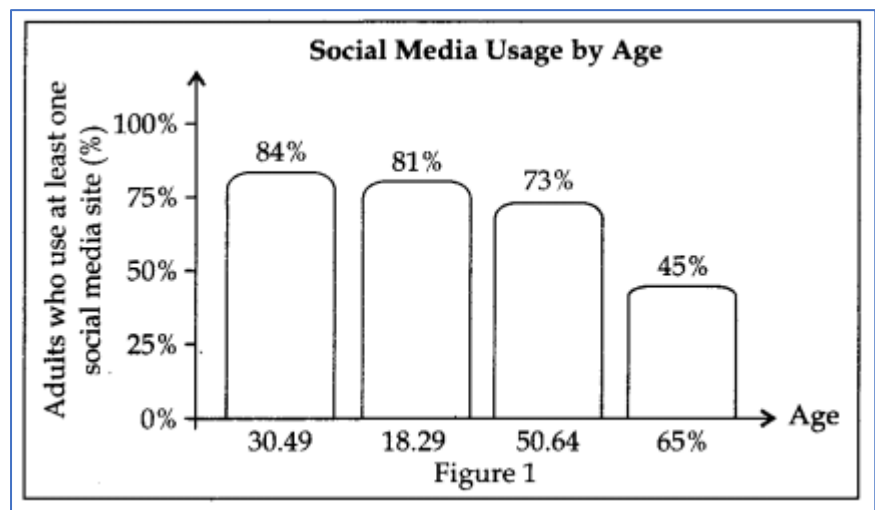
5. “In the mid-2010s, the average twelfth-grader reported spending approximately two hours a day texting, just over two hours a day on the internet, which – included gaming —and just under two hours a day on social media,” said Swaner. That’s a total of about six hours per day on just three digital media 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 given below: [10]

(i) Does the following statement agree with the information given in Paragraph 1? [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. [1]

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 statement based on the following statement: [1]

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. [2]

(v) Complete the given sentence by citing the most appropriate option: [1]

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: [1]

‘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: [1]

Teens today hardly read print media for _____.

(viii) Based on the reading of the text, state a point to challenge the given statement: [2]

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

SECTION B

CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 marks)

All the names and addresses used in the questions are fictitious. Resemblance, if any, is purely coincidental.

3. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words **1x4=4**

A. Draft a notice to invite the 12th graders of Alpha Tech school, Manipur to a career counselling session to be convened in the campus on the 6th of October '25. Universities abroad have been invited. This initiative by the prefectural body aims at introducing the learners to the less exposed streams that assure global placement. You are Steve/ Steffy, the school captain. Put your notice in a box.

OR

B. You are Atul/Atulya Sebastian, the Secretary, Residents’ Association, Sky Towers, Calicut. The Association is organizing a drive for sheltering the stray dogs of the locality. Draft a notice in about 50 words, for the notice board, addressing residents, informing them about this drive and urging them to donate money and to be part of the endeavour.

4. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words.

1x4=4

A. As the Cultural Secretary, Vignesh Kumar, of JKL School, Jamshedpur, draft an invitation for the Annual Music Festival, inviting Gajendra Hansda, an acclaimed local musician, to perform and judge the event. Provide the essential details in about 50 words.

OR

B. You are a student of Laxmi Public School, Model Town, Delhi. The School is holding its Annual Function at 5.30 p.m. on 2nd February, 2025. The Education Minister has consented to be the Chief Guest. Design an invitation card to be sent to the parents and other invitees.

5. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 120- 150 words.

5

A. India Public School, Mumbai, has given an advertisement in 'The Times of India' for recruitment of a Music Teacher.

SITUATION VACANT

INDIA PUBLIC SCHOOL invites applications for the post of experienced and qualified Music teacher with minimum 5 years' experience, skilled in both classical Music and playing instruments. Mention additional skills, interests and achievements. Contact Principal, India Public School.

Write a letter of application along with a detailed bio-data for the above post. Invent necessary details. You are Ankit/Amrita, Dilkush Road, Sakinaka Mumbai.

OR

B. You are a resident of Mahalakshmi Apartments, Patparganj, Delhi. Your residential area is flooded with roadside dwellers who are deprived of the basic civic amenities like light, public toilets and bathrooms. Write a letter to the Editor of 'The Hindustan Times', in 120-150 highlighting the problems of these roadside dwellers, and also the problems posed by them to the public. Give suggestions for improvement.

6. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 120- 150 words.

5

A. Digital communication tools have revolutionised the educational landscape. The introduction of online learning platforms, virtual classrooms, and interactive tools has made education more accessible and engaging. You are Nooran Sheikh. Write an article for the monthly magazine edition of The Progressive Educator and discuss the role of digital communication in education. Write the article using your own ideas as well as the cues given.

- ☐ Student engagement
- ☐ Accessibility of education
- ☐ Teachers and students' roles
- ☐ Learning outcomes

OR

B. Your school has recently organized a TEDx event. Renowned writer and dancer, Tishani Doshi, was one of the main speakers. She shared her experiences during “Student on Ice” programme which she took part in 2006. As Student Editor, write a report on the event in 120-150 words. You are Laxman/ Lata

SECTION C

LITERATURE (40 marks)

7. Read the following extracts and solve **ANY ONE** of the given two, (A) or (B). 1x6=6

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 tone of the poet in the above extract is.... 1

A. Urging B. Commanding C. Preaching D. Imposing

ii. The poetic device in the phrase ‘sudden strangeness’ is oxymoron. State whether the statement is TRUE/FALSE. 1

iii. List any two benefits of practicing keeping quiet for humans. 1

iv. When the poet says that ‘let's not speak in any language’ he means _____. (Complete in ONE word only) 1

v. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below. 1

1. The poet talks about the need of silence and quiet introspection

2. Practicing this, would create a feeling of mutual understanding among human beings.

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. (2) is the reason for (1) and can be inferred from the extract.

vi. The poet refers to the moment as ‘exotic’ because _____. (Complete the sentence with a valid explanation) 1

OR

(B) Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,

Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.

They do not fear the men beneath the tree;

They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.

(a) Which of the following options best describe the traits of the tigers as given in the extract? 1

(i) Fearful and faithful (ii) Ferocious and heroic

(iii) majestic and chivalric (iv) Timid and gentle

(b) What does the word 'A world of green' in the extract stand for? 1

(c) Select the word that WILL NOT complete the sentence appropriately. 1

Aunt Jennifer's tigers are symbols of

(i) fearlessness (ii) courage (iii) fearfulness (iv) strength

(d) State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE. 1

Aunt Jennifer's tigers represent the confidence of the tigers.

(e) What is Aunt Jennifer's turmoil? 1

(f) Complete the sentence appropriately. 1

Aunt Jennifer's tigers are not afraid of men because.....

8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two. 4

A. "I wondered, Your Excellency," Sadao murmured.

"It was certainly very careless of me," the General said. "But you understand it was not lack of patriotism or dereliction of duty." He looked anxiously at his doctor. "If the matter should come out you would understand that, wouldn't you?"

"Certainly, Your Excellency," Sadao said. He suddenly comprehended that the General was in the palm of his hand and that as a consequence he himself was perfectly safe. "I can swear to your loyalty, Excellency," he said to the old General, "and to your zeal against the enemy". (The Enemy)

i. Pick the option that best describes the word 'zeal' as used in the passage. 1

1. Vigor 2. Apathy 3. Integrity 4. Passion 5. Indifference 6. Cruelty

A. 2, 3 and 6 B. 1, 4 and 5 C. 2, 4 and 6 D. 1, 3 and 4

ii. The General did not send his private assassins to silently kill the enemy soldier. This suggests that he was not careless but preoccupied with the thoughts of his own _____. 1

iii. At the end of the conversation with the General, Sadao felt safe and _____. (Fill in the blank with suitable word or words) 1

iv. Write the reason briefly why Dr. Sadao suddenly felt that General was in the palm of his hand. 1

OR

B. In other words, the Tiger king is dead.

The manner of his death is a matter of extraordinary interest. It can be revealed only at the end of the tale. The most fantastic aspect of his demise was that as soon as he was born, astrologers had foretold that one day the Tiger King would actually have to die.

“The child will grow up to become the warrior of warriors, champion of champions. But...” they bit their lips and swallowed hard. When compelled to continue, the astrologers came out with it. “This is a secret which should not be revealed at all. And yet we are forced to speak out. The child born under this star will one day have to meet its death.”

(i) Complete the sentence appropriately. 1

The author’s purpose in using foreshadowing (warning of a future event), is to _____. 1

(ii) In the given extract, which emotion did the astrologers feel when they ‘bit their lips and swallowed hard?’ 1

A. humiliation

B. disbelief

C. grief

D. unease

(iii) What trait are the astrologers lauding when they say, ‘warrior of warriors, hero of heroes, champion of champions?’ 1

(iv) How is the line, “the most fantastic aspect of his demise,” is an example of contrast? 1

9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

(A) A girl from the countryside, she hadn’t gone through all the stages of worldly experience that generally, precede a position of importance and sophistication that she had found herself catapulted into. She never quite recovered from the terror she felt that day. That was the end of a brief and brilliant acting career — the legal adviser, who was also a member of the Story Department, had unwittingly brought about that sad end. While every other member of the Department wore a kind of uniform — khadi dhoti with a slightly oversized and clumsily tailored white khadi shirt — the legal adviser wore pants and a tie and sometimes a coat that looked like a coat of mail. Often, he looked alone and helpless ...

(Poets and Pancakes)

(i) Select the option that completes the given sentence appropriately. “Stages of worldly experience” in the given context would refer to . 1

(a) Good education to gain knowledge.

(b) Situations that require one to be street smart.

(c) Smaller, not so important roles in acting.

(d) Training in soft skills.

(ii) Select the suitable word from the extract to complete the following analogy. 1

Sealed: closed: propelled:

(iii) The author of Poets and pancake is..... 1

(iv) Based on the above extract, choose the statement that is TRUE for the legal adviser. 1

(a)He disliked the actress from the countryside.

(b)He acted after thinking through things carefully.

(c)He did not gel well with others in the Department.

(d)He was always dressed smartly.

(v) Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that the writer is sympathetic towards the professional fate of the actor. (Clue: a phrase) [1]

(vi). Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation, as per the extract 1

The writer uses the word “uniform” to refer to the outfits of the Department members because just like a uniform (Complete the statement)

OR

B.“Since you have been so nice to me all day long as if I was a captain, I want to be nice to you, in return, as if I was a real captain — for I do not want you to be embarrassed at this Christmas season by a thief; but you can give back the money to the old man on the roadside, who has the money pouch hanging on the window frame as a bait for poor wanderers.

The rattrap is a Christmas present from a rat who would have been caught in this world’s rattrap if he had not been raised to captain, because in that way he got power to clear himself.

“Written with friendship and high regard,

Captain von Stahle.”

i. Which of the following CANNOT be attributed to the peddler, according to the above extract? 1

a. indebtedness

b. reform

c. self-pity

d. self-awareness

ii. Why did the peddler gift a rattrap as a Christmas present? 1

a. It was all the peddler had that he could give away, and represented his turn to honesty.

b. It symbolized his successful escape from entrapment as he returned the stolen money.

c. It served as a reminder for Edla to be wary of the dangerous temptations of the world.

d. It was a practical and convenient present that the lady of the house could effectively use.

iii. The word 'frame' has been used to indicate a rigid structure that surrounds something such as a picture, door, or windowpane. There are other meanings of 'frame' too. 1

1. a person's body with reference to its size or build
2. a single complete picture in a series forming a cinema, television, or video film.
3. a triangular structure for positioning the red balls in snooker.
4. a thin solid object that seals a container or hole; a lid

Choose the option that DOES NOT list the meaning of 'frame'.

- a. Option (1) b. Option (2) c. Option (3) d. Option (4)

iv. The communication above includes 1

- a. promise (1)
- b. regret (2)
- c an apology (3)
- d. shame (4)

- a. only 4 b. only 1 c. 1 & 3 d. 2 & 4

v. The writer tones down the philosophical load inherent in 'The Rattrap' with the inclusion of 1

- a. ironical situations. b. satirical dialogues. c. classical references. d. humor and wit.

vi. What does the peddler's conception of the world as a rattrap, signify about him? 1

- a. The peddler had a lot of time on his hands, with nothing much to do.
- b. The peddler was a reflective man whose wisdom did not depend on his status.
- c. The peddler was a lonely vagrant trying to make sense of his fortunes.
- d. The peddler was a rattrap seller, and his work deeply inspired him.

10. Answer **any FIVE** of the following six questions in 40 50 words each:

5x2=10

i. 'Take nothing on its looks, take everything on evidence. There's no better rule.' Based on this statement, justify Gandhiji's arrival in Muzzafarpur, en route to Champaran.

ii Describe both the physical and emotional impacts that the misadventure at the YMCA pool had on the narrator.

iii. Aunt Jennifer's plight is best explained by her hands, they hold both her freedom and the instrument of her imprisonment. Estimate the given statement. (Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

iv. Describe the events of the last lesson that M. Hamel conducted with his class and the way he glorified one's mother tongue. (The Last Lesson)

v. If you were given an opportunity to share your perception of beauty, what would you say? Explain.

vi. The peddler and Edla have taught the society that our approach and mentality determines our action

and accordingly we are trapped or out of trap. Discuss (The Rattrap)

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. (2x2=4)

- i. How would a student's learning experience be enhanced in the 'Students on Ice' programme as compared to studying only in a classroom? Analyse any one point. (Journey to the End of the Earth)
- ii. **'It is not merely age but experience that counts.'** With reference to this, comment on how Derry found Mr. Lamb different from other adults he had encountered.
- iii. Why do you think Charley withdrew nearly all the money he had from the bank to buy old-style currency?

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 1x5=5

A. Identify an instance of hope or resilience in 'Lost Spring' and analyze how it reflects one of the story's themes.

OR

B. As the host of a talk show, introduce Rajkumar Shukla to the audience by stating his defining qualities.

You may begin your answer like this. Meet Rajkumar Shukla, the man who played a pivotal role in the Champaran Movement. He

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words 1x5=5

A. How does Susan Hill subtly portray a blend of pessimism and optimism in 'On the Face of It'?

OR

B. Imagine you are an ardent environmentalist who is involved in the Save the Tiger campaign. You have been asked to deliver a speech in a seminar related to your campaign and the need for the youth to be involved in such campaigns. Draft your speech. (With reference to 'Tiger King')
