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INDIAN SCHOOL SALALAH

FINAL EXAMINATION, FEBRUARY 2026 (AY 2025-26)



Class: XI

(SUBJECT: ENGLISH CORE- 301)

Date: 05.02.26

Time: 3 Hrs

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. ***This question paper has 15 questions. All questions are compulsory.***
2. ***This question paper contains three sections –***

Section A : Reading Skills

Section B : Grammar and Creative Writing Skills

Section C : Literature

3. ***Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.***
4. ***Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.***

SECTION-A: READING SKILLS (26 marks)

1. **Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow. (1x10=10)**

In an age when screens mediate much of our social life, the idea of a digital detox—intentionally reducing or eliminating the use of digital devices for a period—has gained traction. Proponents argue that stepping away from constant notifications and curated feeds restores attention, reduces anxiety and improves sleep. Critics, however, caution that a blanket prescription of “unplugging” overlooks the varied ways people use technology: for work, for caregiving, for creative collaboration. The effectiveness of a detox therefore depends on context and intention.

Research suggests that the benefits of reduced screen time are most pronounced when the break is purposeful. A weekend without social media may help someone who uses platforms primarily for passive scrolling; for a freelance journalist whose livelihood depends on online research, the same weekend could mean lost income and increased stress. Equally important is what replaces screen time. Replacing scrolling with a walk, a conversation, or a hobby tends to yield positive outcomes; replacing it with another form of passive consumption—television binges, for instance—may not.

A second consideration is sustainability. Short, dramatic detoxes can produce immediate relief but often fail to change underlying habits. Small, consistent adjustments—turning off non-essential notifications, scheduling device-free meals, or setting specific hours for email—are more likely to produce lasting improvements in attention and well-being. Finally, the social dimension matters: when families or peer groups adopt shared norms around device use, individuals find it easier to maintain boundaries.

In short, a digital detox can be beneficial, but its value lies in thoughtful application: tailoring the break to personal needs, replacing screen time with meaningful activities, and embedding changes in everyday routines so that the gains endure.

1. The primary claim of the passage is that a digital detox is:
 - A. always necessary for everyone.
 - B. effective only if it is purposeful and sustainable.
 - C. harmful to people who work online.
 - D. best achieved by complete disconnection for long periods.

2. According to the passage, replacing screen time with which of the following is *least* likely to be beneficial?
 - A. a walk
 - B. a hobby
 - C. television binges
 - D. a conversation

3. Complete the analogy based on the ideas in the passage:

Short, dramatic detoxes: immediate relief :: small, consistent adjustments: _____

- A. temporary distraction
 - B. lasting improvements in attention and well-being
 - C. increased stress
 - D. complete disconnection from technology
4. State True Or False

The passage suggests that shared norms around device use help because they make it easier for individuals to maintain boundaries.

5. Explain why a digital detox might be stressful for a freelance journalist.
6. The author means by saying the detox should be “tailored to personal needs”
.....
7. Give two examples of small, consistent adjustments recommended in the passage.
8. The tone of the passage is best described as:
 - A. prescriptive and dogmatic.
 - B. critical and dismissive.
 - C. balanced and advisory.
 - D. humorous and satirical.
9. Why does the author emphasize what replaces screen time?
10. **Assertion (A):** Short, dramatic digital detoxes often fail to produce lasting benefits.

Reason (R): They do not address underlying habits of device use.

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C. A is true, but R is false.
- D. A is false, but R is true

2. Read the passage and the data carefully, then answer the questions. (1x8=8)

A city school launched a recycling initiative to reduce waste and teach students environmental responsibility. Over a six-month pilot, the school collected and processed three categories of waste: paper, plastic and organic. The monthly collection (in kilograms) was as follows:

S.NO	Month	Paper (kg)	Plastic (kg)	Organic (kg)
1	January	120	80	200
2	February	140	90	220
3	March	160	110	240
4	April	150	130	260
5	May	170	150	280
6	June	180	160	300

The data show a steady increase in all categories, with organic waste consistently the largest share. Teachers attributed the rise to two factors: growing student participation and the introduction of composting workshops in March. The school diverted organic waste to a compost pit, paper to a

local recycling unit, and plastic to a collection drive for a municipal recycler. The initiative reduced the school's landfill contribution by approximately 35% by June and generated compost used in the school garden.

The project's success prompted plans to scale up: introducing segregated bins across the campus, student-led awareness campaigns, and partnerships with municipal recyclers for plastics. The administration noted that while paper and organic streams were easy to manage, plastic required more effort due to contamination and sorting needs. They recommended clearer labelling and regular monitoring to improve plastic recovery rates.

1. Which waste category had the highest monthly collection throughout the pilot?
 - A. paper
 - B. plastic
 - C. organic
 - D. none of the above
2. The composting workshops introduced in March most likely contributed to:
 - A. a decrease in organic waste.
 - B. an increase in organic waste collection.
 - C. a reduction in paper waste.
 - D. stopping plastic collection.
3. The total amount of paper collected over the six months was
4. By approximately,percentage the school reduced its landfill contribution by June.
5. Which of the following was identified as a challenge in managing plastic waste?
 - A. lack of student interest
 - B. contamination and sorting needs
 - C. absence of municipal recyclers
 - D. insufficient organic waste
6. Suggest two measures the school planned to improve plastic recovery rates.
7. How was the compost produced used?
8. State one reason given for the steady increase in waste collection.

3. Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow. (8 marks)

Well-being is more than the absence of disease; it is a multifaceted state shaped by physical, mental, emotional and social health. Closely tied to happiness and life satisfaction, it reflects how individuals feel about themselves and their lives.

Numerous factors enhance well-being: supportive friendships, a fulfilling career, adequate finances, regular exercise, nutritious food, sufficient sleep, engaging hobbies, healthy self-esteem and an optimistic outlook. These factors are interrelated—work, for instance, provides income as well as purpose, goals, social connections and a sense of belonging. Some elements can compensate for others: a strong marriage may offset limited friendships, and religious faith can help people accept physical illness.

Although money improves living conditions and social status, international studies indicate that the quality of personal relationships has the greatest impact on well-being; equating money with happiness can be harmful. Measuring population well-being is challenging because it is subjective and depends on individual perspectives. Nevertheless, tracking well-being helps governments design policies and identify trends—average income data, for example, inform poverty lines and social welfare decisions.

Promoting well-being requires both individual and policy actions: nurturing relationships, making time for social contact, seeking meaningful work, maintaining a healthy diet and regular physical activity, pursuing interests and community involvement, setting achievable goals, and cultivating optimism. Combined with informed public policy and social supports, these measures can improve life satisfaction and foster healthier, more resilient communities.

(a) On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and sub headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary- minimum four) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it. (5)

(b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. (3)

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

4. Do as directed: (ANY SEVEN) (1x7=7)

1. If she _____ (study) harder, she _____ (score) better marks. (Fill tense correctly)

2. By the time the teacher arrived, the students _____ (already/complete) the assignment. (Fill tense correctly)

3. into / the / walked / teacher / classroom / the / quietly / with / notes/the (Reorder correctly)

4. technology / transformed / communication / has / completely / modern / methods / of (Reorder correctly)

5. The committee will announce the results tomorrow. (Rewrite into passive voice)
6. She said, "I cannot attend the meeting today." (Rewrite into indirect speech)
7. Rajat is faster than any other boy in the class. (Use superlative degree)
8. The driver called me _____ I left my bag in the cab. (where/when/whose/which)

5. A)Ajanta Travels, Mumbai, is looking for two dynamic Marketing Managers. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words to be published in the newspaper under the classified column, specifying that candidates must be MBAs with a minimum of 5 years of experience in the travel industry.

(3)

OR

B)You are Harish/Harshita of 12, Seva Nagar, Pune. You want to sell your flat as you are shifting to another city for work. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words to be published in The Pune Times under the classified column.

6. A)The Eco Club of your school is holding a "*Plastic-Free Campus Drive*". Draft a poster encouraging students to reduce plastic use and join the campaign. (3)

OR

B)Draft a poster in about 50 words on financial literacy for teenagers. Stress the value of saving, budgeting, and avoiding debt.

7. A)You are Ramesh/Farah. Write a speech in 120-150 words to be delivered in the morning assembly on the topic "**Climate Change and the Role of Youth in Building a Sustainable Future.**" Use the given verbal inputs along with your own ideas to write the speech. (5)

- Rising global temperatures and extreme weather events
- Importance of eco-friendly habits (reduce, reuse, recycle)
- Youth activism and global movements
- Innovation in renewable energy and green technology
- Responsibility of students as future leaders

OR

B)You are the Head Girl/Head Boy of your school. You have secured 95% marks in English. Your English Teacher has persuaded you to share the secret of your success with your schoolmates. Write a speech in 120-150 words to be delivered in the morning assembly on the topic "**English is a scoring subject.**"

8. A) Write a debate in 120-150 words expressing your own views either for or against the motion 'Failure Is More Important Than Success in Shaping Character.' You are Abhijit/ Archana of Class XI. (5)

OR

B) Write a debate in 120-150 words expressing your own views either for or against the motion, "Social Media Platforms Should Regulate Content More Strictly."

SECTION C: LITERATURE (31 MARKS)

9. Read the given extracts to attempt the questions with reference to the context. (3x1=3)

Attempt EITHER ONE of the two extracts given.

- 9.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.

Q. (a) What problem does the father express in these lines?

- A. He feels his son is too young to understand him.
- B. He regrets not giving his son enough freedom.
- C. He cannot understand his son despite living together.
- D. He is worried about his son's academic performance.

Q. (b) How does the poet highlight the theme of generation gap?

Q. (c) Why does the father recall the son's childhood?

OR

- 9.B *And who art thou? said I to the soft-falling shower,*

Which, strange to tell, gave me an answer,

As here translated:

I am the Poem of Earth, said the voice of the rain,

Eternal I rise impalpable out of the land and the bottomless sea.

Q. (a) How is the rain personified in this extract?

- A. As a silent observer of nature
- B. As a “Poem of Earth” with a human voice
- C. As a destructive force of nature
- D. As a symbol of death and decay

Q. (b) What does the phrase “Poem of Earth” suggest?

Q. (c) How does the rain describe its origin?

Q.10 Answer ANY ONE of the extracts given below and attempt the questions that follow:
(3x1=3)

10. A. They remain the richest royal collection ever found and have become part of the pharaoh’s legend. Stunning artefacts in gold, their eternal brilliance meant to guarantee resurrection, caused a sensation at the time of the discovery — and still get the most attention. But Tut was also buried with everyday things he’d want in the afterlife: board games, a bronze razor, linen undergarments, cases of food and wine.

Q (a). What were the things found buried with Tut?

Q (b). What belief did ancient Egyptians hold?

Q (c). Choose the antonym of *eternal* (used in “eternal brilliance”):

- (A) Temporary (B) Bright (C) Immortal (D) Precious

OR

10. B. All over the verandah and in her room right up to where she lay dead and stiff wrapped in the red shroud, thousands of sparrows sat scattered on the floor. There was no chirruping. We felt sorry for the birds and my mother fetched some bread for them. She broke it into little crumbs, the way my grandmother used to, and threw it to them. The sparrows took no notice of the bread.

Q (a). How did the sparrows react after the grandmother’s death?

Q (b). Identify the literary device used in the description: “sparrows sat scattered.”

Q (c). Which of the following rightly explains the phrase ‘took no notice of’ used in the extract?

- A. Did not write notice
- B. Did not give any direction
- C. Did not pay any attention.
- D. Did not worry.

**Q.11. Answer ANY ONE of the extracts given below and attempt the questions that follow:
[4]**

11.A. Every family has a crazy streak in it somewhere, and my cousin Mourad was considered the natural descendant of the crazy streak in our tribe. Before him was our uncle Khosrove, an enormous man with a powerful head of black hair and the largest moustache in the San Joaquin Valley, a man so furious in temper, so irritable, so impatient that he stopped anyone from talking by roaring. It is no harm; pay no attention to it.

Q.(a). Who was considered the natural descendant of the crazy streak in the tribe?

Q.(b). Identify the literary device in the phrase “*crazy streak in our tribe.*”

- (A) Metaphor (B) Simile (C) Personification (D) Hyperbole

Q.(c) What does Uncle Khosrove’s repeated roaring of “It is no harm; pay no attention to it” reveal about his personality traits?

Q.(d). Complete the analogy choosing the word from the given extract:

Mourad : Crazy streak :: Khosrove :

OR

11.B. I was home for a few days and it struck me immediately that something or other about the rooms had changed. I missed various things. My mother was surprised I should have noticed so quickly. Then she told me about Mrs. Dorling. I had never heard of her but apparently, she was an old acquaintance of my mother, whom she hadn’t seen for years. She had suddenly turned up and renewed their contact. Since then, she had come regularly.

Q.(a) What did the narrator notice at her home?

Q.(b) Why was the author’s mother surprised?

Q.(c) Why does the author’s mother’s renewed contact with Mrs. Dorling become significant in the story?

Q.(d) Which of the following is true about Mrs. Dorling?

- (i) she was a new friend of mother.
 - (ii) she was an old acquaintance of mother.
 - (iii) mother had not met her for many years.
 - (iv) she had always remained in contact with mother.
 - (v) recently she had started coming to mother regularly.
- (A) 1,2,3 (B) 2,3,5 (C) 1,4,5 (D) 1,3,5

12. Answer ANY TWO of the following questions in about 40-50 words each: (2x3=6)

- (a) What role did the crew's unity play in their survival in the story, **We're Not Afraid to Die... if We Can All Be Together**?"
- (b) How is the tree transformed during the bird's visit? (**The Laburnum Top**)
- (c) The poet has discussed two stages of life ---- childhood and adulthood. How do we differentiate one from other? (**Childhood**)
- (d) "I hadn't made much progress with my self-help programme on positive thinking." Why does the narrator feel so? (**Silk Road**)

13. Answer either ONE of the following questions in about 40-50 words: (1x3=3)

- (a) What was Mrs. Fitzgerald's advice to Mrs. Pearson after she had put back the family members in their proper place? (**Mother's Day**)
- (b) Susan's mother was wise in experience. What hints did she give of her wisdom? (**Birth**)

14. Answer either ONE of the following questions in about 120 - 150 words: (6)

A. Describe Professor's bitter experience in the Azad Maidan in the chapter, **The Adventure**. Why did he convey his regrets to the organizers of the Panipat seminar?

OR

B. How does the chapter **Silk Road** highlight the theme of adventure and human endurance? Discuss with reference to the author's experiences of altitude sickness, rough terrain, and determination to continue the pilgrimage.

15. Answer either ONE of the following questions in about 120 - 150 words: (6)

A. Describe the struggle of Dr. Andrew Manson in saving both the mother and the child. How does the story, **Birth** highlight the doctor's dedication, presence of mind, and professional responsibility?

OR

B. Analyze the character of the king in **The Tale of Melon City**. How do his notions of justice and his insistence on following tradition ultimately lead to an unusual outcome?
