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INDIAN SCHOOL SALALAH

FINAL EXAMINATION, FEBRUARY 2026 (AY 2025-26)



Class: XI 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. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
4. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
5. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A : READING SKILLS (26 marks)

Q-1	Read the text carefully and answer the questions: 1. Very often, we do not take the first step towards a good cause because we say to ourselves, "The task is so big. What can I do alone?" So nothing gets done. There is much talk about environmental protection, air pollution and saving our forests. Do we really care? If we do, here are a few things we can do to make our surroundings more pleasant. 2. It is good to adopt a two-uses-attitude! By putting an article to a second use, we are giving it a longer lease of life and using up less raw material from nature. One of the worst things we do is the abuse of paper. The clean sides of envelopes can be used to write small notes, lists and reminders around the house. The more paper we use, the more trees will have to	[10]

be cut down. For the same reason, we should avoid the use of paper napkins or paper plates. Cloth napkins are just as good, for they can be washed and used over and over again.

3. The one area which needs the most urgent attention is effective garbage disposal. People who are conscious about it follow rules and laws strictly. As a result, their neighbourhoods are clean and beautiful. A lot of people don't care about the environment because they don't understand the adverse effect that society has on it. It is important to convince people to care about the environment. The first step would be to convince people to change by providing simple alternative solutions and ways of doing things. The Internet is a powerful tool and a group of like-minded people can be formed on social media. People can share environmental stories and issues as well as pool in solutions and alternatives to educate one another. With the current state that our planet is in, it is imperative that people actively care about the environment and most importantly, act now.
4. Similarly, each one of us can contribute to a cleaner environment. All kitchen waste should be collected separately. Those who have green fingers can turn this into valuable manure. Dig a pit and put the kitchen waste into it. When the pit is a little over half full, cover it up with mud. Let nature do the rest. Within three or six months, we will have a good garden manure. It can also be done as a community project by digging a large pit in the colony. Do take help of all the members, for nothing succeeds like co-operation.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

- 1) Why don't we take the first step towards a good cause?
 - a) Because we lack resources
 - b) Because we think the task is too big to be done alone
 - c) Because we do not care about society
 - d) Because there are no laws
- 2) What is meant by a "two-uses-attitude"?
 - a) Using two things at the same time
 - b) Throwing away used items
 - c) Putting an article to a second use
 - d) Buying eco-friendly products
- 3) What can we do to avoid the abuse of paper?
- 4) What is the result of effective garbage disposal?

	<p>a) Increase in pollution</p> <p>b) Clean and beautiful neighbourhoods</p> <p>c) Waste of resources</p> <p>d) Shortage of raw materials</p> <p>5) How can the Internet be a powerful tool in spreading environmental awareness?</p> <p>a) By providing entertainment</p> <p>b) By forming groups to share environmental issues and solutions</p> <p>c) By replacing community work</p> <p>d) By encouraging online shopping</p> <p>6) How can the making of garden manure be done as a community project?</p> <p>7) How long does it take to make good garden manure?</p> <p>8) Select a suitable word from the passage which means — something in a bad and undesirable way. (Para 2)</p> <p>9) Pick out the word from the passage which means completely necessary. (Para 3)</p> <p>10) Select a suitable word from the passage which means — being concerned or interested.</p>	
<p>Q-2</p>	<p>Read the text carefully and answer the questions:</p> <p>1. People, generally are emotionally attached to their place of birth. But millions of people leave their places of birth and residence. There could be variety of reasons. These reasons can be put into two broad categories: (i) push factor, these cause people to leave their place of residence or origin; and (ii) pull factors, which attract the people from different places. In India people migrate from rural to urban areas mainly due to poverty, high population pressure on the land, lack of basic infrastructural facilities like health care, education, etc. Apart from these factors, natural disasters such as, flood, drought, cyclonic storms, earthquake, tsunami, wars and local conflicts also give extra push to migrate. On the other hand, there are pull factors which attract people from rural areas to cities. The most important pull factor for majority of the rural migrants to urban areas is the better opportunities, availability of regular work and relatively higher wages. Better opportunities for education, better health facilities and sources of entertainment, etc., are also quite important pull factors.</p> <p>2. The reasons for migration for males and females separately in the figure below.</p>	<p>[8]</p>

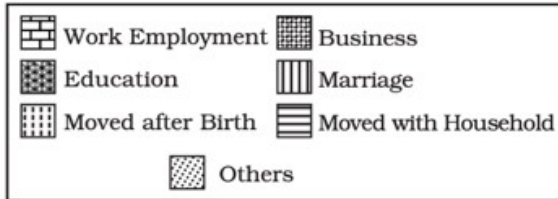
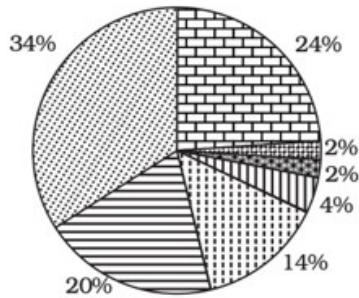


Fig. 2.a : Reasons for Male Migration by Last Residence, India, 2011

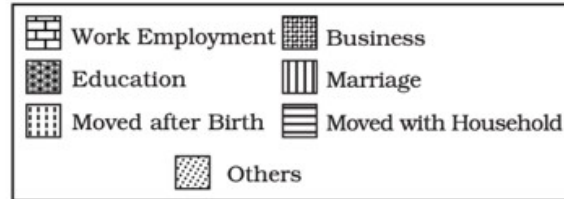
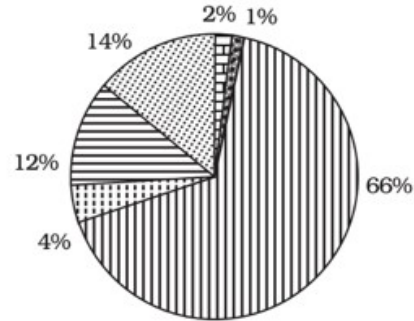


Fig. 2.b : Reasons for Female Migration by last Residence India, 2011

On the basis of the figures, it can be seen that the reasons for the migration of males and females are different. For example, work and employment have remained the main cause for male migration (26 percent) while it is only 2.3 percent for the females. Contrary to this, about 67 percent of females move out from their parental houses following their marriage. This is the most important cause in the rural areas of India except in Meghalaya where the reverse is the case. This is because Meghalaya is a female-dominated state. The Khasi and Jaintia tribes do not follow the patriarchal system of society but they follow the matrilineal system of society. In comparison to these marriage migrations of the male, is only 4 percent in the country.

3. Migration is a response to the uneven distribution of opportunities over space. People tend to move from place of low opportunity and low safety to the place of higher opportunity and better safety. This, in turn, creates both benefits and problems for the areas, people migrate from and migrate to. Consequences can be observed in economic, social, cultural, political and demographic terms.

Questions: -

- (a) Infer one reason for the following, based on information in paragraph 1.
People in India mainly move from rural to urban areas.
- (b) Select the appropriate option to fill in the blanks.
In Paragraph 2, we can infer that male migration is still primarily driven by _____, whereas after _____, females leave their parent's homes.

(1) employment (2) business, (3) education (4) marriage

- a. 1 and 4
- b. 2 and 3
- c. 4 and 1
- d. 1 and 3

(c) Complete the following analogy correctly with a word/ phrase from paragraph 1:

Pull factor: Better wages :: Push factor: _____

(Clue: Just like better wages is the pull factor of migration, similarly _____ is the push factor of migration)

- a. Better opportunities
- b. Natural disaster
- c. Regular work
- d. Higher education

(d) Select the correct option to complete the following sentence:

People frequently relocate _____,

- a. from developed and better safety areas to less developed and low safety areas.
- b. from greater opportunity and better safety areas to poor opportunity and low safety areas.
- c. from sophisticated and greater opportunity areas to less advanced and lower opportunity areas.
- d. from poor opportunity and low safety areas to greater opportunity and better safety areas.

(e) Based on the passage, choose the option that correctly demonstrates the reasons for male migration:

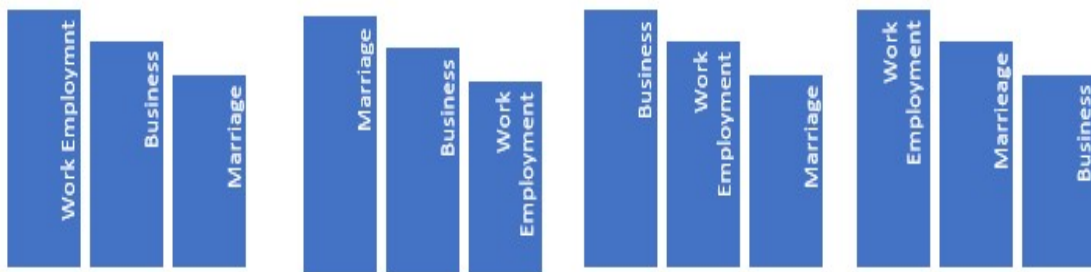


Image 1

Image 2

Image 3

Image 4

- a. Image 1
- b. Image 3
- c. Image 4

	<p>d. Image 2</p> <p>(f) Fill in the blank by selecting the correct option. The _____ across space causes migration.</p> <p>a. equal distribution of opportunities b. uneven distribution of payment c. unequal distribution of opportunities d. even distribution of land</p> <p>(g) Substitute the word ‘important’ with ONE WORD similar in meaning, in the following, sentence from paragraph 1: Better opportunities for education, better health facilities and sources of entertainment, etc., are also quite important pull factors.</p> <p>(h) Mention the two main categories of causes of migration.</p>	
<p>Q- 3</p>	<p>Read the following passage carefully:</p> <p>The most alarming of man’s assaults upon the environment is the contamination of air, earth, rivers, and sea with lethal materials. This pollution is for the most part irrevocable; the chain of evil it initiates is for the most part irreversible. In this contamination of the environment, chemicals are the sinister partners of radiation in changing the very nature of the world; radiation released through nuclear explosions into the air, comes to the earth in rain, lodges into the soil, enters the grass or corn, or wheat is grown there and reaches the bones of a human being, there to remain until his death. Similarly, chemicals sprayed on crops lie long in the soil, entering living organisms, passing from one to another in a chain of poisoning and death. Or they pass by underground streams until they emerge and combine into new forms that kill vegetation, sicken cattle, and harm those who drink from once pure wells.</p> <p>Although environmental pollution can be caused by natural events such as forest fires and active volcanoes, use of the word pollution generally implies that the contaminants have an anthropogenic source-that is, a source created by human activities. Pollution has accompanied humankind ever since groups of people first congregated and remained for a long time in any one place. Indeed, ancient human settlements are frequently recognized by their wastes-shell mounds and rubble heaps, for instance. Pollution was not a serious problem as long as there was enough space available for each individual or group. However, with the establishment of permanent settlements by great numbers of people, pollution became a problem, and it has remained one ever since. Cities of ancient times were often noxious places, fouled by human wastes and debris. Beginning about 1000 CE, the use of coal for fuel caused considerable air pollution, and the conversion of coal to coke for iron smelting beginning in the 17th century exacerbated the problem. In Europe, from the Middle Ages well into the early modern era, unsanitary urban conditions favoured the outbreak of population-decimating epidemics of disease, from plague to cholera and typhoid fever. Through the 19th century, water and air pollution and the accumulation of solid wastes were largely problems of congested urban areas. However, with the rapid spread of industrialization and the growth of the human population to unprecedented levels, pollution became a universal problem.</p>	<p>[8]</p>

	<p>By the middle of the 20th century, an awareness of the need to protect air, water and land environments from pollution had developed among the general public.</p> <p>It took hundreds of millions of years to produce the life that now inhabits the earth and reached a stage of adjustment and balance with its surroundings. The environment contained elements that were hostile as well as supporting. Even within the light of the sun, there were shortwave radiations with the power to injure. Given time, life has adjusted and a balance reached. For time is the essential ingredient, but in the modern world is no time.</p> <p>1. 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]</p> <p>2. Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. [3]</p>	
	Section B : Grammar (7 Marks)	
Q- 4	<p>Answer any SEVEN of the following questions:</p> <p>(a) Have you _____ (see) the baby? (Fill tense correctly) [1]</p> <p>(b) They _____ (watch) a movie right now. (Fill tense correctly) [1]</p> <p>(c) _____ you learn will help you in the future. (whichever/Whatever/whoever/whenever) [1]</p> <p>(d) Mary had a little lamb _____ fleece was white as snow. (where/when/whose/which) [1]</p> <p>(e) He ate an apple and drank a glass of milk. (use not only ... but also) [1]</p> <p>(f) No other poet is as great as Kalidas. (use superlative degree) [1]</p> <p>(g) one / interact/ way/ with/ the / we/ changed/ has /social media/ another [1]</p> <p>(h)communicate/ digital/ primarily/ now/ people/ through/ many/ platforms [1]</p>	[7]
	Section - B Creative Writing Skills (16 Marks)	
Q- 5 A	<p>You are Mohan/Mohini, General Manager of PK Industries, Hyderabad. You need an Accountant for your company. Draft in not more than 50 words an advertisement to be published in ‘The Hindu’ in classified columns.</p>	[3]
	OR	

Q- 5 B	Imagine that you are S. K. Ajaypal of 22/14, Arabi Tank Lane, Trichy, Tamil Nadu. Your grandmother has been missing from your home for the last 5 days. Draft a suitable advertisement with all details to be published in a local daily in the classified column.	
Q- 6 A	As the Manager of 'Excellent Coaching Centre' run by you, prepare a poster calling the attention of students desirous of attending IIT, CPMT coaching to join your coaching centre.	[3]
	OR	
Q- 6 B	Design a poster in not more than 50 words for your school library on the value of "books and good reading habits". You may use slogans.	
Q- 7 A	Today's children are not yet aware of many opportunities awaiting them after they complete their school education. As an academic counsellor give a talk to the students of St Antony's School on the need for career guidance and how knowledge of the available careers can benefit the youth. Write the speech in 150 words.	[5]
	OR	
Q- 7 B	You are Saurabh/Savita, a student of Pinewood School, Shimla. Your school is celebrating Save Electricity Week . You have been asked to deliver a speech in the school assembly. Write the speech in 150 words stressing the importance of saving electricity, making some practical suggestions for the same.	
Q-8 A	Housewives Are More Responsible Mothers Than Working Women .Write a debate in 150 words either for or against the motion.	[5]
	OR	
Q-8 B	A number of your classmates (especially those from science) skip their classes in order to attend coaching centres. Write a debate in 150-200 words on 'Tuition at coaching centres is not essential'. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School teachers better equipped • Philanthropic approach • No infrastructure • Schools should reorient their teaching process • Infrastructure much better at schools • Coaching centres—money minting machines • Competition oriented education 	
	Section C : Literature (31 Marks)	
Q- 9 A	Read the text carefully and answer the questions:	[3]

	<p>When did my childhood go? Was it the time I realised that adults were not all they seemed to be, They talked of love and preached of love, But did not act so lovingly, Was that the day!</p> <p>i) According to the extract, how are adults portrayed by the poet? [1]</p> <p>(ii) What specific behaviour of adults disappoints the poet in the extract? [1]</p> <p>(iii) The significance of the given extract is that it highlights [1]</p> <p>a) the true nature of adults b) the contrast between adulthood and innocence c) the innocence inherent in children d) how adulthood changes people</p>	
OR		
Q- 9 B	<p>Read the text carefully and answer the questions:</p> <p>The cardboard shows me how it was When the two girl cousins went paddling, Each one holding one of my mother’s hands, And she the big girl — some twelve years or so.</p> <p>(i) What does the word cardboard refer to in the extract? [1]</p> <p>(ii) What does the word paddling mean in the given context?[1]</p> <p>(iii) The extract mainly highlights the theme of [1]</p> <p>a) Loss of childhood over time b) Competition among siblings c) Adventure and travel d) Growth through hardship</p>	

	<p>MRS PEARSON: [smiling] I thought we'd have a nice family game of rummy -and then you children could get the supper ready while I have a talk with your father...</p> <p>GEORGE: [firmly] Suits me. [He looks challengingly at the children.] What about you two?</p> <p>CYRIL: [hastily] Yes - that's all right.</p> <p>DORIS: [hesitating] Well -I...</p> <p>MRS PEARSON: [sharply] What? Speak up!</p> <p>DORIS: [hastily] Oh -I think it would be lovely...</p> <p>i. How does humour play a significant role in dealing with a genuine issue in this play?</p> <p>ii. Why does Mrs. Fitzgerald say "remember" in the extract provided? This is so, because __.</p> <p>a. She does not want Annie not to be soft on her family.</p> <p>b. She reminds Mrs Pearson about her instructions to be a little strict.</p> <p>c. She reminds her of Annie's promise of inviting her to the game.</p> <p>d. She wants Mrs Pearson not to forget to ask for her Christmas gift.</p> <p>iii. We can conclude that the play ends on a happy note because _____.</p> <p>iv. Is Mrs Pearson in the given extract the real one? Explain how the contrasting feature of Mrs. Fitzgerald helps Mrs Pearson to teach her family a lesson.</p>	
OR		
<p>Q-11 B</p>	<p>Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:</p> <p>At the corner of the road I looked up at the name-plate. Marconi Street, it said. I had been at Number 46. The address was correct. But now I didn't want to remember it any more. I wouldn't go back there because the objects that are linked in your memory with the familiar life of former times instantly lose their value when, severed from them, you see them again in strange surroundings.</p> <p>i. Complete the sentence appropriately.</p> <p>The line, "the objects that are linked in your memory with the familiar life of former times instantly lose their value when, severed from them, you see them again in strange surroundings," reflects _____.</p> <p>ii. What was the narrator's tone in the given extract?</p> <p>iii. Why does the narrator not want to go back to Number 46 on Marconi Street?</p> <p>a. The address was incorrect.</p> <p>b. The narrator disliked Marconi Street.</p> <p>c. The narrator no longer values the objects associated with her former life.</p> <p>d. The narrator was lost and could not find her way back.</p> <p>iv. "But now I didn't want to remember it any more." What didn't the narrator want to remember?</p>	
<p>Q-12</p>	<p>Answer ANY TWO questions in 40-50 words:</p> <p>i. What activities were going on at the dry Salt Lake? Answer in the context of Silk Road.</p> <p>ii. What does the father mean when he says, 'We both must live on the same globe and the same land.'? (Father to Son)</p>	[6]

	iii. What had Professor Gaitonde not expected in Bombay? iv. Describe the laburnum top.	
Q-13	Answer <u>ANY ONE</u> of the following two questions, in about 40-50 words i. How did Andrew assess that night's work? (Birth) ii. Why did the king succumb to public demand? (A Tale of Melon City)	[3]
Q-14	Answer <u>ANY ONE</u> of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. i. Mention three phases of the author's relationship with his grandmother before he left the country to study abroad. (The Portrait of a Lady) ii. There is a parallel, drawn between rain and music. Which words indicate this? Explain the similarity between the two. (The Voice of the Rain)	[6]
Q-15	Answer <u>ANY ONE</u> of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. i. One day back there in the good old days, when I was nine and the world was full of every imaginable kind of magnificence, and life was still a delightful and mysterious dream... The story begins in a mood of nostalgia. Can you narrate some incident from your childhood that might make an interesting story? (The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse) ii. The chapter The Address is about an autobiographical note at one level, while at another it portrays how futile war is. What are your views regarding war? Is it fruitful?	[6]