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INDIAN SCHOOL SALALAH
SECOND PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION – JANUARY 2026



ENGLISH CORE 301/SET 3

Class: XII

Date:

Time: 3 HOURS

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

Read the instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

- (i) This question paper comprises 13 questions. **All questions are compulsory.**
- (ii) The 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.
- (iv) **Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.**

SECTION – A

READING SKILLS

1. Read the text given below:

(12 Marks)

1. Gone are the days when malnutrition would mean a sickly thin child. Now it covers a spectrum that refers to deficiencies, excesses, or imbalances in a child's intake of energy or nutrients. The new century is a harbinger of new sights and technology. Keeping up with the times is also the changing face of malnutrition in kids. In the 21st Century, malnutrition has taken the form of an ugly three-headed monster - the one that combines undernutrition, poor vitamin and mineral status, and overweight.
2. Undernutrition which includes low weight-for-height or wasting, low height-for-age or stunting and underweight which is low weight-for-age. Undernutrition makes children vulnerable to all kinds of diseases and can even be life-threatening. This is usually treatable and preventable too. Low weight-for-age means the child has recently undergone severe weight loss, either due to diarrhea or any other health condition. Low height-for-age usually means long standing lack of nutritious food. This can be traced back to poor nutrition when the child was in the mother's womb, poor nutrition as a child and frequent illness. Stunting can severely limit a child in terms of its intelligence and physical capabilities. Underweight children can be so either due to stunting or wasting or due to both.

3. Micronutrient malnutrition is deficiency of vitamins and minerals which are collectively called micronutrients and they are required for healthy growth and development. Children who display difficult eating behavior or those who do not consume a variety of foods might not be meeting their vitamin and mineral requirements. Most of the times, absorption could also be an issue. Deficiencies of iodine, vitamin A and iron is a global health problem with many children deficient in them.

4. Gone are the days when a cherubic baby was a sign of a healthy baby. Overweight or obesity means a child is much too heavy for their age. This predicament is because there is an imbalance between consumption of calories and expenditure. Sugar and fat laden drinks and snacks are responsible for this. Excess fat can impair health.

5. The big three faces of malnutrition pose many issues at the individual and at the country level. For starters, all forms of malnutrition can lead to diet-related non-communicable diseases such as heart attacks and stroke, and often linked with high blood pressure. At a country level, lack of productivity from malnourished individuals and increase in healthcare costs pose an economic burden on the country.

6. Nation-wide efforts are needed to tackle this problem of malnutrition. Access to safe, nutritious foods even to the economically disadvantaged societies, providing nutrition education for families to make the correct dietary choice and improving assessment and nutrition monitoring can help weed and rectify malnutrition early.

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage:

(12 Marks)

(i) Select the option that classifies the writer's view on changing definition of emerging causes of malnutrition in the wake of 21st Century. (1)

- (a) Poverty and starvation
- (b) Lack of nutrition literacy
- (c) Opulent resources
- (d) Lack of resources

(ii) Pick the option that correctly identifies as a malnourished child: (1)

- 1. Wasted
- 2. Obese
- 3. Normal
- 4. Stunted

- (a) 2, 3, 4
- (c) 1, 2, 4

- (b) 1,2, 3
- (d) 1, 3, 4

(iii) Share evidence from the text to support the view that the writer is urging for immediate intervention, detection and prevention of malnutrition. (1)

(iv) Match the conditions appropriately: (1)

Column I

- 1. Stunting
- 2. Obese
- 3. Wasting
- 4. Underweight

Column II

- (i) Thinner than normal weight
- (ii) Shorter than normal height
- (iii) Overweight than normal
- (iv) both thinner and shorter than normal

- (a) 1-(iv), 2-(iii), 3-(ii), 4-(i) (b) 1-(i), 2-(ii), 3-(iii), 4-(iv)
- (c) 1-(ii), 2-(iii), 3-(i), 4-(iv) (d) 1-(iii), 2-(ii), 3-(iv), 4-(i)

(v) Who among the following child can likely be malnourished despite access to opulent resources? (1)

- (a) A slow eater
 (b) A picky eater
 (c) A slum dweller
 (d) A village kid

(vi) Who are the ugly three-headed monster that the writer blames for malnutrition? (1)

- (a) Undernutrition, micro nutrient related deficiency and overweight
 (b) Micronutrient adequacy, obesity and stunting
 (c) wasting, overweight and vitamin adequacy
 (d) stunting, excess nutrition and minerals adequacy.

(vii) Explain, why a cherubic baby is no longer considered a healthy baby. (2)

(viii) How malnutrition could be a threat to economic growth of a nation? (2)

(ix) "Nation needs to tackle malnutrition holistically". What strategies needs to be employed to prevent malnutrition and improve nutrition among children? (2)

2. Read the text given below: (10 Marks)

1. Air pollution is a major threat to human health. The United Nations Environment Programme has estimate that globally, 1.1 billion people breathe in unhealthy air. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has estimated that urban air pollution is responsible for approximately 800,000 deaths and 4.6 million people die prematurely every year around the globe.

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| | |
| Industries | 17.2% |
| Brick kins | 9.2% |
| Power Plant | 4.8% |
| Dust | 11.5% |
| Diffused Sources | 22.7% |
| Diesel Generator sets | 12.2% |

2. Traffic and transportation problems, inadequate drainage facilities, lack of open spaces, carbon emissions and the accumulation of waste aggravate the problem. Air pollution is associated with increased risk of acute respiratory infections (ARI), a significant and the principal cause of infant and child mortality in developing countries.

3. Urban air quality in most megacities has been found to be critical and Kolkata is no exception to this. An analysis of ambient air quality in Kolkata was done by applying the Exceedance Factor (EF) method, where the presence of listed pollutants' (RPM, SPM, NO₂ and SO_x), annual average concentration is classified into four different categories; namely critical, high, moderate and low pollution. Out of a total of 17 ambient air quality monitoring stations

operating in Kolkata, five fall under the critical category and the remaining 12 locations fall under the high category of NO, concentration, while for RPM, four record critical and 13 come under the high pollution category. The causes of high concentration of pollutants in the form of NO, and RPM have been identified in earlier studies as vehicular emission (51.4%), followed by industrial sources (24.5%) and dust particles (21.1%).

4. Later, a health assessment was undertaken with a structured questionnaire at some nearby dispensaries which fall under areas with different ambient air pollution levels. Three dispensaries have been surveyed with 100 participants. It shows that respondents with respiratory diseases (85.1%) have outnumbered waterborne diseases (14.9%) and include acute respiratory infections (ARI) (60%), chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases (COPD) (7.8%), upper track respiratory infection (UTRI) (1.2%), influenza (12.7%) and acid-fast bacillus (AFB) (3.4%).

5. To live a healthy life and have better well-being, practising pollution averting activities in one's day-to-day activities is needed. These pollution-averting practices can only be possible when awareness among the masses is generated that the air, they breathe outdoors, is not found to be safe.

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage: (10 Marks)

(i) What is the main idea of the passage? (1)

(ii) Select the option that displays the correct 'cause and effect' relationship. (1)

(a) Cause: Traffic and transportation problem

Effect: 4.6 million deaths

(b) Cause: Lack of open spaces

Effect: Megacities

(c) Cause: Air pollution

Effect: Respiratory diseases

(d) Cause: Air quality monitoring stations

Effect: Emission of NO

(iii) How many people lose their lives due to Air pollution, across the globe, every year? (1)

(iv) The author's opinion on the development of Megacities is: (1)

(a) Cities face transportation problems due to heavy traffic.

(b) Urbanisation leads to the deterioration of Air quality.

(c) Megacities are the right spots to study Air pollution.

(d) Cities face the problem of congestion.

(v) What is the author's recommendation to the people? (1)

(vi) Complete the given sentence. (1)

The author gives stern warning against the increasing Air pollution, especially in developing countries because

(vii) State the illnesses associated with Air pollution. (2)

(viii) Which issues aggravate Air pollution problem? (2)

SECTION B
CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

3. Attempt **any one** of the following two, in about **50 words**. **(4 Marks)**

(a) Your school is organizing an Education Fair in the school premises. As the Head boy/Head Girl of Sunshine Public School, Agra, draft a notice informing students of classes 9 to 12 about the fair. Include other necessary details. You are Muskan /Manoj.

OR

(b) As president of the Social Service Club of your school, write a notice mentioning a volunteer opportunity for students of classes 9 to 12 during the forthcoming summer vacation. Include necessary details about timing, location and duration of the volunteer programme.

4. Attempt **any one** of the following two, in about **50 words**. **(4 Marks)**

(a) You are Abhishek Sharma. You're planning to celebrate your parents 50th wedding anniversary in a grand manner. Draft a formal invitation for your friends and relatives. Mention all necessary details

OR

(b) You are Sonali Gupta, a nutritionist. you are invited by the Principal of Radiant Public School, New Delhi to address the students on forming healthy food habits Write a formal letter of reply accepting the invitation.

5. Attempt **any one** of the following two, in about **120-150 words**. **(5 Marks)**

(a) You are Kirti/Keshav of 7, MG Road, Jhansi. You observe that students who come on a one-day picnic to public parks leave plastic bottles and cans, littered all over the park. You are disturbed by the sight of this and write a letter to the editor of a national daily suggesting ways to inculcate civic sense among students. You may use the cues given along with your own ideas to draft the letter.

- The role of parents and school in inculcating civic sense
- Ways to sensitize students: Involve them in community projects, emphasize on civic responsibility
- Demonstrate civic behavior in daily routine.

OR

(b) You are Ashish/Nimmy, B90 Fort RD Jammu. You have read the advertisement given below. You're qualified for the job. Write an application in 120 to 150 words along with a resume.

India Chemical Industries, Delhi requires Officers. Qualification: B com, experience: Minimum 4 years, Job requirement maintaining books of accounts, preparation of balance sheet etc. Salary best in the industry. Apply to managing Directors, ICIB 12 Barakhamba Road, New Delhi.

6. Attempt **any one** of the following two, in about **120-150 words**.

(5 Marks)

- (a) Children today are increasingly dependent on AI to help complete their school tasks such as writing an article, answering questions and making presentations. Therefore, they are unable to discover their own creative potential. However, AI can also be judiciously used for benefit of the children.

Write an article on how AI can be judiciously use for the benefit of students. You are Nikhil/Nirja of XII A.

OR

- (b) You are Aarav /Rohini, a Class 12 student and a member the school magazine editorial board. Write a comprehensive report detailing the activities undertaken by students as part of the Road Safety Awareness Campaign, including descriptions of the events, participation details and the overall impact of these activities on the school community. You may organize your report by using follow following cues.

Who-What-When-Where-Why-How

SECTION – C

Literature, Textbook and Supplementary Reading Text (40 Marks)

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions on **ANY ONE** of the given two. **(6)**

*(i) yes, in spite of all,
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
From our dark spirits. Such the sun, the moon,
Trees old, and young, sprouting a shady boon
For simple sheep; and such are daffodils
With the green world they live in; and clear rills
That for themselves a cooling covert make
'Gainst the hot season;*

(A Thing of Beauty)

- (a) What does 'all' in the first line refer to?

- (i) troublesome things
- (ii) the green world
- (iii) things of beauty
- (iv) nature

- (b) Complete the sentence appropriately.

The clear streams provide.....

- (c) Name the poetic device used in the phrase, 'cooling covert'.

- (d) Select the option that indicates 'dark spirits', as revealed in the extract.

- (i) selfishness
- (ii) enthusiasm
- (iii) disappointment
- (iv) cheerfulness

- (e) The extract mentions many things that has power to move away the fall from our dark spirits. List any two.

- (f) What does the speaker want to say in the given line:
"Some shape of beauty moves away the fall from our dark spirits".

OR

(ii).....*but soon*

*put that thought away, and
looked out at Young
Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling
out of their homes, but after the airport's security check,
standing a few yards away, I looked again at her, wan, pale
as a late winter's moon and felt that old
familiar ache, my childhood's fear.*

(My Mother at Sixty-six)

(i) Select the correct option.

The impact of 'merry children' on poet's mind

- (a) caused anxiety
- (b) created a sense of longing
- (c) brought comfort
- (d) reminded her of her own childhood

(ii) The tone of the poet expressed in the above lines is

- (a) sadness and helplessness
- (b) excitement and eagerness
- (c) appreciation and gratitude
- (d) anger and anxiety

(iii) The words 'wan, pale' indicate the mother's

(iv) Complete the following sentence appropriately.

The poet looked at her mother again to

(v) Explain one inference that can be drawn from the line 'felt that old familiar ache.'

(vi) 'put that thought away'. What is the intention of poet that can be inferred from this line?

8. Read the following extracts and answer the questions on **ANY ONE** of the given two. **(4)**

(a) The reason the programme has been so successful is because it is impossible to go anywhere near the South Pole and not be affected by it. It's easy to be blasé about polar ice caps melting while sitting in the comfort zone of our respective latitude and longitude, but when you can visibly see glaciers retreating and ice shelves collapsing, you begin to realise that the threat of global warming is real. Antarctica, because of her simple ecosystem and lack of biodiversity, is the perfect place to study how little changes in the environment can have big repercussions. (Journey to the End of the Earth)

(i) As per the given extract, the reason for the success of the programme is

- (a) the participation of young students
- (b) the journey to Antarctica.
- (c) the exposure to reality.

(d) it was impossible to go near south pole.

(ii) Complete the following sentence.

The warning that can be inferred from the above extract is.....

(iii) State whether the statement given is TRUE or FALSE with reference to the extract.

Global warming is a threat to human survival.

(iv) Explain one inference that can be drawn from the line "It's easy to be blasé about polar ice caps melting while sitting in the comfort zone".

OR

(b) Sometimes I think Grand Central is growing like a tree, pushing out new corridors and staircases like roots. There's probably a long tunnel that nobody knows about feeling its way under the city right now, on its way to Times Square, and maybe another to Central Park. And maybe - because for so many people through the years Grand Central has been an exit, a way of escape - maybe that's how the tunnel I got into ... But I never told my psychiatrist friend about that idea.
(The Third Level)

(i) Complete the sentence appropriately.

On the basis of the above extract, it can be inferred that Charley was an.....

(ii) The Grand Central was an exit and escape for many people through the years because.....

(iii) What can one infer from the word, 'tunnel' used in the extract?

(a) A Gateway into the past

(b) A portal into another

(c) A Gateway into the future

(d) A portal into an alien world

(iv) Why didn't Charley tell his psychiatrist friend that idea?

9. Read the following extracts and answer the questions on **ANY ONE** of the given two. (6)

A. They had merely heard that a Mahatma who wanted to help them was in trouble with the authorities. Their spontaneous demonstration, in thousands, around the courthouse was the beginning of their liberation from fear of the British. The officials felt powerless without Gandhi's cooperation. He helped them regulate the crowd. He was polite and friendly. He was giving them concrete proof that their might, hitherto dreaded and unquestioned, could be challenged by Indians. The government was baffled. The prosecutor requested the judge to postpone the trial. Apparently, the authorities wished to consult their superiors. (Indigo)

I. Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation, as per the extract.

The officials felt powerless because the crowd _____.

II. Rationalise, to support the given opinion:

The demonstration in front of the courthouse proved that the dread instilled in their heart had begun to lessen.

III. The tone of the author when he writes:

Apparently, the authorities wished to consult their superiors is _____.

A. inexperience

B. dramatic

C. sarcastic

D. persuasive

IV. Gandhiji's behaviour towards the British prior to the proposal of postponement of the trial was that of:

- A. indifferent
- B. calm, acceptance
- C. ignorance of consequences
- D. impolite, helpfulness

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

- (1) The government was bewildered.
- (2) The situation was getting tougher.
- A. (1) can be inferred from the extract but (2) cannot
- B. (1) cannot be inferred from the extract but (2) can
- C. (1) is true but (2) is false
- D. (2) is the reason for (1)

VI. Select the suitable word from the extract to complete the following analogy:

Apparent: Evident :: Solid: _____

OR

B. *“And years later, when I was out of Gemini Studios and I had much time but not much money, anything at a reduced price attracted my attention. On the footpath in front of the Madras Mount Road Post Office, there was a pile of brand-new books for fifty paise each. Actually, they were copies of the same book, an elegant paperback of American origin. ‘Special low-priced student edition, in connection with the 50th Anniversary of the Russian Revolution’, I paid fifty paise and picked up a copy of the book, The God That Failed. Six eminent men of letters in six separate essays described ‘their journeys into Communism and their disillusioned return’; Andre Gide, Richard Wright, Ignazio Silone, Arthur Koestler, Louis Fischer and Stephen Spender. Stephen Spender! Suddenly the book assumed tremendous significance.”* (Poets and Pancakes)

i. Pick the option that uses the antonym ‘disillusioned.’

- a. disappointed
- b. inspired
- c. disheartened
- d. crestfallen

ii. Select the suitable word from the extract to complete the following analogy:
sophisticated: elegant:: remarkable: _____

iii. Why do you think the book became very significant then?

- a. As it spoke about communism.
- b. As it was co-authored by six eminent writers.
- c. As Stephen Spender was one among the authors.
- d. As they were his favourite writers.

(iv) Based on the extract, choose the statement that is TRUE.

- a. Cheap things attracted him though he had enough money.
- b. ‘The God That Failed’ told about the glory of communist ideology.

- c. The books were sold cheaper as it was the 50th Anniversary of the Russian Revolution.
d. Author was a communist when he worked at the Gemini Studio.

(v). “Disillusioned return” refers to _____.

(vi). Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that the author was excited to know about Spender

10. Answer **ANY FIVE** of the following in about in 40-50 words each. (2x5=10)

- (a) What does the contrasting imagery the church clock and the Prussian trumpets represent in “The Last Lesson”?
(b) Why can’t the bangle makers organize themselves into a cooperative?
(c) What do you understand by “interstices”? How does Umberto Eco utilize his interstices?
(d) The roadside stand and the moving cars are a contrast around which the entire poem is woven. Expound
(e) ‘What I want should not be confused’. What clarification does Pablo Neruda give to his readers?
(f) The peasants were themselves the most crucial agents in the success of Champaran Civil Disobedience. Expand

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

- i. “Then I lost my spirit.” What are the incidents that led Zitkala-Sa to feel this way?
ii. In ‘On the Face of it’ Mr. Lamb told Derry about his tin leg and how kids called him ‘Lamey Lamb.’ Why do you think Mr. Lamb shared these details? State two reasons to support your answers
iii. Do you think the prediction made by the state astrologer “was indisputably disproved” Give reasons in support of your answer.

12. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following in about 120-150 words. (1x5=5)

1. Franz from ‘The Last Lesson’ and the peddler from ‘The Rattrap’ learn from their mistakes. Discuss with reference to the about texts, the human tendency to make mistakes and learn from them

OR

2. How do the characters of Sophie from ‘Going Places’ and Subbu from ‘Poets and Pancakes’ compare and contrast in terms of their aspirations, constraints and the pursuit of their dreams?

13. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following in about 120-150 words. (1x5=5)

1. Dr Sadao emerges as both a true patriot and a compassionate human being. Elaborate

OR

2. Memories of Childhood deals with autobiographical episodes of Zitkala-Sa and Bama. They both come from marginalized communities and look back on their childhood to reflect on their relationships with mainstream culture. Elaborate