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INDIAN SCHOOL SALALAH
FIRST TERM EXAMINATION – SEPTEMBER 2026



Class: XI

ENGLISH CORE (301)

DATE: 22 / 9 / 2026

Time: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80 Marks

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

- 1.This question paper has 14 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 following passage carefully:

[10]

- 1) There was a certain island in the sea, the only inhabitants of which were an old man, whose name was Prospero, and his daughter Miranda, a very beautiful young lady. They lived in a cave or cell, made out of a rock; it was divided into several apartments, one of which Prospero called his study; there he kept his books, which chiefly treated of magic and the knowledge of this art he found very useful to him; for being thrown by a strange chance upon this island, which had been enchanted by Sycorax.
- 2) Prospero, by virtue of his art, released many good spirits that Sycorax had imprisoned in the bodies of large trees. These gentle spirits were ever after obedient to the will of Prospero. Of these Ariel was the chief. The lively little sprite Ariel had nothing mischievous in his nature, except that he took rather too much pleasure in tormenting an ugly monster called Caliban, because he was the son of his old enemy Sycorax.
- 3) This Caliban, Prospero found in the woods, a strange misshapen thing, far less human in form than an ape: he took him home to his cell, and taught him to speak; and Prospero would have been very kind to him, but the bad nature which Caliban inherited from his mother, Sycorax, would not let him learn anything good or useful: therefore, he was employed like a slave, to fetch wood and do the most laborious offices; and Ariel had the charge of compelling him to these services.
- 4) Having these powerful spirits ready to obey his will, Prospero could by their means command the winds, and the waves of the sea. By his orders they raised a violent storm, in the midst of which, he showed his daughter a fine large ship, which he told her was full of living beings like themselves.

5) "O my dear father," said she, "if by your art you have raised this dreadful storm, have pity on their sad distress. Poor souls! They will all perish. If I had power I would sink the sea beneath the earth, rather than the good ship should be destroyed, with all the precious souls within her."

6) "Be not amazed, daughter Miranda," said Prospero; "there is no harm done. I have so ordered it, that no person in the ship shall receive any hurt. Can you remember a time before you came to this cell? I think you cannot, for you were not then three years of age." "Certainly, I can, sir," replied Miranda. "By what?" asked Prospero. Miranda said: "It seems to me like the recollection of a dream. But had I not once four or five women who attended upon me?" Prospero answered: "You had, and more."

Source: Tales from Shakespeare by Charles Lamb/ 450 words

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- | | | |
|-------------|--|----------|
| I | What did Prospero call the apartment in the cave where he kept his books? | 1 |
| II | What primary theme is illustrated through Prospero's treatment of Caliban and his control over Ariel in the passage?
A. The inevitability of fate
B. The complexities of power and servitude
C. The importance of family ties
D. The pursuit of knowledge and enlightenment | 1 |
| III | Why did Prospero employ Caliban as a slave, and what tasks was Caliban made to perform? (Answer in 40 words). | 2 |
| IV | What does the word "mischievous" in the passage primarily suggest about Ariel's nature?
A. He is helpful and kind.
B. He does not enjoy causing trouble.
C. He sometimes enjoys causing trouble.
D. He is serious and stern. | 1 |
| V | Complete the analogy with ONE word using the clue from paragraph 4.
teach: learn: command: | 1 |
| VI | What does Prospero's use of magic in creating the storm reveal about his character and motivations? (Answer in 40 words). | 2 |
| VII | Read and complete the following sentence suitably. 1
The passage suggests that as Prospero uses his magic to control the elements and spirits, he creates a scenario where Miranda may feel _____.
Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence.
A. empowered by her father's abilities, gaining confidence in her own potential
B. anxious about the safety of others, questioning her father's methods of control | 1 |
| VIII | What does the portrayal of Sycorax in the passage primarily suggest about her character and influence over the spirits?
A. She was a benevolent figure who helped the spirits.
B. She possessed strong magical powers that enslaved the spirits.
C. She was a victim of circumstances beyond her control.
D. She had no significant impact on the events of the island. | 1 |

Q-2 Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

[8]

1) Diabetes is a metabolism abnormality that affects the way your body uses blood sugar (glucose), your main source of energy. To understand diabetes, you have to start from the beginning - with food. Your body converts a portion of the food you eat and digest into glucose. Glucose is then absorbed into your bloodstream, where it can enter the individual cells of tissue throughout your body to be used as energy. Before your cells will let glucose in, however, they need the help of insulin.

2) Insulin is a hormone produced by your pancreas - a gland located just behind your

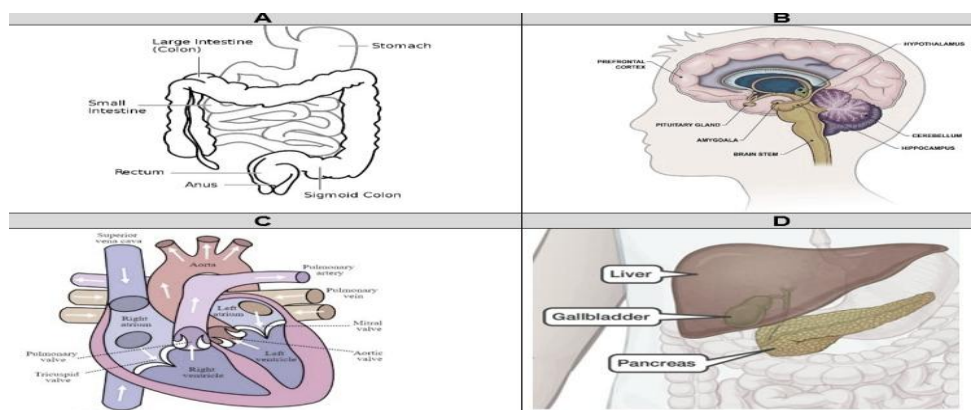
stomach. Normally, insulin acts as a master key, unlocking the doors of your cells and allowing glucose inside. To simply maintain this process, such as at night when you're asleep, the pancreas releases a low level of insulin on a constant basis. When necessary, such as after a meal, your pancreas increases insulin supply to meet demand.

3) After you eat a meal or a snack, your pancreas releases more insulin to make sure the extra glucose in your bloodstream can enter your cells. If you have more glucose than you need, your body can remove the excess from your blood and store it in your liver and muscles or convert it to fat. Then, when you run low on fuel, your body can release this stored energy back into your bloodstream, where insulin is waiting to usher it into your cells.

4) If you have diabetes, this whole process goes awry. Instead of entering cells throughout your body, excess glucose builds up in your bloodstream and some of it may eventually be excreted in your urine. This can happen when your pancreas doesn't produce enough insulin (Type 1 diabetes), when your cells have become resistant to the effects of insulin (Type 2 diabetes) or, more commonly, when both of these problems occur.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- i. Give one conversion function of our body, based on information in paragraph 1. 1
- ii. Select the appropriate option to fill in the blanks based on paragraph 1. 1
When _____ is ingested, it enters our bloodstream and goes to all of the tissue cells in our body where it can be used as _____.
(1) Glucose (2) Insulin (3) Fat (4) Energy (5) Metabolism
 - a. 2,3
 - b. 1,4
 - c. 4,5
 - b. 5,3
- iii. Complete the following analogy correctly with a word/ phrase from paragraph 1. 1
Water: Absorbed in Soil : _ : Absorbed in bloodstream.
(Clue: Just like water is absorbed in Soil, similarly _____ is absorbed in bloodstream.)
 - a. Metabolism
 - b. Glucose
 - c. Insulin
 - d. Energy
- iv. Select the correct option to complete the following sentence: (Paragraph 1). 1
Diabetes affects how our body uses our primary source of energy i.e blood sugar due to _____
 - a. Lack of insulin and glucose
 - b. Process of glucose transmission
 - c. Abnormalities in our metabolism
 - d. Presence of high-level fats
- v. From Paragraph 2, choose the option that best describes the organ that secretes insulin. 1



- vi. Fill in the blank by selecting the correct option. 1
 By opening the..... doors and letting glucose in, insulin functions as a master key.
 a. cell
 b. pancreas
 c. blood stream
 d. vein
- vii. Substitute the word ‘excess’ with ONE WORD similar in meaning, in the following sentence from paragraph 3. 1
 If you have more glucose than you need, your body can remove the excess from your blood and store it in your liver and muscles or convert it to fat.
- viii. List any 2 organs of our body mentioned in Paragraph 3. 1
- Q-3 Read the following passage carefully:** [8]

1. Space exploration has evolved from a competition for prestige into a mission that benefits humanity. In the mid-20th century, space programs were largely driven by political rivalry, as seen in the race between the United States and the Soviet Union to reach the Moon. Today, the focus has shifted to using space technology to solve problems on Earth and explore the universe responsibly.

2. Satellites monitor climate change, track natural disasters, and enhance communication systems. Research aboard the International Space Station (ISS) has advanced our understanding of medicine, materials science, and how humans adapt to microgravity. Private companies now collaborate with national agencies to develop reusable rockets, lowering costs and opening the door to ambitious projects such as lunar mining and potential human settlements on Mars.

3. However, space exploration also presents serious challenges. The accumulation of space debris threatens spacecraft and satellites, while ethical questions arise about contaminating other planets. There is also concern about the militarization of space if nations view it as a battlefield rather than a shared frontier.

4. Investing in space is far from a luxury. It fuels innovation in robotics, artificial intelligence, and energy systems that improve life on Earth. International cooperation is vital to ensure space remains a realm of scientific discovery, peaceful collaboration, and inspiration for generations to come.

On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and sub- headings.

- a. Use recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary (minimum four) and a suitable format. 5
 Also, supply an appropriate title to it.
- b. Write a summary based on the notes prepared in not more than 50 words. 3

Section B : Grammar (7 Marks)

- Q-4 Answer any SEVEN of the following questions:** [7]
- (i) She _____ (submit) the assignment by the end of the day tomorrow. *(Fill in the tense correctly)* 1
 - (ii) When the teacher entered the classroom, the students _____ (complete) the activity. *(Fill in the tense correctly)* 1
 - (iii) The author _____ novel received the prestigious award is visiting the school today. *(who/whom/whose/which)* 1
 - (iv) _____ decision you make, you must be prepared to accept its consequences. *(Whatever/Whoever/Whenever/Wherever)* 1
 - (v) The committee will announce the final results tomorrow. *(Change into passive voice)* 1
 - (vi) The instructions were so complicated that several students could not understand them. *(Rewrite using too...to)* 1
 - (vii) carefully / the / should / instructions / before / students / read / answering. *(Reorder the words to form a meaningful sentence)* 1
 - (viii) had / hardly / the / teacher / entered / classroom / when / the / bell / rang. *(Reorder the words to form a meaningful sentence)* 1

Section - B Creative Writing Skills (16 Marks)

- Q-5** You are Geeta, F-65, Sec.-9, Rohini, Delhi. You are well qualified in music and dance forms (Classical). You have set up a school for female students. Draft an advertisement to be published in a local daily in about 50 words [3]
- OR**
- You would like to let out a portion of your independent house for office use. Write an advertisement for the classified columns of the local newspaper giving all the necessary details. Write the advertisement in not more than 50 words.
- Q-6** As the Manager of 'Excellent Coaching Centre', prepare a poster calling the attention of students desirous of attending IIT, NEET coaching to join your coaching centre. [3]
- OR**
- Design a poster for your School Fete. You may use slogans. Do not exceed 50 words. *(Fete - an outdoor carnival, fair, or festival)*
- Q-7** You are Rajesh member of the school Literacy Club, which has organized literacy classes in villages and city slums under the adult education program. Draft a speech in 120- 150 words highlighting the importance of promoting adult literacy. [5]
- OR**
- Every year there are floods or droughts in the India. Victims suffer a lot. The government does a lot to help the people, but it is not enough. Society also must do its bit. Write a speech in 120-150 words to be delivered in the school morning assembly describing how the students can also help by collecting clothes, money and medicines from their neighbourhoods. You are Dev/Devika.
- Q-8** "Over-reliance on Artificial Intelligence and digital tools impairs students' critical thinking and self-directed learning." Write a debate in 120–150 words either FOR or AGAINST the motion. You are Saurabh/Shobha. [5]
- OR**
- "Social media platforms cause more harm than good to the mental well-being and academic focus of teenagers." Write a debate in 120–150 words either FOR or AGAINST the motion. You are Geeta/Arjun.

**SECTION C: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING
TEXT (31 Marks)**

Q-9 Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given. (3x1 = 3)

A

*The Laburnum top is silent, quite still
In the afternoon yellow September sunlight,
A few leaves yellowing, all its seeds fallen.
Till the goldfinch comes, with a twitching chirrup
A suddenness, a startlement, at a branch end.*

- i** What causes the sudden transformation in the silent atmosphere of the Laburnum tree? 1
- ii** Identify the poetic device used in the line "September sunlight". 1
- iii** What does the yellowing of leaves and falling of seeds symbolize in the extract? 1

OR

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...*

- i** Why does the rain describe itself as the "Poem of Earth"? 1
- ii** What does the word 'impalpable' signify in the context of the water cycle? 1
- iii** How does the rain origin story demonstrate a continuous cyclic process? 1

Q-10 Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given. (3 x 1 = 3)

A

My grandmother and I were good friends. My parents left me with her when they went to live in the city and we were constantly together. She used to wake me up in the morning and get me ready for school. She said her morning prayer in a monotonous sing-song while she bathed and dressed me in the hope that I would listen and get to know it by heart...

- i** What was the grandmother's primary objective in reciting her prayers aloud while dressing the narrator? 1
- ii** Where were the narrator's parents residing during his early childhood? 1
- iii** Which word in the extract suggests a repetitive, unvarying routine? 1

OR

B

He was just a teenager when he died. The last heir of a powerful family that had ruled Egypt and its empire for centuries, he was laid to rest laden with gold and eventually forgotten. Since the discovery of his tomb in 1922, the modern world has speculated about what happened to him, with murder being the most extreme possibility.

- i** Who is the "teenager" referred to in this extract? 1
- ii** Why was his death considered a significant historical turning point? 1
- iii** What major concern spurred modern scientific investigation into his tomb? 1

Q-11 Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given. (4 x 1 = 4)

A

'Do you know me?' I asked. The woman looked at me searchingly. She had opened the door a crack. I came closer and stood on the step. 'No, I don't know you.' 'I am Mrs. S's daughter.' She held her hand on the door as though she wanted to prevent it opening any further. Her face gave absolutely no sign of recognition.

- i Identify (name) the woman who opened the door. 1
- ii Why did the speaker introduce herself as "Mrs. S's daughter"? 1
- iii What can be inferred about the woman's attitude from her physical actions at the door? 1
- iv At which address does this encounter take place? 1

OR

B *Mrs Pearson: [complacently] Of course it's happened. Very neat. Didn't know I had it in me. Mrs Fitzgerald: [alarmed] But whatever shall I do, Mrs Fitzgerald? George and the children can't see me like this.*
Mrs Pearson: [grimly] They aren't going to—that's the point. They'll have me to deal with—only they won't know it.

- i Why is Mrs. Fitzgerald (carrying Mrs. Pearson's personality) so alarmed upon realizing the spell has worked? 1
- ii Why does Mrs. Fitzgerald accidentally address the other woman as "Mrs Fitzgerald" during her panic? 1
- iii What personality swap enables Mrs. Pearson to act with such composure? 1
- iv What strategy regarding the family's treatment of Mother is set into motion when Mrs. Pearson says, "They'll have me to deal with—only they won't know it"? 1

Q-12 Answer ANY TWO of the following four questions in 40–50 words each. Marks) (2 x 3 = 6)

- (a) How did crewmen Larry Vigil and Herb Seigler contribute significantly to surviving the storm in *"We're Not Afraid to Die..."*? 3
- (b) Describe the changing nature of the relationship between the narrator and his grandmother after they shifted to the city in *The Portrait of a Lady* 3
- (c) Explain the poignant contrast between human mortality and nature captured in the expression *"terribly transient feet"* from *A Photograph*. 3
- (d) How does Ted Hughes use the imagery of an "engine" to describe the goldfinch's arrival in *The Laburnum Top*? 3

Q-13 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 40–50 words. (1 x 3 =3)

- (a) Why did Aram and Mourad decide to return the white horse to John Byro, despite their deep passion for riding it in *The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse*? 3
- (b) How does Mrs. Fitzgerald's unconventional intervention bring about a necessary shift in the Pearson household in *Mother's Day*? 3

Q-14 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 120–150 words. (1 x 6 =6)

- (a) *"Courage, teamwork, and unflinching optimism are the ultimate defenses against extreme adversity."* Evaluate this statement in the context of the narrator and his family's desperate survival effort in *"We're Not Afraid to Die... if We Can Be Together"*. 6
- (b) Examine the thematic significance of transformation and renewal as portrayed in Walt Whitman's *The Voice of the Rain* and A.R. Williams' *Discovering Tut: The Saga Continues*. How do both works reveal hidden truths through cyclic processes? 6

Q-15 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 120–150 words. (1 x 6 =6)

- (a) In *The Address*, the narrator decides to leave her family's cherished possessions behind and resolve to forget 46, Marconi Street. Analyze the psychological and emotional reasons that led her to this conclusion. 6
- (b) *Mother's Day* uses sharp humor and satire to critique the underlying inequality experienced by homemakers in modern families. Discuss how J.B. Priestley effectively balances comedic elements with a poignant social message. 6
