

Roll No.

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Candidate must write the Q.P. Code on the title page of the answer-book.

- Please check that this question paper contains **10** printed pages.
- Please check that this question paper contains **13** questions.
- Q.P. Code given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer-book by the candidate.
- **Please write down the serial number of the question in the answer-book before attempting it.**
- 15 minute time has been allotted to read this question paper. The students will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.

ENGLISH (core)

Time allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 80

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them :

- This question paper has **13** questions. **All** questions are **compulsory**.*
- This question paper contains **three** sections Section A : **Reading Skills**, Section B: **Creative Writing Skills** and Section C : **Literature**.*
- Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.*
- Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.*
- Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

SECTION A : READING SKILLS (22 marks) Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages		
1.	Read the passage given below.	12
1	At last, Old Widow Lau was done haggling with the driver and we stepped inside Father’s shop. It was north-facing, quite dim inside, and perhaps this was why Father did not see us at first. He was busy with a customer, a man who was distinguished-looking, like the scholars of two decades before. The two men were bent over a glass case, discussing the different qualities of ink sticks. Big Uncle welcomed us and invited us to be seated. From his formal tone, I knew he did not recognize who we were. So I called his name in a shy voice. And he squinted at me, then laughed and announced our arrival to Little Uncle, who apologised many times for not rushing over sooner to greet us.	
2	They rushed us to be seated at one of two tea tables for customers. Old Widow Lau refused their invitation three times, exclaiming that my father and uncles must be too busy for visitors. She made weak efforts to leave. On the fourth insistence, we finally sat. Then Little Uncle brought us hot tea and sweet oranges, as well as bamboo latticework fans with which to cool ourselves. I tried to notice everything so I could later tell Gao Ling what I had seen, and tease out her envy.	
3	The floors of the shop were of dark wood, polished and clean, no dirty footprints, even though this was during the dustiest part of the summer. And along the walls were display cases made of wood and glass. The glass was very shiny and not one pane was broken. Within those glass cases were our silk-wrapped boxes, all our hard work. The words of Precious Auntie came back into my mind. I was remembering how she taught me that everything, even ink, had a purpose and a meaning: Good ink cannot be the quick kind, ready to pour out 50 of a bottle. You can never be an artist if your work comes without effort.	
4	I remembered this, and yet that day in the ink shop, I listened to what Father was saying, and his words became far more important than anything Precious Auntie had thought. “Look here, ”Father said to his customer ,and I looked. He held up an 65 ink stick and rotated it in the light. “See? It’s the right hue, purple-black, not brown or grey like the cheap brands you might find down the street. And listen to this.” And I heard a sound as clean and pure as a small silver bell. I was very proud to hear Father speak of our family’s ink this way	

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below		
i	Throughout the passage, the narrator is portrayed as someone who is _____.	1
ii	State whether True or False. The following statement best summarises the passage. A character’s visit to the narrator’s family’s ink shop deepens her appreciation of her family’s work.	1
iii	Give a description of the shop in not more than 40 words.	2
iv	Complete the sentence appropriately with a characteristic about the speaker. “See? It’s the right hue, purple-black, not brown or grey like the cheap brands you might find down the street. The line shows that the narrator’s father was_____.	1
v	Find a word from Para-1 which means the same as ‘ bargain persistently, especially over the cost of something’.	1

vi	Precious Auntie was a true mentor for the narrator. Justify your answer. (Do not exceed 40 words)	2																		
vii	“The two men were bent over a glass case”, In Paragraph 1. Who are the ‘two men’?	1																		
viii	Identify any two lines which show the protagonist's feelings towards her father?	2																		
ix	The main theme of the passage is _____.	1																		
2.	<p>Read the passage given below</p> <p>1. The average age of India will be just 27 in 2020, meaning that most of the country will comprise young students and youth. But even now with the clock ticking, the unemployment crisis is raging in the country. The main reason behind this problem is that there are a huge number of youth passing out from schools and colleges every year, and there are many new career options and job roles being added to various industries as well. However, the youth do not have the skills the new industries want. There is a wide skill gap.</p> <p>2. A recent survey by Mindler, an online career- counselling platform, has proved that the majority of Indian students are aware of just seven career paths, even though there are 250 career options that can be pursued in India -- most new and in demand. The survey took responses from 10,000 students. The survey on the awareness of career options among Indian students aged 14- 20 was conducted among 10,000 participants. The responses collected in the survey showed that a staggering 93% of the students who participated in the survey were aware of just seven career options -- law, engineering, medicine, accounts and finance, design, computer applications and IT, and management.</p> <p>3. According to researchers, India has a variety of 250 career options available across 40 domains covering 5,000 job types. This shocking lack of awareness among Indian students regarding their future career options can spell a death knell for the economic bonus that could have come to India due to its demographic dividend, the time period when its population is young and earning.</p> <p>4. Thus, if parents and teachers can build their own awareness regarding new career options coming up, then they can be a very helpful part in their child's career decisions rather than being one of those parents who push their child into one of the most common careers simply because they are unable to understand which area would be the perfect fit for their child. Thus, if parents and teachers can build their own awareness regarding new career options coming up, then they can be a very helpful part in their child's career decisions rather than being one of those parents who push their child into one of the most common careers simply because they are unable to understand which area would be the perfect fit for their child.</p> <div data-bbox="236 1451 1125 2004" data-label="Figure"> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>COMMON CAREER OPTIONS CONSIDERED BY STUDENTS</u></p> <table border="1"> <caption>COMMON CAREER OPTIONS CONSIDERED BY STUDENTS</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Career Option</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Engineering</td> <td>23.51%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Accounts & Finance</td> <td>11.81%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Computer Application & IT</td> <td>9.56%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Medicine</td> <td>8.08%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management</td> <td>6.71%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Designing</td> <td>6.06%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Law</td> <td>4.38%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Others</td> <td>29.87%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div>	Career Option	Percentage	Engineering	23.51%	Accounts & Finance	11.81%	Computer Application & IT	9.56%	Medicine	8.08%	Management	6.71%	Designing	6.06%	Law	4.38%	Others	29.87%	10
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2	Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below.	1x10
i	What was the striking feature that came up after the survey conducted by Mindler? Answer within 40 words	2
ii	The main idea of paragraph 1 is_____.	1
iii	Read the statement and complete the sentence. <i>According to researchers, India has a variety of 250 career options available across 40 domains covering 5,000 job types.</i> In the given statement, the writer wants the reader to focus on_____.	1
iv	On the basis of your understanding of paragraph 3, list two factors that could help the country gain economic prosperity.	1
v	According to paragraph 4, what is the common mistake made by the mentors of the students?	1
vi	Observe the graph and analyse the variation it provides within 40 words.	2
vii	In paragraph 4, the condition of parents as described shows that they are in a state of _____.	1
viii	State whether TRUE or FALSE. Parents and teachers can play a passive yet potential role in shaping the child's future. _____	1
SECTION B – CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS		18
<i>All the names and addresses used in the questions are fictitious. Resemblance, if any, is purely coincidental.</i>		
3.	Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below in not more than 50 words.	4
A	The Residents Welfare Association of Preet Vihar is organising a Diwali Mela. As Mr Pradeep Kumar , the President, draft a notice informing the residents about the same with all necessary details.	
OR		
B	Primrose School is organising a series of hobby classes during the Winter break for all the students. As Manav/ Manasvini, draft a notice informing the students about the same. Add necessary details.	
4.	Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below in not more than 50 words.	4
A	You are Mrs. Gayatri Kumar. You have received an invitation to be the Chief Guest for the Annual Debate Competition at Woodstock School, Mussoorie. Write a formal letter to the Principal informing him about your willingness to attend the program.	
OR		

B	You are Anshika Sinha, a resident of 23/7, Sunshine Society, New Delhi. Write an informal letter to your cousin Suhani, inviting her to attend a party being organised by your family to celebrate the academic excellence of your brother in class XII board examination. Give necessary details.	
5.	Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below in not more than 120-150 words.	5
A	Citizens of Delhi are facing inconvenience due to lack of proper infrastructure, water shortage and prolonged power cuts . Write a letter to the editor voicing your concern over these issues. You are Sikha Rana of 212B, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi. Add necessary details.	
	OR	
B	You are Myra/Manish, residing in Vasant Kunj, Delhi. You are extremely concerned about the frequent cases of theft and robbery especially with the elderly in your locality. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily expressing your concern. You may use the following cues to compose the letter. <u>Hints:</u> Loss of life, Loss of property, Elderly abuse, CCTV Cameras, High Security, 24x7 vigilance	
6.	Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below in not more than 120-150 words.	5
A	Over the last few years, children have taken on a proactive role in bringing about substantial changes in a society. They pledged not to use firecrackers to reduce air and noise pollution and to save the animals and senior citizens from various inconveniences. Motivated by this role of the youth, write an article on the topic ‘Role of youth in transforming the society. You are Ameena/Aman of class 12 of Mother Teresa Public school.	
	OR	
B	Vishwa Bharati Public School organized a career fair inviting various foreign universities. As the editor of the school magazine, write a report covering numerous aspects of the event. You are George, the editor of VBP magazine.	
7.	SECTION C : LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT Read the given extracts to attempt the questions with reference to context.	
A	Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.	6
	<i>Sometimes I feel myself I can hardly bear The thought of so much childish longing in vain, The sadness that lurks near the open window there, That waits all day in almost open prayer For the squeal of brakes, the sound of a stopping car, Of all the thousand selfish cars that pass, Just one to inquire what a farmer’s prices are. And one did stop, but only to plow up grass In using the yard to back and turn around; And another to ask the way to where it was bound;</i>	
i.	Why does the poet call the farmers’ longing ‘childish’	1

ii.	They prayed for the stopping of a car. When one car finally stopped, it brought..... To the people of roadside stand a) help b) happiness c) disappointment d) cash flow	1
iii	Which statement is TRUE? Statement 1: The poet is hurt by the plight of the Roadside stand owners. Statement 2: Their open prayers are answered by the city people in many ways.	1
iv.	Complete the following analogy correctly on the basis of the above extract. Selfish cars: Transferred Epithet, _____: personification	1
v.	Why does the poet say ‘Sometimes I feel myself I can hardly bear’? a) Because the poet observes the farmer’s plight b) Because he knew the roadside stand farmer c) Because he has relatives who are farmers d) Because he empathizes with the farmers	1
vi.	Fill the blank with an appropriate answer. The city dwellers asking the shed owners for a gallon of gas shows the quality of being _____.	1
OR		
B	Those who prepare green wars, wars with gas, wars with fire, victory with no survivors, would put on clean clothes and walk about with their brothers in the shade, doing nothing. (poem - Keeping Quiet)	
i.	What is a common outcome of all the wars described?	1
ii.	What does the imagery of ‘walking about with their brothers in the shade’ primarily represent? A. The readiness for further conflicts. B. A return to normal activities post-conflict. C. A moment of unity and peaceful reflection. D. The physical environment of a typical war zone.	1
iii	Complete the following suitably. The putting on of ‘clean clothes’ by the warmongers, symbolises _____.	1
iv.	Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank. The excerpt tells us that the speaker _____ (condemns / glorifies) the destructive nature of modern warfare.	1
v.	Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract. Assertion: The poet advocates for 'doing nothing' as a way to prevent the devastation of war. Reason: 'Doing nothing' refers to a time for stopping any action for a few moments. Choose the correct option regarding their relationship.	1

	<p>A. Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.</p> <p>B. Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.</p> <p>C. The assertion is true, but the reason is false.</p> <p>D. The assertion is false, but the reason is true.</p>	
vi.	How can the message in the excerpt, about the outcome of wars be applied to promote peace?	1
8.	Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.	4
A	<p>DERRY: You're... peculiar. You say peculiar things. You ask questions I don't understand.</p> <p>MR LAMB: I like to talk. Have company. You don't have to answer questions. You don't have to stop here at all. The gate's open.</p> <p>DERRY: Yes, but...</p> <p>MR LAMB: I've a hive of bees behind those trees over there. Some hear bees and they say, bees buzz. But when you listen to bees for a long while, they humm.... and hum means sing. I hear them singing, my bees,</p> <p>DERRY: But....I like it here. I came in because I liked it..... when I looked over the wall.</p> <p>MR LAMB: If you'd seen me, you'd not have come in.</p> <p>DERRY: No,</p>	
i.	Derry says, "I came in here because I liked it" What was the one significant thing Derry might have liked about the place, as per the extract?	1
ii	What is the main contrast between Mr Lamb and Derry's view on bees in the extract	
iii	Give one reason why the extract can be called a significant introduction to the theme.	
iv.	<p>'Some hear bees and they say, bees buzz.'</p> <p>The poetic device used in 'bees buzz' is</p> <p>(a) Simile</p> <p>(b) Personification</p> <p>(c) Transferred Epithet</p> <p>(d) Onomatopoeia</p>	1
OR		
B	<p>"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." "You are a good man," the General murmured and closed his eyes." "You will be rewarded." But Sadao, searching the spot of black in the twilighted sea that night, had his reward.</p>	
i.	What does it mean when Sadao says that the General ' was in the palm of his hand?	1
ii.	<p>Select the option that completes the given sentence appropriately.</p> <p>The speaker of the first line in the given extract is _____.</p> <p>(a) Dr. Sadao</p> <p>(b) The General</p> <p>(c) Hana</p> <p>(d) The White Man</p>	1
iii.	<p>Which of the following does NOT deliver the meaning of the word 'comprehended'?</p> <p>(a) Understood</p>	1

	(b) Grasped (c) Perceived (d) Disregarded	
iv.	Why did the General want Sadao to be rewarded?	1
9.	Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.	6
A	<p>“I know nothing except bangles. All I have done is make a house for the family to live in.” Hearing him one wonders if he has achieved what many have failed in their lifetime. He has a roof over his head!</p> <p>The cry of not having money to do anything except carry on the business of making bangles, not even enough to eat, rings in every home. The young men echo the lament of the elders. Little has moved with time, it seems in Firozabad, years of mind-numbing toil have killed all initiative and the ability to dream.</p>	
i.	Identify the line from the text that bears evidence to the fact that there has been no development in Firozabad over the years.	1
ii.	<p>Which statement is True?</p> <p>Statement 1: People of Firozabad work in the bangle making industry making a good amount of money.</p> <p>Statement 2: People like Mukesh are the victims of their circumstances and the apathetic society.</p>	1
iii.	Give one word to describe the elders of Firozabad_____.	1
iv.	<p>Complete the sentence.</p> <p>The sentence "He has a roof over his head!", suggests that in comparison to his peers, the man _____</p>	1
v.	Give a suitable word to complete the following analogy: Lack of money : Lament :: _____; Lack of initiative	1
vi.	Explain any one possible inference that can be drawn from the line “The young men echo the lament of the elders”.	1
OR		
B	<p>Yet I had residual doubts. At my first opportunity I hurried west, went up the Tieton to Conrad Meadows, up the Conrad Creek Trail to Meade Glacier, and camped in the high meadow by the side of Warm Lake. The next morning I stripped, dived into the lake, and swam across to the other shore and back — just as Doug Corpron used to do. I shouted with joy, and Gilbert Peak returned the echo. I had conquered my fear of water. In death there is peace. There is terror only in the fear of death, as Roosevelt knew when he said, “All we have to fear is fear itself.” Because I had experienced both the sensation of dying and the terror that fear of it can produce, the will to live somehow grew in intensity. At last I felt released — free to walk the trails and climb the peaks and to brush aside fear.</p>	
i.	Summarise the narrator’s experience in one sentence.	1

ii.	How are the two statements related? Statement 1: The narrator dived into the Warm Lake and swam across the shore and back as he was not finished, though the instructor was. Statement 2: The narrator felt free to walk the trails and climb the peaks and to brush aside fear.	1
iii.	Complete the sentence appropriately. The narrator's trauma was related to _____	1
iv.	Pick evidence from the extract that helps one infer that the narrator has changed significantly after experiencing trauma.	1
v.	List any two adjectives that can be used to describe the narrator on the basis of the above extract.	1
vi.	What does the phrase "Yet I had residual doubts" refer to?	1
10.	Answer ANY FIVE of the following in about 40-50 words each.	5x2=10
i.	Reflect on the description of the conditions of the glass blowing industry in Firozabad by Aneesh Jung ?	2
ii.	Describe how Gandhi infuse courage amongst the sharecroppers of Champaran?	2
iii.	Did the peddler respect the confidence reposed in him by the crofter in the story "The rattrap"? Explain with examples.	2
iv.	What is suggested by the image of 'massive weight of uncle's wedding band'?	2
v.	Who all does M.Hamel blame for the procrastination of learning?	2
vi.	According to Pablo Neruda, how can we draw inspiration from Mother Earth?	2
11.	Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 40-50 words each.	2x2=4
i.	Mr. Lamb too display signs of loneliness and disappointment. What are the ways in which he tries to overcome these feelings?	2
ii.	What benefits did Charley reap out of philately as his hobby?	2
iii.	Sadao urged to revisit his past days as a student in America, what caused him to do so ?	2
12.	Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words.	5
i.	'The Rattrap', highlights the idea that human beings have an inherent inclination to redeem themselves when motivated to change their dishonest behaviour. Discuss.	5
OR		

ii.	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?	5
13.	Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words.	5
i.	Sam himself seems to be a victim of the uncertainties of the modern world in the story 'The Third Level'. The irony is that the one who managed to escape is not Charley, but Sam himself. As Sam, write a diary entry about his life in Illinois, Galesburg.	
	OR	
ii	On returning home, Bama narrated the funny incident she witnessed in the market place to her elder brother Annan. Her brother became serious and explained it to her that there was not anything funny in what she witnessed, rather all these incidents show discrimination based on caste. As she understood the gravity of the incident, she felt disgusted and sad. Imagine yourself as Bama and discuss what the 'Constitution of India' does for this.	