

BCM SCHOOL CHANDIGARH ROAD

A Senior Secondary School of BCM Foundation

Affiliated to CBSE New Delhi

ENGLISH CORE Class XII

MM 80

Time 3 HRS

SET A

Section – A

Reading Skills (22 Marks)

Q1. Read the passage given below. (1 x 12 = 12)

Vanilla is the second most expensive spice in the world, after saffron, a result of its long and labour intensive cultivation. Parts of the orchid family, vanilla beans are hand- pollinated on family farms. Each flower opens for only one part of a day during the season, if it is not pollinated on that day, no pod is produced.

Once picked, the curing process, which involves drying the beans in the sun by day and allowing them to sweat in a box at night takes three to six months. The main producers of food grade vanilla, known as black vanilla because of the colour of the dried pods, are Madagascan, followed by Mexico and Tahiti. Vanilla from each country has its own distinctive characteristics but it is Madagascan vanilla that produces the creamy, sweet flavour beloved of Britons.

One can get vanilla extract all over the world but Madagascan vanilla is chosen because it has the greatest depth of flavour. There are three main commercial preparations of whole beans, powder and extract. Extract is sold by the ‘fold’ a unit that denotes the weight of vanilla beans per gallon. Silver Spoon, which distributes the American Nielsen-Massey vanilla brand in the U.K., said: “The market price of vanilla has risen over the past 12 months and sharply over the last 12 weeks. This has been driven largely by a poor quality harvest in Madagascar. Soaring prices will hurt companies that use the ingredient in everything from soft drinks to cakes and perfumes. But the pain will be felt most acutely by ice-cream makers, as it is the most expensive ingredient in the production process and some will be forced to pass on the increased cost to consumers.

When prices are high, market experts say, farmers are tempted to pick beans early. That leads to a less intense flavour, compounding problems in the market. The high-value crop is also a target for criminals. There are reports that vanilla farmers in Madagascar harvested their 2015 crop prematurely, in fear of losing their production to thieves.

This, coupled with inadequate drying in order to increase profits from their crop has led to lower quality vanilla. The combination of high prices and poor quality means some manufacturers are turning to synthetic alternatives. But many food brands are not open to using artificial flavourings. Vanilla is every ice-cream company’s biggest- selling product. You can bring out a niche flavour but vanilla will still be on top. You’ve just got to take the hit on it because customers would notice the difference.

Based on your reading of the passage, answer the following questions given below:

(A) Vanilla has a ‘labour-intensive cultivation’. What do you mean by the underlined phrase?

- (a) Automatic cultivation
- (b) Manual cultivation
- (c) Machine cultivation
- (d) Urban cultivation [1]

(B) Name the country that has best-quality vanilla in the world. [1]

(C) Complete the given sentence.

..... is a unit that denotes the weight of vanilla beans per gallon. [1]

(D) How would the ice-cream sellers deal with the rising price of vanilla? [1]

(E) Choose the option that shows the two most expensive spices in the world.

- (1) Vanilla (2) saffron (3) clove (4) cinnamon (5) Cardamom
(a) (3) and (5) (b) (2) and (4)
(c) (1) and (2) (d) (4) and (4) [1]

(F) Does the following statement agree with the information given the passage.

‘Crop thieves’ are the major ‘concern’ for vanilla farmers.

True: if the statement agrees with the information.

False: if the statement contradicts with the information.

Not Given: if there is no information on this. [1]

(G) Choose a word that means the same as ‘coupled’.

- (a) Three times
(b) Doubled
(c) Conjugated
(d) Separated [1]

(H) What does it mean when the author says ‘synthetic alternatives’?

- (a) Low-quality products
(b) Cheap ingredients
(c) Artificial options
(d) organic ingredients [1]

(I) Why did the market price of vanilla rise over the past 12 months?

- (a) Due to poor quality harvest.
(b) Because farmers pick beans early.
(c) Because of thieves.
(d) Due to inadequate drying to make profit. [1]

(J) The Madagascan Vanilla is chosen by people around the world due to its [1]

(K) Why are many food brands not open to using artificial flavourings? [2]

Q2. Read the passage given below. (1 x 10 = 10)

(1) Introduction:

In the hasty lifestyle of today’s world, the choice of snacks can greatly impact one's health and well-being. This case study aims to analyse the preference for seasonal fruits compared to packaged snacks among different age groups and the implications for overall health.

(2) Methodology:

A survey was conducted among individuals across various age groups, ranging from children to seniors, to determine their snacking preferences. Participants were asked to indicate their preferred snack choices and provide reasons for their preferences. The data was then analysed to identify trends and patterns among different age demographics.

(3) Survey Examination:

The survey encompassed a comprehensive examination of snacking habits, including not only preferred snack choices but also delving into the underlying motivations and influences guiding these choices. Beyond mere preference, participants were encouraged to articulate the reasons behind their selections, providing invaluable insights into the multifaceted nature of snacking behaviour.

(4) Results:

The survey results revealed interesting insights into snacking preferences among different age groups:

| Age-group | % | Preferred snack | Reasons for preference |
|--------------|----|-------------------------------------|--|
| Children | 77 | Seasonal fruits | Taste, Health benefits, Parental guidance |
| Teenagers | 65 | Packaged snacks | Convenience, Taste, Peer influence |
| Young adults | 52 | seasonal fruits and packaged snacks | Transitional lifestyle(college, beginning careers, and establishing independence), Health consciousness, Convenience |
| Middle-aged | 83 | Seasonal fruits | Freshness, Nutrition, Health consciousness |
| Elderly | 90 | Seasonal fruits | Health benefits, Digestive ease |

(5) Implications for Interventions:

By discerning the diverse preferences among different age groups, policymakers and health practitioners can tailor interventions to address specific demographic needs. For instance, targeting educational campaigns towards parents could empower them to instill healthy eating habits in their children from an early age. Concurrently, efforts to mitigate the influence of advertising and peer pressure on teenagers could involve regulatory measures and educational initiatives aimed at promoting critical thinking and informed decision-making. Furthermore, the prominence of seasonal fruits as a preferred snack choice among middle-aged adults and senior's points towards the importance of promoting access to fresh produce and nutritional education across all age demographics.

(6) Conclusion:

The survey outcomes serve as a roadmap for designing targeted interventions that not only cater to diverse demographic needs but also nurture a culture of health and well-being. By harnessing the insights gleaned from this study, stakeholders can collaboratively work towards building healthier communities and promoting sustainable practices for generations to come. (Created for Academic Usage / 315 words)

2.1 Answer the following questions, based on given passage.

I. Complete the following suitably. 1

In the introduction, the researcher links a hasty lifestyle with the choice of snacks in the study to highlight...

II. What would the following be classified as? 1

To examine snacking preferences across various age groups in detail, and assess health implications.

Select the appropriate response.

A. Primary purpose B. Secondary objective

C. Method of analysis D. Research outcome

III. Give two points to support why it is likely that fresh fruits were given as an option to the survey participants to choose from in the study on snacking preferences. 2

IV. Paragraph 3 includes words – 'motivations' and 'influences.'

Classify the following sentences as 'influence' or 'motivation':

Sentence 1: Peer pressure leads teenagers to prefer packaged snacks over healthier options.

Sentence 2: The drive to maintain health as one ages makes middle-aged adults to choose seasonal fruits. 1

V. Read the following:

Seema regularly enjoys snacking on chips and cool drinks while watching movies.

Mohan, her neighbour, prefers to snack on oranges and also some nuts occasionally.

Arindam, who lives across, often tends to eat a mix of carrot sticks and instant noodles, in between meals.

Select the option that identifies the correct demographic Seema, Mohan and Arindam belong to.

A. Seema – young adult; Mohan – teenager; Arindam -middle-age

B. Seema - teenager; Mohan – middle-age; Arindam -child

C. Seema – young adult; Mohan – child; Arindam - teenager

VI. Although children, middle-aged, and elderly groups all prefer seasonal fruits, why is the preference percentage highest among the elderly? 1

VII. Analyse how targeted interventions based on the diverse snacking preferences of different age groups can lead to improved health outcomes. (Paragraph 5) 2

VIII What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders, based on the insights from the study?

A. Increase profitability through enhanced snack marketing

B. Building healthier communities

C. Reducing the cost of healthcare services

D. Expanding the range of available snack product 1

Section – B
Creative Writing Skills (18 marks)

3. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words 1x4=4

A. Your school is planning to conduct an inter-class seminar on the topic–The Importance of Right Choice of Career–to create awareness in adolescents. As the head of the organising committee, write a notice to inform all students about the seminar and invite registrations from classes XI-XII. Include other necessary details. Put your notice in a box.

OR

Your school is organising an inter-House webinar on enhancing coding skills, As the President of the Computer Club, write a notice to inform all House members from IX-XII about the webinar and specify the number of registrations invited per House. Include other necessary details. Put your notice in a box. [4]

4. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words 1x4=4

Draft an informal invitation in 50 words to be sent to your best friend to invite her to the bachelors' party that you will be hosting a night before your sister's wedding. You are Akansha Garg, a resident of 12/B, Ram Setu Colony, Haridwar.

OR

You are Shlok Mehta, the captain of your school basketball team in Raipur. You have received an invitation from Holy Public School, Thane, to play a friendly exhibition match at their stadium. Write a formal reply to it either accepting or declining the invitation. [4]

Q5. You are Amit/Amita, of 63, Civil Lines, Delhi. You saw an advertisement in 'The Hindu' for the post of accountant in a reputed firm. Write an application to the area manager of Gaytri Consultants, 2Barakhamba Road, New Delhi, giving your detailed bio data.

Amore International, Mohali requires Accounts Officers
Qualification: M. Com.
Experience: Minimum 5 years
Job requirement: Maintaining books of accounts, preparation of Balance Sheet, etc
Salary: Best in the Industry
Apply to: HR Manager, Al 4/N, New South Plaza, Mohali
Contact: 9214xxxxxxx

OR

Financial literacy is increasingly recognised as a crucial 21st-century skill for young individuals. Write a letter to the editor of a local daily discussing the benefits of providing financial literacy education to children. Also, suggest effective ways to raise awareness about the importance of this education among

parents and guardians. You may use some of the given cues along with your own ideas to draft the letter. You are a counsellor, Chitra Mahapatra from Puri, Odisha.

- What are the long-term benefits of learning financial independence from a young age?
- Why is understanding the power of finances beneficial for young learners?
- Why skills learned during childhood tend to have a lasting impact.

Q6. Teenagers are full of energy as well as ideas. Write an article for the school magazine in 150-200 words on 'How to Channelise the Energy of the Teenagers'. You are Simran/Simranjeet.

OR

You are Hina Aziz, student of Class XII-D and a member of the school magazine editorial board. Write a comprehensive report detailing the activities undertaken by students as part of the celebrations on Yoga Day. Include descriptions of the events, participation details, and the overall impact of these activities on the school community. You may organise your report by following - Who - What - When - Where - Why - How [5]

Section – C Literature (40 marks)

Q7. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE of the two given questions: (1 x 6 = 6)

*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; the mid forest brake*

(A) List the poetic device used in the phrase 'For simple sheep'. [1]

(B) Select an option that represents an example of Antithesis in the given extract.

- (a) The sun the moon
- (b) Old and young
- (c) Cooling covert
- (d) Clear rills [1]

(C) The helps one to overcome the heat during the hot season. [1]

(D) Trees sprout a 'shady boon'. It means that the trees

- (a) provide a dark fruit in summers
- (b) provide a spoilt fruit in summers
- (c) provide a boon of cool shade in the summer season.
- (d) provide a boon of hot shade in the summer season [1]

(E) Choose an option that describes four things of beauty present in the extract.

- (1) Sun (2) Moon (3) Stars (4) Daffodils (5) Tress (6) Flowers
- (a) (1), (2), (4) and (5)
- (b) (2), (3), (5) and (6)
- (c) (3) and (6)
- (d) (4) and (5) [1]

(F) Write the correct rhyme scheme of the stanza. [1]

OR

*While greedy good-doers, beneficent beasts of prey,
Swarm over their lives enforcing benefits
That are calculated to soothe them out of their wits.
And by teaching them how to sleep they sleep all day,
Destroy their sleeping at night the ancient way.*

(A) Choose the option that DOES NOT mean the same as 'beneficent'.

- (a) charitable (b) altruistic (c) maleficent (d) munificent [1]

(B) Identify emotions of the poet when he says 'enforcing benefits'.

(1)[1]

(C) Select an option that states a reason behind poet's usage of the word 'swarm'

- (a) To compare the people to busy bees hovering around
(b) To give a sense of a large and an unpleasant crowd
(c) To bring out the idea of being alone in a large crowd
(d) To indicate the many people who would be ready to help [1]

(D) Why would the rural folk's sleeping habits be destroyed?

- (a) They would be working at night, a time they usually slept.
(b) They would be sleeping in the day as well as night.
(c) They would not be able to sleep during the day as before.
(d) They would be working in the day as they usually did. [1]

(E) What does the phrase 'out of their wits' mean?

- (a) To make someone feel loved (b) To make someone very scared
(c) To make someone depressed (d) To make someone excited [1]

(F) List the correct rhyme scheme of the given stanza. [1]

Q8. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE of the two given questions. (1 x 4 = 4)

Sadao had taken this into his mind as he did everything his father said, his father who never joked or played with him but who spent infinite pains upon him who was his only son. Sadao knew that his education was his father's chief concern. For this reason he had been sent at twenty-two to America to learn all that could be learned of surgery and medicine. He had come back at thirty, and before his father died he had seen Sadao become famous not only as a surgeon but as a scientist. Because he was perfecting a discovery which would render wounds entirely clean, he had not been sent abroad with the troops. Also, he knew, there was some slight danger that the old General might need an operation for a condition for which he was now being treated medically, and for this possibility Sadao was being kept in Japan.

1. What does the word 'infinite' mean?

- A Calculable B Sempiternal
C Never ending D Both B and C

2. What does the speaker mean by "Perfecting a discovery"?

- A Honing the discovery B Making the discovery perfect
C Making himself perfect for Hana D Both A and B

3. Why was Dr. Sadao never sent abroad with the troops?

- A For he remained ill B For the General remained ill

C For the was perfecting a discovery D Both B and C

4. What does the word 'troops' mean?

- A Group of soldiers B Group of generals
C Group of commanders D Group of brigadiers

OR

To visit Antarctica now is to be a part of that history; to get a grasp of where we've come from and where we could possibly be heading. It's to understand the significance of Cordilleran folds and pre-Cambrian granite shields; ozone and carbon; evolution and extinction.

When you think about all that can happen in a million years, it can get pretty mind-boggling. Imagine: India pushing northwards, jamming against Asia to buckle its crust and form the Himalayas; South America drifting off to join North America, opening up the Drake Passage to create a cold circumpolar current, keeping Antarctica frigid, desolate, and at the bottom of the world.

(A) Choose the option that states the correct meaning of the idiom, 'to get a grasp' as used in the extract.

- (a) The art teacher asked students to lightly grasp their pencils.
(b) The doctors were trying to get a grasp of the situation.
(c) The neighbour asked security guard to properly grasp the sofa.
(d) The professor paused and asked, 'Did you grasp what I said?' [1]

(B) List the pair of opposite ideas as used in this extract. [1]

(C) Which of the following words means the same as 'mind-boggling'?

- (a) amazing (b) ordinary (c) confusing (d) special [1]

(D) Choose the word that DOES NOT mean 'jamming' as given in the extract.

- (a) ramming (b) elbowing (c) bulldozing (d) yielding [1]

Q9. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE of the questions: (1 x 6 = 6)

Shukla was sitting on his haunches at the appointed spot in Calcutta when Gandhi arrived; he waited till Gandhi was free. Then the two of them boarded a train for the city of Patna in Bihar. There Shukla led him to the house of a lawyer named Rajendra Prasad who later became President of the Congress party and of India. Rajendra Prasad was out of town, but the servants knew Shukla as a poor yeoman who pestered their master to help the indigo sharecroppers. So they let him stay on the grounds with his companion Gandhi, whom they took to be another peasant.

(A) Shukla was sitting on his haunches. Choose the word that states the meaning of the term 'haunches'.

- (a) To sit on one's legs
(b) To sit on a chair
(c) To sit patiently and wait
(d) To sit on one's knees [1]

(B) The servants took Gandhi to be another peasant. Why?

- (a) He was wearing a turban. (b) He was weak.
(c) He looked starved. (d) He was dressed plain. [1]

(C) Why did Rajkumar Skukla wait for Gandhi to be free?

- (a) To address the issue of sharecroppers (b) To fight for the rural people
(c) To help Rajkumar Shukla in job (d) To teach people about trading [1]

(D) Identify Rajkumar Shukla's characteristic from the extract. [1]

(E) Why did the servants let him stay on the grounds?"?

- (a) As they were not allowed inside the house.
- (b) As they were peasants.
- (c) As they were thought to be untouchables.
- (d) As they were arrogant. [1]

(F) Who of the following is a 'yeoman'?

- (a) Teacher
- (b) Old man
- (c) Farmer
- (d) Politician [1]

OR

No one can imagine how sad and monotonous life can appear to such a vagabond, who plods along the road, left to his own meditations. But one day this man had fallen into a line of thought which really seemed to him entertaining. He had naturally been thinking of his rattraps when suddenly he was struck by the idea that the whole world about him – the whole world with its lands and seas, its cities and villages – was nothing but a big rattrap.

It had never existed for any other purpose than to set baits for people. It offered riches and joys, shelter and food, heat and clothing, exactly as the rattrap offered cheese and pork, and as soon as anyone let himself be tempted to touch the bait, it closed in on him, and then everything came to an end.

(A) The extract talks about a 'vagabond'. Identify him.

- (a) Iron mill owner
- (b) Old crofter
- (c) Rattrap seller
- (d) Mill labour [1]

(B) The vagabond 'left to his own meditations'. What does the given phrase mean?

- (a) He was lost in the crowd.
- (b) He was a philosopher.
- (c) He wanted to preach people as per his own thoughts.
- (d) He was left alone with his thoughts. [1]

(C) The vagabond had a that the world is a rattrap with bait in the form of riches and joy. [1]

(D) Why did the vagabond think the world to be nothing but a big 'rattrap'?

- (a) As it offers baits in the form of joys and riches.
- (b) As it cages people in the jails.
- (c) As it is also cheap like rattraps.
- (d) As it is full of people who are dirty like rats. [1]

(E) What kind of approach did the vagabond appears to have in his life through the extract? [1]

(F) What does the word 'monotonous' mean?

- (a) Same and boring.
- (b) Same but different.
- (c) Different and positive.
- (d) Different and adventurous. [1]

Q10. Attempt ANY FIVE out of the six questions given below, in 40-50 words each. (5 x 2 = 10)

- (A) What is the poet trying to convey through the images of the 'fishermen' and 'men gathering salt'? [2]
- (B) Why does Mukesh's dream of becoming a car mechanic looks like a mirage to the author? [2]
- (C) Getting rid of fear is an extremely difficult task. Elucidate with reference to chapter "Deep Water". [2]
- (D) "Journalists and publishers believe that people like trash and don't like different reading experiences." Does the further interview prove this statement with respect to the success of "The Name of the Rose"? [2]
- (E) How might the reaction of Franze be different had he been a sincere, dedicated and studious student? [2]
- (F) Why was the narrator praying for crowd shooting all the time?

Q11. Attempt ANY TWO out of the three questions given below, in 40-50 words each. (2 x 2 = 4)

- (A) Narrate briefly the 'Journey to the end of the Earth' that was done by Tishani Doshi. [2]

(B) The statement made by the surgeons who operated on the tiger king makes the readers guess that probably they were Germans. Comment in the light of the statement made by the General Takima in the story 'The Enemy'. [2]

(C) Children relish the small pleasures of life just like Bama did when she dawdled along on her way back from school, enjoying all the novelties. Elaborate. [2]

Q12. Attempt ANY ONE of the following questions in 20-150 words.

Analyse the poems, A Roadside Stand and Aunt Jennifer's Tigers for the theme of inequality and its impact on the bearers.

OR
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?

Q13. Attempt ANY ONE of the following questions in 120-150 words.

Imagine you are Derry from 'On the Face of It'. Even when Mr. Lamb was no more, you are carrying the life lesson learnt from him in your heart. What advice might you offer to Bama, the author of 'We too are human beings..' in the context of the discriminations faced by her and her community because of their caste. Pen down your advice in a letter to Bama.

You may begin this way:

Dear Bama

I recently read your childhood experience and felt....

You may end this way:

I hope this advice is helpful....

Warm regards

Derek

OR
The American soldier's life was as much saved by Dr. Sadao's medical skills and care as it was by chance. Discuss with reference to the story 'The Enemy'. [5]

