

Guess Paper (2024-25)

Class – XII Set-B

Subject – English Core (CODE: 301)

Time 3 hrs.

M.M. 80

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

(1) This paper is divided into four Sections: A, B, C and D. All the questions in each section are compulsory.

(2) Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary.

Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.

(3) Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

(4) Handwriting should be neat and legible.

**SECTION A: READING (22M)**

**Q1. Read the passage carefully. 12M**

1. The National Basketball Championship

Women's finals had all the ingredients of the 'Chak De' climax. Till half time, the Railways team, playing against the Chhattisgarh girls' team, led on the scoreboard. And then, the unexpected happened. The Chhattisgarh girls tore into the Railway's defenses and every time they took a shot, the ball made it through the hoop. The scoreboard kept moving and at the final whistle, it stood in Chhattisgarh's favour.

2. But more important than the victory, it is the stories of some of these players that make it a fantastic match. Most of the players come from poor families and have dealt with severe setbacks. Take the story of India's tallest woman hoopster Poonam Chaturvedi. A severe headache that had been bothering her for a long time, was diagnosed with brain tumour 6 months ago. She had lost her will to live but had joined the team to please her father, a constable in Uttar Pradesh. Within a

few minutes into the game the headache had returned and she was benched. But when captain Seema Singh fouled out, she was forced to return. She went on to put up a brilliant performance despite the pain and anxiety.

3. Behind this stupendous success is coach Rajesh Patel, who has been running the Chhattisgarh Basketball Development Academy for 13 years. With financial backing from the Steel plants in his area, he has been mentoring deserving boys and girls from tribal belts and training them for the game. A promise of employment and promotion if they excel in the game, keeps his girls going, says Patel.

4 So far, Patel has trained 1500 youngsters. Of the lot, the really disadvantaged children are taken into a hostel run by him and his wife Anita, till they are independent. Many of

Patel's proteges have gone on to perform at National and International events and the Chhattisgarh girls he has trained, claim a unique record of bringing home 74 medals in their 80 National-level appearances.

5. Yet none of these players have had an easy life. Seema Singh of the current team is its most experienced player. She had represented Chhattisgarh for the first time in 2002. When she was dropped from the Railways team earlier, due to a new injury, she picked herself up and resumed playing for Chhattisgarh and won the National trophy for her coach, as she puts it.

6. Another team member, L. Deepa, triumphed over a physical drawback. She is short and has found this a great disadvantage in a sport like Basketball where height matters. But when Patel gave her a chance to come up to his expectations, Deepa

more than measured up.

7. Others like Bharti Nigam, came into the team as she could not make to the Railways team this year. This daughter of a police constable, she took this snub as a challenge and went on to become a professional player. Her sports teacher, she feels, motivated her to take up the sport as a career.

8. All these women together have thus scripted an unusual tale of great valour, indomitable courage and implicit trust in their coach to secure for India a great honour.

**\*\*Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below:**

I. Choose the most appropriate option. 1M

At the National Basketball women's Finals

.....

- A. the Chhattisgarh team was leading till half time.
- B. the Railways Women's team were unexpected winners
- C. the Chhattisgarh Women's team tore at the opponent's defenses after half time
- D. the Chhattisgarh Women's team began to play professionally past half time

II. With which statement given below would the readers of the passage disagree? 1M

- A. The women's team owe their success to their brilliant coaching.
- B. The women's team owe their success to themselves.
- C. The women's team owe their success to how they dunked the odds against them.
- D. The women's team owe their success to their taking snubbing as a challenge.

III. Comment on Poonam Chaturvedi's role towards the victory of her team'. 2M

IV. Complete the sentence appropriately.

The women mentioned in the passage have scripted and unusual tale of ..... . 1M

V. Give the synonym for the word 'young students' from Para 3 or 4. 1M

VI. Mention two players whose success is a personal rewind after health and physical disadvantage came their way. 1M

VII. Based on your understanding of the text, tell what role does stature play in the game of basketisall? 2M

VIII. List two reasons behind the motivation of coach Rajesh Patel for training tribal girls. 2M

IX. What is the meaning of 'implicit' in the last para of the given passage. 1M

## Q2. Read the following passage carefully: 10M

1. In a room filled with people, each face illuminated by the soft glow of their smartphones moments drift away like autumn leaves in the wind. The constant hum of notifications fills the air, punctuating conversations like an incessant drumbeat. Every vibration or ping sends fingers flying to screens, a response ingrained by years of digital conditioning. The once reliable tick-tock of analog timepieces has been overshadowed by the constant flicker of notifications on the wrist watch, blurring the boundaries between the virtual and the real.

2. Anxiety gnaws at the edges of consciousness when the phone is out of reach, a phantom limb syndrome that leaves us feeling incomplete without our digital appendage. The fear of missing out permeates every moment spent away from

the screen, driving us to constantly check for updates and notifications

3. Thumbs move with the speed and precision of skillful pianists, tapping out messages and scrolling through feeds with practiced ease. Yet amidst the flurry of activity, the true rhythm of life remains unheard, drowned out by the dissonance of digital noise. The weight of constant connectivity forms a hunch upon our shoulders, a physical manifestation of the burden we carry in an age of information overload. Our minds are perpetually on high alert scanning for the next wave of excitement that comes with each like, share, or comment.

4. And yet, for all our efforts to stay connected, we find ourselves increasingly isolated in a sea of digital faces. Genuine connections are fleeting, drowned out by the constant clamour for attention. In the pursuit

of digital validation, we sacrifice the wealth of lived experience, trading meaningful moments for fleeting glimpses of connection. The true essence of life lies not in the pixels on a screen, but in the depth of human connection and the richness of shared experiences.

5. As we navigate this brave new world of constant connectivity, let us not forget the value of presence and the beauty of being fully engaged in the moments that matter most. For in the end, it is not the number of likes or followers that defines us, but the depth of our connections and the richness of our experiences that truly matters.

**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.**

I. According to paragraph 1, what effect do smartphone notifications have on the people

in the room? 1M

II. How does the author use the metaphor of 'autumn leaves in the wind' to interpret the passing of time in the setting described? 1M

III. Read and complete the following sentence suitably. 1M

The phrase "that leaves us feeling a phantom limb syndrome incomplete without our digital appendage" suggests that just as an amputee might feel pain in a limb they no longer have, Individuals can feel a sense of loss or incompleteness when they are separated from their digital devices.

Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence.

The concern this analogy points towards is about .....

A. a deep (psychological) dependence on technology for a sense of wholeness or connection.

B. excessive physical damage that can be caused due to constant use of digital devices

IV. Complete the following suitably with ONE advantage, with reference to paragraph 2.

Designating specific hours each day to intentionally avoid checking digital devices can help ..... . 1M

V. Why does the writer refer to digital noise as 'dissonance' in paragraph 3 ? 1M

Because

A. It creates a jarring and chaotic environment that disrupts focus.

B. It contributes to a sense of overload, overwhelming the senses.

C. It interferes with our ability to engage with meaningful aspects of our life.

D. It Induces stress by interrupting with

regular updates about the device.

VI. Provide ONE textual evidence with reference to paragraph 3, to prove the following: 1M

The need to be perpetually engaged with digital notifications manifests in the body.

VII. In the line, 'Yet amidst the flurry of activity, the true rhythm of life remains unheard.....,' what does the phrase 'true rhythm of life' refer to? (Paragraphs 3-4). 2M

VIII. Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph 4. 1M

Whisper : quietly :: ..... : loudly

A. validation.

B. fleeting

C. essence.

D. clamour

IX. Why is it fair to say that the statement

'And yet, for all our efforts to stay connected, we find ourselves increasingly isolated in a sea of digital faces' from paragraph 4, employs irony? 1M

A. Despite the intent to connect more effectively, the result is the opposite.

B. The writer mocks the seriousness with which people approach digital connectivity.

C. The writer exaggerates the effects of digital connectivity to highlight its impact.

D. Use of 'a sea of digital faces' to symbolically represent digital platforms.

## SECTION B: CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18M)

**Q3. Answer any one of the two (A) or (B) in about 50 words. 4M**

A. Oxford Public School, Rohini has decided to organize a seminar for the students of classes XI and XII on the topic, 'Culture as the unifying force for the modern world.' As Pranoy Kumar,

Cultural Secretary, draft a notice for the school notice board informing students to participate in it.

OR

B. You are Apoorva Sen, President of D.A.V Public School, Ranchi. The school is going to organize a lecture on 'Holistic Education'. Draft a notice for your school notice board informing the students about it. Include all the necessary details.

**Q4. Answer any one of the two (A B) in about 50 words. 4M**

A. The Literary Club of your school is putting up the play "Waiting for Godot'. As Secretary of the club, draft an invitation inviting the famous writer Sudesh Gupta to be the guest of honour at the function. Write the invitation in not more than 50 words. You are Govind/

Gauri.

OR

B. As the Principal of reputed school, you have been invited to inaugurate a Book Exhibition in your neighbourhood. But you have to attend a meeting with the governing body of the school on the same day et the same time. Draft Chaturvedi reply to the mutation expressing your inability to attend the function. You are Somya Chaturvedi.

**Q5. Answer any one of the two (A) or (8) in about 120-150 words. 5M**

A. You have realized the necessity of education and financial independence of women for their family, society and in turn for the nation. Write letter to the editor of Hindustan Times highlighting your ideas on the importance of education of women

leading to a better status for them. You are Rahul/Raveena a concerned city resident.

OR

B. You have seen an advertisement for the post of a Maths Editor. You have the necessary qualification and experience. Apply to Rachna Sagar Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi. Also prepare your detailed biodata. You are Sarth/Sarthi Taneja.

**Q6. Answer any one of the two (A) or (B) in about 120-150 words. 5M**

A. India is emerging as one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world. Write an article on "India as a Popular Choice of Foreign Visitors". Sign yourself as Leela/Laksh.

OR

B. You are Madhav/Mohini the cultural secretary of your school, Tulip Public School, New Delhi. Recently a 'Go Green Week' was organized by your school and you have been asked to write a report on the same for your school magazine. Write your report describing the various activities.

SECTION C: (LITERATURE) 40M

**Q7. Read the following Extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two-A or B. 6M**

*A. A Thing of beauty is a joy forever  
Its loveliness increases, it will never  
Pass into nothingness; but will keep  
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep  
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet  
breathing.*

(a) What will remain in our memory forever?

(b) Select the option that is NOT true about the lack of punctuation at the end of the lines given in the extract.

- (i) Creates a sense of continuity and flow that connects the line with the second line.
- (ii) Encourages the reader to continue reading without any pause.
- (iii) Creates a sense of anticipation and expectation for the reader.
- (iv) Encourages a revisit to the ideas in the preceding lines.

(c) Complete the following suitably:

The Beautifying provide in .....

d! Select the correct option from those given in brackets

The expression "pass into nothingness" implies that beautiful things never (increases/ fade away).

(e) Read the assertion and the reason below

with reference to the given extract

**Assertion:** A sleep provides us tranquility and mental peace.

**Reason:** Nature is not always beneficial to mankind.

Choose the correct option regarding the statements.

(i) Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion

(ii) Both the assertion and the reason are true but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.

(iii) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.

(iv) The assertion is false, but the reason is true.

(f) How does a bower help an individual?

OR

B. It is in the news that all pitiful kin  
Are to be brought out and mercifully gathered  
in

To live in villages, next to the theatre and the  
store,

Where they won't have to think for  
themselves anymore.

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) Mention three words used by the poet in  
the extract that make the reader question the  
motives of the benefactors and the good-

doers.

(b) Select the option that WILL NOT complete the sentence appropriately.

These facilities have been provided by ..... with the real objective of .....

(i) the government; sharing good things with its poor citizens.

(ii) the opposition parties; not showing keen interest in the poor people.

(iii) Social activists; not ensuring social equality.

(iv) the government; keeping the poor distracted from the real issues.

(c) Complete the following suitably.

The poor have been gathered into live in villages next to the end the store.

This shows that .....

(d) Select the correct option from those given in the brackets to fill in the blank.

Where they won't have to think for themselves anymore implies that the peasants will be more .....  
(impoverished/wealthy)

(e) Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.

**Assertion:** The poet criticizes the way the rural poor are treated by the benefactors.

**Reason:** The treatment meted out to the rural poor may lead to a loss of critical thinking among the rural people

Choose the correct option regarding the statements.

(i) Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.

(ii) Both the assertion and the reason are true but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.

(iii) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.

(iv) The assertion is false, but the reason is true.

(f) What is the tone of the poet in the line, 'gathered in to live in villages next to the theatre and the store' indicate ?

**Q8. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the (A) or (B). 4M**

A. I cried aloud, shaking my head all the while until I felt the cold blades of the scissors against my neck, and heard them gnaw off one of my thick braids. Then I lost my spirit. Since the day I was taken from my mother I had suffered extreme indignities. People had stared at me. I had been tossed about in the air like a wooden puppet. And now my long hair was shingled like a coward's! In my anguish, I moaned for my mother, but no one

came to comfort me. Not a soul reasoned quietly with me, as my own mother used to do, for now, I was only one of many little animals driven by a herder.

(a) Complete the following suitably.

The act of cutting the author's hair was both a transformative and traumatic moment for Zitkala-Sa because .....

(b) Zitkala-Sa mentions 'for now I was only one of many little animals driven by a herder.' What is meant by this statement?

(c) The author sums up the agonising experience of cutting of her braids in the words- 'Then I lost my spirit.'

Which of the options given below explains this statement perfectly well as described in the extract?

(i) Her shingled hair made her feel like a

coward.

(ii) She felt that she had lost her identity.

(iii) It was an act of extreme dignity.

(iv) She lost her resolve and determination to fight.

(d) Which figure of speech exists in the statement "I had been tossed about in the air like a wooden supper?"

Or

B. MR LAMB: Rubbish? Look, boy, look.....  
what do you see?

DERRY: Just grass and stuff. Weeds.

MR LAMB: Some call them weeds. If you like, then.... a weed garden, that. There's fruit and there are flowers, and trees and herbs. All sorts. But over there.... weeds. I grow weeds there. Why is one green, growing plant called a weed and another flower? Where's the difference? It's all life... growing. Same as you

and me.

DERRY: We're not the same.

MR LAMB: I'm old. You're young. You've got a burned face, I've got a tin leg. Not important. You're standing there.... I'm sitting here. Where's the difference?

(a) Complete the following suitably. "We're not the same." Here Derry's tone is .....

(b) Why does Mr Lamb draw Derry's attention?

(c) What are the fundamental differences between Derry's and Mr Lamb's understanding of the world and life? These are:

(i) Derry: introvert; Mr Lamb: extrovert

(ii) Derry: nervous; Mr Lamb: domineering

(iii) Derry: self-pity; Mr Lamb: accepting

(iv) Derry: unseeing; Mr Lamb: appreciative

(d) Why does Mr Lamb emphasise the

importance of weeds? What is the idea behind it?

**Q9. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, A or B. 6M**

A. They thought he would demand repayment in full of the money which they had illegally and deceitfully extorted from the sharecroppers. He asked only 50 per cent. "There he seemed adamant," writes Reverend J. Z. Hodge, a British missionary in Champaran who observed the entire episode at close range. "Thinking probably that he would not give way, the representative of the planters offered to refund to the extent of 25 per cent, and to his amazement Mr. Gandhi took him at his word, thus breaking the deadlock. This settlement was adopted unanimously by the commission.

(a) From the given extract, justify that the decision to agree for a 25% compensatory amount was not a unilateral decision.

(b) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank. The settlement done by Gandhi was adopted .....  
(unanimously/ discordantly) by the commission.

(c) Complete the following suitably.  
Gandhi knew that he would not get an agreement on the demand for 50% repayment because .....

(d) What does the expression 'take someone at his word' mean?

(e) Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the extract?

- (i) The importance of British rule
- (ii) The breaking of deadlock

(iii) The rigidity of British rule

(iv) The anxiety of Gandhi

(f) What does the following line from the extract showcase? "There he seemed adamant," writes Reverend Y.Z. Hodge, a British missionary in Champaran who observed the entire episode at close range.

(i) Realisation.

(ii) confusion

(iii) expectation.

(iv) affirmation

Or

B. Then, from one thing to another, M. Hamel went on to talk of the French language, saying that it was the most beautiful language in the world- the clearest, the most logical, that we must guard it among us and never forget it, because when a people are enslaved, as long as they hold fast to their

language it is as if they had the key to their prison. Then he opened a grammar book and read us our lesson. I was amazed to see how well i understood it. All he said seemed so easy, so easy! I think too, that I had never listened so carefully, and the he had never explained everything with so much patience. It seemed as the poor man wanted to give us all he knew before going away, and to put it all into our heads at one stroke.

(a) What advice of M. Hamel shows that he was a patriot indulging in sentimental exaggeration?

(b) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank. According to M. Hamel, the French language is the most ..... (logical/illogical) language in the world.

(c) Complete the following suitably.

A language gives a cultural and national ..... to the people and moulds their perceptions.

(d) Explain any one possible inference that can be drawn from the line, "M. Hamel went on to talk of the French language, saying that it was the most beautiful language in the world-the clearest, the most logical; and we must guard it among us and never forget it."

(e) Which quality can be attributed to M. Hamel's declaration about the French language?

- (i) Nostalgic pride.
- (ii) Subject expertise
- (iii) Patriotic magnification
- (iv) Factual accuracy

(f) What does the central theme of the story highlight?

- (i) Language is the medium of expression

only.

(ii) Sometimes even the most precious things in our lives are taken for granted by us.

(iii) We should not read many languages.

(iv) Franz was an expert of French language.

**Q10. Answer any five of the following six questions in 40-50 words each: 5x2=10M**

(a) "You realise the true value of a thing only on losing it." Comment on this statement in the light of the story, "The Last Lesson".

(b) What does Gandhi refer to a 'conflict of duties' ?

(c) What does the expression 'polished traffic' refer to ? What does it reveal about the City people ?

(d) Why does the ironmaster compare Edla to a parson ?

(e) What handicap did Douglas suffer from ?  
How did he overcome that ?

(f) What caused the lack of communication between the Englishman and the people of Gemini Studios ?

**Q11. Answer any two of the following three questions in 40-50 words each. 2×2=4M**

(a) Mention any two unforeseen hurdles the tiger king encountered in the fulfilment of his mission. How did he overcome that ?

(b) How did Charley often get lost on the Grand Central Station ?

(c) What is it that draws Derry towards Mr. Lamb in spite of himself ?

**Q12. Answer any one of the following two questions in about 120-150 words. 5M**

A. C.F. Andrews, an English pacifist, was a devoted follower of Gandhi. The lawyer friends of Gandhi thought that being an Englishman, Andrews could be of immense help to them in their cause of fighting the battle of Champaran. Gandhi took a strong stand against the move and pushed them to fight on their own.

Coming face to face with fear, instead of suppressing it, helps one to do away with it completely, just like Douglas did in the story 'Deep Water'. He was ably assisted by his instructor to build a foundation. However, he tested himself relentlessly until he truly became self-reliant and free of fear. Justify the similarities between the situations in Deep Water and Indigo.

OR

B. Aunt Jennifer is the representative of exploited women in her society. She

succumbs to tortures and ordeals. In the wake of the twenty first century, we boast of development but exploitation of women still exist. Thus, there is a need to women empowerment. Explain this in the light of the poem "Aunt Jennifer's Tigers".

**Q13. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5M**

A. 'The Enemy', a story set in Japan at the time of Second World War raises high moral questions about ethics in the times of war. According to you, what is more important a man's primary responsibility as a human being or an overriding, irrational hatred of humans from enemy country?

OR

B. Both Bama and Zitkala-Sa belonged to the marginalized communities. They both face

discrimination in their childhood. What are the similarities in the lives of the two though they belong to different cultures? Draft a diary entry and write your experiences faced by the two and their responses to these experience.

Submitted by:  
Ruchita.

Contact:  
rrr817630@gmail.com