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**Candidates must write the Set No on the title page of the answer book.****SAHODAYA PREBOARD EXAMINATION – (2023-24)**

- Please check that this question paper contains 11 printed pages.
- Set number given on the right-hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer book by the candidate.
- Check that this question paper contains 13 questions.
- Write down the Serial Number of the question in the left side of the margin before attempting it.
- 15 minutes time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the examination. The students will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer script during this period. Students should not write anything in the question paper.

**CLASS-XII****ENGLISH CORE (Code No. 301)****Time allowed: 3 Hrs.****Maximum Marks: 80**

General Instructions:

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

**SECTION A: READING SKILLS (22 MARKS)****1. Read the following text.****12 marks**

1. In this jet age, everyone is interested in having an easy life. Thanks to the advancement in science and technology, these days life has become more easy and comfortable than earlier with a lot of domestic gadgets as well as instantaneous food recipes available in the market. This has resulted in making people develop a mindset of having everything immediately without waiting for even at the traffic signals!
2. A piano teacher described an interesting encounter she had with a young lady who came to inquire about music lessons. The young lady asked her, “How long will this course take? My father tells me that it is in fashion now to be able to play musical instruments and that I should learn one quickly. I want something that will be quick, fast and easy, like... .” When the amused teacher explained that it would take a lifetime of meticulous practice to learn music, her face fell and, needless to say, she never came back.

3. The single most important factor that distinguishes those of us who succeed in any venture from those of us who don't is this 'instant-coffee' attitude. Most of us want results quickly. We want to reach the top immediately and get worked up when things go wrong. Perseverance and patience are forgotten words. We get upset, frustrated and angry when a skill or activity requires us to put in a lot of effort and time. We get dejected and want to give it up.
4. Success, real success and happiness come to those who have a 'bread-making' attitude. Those who are willing to knead the dough, wait for hours for it to rise only to punch it down and knead some more, wait for another couple of hours for it to rise again, then bake it before it is ready to be eaten. Nothing is instantaneous. For every endeavour — whether in the area of career, academics, music, sports, relationships, physical fitness or even in spirituality — it is a long arduous journey.
5. The major problem with these 'instant-coffee' solutions is that they are invariable short-lived. If we stubbornly refuse to give up this search for quick solutions, all we do is end up on the wrong track. We never gain anything lasting from them. However, if we just pause to analyse what we are doing, we will realize how much time we are wasting searching for such magical solutions which simply do not exist. We actually save time when we stop this futile search and accept the proven methods of treading the straight and narrow path however difficult it may seem initially. (437 words)

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

- i. Complete the sentence by choosing an appropriate option. 1  
 According to the author, modern life can be compared to the jet age due to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. everything being fast, easy and comfortable.  
 B. availability of domestic gadgets.  
 C. advancement in science and technology.  
 D. instantaneous food recipes.
- ii. Comment on the writer's reference to the traffic signals in paragraph one, as a social problem for Indian society. 1
- iii. The author gives a reference to an anecdote between a piano teacher and a young lady who wished to learn music. List two reasons why the deal fell through. 2  
 1. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_.
- iv. The writer would not agree with the given statements based on paragraph three, EXCEPT 1  
 \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. Getting worked up will help you succeed in any venture.  
 B. Perseverance and patience are nevertheless prized by some.  
 C. Excessive effort and time make us unruffled.  
 D. We give up a little too soon on ventures.

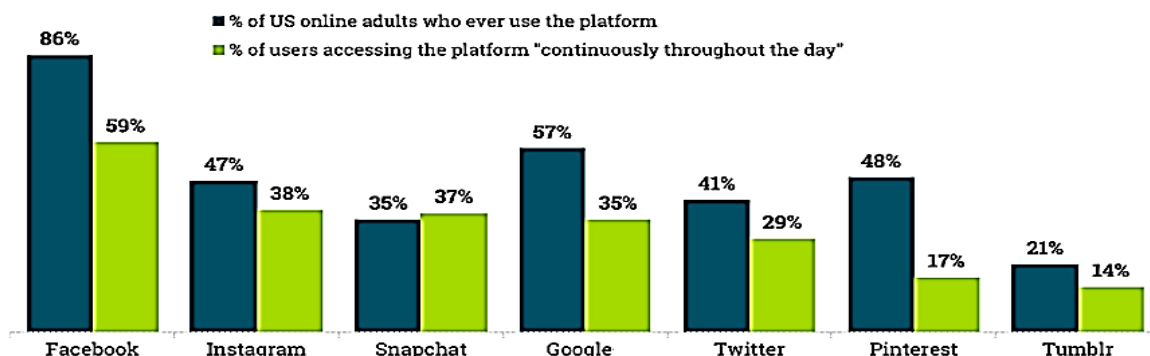
- v. For every endeavour—whether in the area of career, academics, music, sports, relationships, physical fitness or even in spirituality—it is a long arduous journey. 2
- Based on your understanding of paragraph four, write one major reason in about 40 words why the author labels the journey of every endeavour in life ‘arduous.’
- vi. Why is it fair to say that adopting a ‘bread-making’ attitude in life is a sure-shot recipe for real success and happiness and both go hand-in-hand? 2
- vii. Complete the given sentence with an appropriate inference, with respect to the following: The writer quotes the example of the ‘instant-coffee’ attitude (Paragraph 3), in order to \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- viii. Read the following options from (i) to (vi). 1
- (i) Popular (ii) practical (iii) unfeasible  
 (iv) naïve (v) viable (vi) empirical
- Identify the option/options that describes/describe solutions as given in paragraph 5.  
 A. (ii), (v), (vi) B. (iv), (v), (vi) C. (ii), (iii), (iv) D. only (ii)
- ix. Select the most suitable title for the above passage. 1
- A. The ‘Instant- coffee’ Attitude B. The ‘Bread- making’ Attitude  
 C. The Magic of Quick Solutions D. The Mirage of Instant Results

**2. Read the following text.**

**10 marks**

1. Social media marketing is now the modern and innovative way of doing business specifically in service marketing, as marketers move from one strategy to another, looking for the right innovative strategy to improve their brand health. Social media capabilities are the birth of platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, and Pinterest. This has become the new and attractive way as the world has become a global entity and there is wide coverage of information dissemination shared through social media.
2. The modern-day consumers, especially millennial are increasingly using online tools, for example, blogs, ‘Facebook’, and YouTube to share their opinions about products and services they consume. The rise in internet accessibility and availability of smartphones has led to the new form of what is known as Electronic World of Mouth (EWOM). Social media has become the new growth strategy of any company that wishes to realise growth and have a mark in this new and uptight market.

**Social Media Platform Usage Frequency**



3. The start of the century introduced new technology innovation, and social media platforms, which to name a few Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Pinterest, provide users with a variety of communication tools at their disposal. This innovation has embodied most of what we have come to define as social media since 2000, and it is not showing any signs of slowing down. (220 words)

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

- i. Write about the author's intention of saying, 'marketers move from one strategy to another'.  
(within 40 words) 2
- ii. Choose from the below the right answer to state the result of social media capabilities. 1
- A. Invention of a new and attractive way in which the world has become a single entity.  
B. Creation of a new and attractive way in which the world has become a global entity.  
C. It has created a world of virtual and real identities  
D. All of the above
- iii. Which of the following statements is true in the context of the passage? 1
- A. The modern-day consumers especially millennials are increasingly using online tool.  
B. The modern-day consumers especially millennials are decreasingly using online tool.  
C. The modern-day consumers especially millennials are increasingly using offline tool.  
D. The modern-day consumers especially millennials are decreasingly using offline tool.
- iv. Analyse how the rise in Internet accessibility and availability of smartphones has made communication better. (within 40 words) 2
- v. In the given figure, the US population using Pinterest continuously throughout the day is \_\_\_\_\_ . (fill the blank with the correct percentage) 1
- vi. Choose the most appropriate option showing the correct platform born out of social media capabilities? 1
- i. YouTube      ii. Facebook      iii. Twitter      iv. EWOM  
A. i, iii & iv      B. Only iii      C. ii, iii & iv      D. i, ii & iii
- vii. Explain the given acronym –EWOM and the reason leading to it. 1
- viii. From the given figure, compare the data for users accessing the platforms “continuously throughout the day” and name the two social media platforms showing the least difference in percentage between them. 1

### **SECTION B – CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 MARKS)**

Note: All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.

3. **Attempt ANYONE of two, in about 50 words.** 4
- A. You are Rohit/Reshma, Literary Secretary of Ryan International School, Pune. Your school has planned a Literature Conclave for students of Std. IX-XII on various activities like presenting Book Reviews, Self-Composed Poems, Performing Art, Storytelling, Panel Discussions etc. Draft a notice inviting maximum participation from students and taking the benefits of the programme.

**OR**

**B.** Your school is organising its Annual Exhibition in the month of November. Write a notice for the school noticeboard giving all the necessary details. Mention the theme of the exhibition and the nature of projects to be submitted. You are Arun/Aruna Mohanty, the School Leader of Sacred Hearts Public School, Pune.

**4. Attempt ANYONE of two, in about 50 words. 4**

**A.** On 22 January 2024 your school is going to hold its Annual Sports Day. You want Mr. Dilip Tirkey, a noted hockey player to give away the prizes to the budding sportspersons of the school. Write a formal invitation to parents and other invitees to grace the occasion. You are Karuna/Karan, Sports Secretary, Sunrise Global School, Agra.

**OR**

**B.** You are Abhay/ Abhilasha. You have been invited to attend the birthday party of the sister of your friend. Respond to the invitation, regretting your inability to attend it. Invent necessary details.

**5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

**A.** New Age Public School, Hyderabad urgently requires a post-graduate teacher to teach Mathematics for which they have placed an advertisement in The Indian Express. Draft a job application including a CV applying for the advertised post. You are Rohit/Rosalin Sharma from 25, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi.

**OR**

**B.** You are Bhaskar/Bindu of 76, Rose Avenue, Meerut You are very disturbed to see young children begging at traffic signals. This is very dangerous for them as well as for the commuters. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily expressing your concern and suggesting ways and remedies to prevent this practice. You may use the following clues.

BEGGING – A CRIME SAVE THE CHILDREN – TAKE ACTION
• AT TRAFFIC INTERSECTIONS • AT MARKET PLACES
THEY NEED CARE
GIVE THEM BASIC NECESSITIES, FOOD, SHELTER, EDUCATION PREVENT CHILD ABUSE STOP CHILD EXPLOITATION
TEACH THEM SKILLS

6. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 120 to 150 words.

5

- A. There is a lot of talk on saving the environment but we are not doing enough as a society. There is a need for the youth to bring about the much needed change. As Aditi/Aditya write an article with reference to the given fig, on the need to change our approach towards the environment, considering the goals of the Sustainable Development to protect the planet, as envisioned to be achieved by 2030.



OR

- B. You are Deepak, Secretary of Literary Club, St. Agnes School, New Delhi. On 2 October, your school observed 'International Day for Peace and Non-violence, organising various activities such as visit to Raj Ghat, peace march, all-faith prayer and lectures by eminent freedom fighter. Write a report on the programme for your school magazine.

### SECTION C:

#### LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40 marks)

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two.

6

- A. For once on the face of the Earth

let's not speak in any language,

let's stop for one second,

and not move our arms so much.

It would be an exotic moment without rush,

without engines

we would all be together

in a sudden strangeness.

(Keeping Quiet)

- i. The tone of the poet in the above extract is....

1

A. Urging

B. Commanding

C. Preaching

D. Imposing

ii. The poetic device in the phrase ‘sudden strangeness’ is oxymoron. State whether the statement is TRUE/FALSE. 1

iii. List any two benefits of practicing keeping quiet for humans. 1

iv. When the poet says that ‘let’s not speak in any language ‘he means\_\_\_\_\_. (Complete in ONE word only) 1

v. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below. 1

1. The poet talks about the need of silence and quiet introspection.

2. Practicing this, would create a feeling of mutual understanding among human beings.

A. (1) can be inferred from the extract but (2) cannot.

B. (2) can be inferred from the extract but (1) cannot.

C. Both (1) and (2) can be inferred from the extract.

D. (2) is the reason for (1) and can be inferred from the extract.

vi. The poet refers to the moment as ‘exotic’ because \_\_\_\_\_. (Complete the sentence with a valid explanation) 1

**OR**

B. It is in the news that all these pitiful kin

Are to be bought 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 Roadside Stand)

i. Why won’t the ‘pitiful kin’ have to think about themselves anymore? 1

ii. State the line/phrase which expresses the poet’s sarcasm. 1

iii. Which one of the following statements is NOT substantiated by the information given in the stanza? 1

1. The city folk will have a good night sleep depriving them of their own sleep.

2. The city dwellers would exploit the innocent rural folks for their personal gains.

3. The influential rich will have all sufficient offers to trap the polished traffic.

4. The cunning city dwellers always aim to deceive the rural folks.

5. The city people would surround the rural people for their selfish gains and interest.

A. Only option 5

B. Only option 2

C. Only option 3

D. Options 2 & 5

iv. The phrase “beneficent beasts of prey” in the extract is referred to the country folks for their selfish and greedy nature. State whether the given statement is TRUE/FALSE. 1

- v. "Teaching them how to sleep" refers to \_\_\_\_\_ . 1
- vi. The speaker in the given stanza feels \_\_\_\_\_ towards the rural people. 1
- A. overwrought      B. crazy      C. neglected      D. apathetic

**8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two. 4**

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

- i. The tone of the author is..... 1
- A) solemn and surprising      B) sarcastic and mocking  
C) sympathetic and sorrowful.      D) alarming and assertive
- ii. Grand Central is growing like a tree, pushing out new corridors and staircases like roots means \_\_\_\_\_ . 1
- iii. 'Grand Central is growing like a tree.' The figure of speech used in the expression is \_\_\_\_\_. 1
- iv. The airplane is in the air now and heading towards the city. Replace the underlined part with a suitable phrase from the given extract. 1

**OR**

B. "I wondered, Your Excellency," Sadao murmured.

"It was certainly very careless of me," the General said. "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". (The Enemy)

- i. Pick the option that best describes the word 'zeal' as used in the passage. 1
1. Vigor      2. Apathy      3. Integrity  
4. Passion      5. Indifference      6. Callousness
- A. 2, 3 and 6      B. 1, 4 and 5      C. 2, 4 and 6      D. 1, 3 and 4
- ii. The General did not send his private assassins to silently kill the enemy soldier. This suggests that he was not careless but preoccupied with the thoughts of his own\_\_\_\_\_. 1
- iii. At the end of the conversation with the General, Sadao felt safe and \_\_\_\_\_. (Fill in the blank with a suitable word) 1
- iv. Write the reason briefly why Dr. Sadao suddenly felt that General was in the palm of his hand. 1



**9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two.**

**6**

**A.** “If at the end of the day we can feed our families and go to bed without an aching stomach, we would rather live here than in the fields that gave us no grain,” say a group of women in tattered saris when I ask them why they left their beautiful land of green fields and rivers. Wherever they find food, they pitch their tents that become transit homes. Children grow up in them, becoming partners in survival. And survival in Seemapuri means rag-picking. Through the years, it has acquired the proportions of a fine art. Garbage to them is gold. It is their daily bread, a roof over their heads, even if it is a leaking roof. But for a child it is even more. (Lost Spring)

- i. Select the option that completes the given sentence appropriately. 1  
The children in the given extract are \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Raggickers B. Studying in a school  
C. Working in a bangle industry D. Studying in M Hamel’s class
- ii. Garbage to them is gold means \_\_\_\_\_. (Explain in one line) 1
- iii. Select the correct option to fill in the blank. 1  
These children living in Seemapuri grow in \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Slums B. Transit homes C. Open space D. Foster homes
- iv. Write how rag-picking through the years has acquired the proportions of a fine art. 1
- v. According to the author, the meaning of garbage for the adults and children in Seemapuri is different. Explain. 1
- vi. Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation, as per the extract. 1  
The children, as per the extract, are partners in the survival of \_\_\_\_\_.

**OR**

**B.** Perhaps there were also people, exotic, interesting people of whom he never spoke — it was possible, though he was quiet and didn’t make new friends easily. She longed to know them. She wished she could be admitted more deeply into her brother’s affections and that someday he might take her with him. Though their father forbade it and Geoff had never expressed an opinion, she knew he thought her too young. And she was impatient. She was conscious of a vast world out there waiting for her and she knew instinctively that she would feel as at home there as in the city which had always been her home. It expectantly awaited her arrival. (Going Places)

- i. Mention any two of Sophie’s characters from the extract. 1
- ii. ‘Geoff had never expressed an opinion’. What was Geoff’s opinion about Sophie? 1  
A. He thought she was too young and naive  
B. She was conscious of a vast world  
C. he was quiet and didn’t make new friends easily  
D. Her father was very rude

iii. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below. 1

1. Sophie is a daydreamer, who is always lost in her dreams of becoming rich and sophisticated.

2. Sophie hero worshipped Danny Casey

A. 1 is the correct explanation of two

B. Both 1 and 2 are correct but 1 is not the correct explanation of 2.

C. Both A and B are incorrect

D. 1 and 2 are incorrect

iv. 'She wished she could be admitted more deeply into her brother's affections.' Explain. 1

v. Replace the underlined word with its synonym: - It expectantly awaited her arrival. 1

vi. Complete the following statement: - In 'Going Places' Barton explores the theme of \_\_\_\_\_. 1

**10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions in about 40-50 words 5 x 2=10**

i. The boss of Gemini Studios may not have much to do with Spender's poetry. But not with his 'God that Failed'. Explain. (Poets & Pancakes)

ii. 'The battle of Champaran is won'. Interpret the statement in your own words. (Indigo)

iii. Aunt Jennifer's plight is best explained by her hands, they hold both her freedom and the instrument of her imprisonment. Estimate the given statement. (Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

iv. Describe the events of the last lesson that M. Hamel conducted with his class and the way he glorified one's mother tongue. (The Last Lesson)

v. Aging is a factor that is indispensable in our life. But it was too difficult to accept as seen in the life of Kamala Das when she had looked at her mother. Do you think the poet does not accept this philosophy of life and ruminates over the past? Elucidate. (My mother at Sixty Six)

vi. The peddler and Edla have taught the society that our approach and mentality determines our action and accordingly we are trapped or out of trap. Discuss (The Rattrap)

**11. Answer ANY TWO of the following questions in about 40-50 words. 2 x 2 = 4**

i. The story of The Tiger King reveals how the recklessness of man has led to the extinction of certain species of animals today. Elaborate in your own words. (The Tiger King)

ii. How do you think Derry's mother contributes to his sense of alienation and isolation? (On the Face of it)

iii. Describe the author's emotions when she set her foot on Antatica. (Journey to the end of the Earth)

**12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5**

**A.** After reading Keats's 'A Thing of Beauty', Sneha deduced that the things that take away the sorrow which surrounds us from time to time can be a thing of beauty. Today while explaining Frost's **A Roadside Stand**, the teacher said: "...that even a seemingly insignificant thing, like a tiny fruit shop, can have profound significance which can be related to beauty." She is confused as to how can a shabby **roadside stand** be considered a thing of beauty. Sneha discusses this with her father over phone but he was unable to convince her. Imagining yourself Sneha's father, compose a letter explaining your

thoughts on the concept of beauty and consequently validating what the teacher taught. Support your response with reference to both the poems.

You may begin this way:

*Dear Sneha*

*I appreciate your inquisitiveness that how could a shabby shop referred to in the poem, **A Roadside Stand**, which you read recently could be a thing of beauty...*

You may end this way:

*Although I wish to explain this in person, I have no better option than to explain you through this letter. I hope this explanation would be helpful to you. Please let me know if you still have doubts. Warmly, Dad.*

**OR**

- B.** Deep water teaches a life lesson on self-confidence and living life to the full. Imagine yourself as William Douglas and prepare a lecture to be delivered to a group of uninitiated youth of your neighbourhood.

*You may begin like this....*

*Life cannot be imagined without challenges. It's all in our attitude. We need to face adversities head-on.....*

- 13. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words.**

**5**

- A.** Mr. Lamb lives alone and keeps the doors of his garden open for all. Today a teenage boy called Derry entered his garden accidentally. He wanted to leave but Mr. Lamb coaxed him to stay and eventually, they entered into a conversation where he came to know how Derry was not liked by anyone. Imagining yourself Mr. Lamb, express the bond that united you with this boy in a diary entry. Also, account for the ways in which you consoled the boy and tried to inspire him to overcome the feeling of loneliness.

You may begin like this:

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Today I found a reflection of myself in that lad who had landed in my garden...

**OR**

- B.** Imagine your school is organising a panel discussion on 'Oppression and Its Evils.' You are one of the speakers. As part of your address, you are required to reflect on the lessons and ideas you learnt from the story, 'Memories of Childhood'.

Draft the address.

*You may begin like this:*

*Good morning ladies and gentlemen! It is a pleasure to be given an opportunity to speak today. I would like to begin by quoting James Baldwin, 'Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.' Tolerating oppression in any form is...*