

**Strictly Confidential: (For Internal and Restricted use only)**  
**Senior Secondary School Examination 2025**  
**Marking Scheme – ENGLISH CORE (301)**  
**(QUESTION PAPER CODE – 1/4/2)**

**General Instructions: -**

1. You are aware that evaluation is the most important process in the actual and correct assessment of the candidates. A small mistake in evaluation may lead to serious problems which may affect the future of the candidates, education system and teaching profession. To avoid mistakes, it is requested that before starting evaluation, you must read and understand the spot evaluation guidelines carefully.
2. **“Evaluation policy is a confidential policy as it is related to the confidentiality of the examinations conducted, evaluation done and several other aspects. Its leakage to public in any manner could lead to derailment of the examination system and affect the life and future of millions of candidates. Sharing this policy/document with anyone, publishing in any magazine and printing in News Paper/Website etc. may invite action under various rules of the Board and IPC.”**
3. Evaluation is to be done as per instructions provided in the Marking Scheme. It should not be done according to one’s own interpretation or any other consideration. Marking Scheme should be strictly adhered to and religiously followed. **However, while evaluating, answers which are based on the latest information or knowledge and / or are innovative, may be assessed for their correctness otherwise, and due marks may be awarded to them.**
4. The Marking Scheme carries only suggested value points for the answers. These are in the nature of Guidelines only and do not constitute the complete answer. The students can have their own expression and if the expression is correct, then due marks should be awarded accordingly.
5. The Head-Examiner must go through the first five answer books evaluated by each evaluator on the first day, to ensure that evaluation has been carried out as per the instructions given in the Marking Scheme. If there is any variation, the same should be zeroed after deliberation and discussion. The remaining answer books meant for evaluation shall be given only after ensuring that there is no significant variation in the marking of individual evaluators.
6. Evaluators will tick mark ( ✓ ) wherever answer is correct. For wrong answer ‘X’ be marked. Evaluators will not put tick mark ( ✓ ) while evaluating a wrong answer which gives an impression that answer is correct and no marks are awarded. **This is the most common mistake which evaluators are committing.**
7. If a question has parts, please award marks on the right-hand side for each part. Marks awarded for different parts of the question should then be totalled up and written in the left-hand margin and encircled. This must be followed strictly.
8. If a question does not have any parts, marks must be awarded in the left-hand margin and encircled. This must be followed strictly.

9. If a student has attempted an extra question, answer of the question deserving more marks should be retained and the other answer scored out with a note “**Extra Question**”.
10. **If more than one option is mentioned in the answer of multiple choice questions, then no marks to be awarded.**
11. No marks to be deducted for the cumulative effect of an error. It should be penalized only once.
12. A full scale of marks (0-80 marks) as given in Question Paper has to be used. Please do not hesitate to award full marks if the answer deserves it.
13. Every examiner has to necessarily do evaluation work for full working hours i.e. 8 hours every day and evaluate 20 answer books per day in main subjects and 25 answer books per day in other subjects (Details are given in Spot Guidelines).
14. Ensure that you do not make the following common types of errors committed by the Examiner in the past:-
  - leaving answer or part thereof unassessed in an answer book
  - giving more marks for an answer than assigned to it
  - wrong totalling of marks awarded on an answer
  - wrong transfer of marks from the inside pages of the answer book to the title page
  - wrong question wise totalling on the title page
  - wrong totalling of marks of the two columns on the title page
  - wrong grand total
  - marks in words and figures not tallying / not same
  - wrong transfer of marks from the answer book to online award list
  - answers marked as correct, but marks not awarded. (Ensure that the right tick mark ( ✓ ) is correctly and clearly indicated. It should not merely be a line. Same is with the (X) for incorrect answer)
  - half or a part of answer marked correct and the rest as wrong, but no marks awarded
15. While evaluating the answer books if the answer is found to be totally incorrect, it should be marked as cross (X) and awarded zero (0) Marks. ‘Zero’ should be mentioned both in figures and words.
16. Any unassessed portion, non-carrying over of marks to the title page, or totalling error detected by the candidate shall damage the prestige of all the personnel engaged in the evaluation work as also of the Board. Hence, in order to uphold the prestige of all concerned, it is again reiterated that the instructions should be followed meticulously and judiciously.
17. The Examiners should acquaint themselves with the guidelines given in the “**Guidelines for Spot Evaluation**” before starting the actual evaluation.
18. Every Examiner shall also ensure that all the answers are evaluated, marks carried over to the title page, correctly totalled and written in figures and words.
19. The candidates are entitled to obtain photocopy of the Answer Book on request and on payment of the prescribed processing fee. All Examiners / Additional Head Examiners / Head Examiners are once again reminded that they must ensure that evaluation is carried out strictly as per Value Points for each answer as given in the Marking Scheme.

**MARKING SCHEME**  
**Senior Secondary School Examination, 2025**  
**ENGLISH CORE (Subject Code–301)**  
**[ Question Paper Code : 1/4/2 ]**

**Maximum Marks : 80**

**IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. The answers given below are suggestive. Credit should be given for any relevant point which is not included in the value points listed below. However, any independent interpretation should be discussed with the HE before awarding marks.
2. No marks shall be deducted for exceeding the word-limit.
3. If a spelling error is recurring, it should be penalized only once.

	<b>SUGGESTED VALUE POINTS</b>	<b>Marks</b>
	<b>SECTION—A</b> <b>Reading Skills</b>	<b>22</b> <b>marks</b>
	<b>NOTE:</b> The objective of the reading section is to focus on testing a candidate's ability to comprehend. No mark(s) should be deducted for mistakes in usage and grammar, spelling or word-limit. Full marks may be awarded if a student has been able to identify the core ideas. If a student literally lifts a portion of the given passage as an answer to a question, no mark(s) to be deducted for this, as long as it is relevant.	
Q.1.	<b>Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:</b>	<b>12</b> <b>marks</b>
(i)	<b>Complete the following suitably.</b> .....think of gossip as synonymous with malicious rumours, put-downs.....in paragraph (2). By the phrase 'put downs' the writer means ..... .	
Ans.	to humiliate /belittle a person/ hurt/ insult	1
(ii)	<b>Despite the bad reputation of 'gossip', mention any two benefits that it offers.</b>	
Ans.	staves off loneliness/facilitates bonding and closeness/ helps in sharing of information /serves as a form of entertainment/ community building <b>(any two)</b>	2 1+1
(iii)	<b>Read and complete the following suitably :</b> The phrase- 'It's something that comes very naturally to us' suggests that gossip should not merely be associated with malicious rumours.  <b>Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence.</b>  The concern this phrase points towards is about <b>A. that some types of gossip should be avoided.</b> <b>B. that gossip can be viewed as part of our daily interaction and bonding.</b>	
Ans.	B. that gossip can be viewed as part of our daily interaction and bonding.	1
(iv)	<b>Complete the analogy with one word from paragraph (2).</b> Praise : Commend : : _____ : Malevolent <b>(A) Scoop</b> <b>(B) Propagation</b>	

	<b>(C) Malicious (D) Conversation</b>	
Ans.	(C) Malicious	1
(v)	<b>What type of gossip does the author disapprove of and why ?</b>	
Ans.	What- Gossip that is purely harmful and serves no purpose, like mean comments on someone's way of dressing Why- One is not learning anything and no one benefits.	2
(vi)	<b>Complete the following suitably with one difference between the author's opinion and that of people about gossip. Generally, people do not readily accept _____.</b>	
Ans.	-gossip as positive/ good/ active /constructive <b>(any other relevant point)</b>	1
(vii)	<b>"There's also a physiological distinction to be drawn between active and passive participation in gossip." (paragraph (4)) Based on the above statement, classify the following sentences as active and passive participation. Sentence 1 : Ranjan told Raman and Shah the sensational facts he had heard about his friend Vineet from others. Sentence 2 : Kumar stayed silent while his friends criticized his close friend Vijay in his absence.</b>	
Ans.	Sentence 1 Active Sentence 2 Passive	1
(viii)	<b>Why does the author say that gossip is a reflection of relationships ?</b>	
Ans.	implies a level of trust and closeness/ means of social bonding/is a key aspect of friendship <b>(any one)</b>	1
(ix)	<b>Choose the correct option : .....gossip can 'stave off loneliness'. (paragraph (6)) The above statement is true as : (A) we always enjoy talking ill of others. (B) we believe what we read about people in the print media. (C) we are free to talk loosely in the absence of the person. (D) in order to gossip, you need to feel close to people.</b>	
Ans.	(D) in order to gossip, you need to feel close to people.	1
(x)	<b>Complete the following suitably : The author puts forth the fact that man can never _____ gossiping.</b>	
Ans.	stop/prevent/avoid/give up/ stay away from <b>(any one) (any other relevant point)</b>	1
	<b>Passage 2</b>	
Q.2.	<b>Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:</b>	10
(i)	<b>Complete the following suitably. In paragraph (1), the author highlights the use of smartphones to _____.</b>	

Ans.	communicate/interact with one another	1
(ii)	<b>How does the author validate the fact that smartphones take away the joy of beauty around us ?</b>	
Ans.	detracts us from the enjoyment of serenity of environment/ scenic beauty of picnic spot	1
(iii)	<b>Paragraph (4) includes the phrases, direct communication and virtual communication. Classify the following sentences as direct and virtual communication : Sentence 1 : Most of the students attend online classes on mobile phones. Sentence 2 : He arranged for a get-together to meet his school friends.</b>	
Ans.	Sentence 1. Virtual Sentence 2. Direct	1
(iv)	<b>In paragraph (5), 'By reckless use of mobile phones' the author blames : (A) binge eating (B) mobile phones (C) responsibility of man (D) demands of society</b>	
Ans.	(C) responsibility of man	1
(v)	<b>Give two points to support how smartphones make a major impact on man's life.</b>	
Ans.	<b>Positive impact</b> – vital tool to achieve social progress/ used for interaction with others/ entertainment <b>Negative impact</b> - health problems- exposure to radiations/obesity - detraction from nature- serenity of environment/ scenic beauty - dwindling social relationships- more dependence on virtual than face to face interactions <b>(any two)</b>	2 1+1
(vi)	<b>What would the following be classified as ? There is no significant fall in the duration spent in direct face-to-face conversation. Select the appropriate response : (A) Primary purpose (B) Secondary objective (C) Method of analysis (D) Research outcome</b>	
Ans.	(D) Research outcome	1
(vii)	<b>'Technological development is a double-edged sword.' Analyse the above statement with reference to the text.</b>	
Ans.	Advantages- interact with each other/ have transformed communication- useful in academics, communication, entertainment etc./ tool for social progress Disadvantages- has major impact on man's health/ disturbs social relationship/prevent travellers from enjoying the scene and people around him. <b>(any one from each)</b>	2 (1+1)

(viii)	The study is very relevant in the contemporary times, because : (A) we are living in the 21st century. (B) it is an era of IT revolution. (C) mobile phones have penetrated everyone's life. (D) mobile phones are used by students for academic purposes.	
Ans.	(C) mobile phones have penetrated everyone's life.	1
	<b>SECTION B</b> <b>Creative Writing Skills</b>	<b>18 marks</b>
	<b><u>OBJECTIVES:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To test the ability to think logically and express clearly.</li> <li>To use a style appropriate to the given situation.</li> <li>To plan, organize and present ideas coherently.</li> </ul>	
Q.3	Attempt <i>any one</i> of the two, (a) or (b), in about 50 words :	4
	<b>NOTICE WRITING</b>	
	Distribution of marks Format -1      Content – 2      Expression – 1 FORMAT - Name of issuing authority- organization / agency, NOTICE, heading, date of issue, signature / name, designation (bottom left) ( put notice in a box) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>No mark for format if content is irrelevant or missing.</i></li> <li><i>Full credit of 1 mark if all aspects are mentioned.</i></li> <li><i>Partial credit of ½ mark if any of the aspects is missing.</i></li> </ul> EXPRESSION - Grammar, spelling, punctuation, organization and coherence of ideas	
a)	<b>You are Aruna/Arun, Head girl/Head boy of Kohinoor Public School, Hawapuri. Your school is organising an inter-house book review competition. Draft a notice informing the students of classes IX-XII about the competition and invite registrations for the same. Include other necessary details. Put your notice in a box.</b>	
Ans.	Suggested value points -name of the event - date, time, venue - targeted class - invite registrations - deadline for registration - contact information  (inputs given in the question to be included) (any other relevant point)	4
	<b>OR</b>	
(b)	<b>You are Renuka/Rahul Bhatia, President of J.M. Colony, Pawanshahr, Residents Welfare Association. You are planning to organise a free eye care camp in collaboration with a reputed hospital for the senior citizens of your locality. Draft a notice informing the residents about the camp. Include all necessary details. Put your notice in a box.</b>	

Ans.	<p>Suggested value points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- name of the event</li> <li>- date, time, venue</li> <li>- target- senior citizens</li> <li>-details of the camp</li> </ul> <p><b>(inputs given in the question to be included)</b> <b>(any other relevant point)</b></p>	4
Q. 4	Attempt <i>any one</i> of the two, (a) or (b), in about 50 words.	4 marks
	<b>FORMAL INVITATION</b>	
	<p>Distribution of marks</p> <p><b>Format -1      Content – 2      Expression - 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>No mark for format if content is irrelevant or missing.</i></li> <li>• <i>Full credit of 1 mark if all aspects are mentioned.</i></li> <li>• <i>Partial credit of ½ mark if any of the aspects is missing.</i></li> </ul> <p>EXPRESSION - Grammar, spelling, punctuation, organization and coherence of ideas</p>	
Q.4 (a)	<b>Your school is planning to host the Annual Awards Function on Saturday, 9th April. On behalf of the Principal, draft a formal invitation card to be sent to the parents and other guests inviting them for the function. Mention a compelling highlight of the celebration along with other details.</b>	
Ans.	<p>Format : Card style in third person, enclosed in a box</p> <p>Suggested value points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-host</li> <li>-name of event</li> <li>-date, venue, time</li> <li>-chief guest with designation</li> <li>-RSVP</li> <li>-must include a compelling highlight</li> </ul> <p><b>(inputs given in the question to be included)</b></p>	4
	<b>OR</b>	
	<b>INFORMAL LETTER OF REPLY</b>	

	<p>Distribution of marks</p> <p><b>Format -1      Content – 2      Expression - 1</b></p> <p>FORMAT –Sender’s address, Date, Salutation, Complimentary Close</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>No mark for format if content is irrelevant or missing.</i></li> <li><i>Full credit of 1 mark if all aspects are mentioned.</i></li> <li><i>Partial credit of ½ mark if any of the aspects is missing.</i></li> </ul> <p>EXPRESSION - Grammar, spelling, punctuation, organization and coherence of ideas</p>	
<b>Q.4 (b)</b>	<b>You are Sonali/Sohail of 4, A.C. Nagar, Akashgarh. Your friend Jyoti has invited you to a party to celebrate her appointment as Junior Scientist in ISRO. Write an informal letter of reply accepting the invitation.</b>	
Ans.	<p>Suggested value points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-express thanks</li> <li>-acknowledge the invitation</li> <li>-invite details</li> <li>- acceptance</li> </ul> <p><b>(inputs given in the question to be included)</b></p> <p><b>(any other relevant point)</b></p>	4
<b>Q. 5</b>	<b>Attempt any one of the two, (a) or (b), in 120 - 150 words.</b>	5 marks
	<b>JOB APPLICATION</b>	
	<p>Distribution of marks</p> <p><b>Format -1      Content – 2      Expression - 2</b></p> <p>FORMAT –Sender’s address, Date, Receiver’s address, Subject and Salutation/ Salutation and Subject, Complimentary Close, Name</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>No mark for format if content is irrelevant or missing.</i></li> <li><i>Full credit of 1 mark if all aspects are mentioned.</i></li> <li><i>Partial credit of ½ mark if any of the aspects is missing.</i></li> </ul> <p>EXPRESSION - grammar, spelling, punctuation, organization and coherence of ideas</p>	
<b>Q.5 (a)</b>	<p><b>You are Anjali/Ajit Kumar of 12, Oldams Road, Vijaybagh. You read the given advertisement and wish to apply for the post advertised. Write this job application along with your bio-data.</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Adarsh Public School, Vijaybagh</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Requires Counsellor</b></p> <p><b>Qualification :</b> Graduation in Psychology/Counselling education.</p> <p><b>Experience :</b> Minimum 2 years in students counselling.</p> <p><b>Skills :</b> Problem solving, empathetic listening, communication and computer competency.</p> <p><b>Apply with bio-data to The Principal, Adarsh Public School, 40, Sarojini Nagar, Vijaybagh.</b></p> </div>	



Ans.	<p>Suggested value points</p> <p><b>Cover Letter</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-reference to the advertisement</li> <li>-suitability for post</li> <li>-offer candidature</li> </ul> <p><b>Bio-data/ Resume/ CV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-personal profile</li> <li>-qualifications</li> <li>-experience</li> <li>-skills/ hobbies/ achievements</li> <li>-references</li> </ul> <p><b>Note- no marks to be deducted if the Bio-data/ Resume/ CV is included in the covering letter</b></p> <p><b>(inputs given in the question to be included)</b></p> <p><b>(any other relevant point)</b></p>	5
	OR	
	<b>LETTER TO EDITOR</b>	
Q.5 (b)	<p><b>With the success of Chandrayaan gained momentum. As a young Indian you feel that the country is going to benefit a lot with India's space endeavours. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily expressing your views and creating awareness among people on India's space exploration and its role in transforming India as a potential superpower. You may use the following cues along with your own ideas to draft the letter. You are Srishti/ Somesh Chawla of 46, M.G. Road, Aaramnagar.</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India's contribution to global science and research.</li> <li>• Promotion of economic growth of our country.</li> <li>• Role of space technology in strengthening national security.</li> <li>• Enhancement of India's reputation at the global level.</li> <li>• Create more job opportunities</li> </ul> </div>	
Ans.	<p><b>Suggested Value Points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- technological advancements and innovation – missions like Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan</li> <li>- economic growth and infrastructure-affordable launch services to other countries/ more job opportunities and start-ups</li> <li>- space technology makes our defense forces stronger</li> <li>- global recognition and diplomacy-enhancement in international reputation/ more influence in global affairs</li> <li>- sustainability-for monitoring environmental changes/ natural disasters</li> <li>- inspiring next generation</li> </ul>	5

	(inputs given in the question to be included) (any other relevant point) (any four)	
Q. 6	Attempt <i>any one</i> of the two, (a) or (b), in 120 - 150 words.	5 marks
	<b>ARTICLE WRITING</b>	
	Distribution of marks Format -1      Content – 2      Expression - 2 <b>Format -1</b> - Title and byline <i>No mark for format if content is irrelevant or missing.</i> <b>Content – 2</b> <b>Expression-2</b> EXPRESSION - Grammar, spelling, punctuation, organization and coherence of ideas	
Q6. (a)	You are a travel enthusiast. You strongly feel that travelling is essential to a person's development as it increases knowledge and widens intellect. Write an article for your school magazine stressing on the importance of travel. You may use the cues given along with your own ideas to compose the article. You are Dipanshi/Dipesh of Class XII-C. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhances learning process.</li> <li>Encourages resourcefulness.</li> <li>Changes outlook.</li> <li>Promotes communication skills.</li> <li>Increases cultural awareness</li> </ul> </div>	
	Suggested value points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- more exposure – appreciation of new cultures and lifestyles</li> <li>- personal growth-learn to deal with challenges, become independent</li> <li>- mental and emotional wellbeing-escape from stresses of life</li> <li>- connect with nature</li> <li>- create memories</li> </ul> (inputs given in the question to be included) (any other relevant point) (any four)	5
	<b>OR</b>	
	<b>REPORT WRITING</b>	
Q.6 (b)	Your school organized a workshop on 'Health and Wellness' for Classes IX-XII. As a student reporter, write a comprehensive report of the event to be published in your school newsletter. You are Aditi/Aditya of Class XII-A. You may use the cues given along with your own ideas to compose the report. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Who -What –When- Where- Why- How</li> </ul> </div>	

Ans.	<p>Suggested value points :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- description of the event- date, venue , time, chief guest</li> <li>- participation details-resource person and audience</li> <li>- highlights - hands on activities, guidance by expert etc.</li> <li>- feedback</li> </ul> <p>(inputs given in the question to be included)</p> <p>(any other relevant point)</p>	5
	<b>SECTION C</b> <b>Literature</b>	<b>40</b> <b>Marks</b>
	<p><b>NOTE:</b> The objective of this section is to test a candidate's ability to understand and interpret the prescribed text through short &amp; long answer type questions. Long answer type questions have been set to test the students' understanding of the text and their ability to interpret, evaluate &amp; respond to the issues raised therein. Hence, no particular answer can be accepted as the <b>only</b> correct answer. All presentations may be accepted as correct with consultation of the HE, if they have been duly supported by the facts drawn from the text. The student should be able to justify his / her viewpoint.</p> <p><b>In the Inter textual questions reference to both the texts must be included.</b></p>	
Q.7	Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any <i>one</i> of the given two, (a) or (b) :	
(a)	<p>Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool Find even the ivory needle hard to pull. The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hands.</p> <p>When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by. The tigers in the panel that she made Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">( Aunt Jennifer's Tigers )</p>	1 x 6 = 6 marks
(i)	Complete the following suitably : The massive weight of 'wedding band' symbolises _____.	
Ans.	constraints of married life/ domestic burden/ family responsibilities/ male dominance (any one)	1
(ii)	By the phrase 'fingers fluttering', the poet portrays Aunt Jennifer in a constant state of _____. (nervousness/happiness)	
Ans.	nervousness	1
(iii)	<p>Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.</p> <p><b>Assertion :</b> Aunt Jennifer lives a life full of agony and pain.</p> <p><b>Reason :</b> She is a victim of the male dominant society.</p> <p><b>(A) Both the assertion and the reason are true and the reason is the correct</b></p>	

	<p>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>	
Ans.	(A) Both the assertion and the reason are true and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.	1
(iv)	<p><b>Complete the following suitably :</b></p> <p><b>‘The tigers in the panel will go on prancing.....’</b></p> <p><b>The above line refers to the _____ of art.</b></p>	
Ans.	immortality/ permanence/ everlasting nature <b>(any one)</b>	1
(v)	<p><b>The expressions ‘terrified hands’ and ‘ordeals’ used in the above extract highlight the _____ of women in marriage.</b></p>	
Ans.	pain/ agony/misery/oppression/suppression/ difficulties <b>(any one)</b>	1
(vi)	<p><b>Choose the correct option :</b></p> <p><b>‘Tigers in the panel’ symbolise</b></p> <p>(A) interest in wildlife.</p> <p>(B) Tigers in the green forest.</p> <p>(C) Aunt Jennifer’s deep desire for freedom.</p> <p>(D) Tigers that are yellow in colour.</p>	
Ans.	(C) Aunt Jennifer’s deep desire for freedom.	1
	<b>OR</b>	
Q.7 (b)	<p><b>Driving from my parent’s home to Cochin last Friday morning, I saw my mother, beside me, doze, open mouthed, her face ashen like that of a corpse and realised with pain that she was as old as she looked but soon put that thought away, and looked out at Young Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling out of their homes,.....</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(My Mother at Sixty-six)</b></p>	1 x 6 = 6 marks
(i)	<p><b>Complete the following suitably :</b></p> <p><b>The expressions ‘doze’ and ‘open mouthed’ are used by the poet to indicate the poet’s mother’s _____.</b></p>	
Ans.	old age/ weakness / ageing/ frailty/ exhaustion <b>(any one)</b>	1
(ii)	<p><b>Give the phrase that suggests the following.</b></p> <p><b>The image of exuberance and youthfulness affects the poet’s thoughts.</b></p>	
Ans.	put that thought away/Young trees sprinting/ merry children spilling <b>(any one)</b>	1

(iii)	What does the imagery of 'Trees sprinting' not represent in the given extract? (A) energy (B) liveliness (C) shade (D) vitality	
Ans.	(C) shade	1
(iv)	Select the correct option from those given in the brackets, to fill in the blank. The poet's use of the phrase 'ashen like that of a corpse', illustrates the poet's use of _____ (irony/imagery).	
Ans.	imagery	1
(v)	Choose the correct option : The poet is unable to bear the sight of her ageing mother, because _____. (A) her mother had refused to accompany her (B) she is upset with her mother dozing off (C) it upsets her to see the ageing face of her mother (D) she is in a hurry to reach the airport	
Ans.	(C) it upsets her to see the ageing face of her mother	1
(vi)	Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract. Assertion : The mother was accompanying her daughter to the airport. Reason : The daughter was leaving her mother behind and flying off. Choose the correct option regarding their relationship : (A) Both the assertion and the reason are true and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion. (B) Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion. (C) The assertion is true, but the reason is false. (D) The assertion is false, but the reason is true.	
Ans.	(A) Both the assertion and the reason are true and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.	1
Q.8	Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any <i>one</i> of the given two, (a) or (b) :	
(a)	"That young master is so proud of his skill to save his life that he saves any life", the cook said contemptuously. "It is the children of whom we must think," Yumi said sadly. "What will be their fate if their father is condemned as a traitor?" They did not try to hide what they said from the ears of Hana as she stood arranging the days' flowers in the veranda near by, and she knew they spoke on purpose that she might hear. (The Enemy)	1 x 4 = 4 marks
(i)	Complete the following suitably : The tone of the cook while speaking about her master's skill is _____.	
Ans.	sarcastic/bitter/disdainful/disrespectful/disapproving/ contemptuous (any one)	1
(ii)	'They spoke on purpose that she might hear'. They wanted her to hear to convey their : (A) interest (B) disapproval (C) sympathy (D) respect	

Ans.	(B) disapproval	1
(iii)	How is Yumi's concern for the children justified ?	
Ans.	If Dr. Sadao is caught for treason, it will affect his children too.	1
(iv)	Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank. The above extract reveals a ..... (superficial/close) association between the master and the servants.	
Ans.	close	1
<b>OR</b>		
Q.8 (b)	The British officer's secretary sent words to the Maharaja through the dewan that the <i>durai</i> himself did not have to kill the tiger. The Maharaja could do the actual killing. What was important to the <i>durai</i> was a photograph of himself holding the gun and standing over the tiger's carcass. But the Maharaja would not agree even to this proposal. If he relented now, what would he do if other British officers turned up for tiger hunts ? Because he prevented a British officer from fulfilling his desire, the Maharaja stood in danger of losing his kingdom itself. <div style="text-align: right;">(The Tiger King)</div>	1 x 4 = 4 marks
(i)	Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank. The last line of the extract reflects _____ attitude of the British officers. (an oppressive/a courageous)	
Ans.	an oppressive	1
(ii)	Why did the <i>durai</i> want to take a photograph with the tiger's carcass?	
Ans.	to satisfy his ego / to show his pride/display his power/show off his hunting skill	1
(iii)	The Tiger King's refusal to the request of the <i>durai</i> reflects: (A) his concern for the tiger population. (B) his courage to deny permission to the British officer . (C) his ego and selfishness. (D) his strained rapport with the British officer.	
Ans.	(C) his ego and selfishness.	1
(iv)	Complete the following suitably: Maharaja's _____ action put his kingdom in danger.	
Ans.	thoughtless/foolish/irresponsible/reckless/egoistic	1
Q.9	Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any <i>one</i> of the given two, (a) or (b) :	

(a)	<p>He thought of the thirty kronor. To go up to the manor house would be like throwing himself voluntarily into the lion's den. He only wanted a chance to sleep here in the forge and then sneak away as inconspicuously as possible.</p> <p>The ironmaster assumed that he felt embarrassed because of his miserable clothing. "Please don't think that I have such a fine home that you cannot show yourself there," He said...." Elizabeth is dead, as you may already have heard. My boys are abroad, and there is no one at home except my oldest daughter and myself. We were just saying that it was too bad we didn't have any company for Christmas. Now come along with me and help us make the Christmas food disappear a little faster."</p> <p>(The Rattrap)</p>	1 x 6 = 6 marks
(i)	What does the narrator mean by the expression, 'throwing himself into the lion's den'?	
Ans.	putting himself in danger/ afraid of being caught and put in jail/afraid of his real identity being revealed	1
(ii)	What does the expression 'sneak away' reveal about the intention of 'he' in the above extract?	
Ans.	flee/ move away/escape without being caught/ noticed	1
(iii)	Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank. "..... there is no one home" indicates that the ironmaster was leading a _____ life. (peaceful/lonely)	
Ans.	lonely	1
(iv)	<p>"We didn't have any company for Christmas." The essence of Christmas spirit with reference to the above statement is :</p> <p>(A) to make a special dish to mark the celebration.</p> <p>(B) to invite guests to join the celebration.</p> <p>(C) to show off his wealth.</p> <p>(D) to conduct communal prayers.</p>	
Ans.	(B) to invite guests to join the celebration.	1
(v)	Complete the following statement suitably : The peddler was feeling uncomfortable at the ironmaster's invitation because the peddler only wanted to _____.	
Ans.	to be left alone/be inconspicuous/sleep or rest at the forge/ spend the night at the forge and then move away / sneak away as inconspicuously as possible	1
(vi)	Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank. "Please don't think that I have such a fine home". The ironmaster uttered the above statement to make the peddler feel _____. (awkward/comfortable)	
Ans.	comfortable	1
<b>OR</b>		

<b>Q.9</b>	“They wouldn’t make you manager straight off, Soaf.” “I’ll be like Mary Quaint,” Sophie said. I’ll be a natural. They’ll see it from the start. I’ll have the most amazing shop this city’s ever seen.” Jansie, knowing they were both earmarked for the biscuit factory, became melancholy. She wished Sophie wouldn’t say these things. When they reached Sophie’s street Jansie said, “It’s only a few months away now, Soaf, you really should be sensible. They don’t pay well for shop work, you know that, your dad would never allow it.”	1 x 6 = 6
(b)	<b>(Going Places)</b>	
(i)	<b>Choose the correct option :</b> <b>What trait of the speaker is reflected in the first line of the extract ?</b> (A) optimistic (B) pessimistic (C) realistic (D) fatalistic	
Ans.	(C) realistic	1
(ii)	<b>Choose the correct option from those given in the brackets to fill in the blank.</b> <b>“They’ll see it from the start.”</b> <b>The above statement reflects Sophie’s _____</b> <b>.(modesty/overconfidence)</b>	
Ans.	overconfidence	1
(iii)	<b>“They don’t pay well for the shop work.” Jansie’s statement depicts Jansie as a:</b> <b>A) happy-go-lucky girl.</b> <b>(B) practical friend of Sophie.</b> <b>(C) casual friend of Sophie.</b> <b>(D) jealous friend.</b>	
Ans.	(B) practical friend of Sophie.	1
(iv)	<b>Complete the following suitably :</b> <b>“Your dad would never allow it....” The image of Sophie’s father as we infer from the above statement is that he _____.</b>	
Ans.	is strict /concerned /practical/ realistic/ knows his daughter well (any one)	1
(v)	<b>What does the following line from the extract showcase about Jansie’s emotions?</b> <b>“Soaf, you really should be sensible.”</b> <b>(i) indifference</b> <b>(ii) concern</b> <b>(iii) regret</b> <b>(iv) envy</b>	
Ans.	(ii) concern	1
(vi)	<b>“They were both ‘earmarked’ for the biscuit factory.” What does the word ‘earmarked’ convey?</b>	
Ans.	chosen to do/ destined for/ labelled for/ bound to do/ fixed for (any one)	1
<b>Q. 10</b>	<b>Answer any five of the following six questions in 40-50 words each :</b>	5x2=10
	Distribution of marks:- <b>CONTENT – 1                                  EXPRESSION - 1</b>	
(i)	<b>Why does M. Hamel refer to language as a key to freedom from slavery?</b> <b>(The Last Lesson)</b>	



Ans.	Suggested value points- Language -a uniting force/ power to awaken people and raise their voice against slavery / power to motivate people to stand united against common enemy/ part of people's identity	2
(ii)	<b>Explain how Mukesh in 'Lost Spring' stands as a ray of hope for the bangle making community.</b>	
Ans.	Suggested value points- dares to dream and is determined to pursue his dream/ dreams of driving a car and break family lineage/has the courage to do something different/ ready to walk miles to go to garage/ an inspiration to all the children of his community	2
(iii)	<b>What is the importance of beauty in a man's life? (A Thing of Beauty</b>	
Ans.	Suggested value points- is constant joy/is relaxing, calming and destressing/ provides peace/offers good sleep and sweet dreams/ promotes good health/ gives strength and inspiration to face day-to-day struggles	2
(iv)	<b>How did Umberto Eco display his innovative style in the presentation of his dissertation? (The Interview)</b>	
Ans.	Suggested value points- Umberto Eco told the story of his research/ included his trials and errors/ presented his thesis in an informal narrative style/ broke the tradition of formal writing and adopted story telling approach.	2
(v)	<b>What is Robert Frost's complaint in 'A Roadside Stand'?</b>	
Ans.	Suggested value points- Robert Frost complains about the indifferent attitude of people in power/ apathy of the city people towards the rural people/ selfish and mean attitude of passers by - do not stop and buy their products / false promises by greedy- good -doers and beneficent- beasts of prey	2
(vi)	<b>What is the link between the makeup department and national integration was as described in 'Poets and Pancakes'?</b>	
Ans.	Suggested value points- - first headed by a Bengali, then by a Maharashtrian, assisted by a Kanadiga, an Andhra, a Madras Indian Christian, an Anglo-Burmese and the local Tamils - constituted of people from various regions of India	2

	(any one)	
Q.11	Answer any <i>two</i> of the following three questions in 40-50 words each :	2 x 2=4
	Distribution of marks:- <b>CONTENT – 1</b> <b>EXPRESSION -1</b>	
(i)	<b>How did the ‘Students on Ice’ programme provide a unique educational opportunity? (Journey to the end of the Earth)</b>	
Ans.	Suggested value points- - gave opportunity for students to face reality and understand that global warming is real/urged them to act with responsibility and make policies to save earth/ proved to be a life changing experience at an age when they were ready to absorb, learn and act/ foster new understanding and respect for the planet / made them realise the gravity of the situation- glaciers retreating and ice shelves collapsing <b>(any one)</b>	2
(ii)	<b>What was Zitkala-Sa’s reaction when she realized that her hair was going to be cut? (Memories of Childhood)</b>	
Ans.	Suggested value points- decided to rebel/ refused to submit/decided to struggle first / hid herself by crawling under a bed	2
(iii)	<b>“The Maharaja vowed that he would attend to all other matters only after killing the hundred tigers.” What image of the Maharaja is reflected in the above statement? (Tiger King)</b>	
Ans.	Suggested value points- stubborn/ selfish/ egoistic/ whimsical / irresponsible <b>(any one)</b>	2
Q. 12	Answer any one of the following two questions in 120-150 words :	5 marks
	Distribution of marks:- <b>CONTENT –1</b> <b>EXPRESSION – 1</b> EXPRESSION - Grammar, spelling, punctuation, organization and coherence of ideas	
(a)	<b>Compare how Gandhi’s courage and his determination in ‘Indigo’ helped him get justice for sharecroppers with William Douglas’ courage and persistence in the chapter ‘Deep Water’.</b>	
Ans.	Suggested value points- Gandhi - courageous as well as a compassionate leader - did not deter from mission- ready to fight - persistent in his effort- went from British Landlord Association to British official commissioner and finally to Motihari - made strategies-received the summon from the court and boldly wrote that he would disobey the order/ telegraphed Rajendra Prasad to come from Bihar with influential	5

	<p>friend /wired a full report to viceroy/was ready to go to jail/admitted to his guilt/refused to pay bail/influenced lawyers to take the risk of going to jail/had four protracted meetings with Lieutenant Governor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- compromised on the compensation amount to break the deadlock</li> <li>- finally achieved his goal</li> </ul> <p>William Douglas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- suffered from fear of water -two misadventure but did not give up</li> <li>- made strategies to overcome fear - tried learning alone in YMCA pool/ appointed instructor / spent months in training/</li> <li>- challenged himself –not satisfied with learning - tested himself in different water bodies</li> </ul> <p><b>(any other relevant points)</b> <b>(any three with at least one from each text)</b></p>	
	OR	
(b)	<p><b>“Why the devil did I take that fellow’s money?” he thought.</b> <b>(The Rattrap)</b></p> <p><b>“Oh, how sorry I was for not learning my lessons”.</b> <b>(The Last Lesson)</b></p> <p><b>How do the characters of Franz in ‘The Last Lesson’ and the Peddler in ‘The Rattrap’ compare and contrast in terms of their conduct and regret?</b></p>	
Ans.	<p>Suggested value points-</p> <p>Compare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- initially both behaved casually</li> <li>- didn’t think what they were doing</li> <li>- later regretted their actions</li> <li>- felt guilty and corrected themselves</li> </ul> <p>Contrast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Peddler got the opportunity to correct himself / got a second chance but Franz was too late and lost the opportunity</li> <li>- Peddler’s transformation came due to Edla- an outside source/ a catalyst whereas Franz’ transformation was due to circumstances and self realisation</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion- Both Franz and the peddler regretted their actions and tried to mend their ways</p> <p><b>(any other relevant point)</b> <b>(any three with at least one from each text)</b></p>	5
Q. 13	<b>Answer any one of the following two questions in 120-150 words :</b>	5 marks
	<p><b>Distribution of marks:-</b> <b>CONTENT – 3</b> <b>EXPRESSION - Grammar, spelling, punctuation, organization and coherence of ideas</b></p>	
(a)	<b>Do you think that the third level was a medium of escape for Charley? Justify.</b> <b>(The Third Level)</b>	

Ans.	<p>Suggested value points-</p> <p>Yes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presidents of NY railroads swore on the existence of two levels</li> <li>- according to psychiatrist- a waking dream wish fulfillment/ unhappy/ wanted to escape the worries, insecurities, fear, war of present world</li> <li>- according to friends- hobby of stamp collection proved his desire to escape/ a temporary refuge from reality</li> <li>- himself accepted that third level had been an exit/a medium of escape for people</li> <li>- thought of Galesburg nostalgically which reminded of his carefree childhood</li> <li>- could not find third level again</li> </ul> <p>No</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- is a Science fiction</li> <li>- everyone had worries but only Charley wandered into Third Level</li> <li>- the vivid description of Third Level proved he visited it</li> <li>- Sam exchanged money/ his disappearance/ his letter found as first day cover</li> </ul> <p><b>(any other relevant point)</b> <b>(any three)</b></p>	5
	OR	
(b)	<p><b>‘Mr. Lamb is portrayed as a wise and experienced man with a positive attitude.’</b> <b>Analyse the character of Mr. Lamb with reference to the above statement.</b> <b>(On The Face Of It)</b></p>	
Ans.	<p>Suggested value points-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A man of wisdom, experience, liveliness, optimism/ warm and welcoming</li> <li>- accepts reality/ takes comments of children in his stride</li> <li>- sees the brighter side of all things around him- for him bees hum not buzz /enjoys his garden and gardening / appreciates nature -values weeds as much as flowers/ never wallows in self-pity/ does not brood</li> <li>- influences Derry with his positivity and wise thoughts/ developed courage in him to stand against his mother/ Derry now wants to sit in the garden, listen to things and look / does not care about his burnt face</li> <li>- through his life experiences, is able to change Derry’s negative perspective and motivates him to come out of his shell.</li> </ul> <p><b>(any other relevant point)</b> <b>(any three)</b></p>	5

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