

M.M – 80 marks

Class – XII

Subject: English – Core (301)

Time: 3 Hrs.

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
2. All the sections are compulsory. Separate instructions are given with each question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.
3. Don't exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

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**SECTION A-READING SKILLS**

**22**

**1. Read the following text.**

**12**

1. The art of conversation, like any art, is a skill of elegance, nuance and creative execution. I happen to believe that there is an art to everything we do, and why not? Without flair and panache most things become a drudgery. Why settle for drudgery when you can have art?
2. When it comes to the art of conversation, we've all met people who seem to have the knack for it. They can talk to anybody about anything and they seem to do it with complete ease. And while it's true that there are those who are born with the gift of the gab, luckily for the rest of us, conversation skills can be developed and mastered.
3. Conversation is a form of communication; however, it is usually more spontaneous and less formal. We enter into conversations for purposes of pleasant engagement in order to meet new people, to find out information and to enjoy social interactions. As far as types of conversation, they vary anywhere from intellectual conversations and information exchanges to friendly debates and witty banter.
4. While there is more to having good conversation skills than being a comedian, a dramatic actor, or a great story teller, it is not necessary to become more gregarious, animated, or outgoing.
5. Instead, you can develop the ability to listen attentively, ask fitting questions, and pay attention to the answers – all qualities essential to the art of conversation. With diligent practice and several good pointers, anyone can improve his or her conversation skills.
6. People who are genuinely interested in others are usually interesting themselves. Why? Because they are more open to learning about and understanding new things. Showing interest also encourages the other person to be relaxed and share information more freely. Display attentiveness by keeping good eye contact and listening actively.
7. If you happen to be shy and need time to warm up before you share your own views, you can ask open-ended questions or encourage the other person to elaborate on their insights. This kick-starts the conversation and before you know it you are engaged in a good conversational flow.
8. To start a conversation, go up to someone and introduce yourself. It is both polite and necessary to start off things smoothly.
9. When the occasion calls for it, you can offer a handshake and then smile and make eye contact. Being friendly puts the other person at ease and opens the door for him or her to introduce themselves.
10. The art of conversation, like any skill, takes long practice. Do not expect to be adept after your first few attempts. It will take practice as well as exposure to many different social situations.

**On the basis of your reading the above passage answer the following questions.**

- i. Select the option that classifies the narrator’s idea of not being settled to drudgery. 1  
(a) Conversation is a form of art. (b) Without flair and panache most things become drudgery.  
(c) Art overcomes drudgery. (d) Whatever we do is drudgery.
- ii. Which quality is not essential to the art of conversation? 1  
(a) Paying attention to the answers. (b) Asking fitting questions.  
(c) Ability to listen attentively. (d) Writing
- iii. Share evidence from the text, in about 40 words to support the view that the narrator’s writing style is descriptive in nature. 2
- iv. Complete the sentence appropriately with its description. 1  
Shy people may start open-ended questions or encourage the other person\_\_\_\_\_.
- v. Select the option that is similar in meaning to ‘witty’. 1  
(a) dull (b) humorous  
(c) boring (d) scratchy
- vi. Explain the reason, in about 40 words, showing interest in others leads to interesting conversation. 2
- vii. In the line “... with diligent practice and several good pointers, anyone can improve his or her conversational skills”. What does the word ‘diligent’ imply? 1
- viii. “... conversations and information exchanges to friendly debates and witty banter.” What does the author want to say? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- ix. Read the five statements (1)–(5) given below. 1  
(1) A good listener always listens to other person attentively.  
(2) A person who is interested in others will always listen to others.  
(3) Being a comedian or actor, a person needs to be a good listener.  
(4) Showing interest in others also encourages the other person to be relaxed and share information more freely.  
(5) A person should speak politely.  
Identify the option that displays the statements that DOES/DO corresponds with the listening ability of a person.  
(a) Only (1) (b) Only (2)  
(c) Both (1) and (2) (d) (3), (4) and (5)

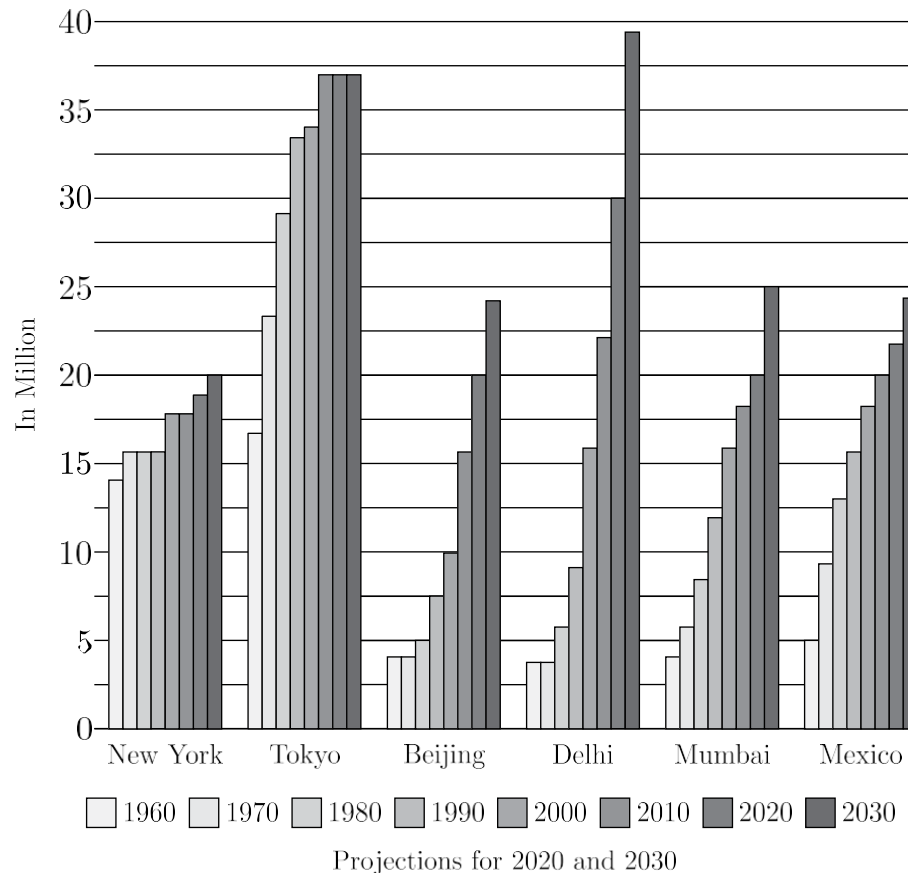
**2. Read the following text.**

**10**

1. Politics and now Pollution keep Delhi forever in the news, but a third P (Population Growth) has gone missing from the discourse on the capital: population growth, which has soared during the last two decades and its disastrous fallout.
2. Already, India’s capital city is the world’s second most populous urban agglomeration. The future is even more frightening: a United Nations report released in mid-2018 says Delhi could be the world’s most populous city by 2028 with 37.2 million people. That is eight million more in just 10 years.
3. According to the report called World Urbanisation Prospects 2018 by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the population of Delhi and its immediate neighbourhood

is now estimated to be 29 million, second only to Tokyo with 37 million people. But Delhi will zoom past Tokyo, whose population is projected to decline to 36.8 million by 2028.

4. Will Delhi be worth living in? Can the city state of Delhi escape the pressures put on it by an ever expanding National Capital Region (NCR), which touches as far as Alwar now? Are we prepared at all for this population explosion?



**Figure :** Population Growth in Major Global Cities

5. In a small office in Delhi’s India Habitat Centre, a group of urban planners – all belonging to the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) – have just started collecting baseline data on land, housing, transport, environment, heritage, water, among others, for Master Plan for Delhi (MPD) 2041. “Our deadline for preparing the Master Plan is 2021. But unlike its earlier editions, it won’t be a flat 20 year plan. This one will be divided into various achievables, say, for every five years,” says Nilesh Rajadhyaksha, lead coordinator of MPD and urban specialist in NIUA.

The NIUA – an autonomous research and advisory body that comes under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs – has been roped in by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to undertake this colossal strategy plan for Delhi 2041. The current master plan, MPD-2021, which was notified in 2007 and was prepared by an in-house team of the DDA, would expire in 2021.

6. The concern is that a sense of urgency to fix Delhi is missing. Many crucial elements of MPD-2021 still remain on paper, with just two years left for the plan to expire. AK Jain, former commissioner-planning in DDA and key architect of MPD-2021, gives a long list of what have not been implemented. The master plan talks about brown field redevelopment of rehabilitation colonies such as Lajpat Nagar, Old Rajendra Nagar and Mukherjee Nagar, which were originally meant for Partition refugees.
7. Nothing has been done on that front so far. Nor for the redevelopment of 45 resettlement colonies

such as Ambedkar Nagar and Trilokpuri, which were developed during Emergency to rehabilitate slum dwellers. The rejuvenation of the Yamuna is also on the plan, but the river remains severely polluted in the Delhi stretch.

8. Will Delhi be liveable? Jain is not very hopeful. He says Delhi won't be a highly liveable city even if the master plan is implemented in its entirety. "Delhi is part of the National Capital Region (NCR). So, Delhi's development can't happen in isolation," he explains.

**Answer the following questions on the basis of reading the given passage.**

- i.** Based on reading of the text, state a point to challenge the statement. Answer in about 40 words. 2  
Many important respects of MPD-2021 have been implemented.
- ii.** The urban planners are collecting data based on\_\_\_\_\_. 1  
(a) transport (b) land  
(c) heritage (d) All of these
- iii.** Based on the given graph, choose the option that lists the statements that are true. 1  
(a) Beijing and Delhi will see a decline in population growth.  
(b) The population of Tokyo' is 'expected to remain the same over 10 years.  
(c) The population of New York had grown exponentially.
- iv.** What problem will prevail even if the Master Plan is implemented in its entirety? 1
- v.** Whom had the Delhi development Authority hired to look into the development of Delhi? 1  
(a) NIUA (b) The Urban Planner  
(c) MHUA (d) All of these
- vi.** Describe the crucial issue related to Master plans created for Delhi. Answer in about 40 words. 2
- vii.** Complete the following sentence based on the information given in the passage. 1  
The given passage wants to drive attention to.
- viii.** State TRUE or FALSE. 1  
Currently, Delhi is the third most polluted city in the world.

**SECTION B- CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS**

**18**

- 3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4**
- A.** Electricity supply will be suspended from 6:00am to 6:00 pm. from the month of April 2024 if the consumer fails to pay bills. Write a notice in about 50 words advising the residents of your colony to pay the electricity bills regularly. You are Rajnish /Ranjita, Secretary, Mansarovar Colony, Kaju Bagan, Ranchi.
- OR**
- B.** As Teacher Co-ordinator of the Quiz Club of AMM School, Pune, draft a notice in not more than 50 words informing students of the inter-class quiz contest asking them to register their names with the Secretary of the Club within a week. You are Shashank/Samridhhi.
- 4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4**
- A.** You are Riya/Ryan living at 40, Krishna Colony, Manali. You decided to hold a lunch party to congratulate your grandparents on their golden wedding anniversary. Draft a formal invitation in not more than 50

words to invite all the family members and relatives to attend a grand lunch at home. Invent necessary details.

**OR**

**B.** Draft a formal reply accepting an invitation to be present on the occasion of the wedding of Ankush S/o Mr & Mrs Shankar of 24, Green Park Road, Kanpur. You are Vikram Gaur of Raja Ki Mandi, Agra.

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

**A.** Two main parks in your locality have suffered neglect on the part of local authorities. They have virtually been taken over by undesirable elements. As a result the residents have stopped going to the parks. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the editor of a local newspaper expressing your concern about the problems the neglect has created and suggest measures to reclaim the parks for children. You are Gautam/ Gauri of 2, Gobind Enclave, Meerut.

**OR**

**B.** You are Anand/Arti of 14, Model Town, Delhi. You have seen an advertisement in The Hindu for the post of Chief Receptionist in a 5-Star Hotel in New Delhi. Apply for the job with complete bio-data. Write in 120-150 words.

**Wanted Chief Receptionist**

**at least five years experience –  
salary negotiable.**

**Write to The Director, Hotel Taj, Karol Bagh , New Delhi.**

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

**A.** You are Jay/Jaya, studying in Shyamala Memorial Hall, Trichy. Some students of your school attended a first aid training camp for a week at Red Cross Headquarter of your state. Write a report for your school magazine in 120-150 words on the events of the camp and your participation and performance.

**OR**

**B.** Visiting new places and meeting new people enhance our understanding and knowledge besides being a source of great pleasure. Write an article in 120-150 words on ‘Travel, a Source of Knowledge and Pleasure. You are Gopal/Gayatri of DAV Public School , Hehal, Ranchi.

**SECTION C- LITERATURE**

**40**

**7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions of ANY ONE of the two given. 6**

**A.** I looked again at her, wan, pale as a late  
winter’s moon and felt that old familiar ache,  
my childhood’s fear, but all I said was, see you soon, Amma,  
all I did was smile and smile and smile...

**i.** What do you mean by expression “all I said ” and “all I did”? 1

**ii.** Complete the sentence appropriately. 1

Poet’s mother is likened to a ‘late winter’s moon’ because\_\_\_\_\_.

**iii.** State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract. 1

The poet is ached by the fact that her mother is no longer young.

**iv.** Identify the figure of speech used in the given lines, “pale as a late winter’s moon.” 1

(a) Alliteration

(b) Metaphor

(c) Simile

(d) Hyperbola

- v. What is the “old familiar ache” of the poet? 1  
 (a) Ageing and decaying of her mother (b) Seeing happy children  
 (c) Leaving the country (d) Leaving her mother alone
- vi. Do you think that the poet was hopeful of seeing her mother again? 1

**OR**

- B.** “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.”
- i. What makes the tigers proud and unafraid? 1  
 (a) They represent Aunt’s repressed desires for freedom and power.  
 (b) They symbolise authority and are ‘topaz denizens of green’.  
 (c) They embody the grandeur and supremacy of animals in the wild.  
 (d) They are a product of Aunt’s imagination and colonial experience.
- ii. Identify the phrase from the extract, that suggests the following. 1  
 Aunt Jennifer was entrapped in her marriage.
- iii. Which of the following CAN NOT be inferred from the given extract? 1  
 (a) Even in death, Aunt Jennifer cannot escape patriarchal subjugation.  
 (b) Aunt Jennifer feels oppressed and constricted in her marriage.  
 (c) Aunt Jennifer’s tigers will keep her alive in everyone’s memory.  
 (d) Aunt Jennifer’s tigers prance as a lasting symbol of her desires.
- iv. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
 The theme associated with the extract is \_\_\_\_\_.
- v. State whether TRUE or FALSE. 1  
 Aunt Jennifer’s tigers are an art from which she will survive.
- vi. Will Aunt Jennifer ever be able to escape the oppressive society? Explain 1

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

- A.** Derry : [Panic] I’ve got to go.  
 Mr. Lamb : Not on my account. I don’t mind who comes into the garden. The gate’s always open. Only you climbed the garden wall.  
 Derry : [Angry] You were watching me.  
 Mr Lamb : I saw you. But the gate’s open. All welcome. You’re welcome. I sit here. I like sitting.  
 (“Mr Lamb : Not on my account.” Based on this line, do you think Mr. Lamb was angry with Derry? 1
- i. What does the statement “Only you climbed the garden wall.” mean? 1  
 (a) Mr. Lamb wanted Derry to be punished.  
 (b) Everyone got permission before entering into the garden.  
 (c) Derry was the only person to sneak in through the wall.  
 (d) Derry doesn’t know the location of the gate.
- ii. How did Derry enter the garden? 1
- iii. Do you think Derry has the right to be angry at Mr. Lamb? 1

**OR**

**B.** His father had taken him often to the islands of those seas, and never had he failed to say to the little brave boy at his side, “Those islands yonder, they are the stepping stones to the future for Japan.”  
“Where shall we step from them?” Sadao had asked seriously.

“Who knows?” his father had answered. “Who can limit our future? It depends on what we make it”

**i.** Who did ‘the little boy’ refer to? 1

**ii.** What does the speaker mean by ‘stepping stone’? 1

1. Means of advancement
2. Means of progression
3. Means of disorganization
4. Means of paucity

(a) only 1 (b) 1 and 2 (c) only 3 (d) 3 and 4

**iii.** Pick out the word/s that best describe/s the word ‘yonder’ as used in the passage. 1

1. Distant 2. Accessible 3. Proximate 4. Non-adjacent 5. Adjoining 6. Far-flung

**iv.** “Where shall we step from them?” Sadao had asked seriously. 1

Replace the word ‘seriously’ as given in the above line with an appropriate word.

**9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions of ANY ONE of the two given. 6**

**A.** But Gandhi was vehemently opposed. He said, “You think that in this unequal fight it would be helpful if we have an Englishman on our side. This shows the weakness of your heart. The cause is just and you must rely upon yourselves to win the battle....”

“He had read our minds correctly:’ Rajendra Prasad comments, “and we had no reply.....Gandhi in this way taught us a lesson in self-reliance’:

Self-reliance, Indian independence and help to sharecroppers were all bound together.

**i.** Gandhi taught the sharecroppers a lesson of self-reliance so that 1

- (a) they could believe in themselves and be self-dependent.
- (b) they learn and follow civil disobedience
- (c) they understand that British could not be trusted
- (d) they get to know to fight amongst themselves only.

**ii.** Pick out the word from the given extract which means same as ‘fiercely’. 1

**iii.** Complete the sentence appropriately. 1

Rajendra Prasad who was a lawyer later on became\_\_\_\_\_.

**iv.** Why did Gandhiji vehemently oppose the idea of taking help from Charles Freer Andrews? 1

**v.** Assertion (A) : Gandhi was vehemently opposed to letting Andrews help him in Champaran. 1

Reason (R) : Because Gandhi was always suspicious of new people who offered help.

- (a) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true but R is false.
- (d) A is false but R is true

**vi.** “He had read our minds correctly:’ Rajendra Prasad commented. What is the sentiment exposed here? 1

**OR**

**B.** Once upon a time there was a man who went around selling small rattraps of wire. He made them himself at odd moments, from the material he got by begging in the stores or at the big farms. But even so, the business was not especially profitable, so he had to resort to both begging and petty thievery to keep body and soul together. Even so his clothes were in rags, his cheeks were sunken, and hunger gleamed in his eyes.

- i. The peddler had to resort to both begging and thievery. 1  
What does the above sentence demonstrates?
- ii. Through peddler's appearance it is signified that he was a/an 1  
(a) unfortunate man (b) thief  
(c) beggar (d) crofter
- iii. Complete the sentence with one word. 1  
The peddler's rattaps were made of \_\_\_\_\_.
- iv. In the expression "the business was not profitable" what does the 'business' refer 1  
to?
- v. What does the idiom 'keep body and soul together' mean? 1
- vi. What does the word 'rags' indicate? 1

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

- i. What does the story of Subbu's success in the film industry reveal about the importance of loyalty, creativity and versatility in life?
- ii. What thoughts came to Sophi's mind as she sat by the canal?
- iii. Explain Douglas' statement, "The instructor was finished. But I was not finished:"
- iv. What do you understand by the expression "thumbprints on his windpipe"
- v. What makes human beings love life in spite of all the troubles they face?
- vi. What does the expression 'polished traffic' stand for? How does it react on looking at the roadside stand?

**11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. 2x2 = 4**

- i. Why is Antarctica the place to go to if we want to study the earth's past, present and future?
- ii. What is the commonality of theme found in the experiences of Zitkala Sa and Bama? How can the oppressed people establish their position in the society?
- iii. "That ain't money mister". When and why did the ticket clerk utter these words?

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

- A. "The plight of street children forced into labour early in life and denied the opportunity of schooling is the cry of the oppressed class of society" Elaborate.

**OR**

- B. Choose a quiet corner and keep still physically and mentally for about five minutes. Do you feel any change in your state of mind? Explain on the basis of your reading the poem

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

**5**

"The actual pain or inconvenience caused by physical impairment is often much less than the sense of alienation felt by the person with disabilities." Explain. What is the kind of behavior that the challenged person expects from others?

**OR**

B "The story 'The Tiger King' criticizes self seeking king who willfully exploit both nature and their subjects for selfish interests but by a twist of fate pay in the same coin." Examine this statement and analyse with instances how far is this thought relevant in modern life?