



ST. VIVEKANAND MILLENNIUM SCHOOL

HMT Township, Pinjore

Subject: English (Level-1)

HALF-YEARLY EXAM, 2025

CODE: **XII/301/SET-I**

Time allowed : 3hours

MM : 80

General Instructions :

- (i) *This Question Paper has 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.*
- (ii) *This Question Paper contains **THREE** Sections – Section A: **READING SKILLS** Section B: **CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS** and Section C: **LITERATURE**.*
- (iii) *Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.*
- (iv) *Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.*

Read these instructions very carefully and follow them strictly.

- (v) *Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

SECTION-A

1 Read the passage given below:

12

Beauty is a concept that transcends cultures, epochs, and individual preferences, touching the deepest recesses of the human soul. It exists in the natural world, in art, in emotions, and even in ideas. Beauty captivates, mesmerizes, and evokes a sense of wonder that enriches the human experience.

In nature, beauty can be witnessed in the vibrant colours of a sunset, the delicate intricacies of a blooming flower, or the graceful flight of a bird. From the majestic mountains to the serene ocean waves, nature's beauty stirs a sense of awe and reminds us of our connection to the world around us. It awakens a profound appreciation for the wonders of the universe, inspiring poets, artists, and philosophers throughout history to contemplate its mysteries.

Art, too, is a powerful expression of beauty. Whether it's a captivating melody, a mesmerizing dance, or a breath-taking painting, art has the ability to move us emotionally and intellectually. It allows us to glimpse the inner workings of the human spirit, touching on universal truths and shared experiences. Through art, we can explore the complexities of life and find solace in moments of chaos.

The beauty of human emotions is equally remarkable. Love,

compassion, and empathy are among the most beautiful aspects of our existence. They remind us of our inherent capacity to connect with others on a profound level and to make a positive impact on each other's lives. These emotions inspire acts of kindness and selflessness, transcending the boundaries of race, religion, and nationality.

Beyond the tangible, beauty can also be found in abstract ideas and concepts. The pursuit of knowledge, the unraveling of scientific mysteries and the quest for understanding the universe's secrets all possess an inherent beauty. The human mind's capacity to explore, question, and create embodies the essence of beauty in the realm of ideas.

In conclusion, beauty is an intangible force that shapes our perception of the world and enriches our existence. It can be observed in the natural world, expressed through art and emotions, and even manifested in abstract concepts. Beauty beckons us to seek meaning, connect with others, and embrace the profound wonders of life. It is a timeless, universal essence that continues to inspire, elevate, and ignite the human spirit.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions.

- 1 According to the passage, what does beauty transcend? 1
 - a) Cultural boundaries
 - b) Personal preferences
 - c) Time and space
 - d) International Borders
- 2 In what ways can beauty be observed in nature? 2
- 3 What can art do according to the passage? 1
 - a) Create chaos and confusion
 - b) Move people emotionally and intellectually
 - c) Make people indifferent to their surroundings
 - d) Limit the human experience
- 4 What are some examples of human emotions that are considered beautiful? 2
- 5 According to the passage, how does beauty impact the human spirit? 1
 - a) It limits our emotions
 - b) It creates chaos and confusion
 - c) It inspires, elevates, and ignites the human spirit
 - d) It disconnects us from our emotions
- 6 How does beauty inspire acts of kindness and selflessness? 2
- 7 Where else can beauty be found besides the natural world and art? 1
 - a) Nowhere else
 - b) In abstract ideas and concepts
 - c) Only in physical objects
 - d) In technological advancements

- 8 What aspects of the natural world remind us of our connection to beauty? 1
- 9 What does beauty do to our perception of the world? 1
- a) It makes us indifferent to the world around us
 - b) It shapes and enriches our perception
 - c) It disconnects us from others
 - d) It hinders our understanding of the universe

2 **Read the passage given below:** 10

Phobias are intense and irrational fears of specific objects, situations, or activities that can significantly disrupt a person's daily life and well-being. These debilitating anxieties can manifest in numerous 6 forms, ranging from common fears like heights and spiders to more unusual ones like clowns or buttons. While most people experience some level of fear, phobias are characterized by their excessive, uncontrollable nature, causing individuals to go to great lengths to avoid the object of their dread.

Phobias often develop during childhood or adolescence, though they can emerge at any stage of life. Traumatic experiences, learned behaviours from family members, or genetic predispositions are some common factors contributing to their development. Once established, phobias can become deeply ingrained and challenging to overcome without professional intervention.

Physical and emotional symptoms accompany phobias. Physical manifestations may include rapid heartbeat, sweating, trembling, shortness of breath, and dizziness. Emotionally, individuals may experience overwhelming anxiety, panic attacks, a sense of impending doom, or the need to escape the situation entirely. Agoraphobia, social phobia, and specific phobias are among the most common types.

Agoraphobia involves fear of situations that might be difficult to escape, leading many sufferers to avoid crowded places or leaving their homes altogether. Social phobia entails an intense fear of social situations, making individuals exceedingly self-conscious and apprehensive about judgment or embarrassment. Specific phobias encompass a wide array of fears, such as fear of flying, needles, or public speaking.

Treatment for phobias often involves a combination of cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) and exposure therapy. CBT helps individuals identify and modify negative thought patterns associated

with their phobia, while exposure therapy gradually exposes them to the feared object or situation under controlled conditions. This process helps desensitize the person to their fear and fosters a sense of control.

In some cases, medication may be prescribed to manage the anxiety and physical symptoms associated with phobias. However, it is typically used in conjunction with therapy rather than as the sole treatment method.

Phobias can be distressing and disruptive, but with appropriate support and intervention, many individuals can learn to manage their fears effectively. Seeking professional help early on is essential, as untreated phobias can lead to avoidance behaviors that restrict a person's life and limit their potential for growth and happiness. With the right approach, individuals can reclaim their lives from the grasp of phobias and embrace a world free from irrational fear.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below.

- 1 How are phobias different from regular fears? 1
- 2 When do phobias typically develop? 1
 - a) During early adulthood.
 - b) During childhood or adolescence.
 - c) During old age
 - d) At any stage of life.
- 3 What are some common factors that contribute to the development of phobias? 2
- 4 Name three types of phobias mentioned in the passage. 1
- 5 How does social phobia manifest in individuals? 1
- 6 What is exposure therapy, and how does it help treat phobias? 1
- 7 What are some emotional symptoms of phobias? 1
 - a) Overwhelming joy and euphoria.
 - b) A sense of impending doom and panic attacks.
 - c) Contentment and relaxation.
 - d) A feeling of fulfillment and achievement
- 8 What are some physical symptoms of phobias? 1
 - a) Excessive happiness and excitement.
 - b) Rapid heartbeat, sweating, and trembling.
 - c) Deep breath and alertness.

d) Mild fever and restlessness.

- 9 Find a sentence from the options given below which has a word which means, 'a condition that makes somebody/something to behave in a particular way or suffer from medical condition.' 1
- a) "A child may inherit a predisposition to panic attacks"
b) "Any delay will prejudice the child's welfare"
c) "She was certain that fate was with her and everything was predestined."
d) The car company started a sister company to buy and sell preowned cars.

SECTION B – WRITING

- 3 Your school is organizing the Annual sports Day next month at one of the prestigious stadiums of your city. Draft an invitation card in not more than 50 words requesting Mr. Deepak Arya, IAS Collector Balaghat to preside over the function as the chief guest and to give away the prizes. 4

Or

You are Manoj/Manjula. Write an invitation letter for your friend/friends for the party you are giving to celebrate your selection in the B.Tech. course in Delhi University. Invent necessary details within 50

- 4 You have read an advertisement in 'The Times of India' for the post of Chartered Accountant in Happy Times Industry, Kanpur. You believe you possess the requisite qualifications and experience and would prove to be an asset for the company. Apply for the post giving your complete bio-data stressing your suitability. You are Amar Singh of 2, Kailash Puri, Delhi. (120-150 words) 6

Or

You have recently come across an advertisement for the post of software engineer in S.K. Global Solutions. Write an application with bio-data in about 120-150 words to The Manager, S.K. Global Solutions, J.P. Nagar, Bangalore. You are Ranjan / Ritu of Indra Nagar, Bangalore.

- 5 The efforts of 400 volunteers working with the NGO, 4Literacy, in the district of Malkangiri, Odisha, were lauded by the District Collector, Shri V. Singh (IAS). As a staff reporter of 'The Odisha Bhaskar', write a report about this in 120-150 words covering all the details of the event, such as training, teaching and infrastructure involved in the 'Each One Teach One' campaign, initiated by the district administration in association with the NGO. 5

or

You are Shreyash/Shreya of Times News Network Pune. You have covered the Van Mahotsav Celebrations at KV NDA Pune. Write a report on it in 120 to 150 words by using the following verbal input.

- 6 You are Vijay/Veena. Head Boy/Girl of Minerva Public School, Bhopal. Your school is planning to organize a Career Counseling Workshop for the students of classes 9-12. Draft a notice in about 50 words informing students about the workshop mentioning day, date, time and venue. 4

Or

Your school is planning to organize a Water Conservation Awareness Program for the students. As school captain of SLV Public School, Lucknow, draft a notice in about 50 words informing the students about the program mentioning day, date, time and venue. You are Sanjay / Sanjana.

SECTION C - LITERATURE

- 7 Attempt questions given below, within 40 words each. 10
- A A mistaken identity led to a discovery of a new one for the rattrap peddler. How did this impact him? 2
- B As the host of a talk show, introduce Rajkumar Shukla to the audience by stating any two of his defining qualities. You may begin your answer like this: Meet Rajkumar Shukla, the man who played a pivotal role in the Champaran Movement. He 2
- C What do the parting words of Kamala Das and her smile signify? 2
- D Rationalize why Keats uses the metaphor 'an endless fountain of immortal drink' in his poem, A Thing of Beauty. 2
- E How do you think Derry's mother contributes to his sense of alienation and isolation? (On the Face of It) 2
- 8 Answer the following in about 120-150 words each. 10
- A Imagine yourself as old Hauser who attended the last lesson of M. Hamel. After going home, you pen down your feelings in a diary about how M. Hamel displayed patriotism and resistance through his class. Express your feelings in 120-150 words. You may begin like this, "Today, all were present in the class ... 5
- B The modern consumerist world is full of fear, insecurities, stress and wars. What are the ways in which we try to combat them? Answer with reference to 'The Third Level'. 5
- 9 Read the following extract and answer the questions that following: 6
- A) A thing of beauty is a joy forever
Its loveliness increases, it will never
pass into nothingness: but will keep

A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
Full of sweet dreams, and health and quiet breathing.
Therefore, on every morrow are we wreathing
A flowery band to bind us to the earth;
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth Of noble natures, of
the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o'er darkened ways Made for our
searching.

i. Keats defines beauty as

(a) transient (b) eternal (c) illusionary (d) short lived

ii. 'will keep a bower quiet for us' means all of the following
EXCEPT

(a) create a peaceful, shady place

(b) provide a shelter

(c) will decrease noise pollution

(d) nature's canopy

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

1. Beautiful things uplift the soul.

2. Beauty is ever-changing.

(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) both 1 and 2 cannot be inferred from the extract.

iv. The things that cause unhappiness are

(1) lack of noble nature

(2) old tunes

(3) dull days

(4) calm mind

(5) a flowery band

(6) strong relationships

Choose the most appropriate option :

(a) (1) and (2)

(b) (1) and (3)

(c) (4) and (5)

(d) (3) and (6)

v. Complete the analogy. Do not repeat from used example :

flowery band : metaphor :: : alliteration

vi. What does ‘never pass into nothingness’ mean?

or

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 realized with pain that she was as old as she looked, but soon put that thought away...”

i. Choose the option that displays the same poetic device as used in the line “her face ashen like that of a corpse”.

- (a) Life, adventurous as a road trip, is quite thrilling.
- (b) He is a lion.
- (c) A thing of beauty is a joy forever.
- (d) The whole world is a stage.

ii. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE. The word “ashen” implies the poet’s veiled fear of her mother’s death.

iii. The theme of the poem as represented by the given extract is _____.

iv. What is the painful thought that comes to the poet’s mind?

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

- 1. The thought of loss or separation is painful.
 - 2. The poet is afraid that she might lose her mother.
- (a) 1 can be inferred from the extract but 2 cannot.
 - (b) 2 can be inferred from the extract but 1 cannot.
 - (c) Neither 1 nor 2 can be inferred from the extract.
 - (d) 2 is the reason for 1 and can be inferred from the extract.

vi. What message can the readers assimilate from the extract about filial duties?

10 Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow

To make sure, I walked over the newsboy and glanced at the stack of papers at his feet. It was *The World* and *The World* hasn't been published for years. The lead story said something about President Cleveland. I've found that front page since, in the Public library files, and it was printed June 11, 1894. I turned toward the ticket windows knowing that here – on the third level at Grand Central – I could buy tickets that would take Louisa and me anywhere in the United States we wanted to go. In the year 1894. And I wanted two tickets to Galesburg, Illinois.

(i) The newspaper that covered the lead story about President Cleveland was

- (a) *The Pioneer* (b) *The New York Times*
(c) *The World* (d) *The Times*

(ii) The narrator wanted to buy tickets to.

(iii) Which of the following in the extract most nearly means the opposite of 'stare'?

- (a) glance (b) peek
(c) ignore (d) examine

(iv) Charley wanted two tickets because he wanted to go with

- (a) Sam (b) Cleveland
(c) Louisa (d) the Psychiatrist or

Everyone stood transfixed in stupefaction. They looked wildly at each other and blinked. "O wise prophets! It was I who spoke." This time there were no grounds for doubt. It was the infant born just ten days ago who had enunciated the words so clearly. The chief astrologer took off his spectacles and gazed intently at the baby. "All those who are born will one day have to die. We don't need your predictions to know that. There would be some sense in it if you could tell us the manner of that death," the royal infant uttered these words in his little squeaky voice.

i. Who is 'I' in these lines?

- a. The Tiger King b. the prophet
c. The tiger king's father d. The Tiger King's wife

ii. Who spoke at the age of 10 days?

- a. The Tiger King b. Dr. Sadao c. Evans d. Jack

iii. What did the royal infant want to know?

- a. The exact manner of his marriage
b. The exact manner of his death
c. The exact manner of his sitting on his throne
d. The exact manner of his life

iv. Find out the synonym of 'utter' from the following.

- a. to speak b. to express c. to let out d. All of these

11 Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow

6

“I sometimes find a rupee, even a ten rupee note”, Saheb says, his eyes lighting up when you can find a silver coin in a heap of garbage, you don’t stop scrounging, for there is hope of finding more. It seems that for children, garbage has a meaning different from what it means to their parents. For the children it is wrapped in wonder, for the elders it is a means of survival. One winter morning I see Saheb standing by the fenced gate of the neighbourhood club, watching two young men dressed in white, playing tennis. “I like the game”, he hums, content to watch it standing behind the fence. “I go inside when no one is around” he admits. “The gate keeper lets me use the swing.”

(i) Saheb found a rupee

- (a) on the street (b) in the garbage dump
(c) in Firozabad (d) on the tennis court

(ii) Which emotion of Saheb is revealed in the phrase ‘his eyes lighting up’?

- (a) anxiety (b) envy
(c) happiness (d) greed

(iii) For the elders garbage is----- and for children it is -----.

(iv) On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to I and II given below :

I. Saheb watches the game from outside.

II. Saheb had lost the previous match.

- (a) I is true but II is not (b) II is true but I is not

