

DREAMERS EDU HUB
PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION PAPER 2025-26

CLASS 12th

ENGLISH

16.12.2025

Time allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them :

(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.

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

SECTION A- Reading Skills(22 marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully : (12 marks)

(1) Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer a concept confined to science fiction movies; it is a reality that is reshaping the world as we know it. From personalized recommendations on streaming platforms to autonomous vehicles, AI is embedded in the fabric of modern life. It refers to the simulation of human intelligence in machines that are programmed to think like humans and mimic their actions. The term may also be applied to any machine that exhibits traits associated with a human mind such as learning and problem-solving.

(2) One of the most significant impacts of AI is in the healthcare sector. AI algorithms are being used to diagnose diseases with greater accuracy and speed than human doctors. For instance, AI can analyze medical images to detect early signs of cancer that might be missed by the human eye. Furthermore, predictive analytics can help hospital administrators better manage resources, ensuring that patient care is optimized.

(3) However, the integration of AI into society is not without its challenges. A major concern is the displacement of jobs. As machines become more capable, there is a fear that they will replace human workers in various industries, from manufacturing to customer service. While proponents argue that AI will create new types of jobs, the transition period could be difficult for those whose skills become obsolete.

(4) Another ethical dilemma involves data privacy. AI systems require vast amounts of data to learn and improve. This reliance on data raises questions about how personal information is collected, stored, and used. There have been instances where AI systems have been found to be biased, reflecting the prejudices present in the data they were trained on. This can lead to unfair treatment in areas such as hiring and law enforcement.

(5) Despite these challenges, the potential benefits of AI are immense. In education, AI can provide personalized learning experiences, adapting to the pace and style of individual students. In environmental conservation, AI models are being used to track wildlife populations and monitor climate change indicators. The key lies in developing responsible AI—systems that are transparent, fair, and accountable.

(6) As we move forward, it is crucial for policymakers, technologists, and society at large to engage in a dialogue about the future of AI. Regulations must be put in place to ensure that the technology is used for the greater good. Education systems need to evolve to prepare the workforce for an AI-driven economy. By balancing innovation with ethical considerations, we can harness the power of AI to solve some of humanity's most pressing challenges.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

(i) What is the primary function of AI as described in paragraph 1? (1)

(ii) How is AI revolutionizing the healthcare sector according to the passage? (1)

(iii) Read the following sentence:

"The transition period could be difficult for those whose skills become obsolete."

The concern the above statement points towards is: (1)

(A) The rise of new industries.

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(B) The potential for unemployment due to automation.

(iv) How does bias occur in AI systems as mentioned in paragraph 4? (1)

(v) Provide one textual evidence with reference to paragraph 5, to prove the following:
 The education sector can benefit significantly from AI integration. (1)

(vi) Complete the analogy with one word from paragraph 5:

Hidden : Transparent :: Biased : _____ (1)

(vii) Mention one specific application of AI in environmental conservation. (1)

(viii) Assess the role of policymakers in the future of AI as outlined in paragraph 6. (2)

(ix) Which of the following is NOT a benefit of AI mentioned in the passage? (1)

- (A) Disease diagnosis
- (B) Resource management in hospitals
- (C) Emotional companionship
- (D) Wildlife tracking

(x) "The key lies in developing responsible AI." Explain what the author means by 'responsible AI'. (2)

2. Read the following passage carefully :

(10 marks)

(1) Introduction: The shift towards electric vehicles (EVs) is gaining momentum globally as a strategy to combat climate change. This case study analyzes consumer perception regarding EVs in India, focusing on the factors influencing the decision to switch from Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles.

(2) Methodology: A survey was conducted involving 2,000 car owners across metro and tier-2 cities. Participants were asked about their willingness to buy an EV and the barriers preventing them from doing so.

(3) Survey Examination: The study looked at various parameters such as initial cost, running cost, environmental impact, and infrastructure.

(4) Results: The following table illustrates the primary concerns of potential buyers:

S. No.	Concern / Factor	% of Respondents (Metro)	% of Respondents (Tier-2)	Reason for Concern
1.	High Initial Cost	65%	78%	EVs are priced higher than petrol cars.
2.	Range Anxiety	55%	70%	Fear of running out of charge.
3.	Charging Infrastructure	60%	85%	Lack of charging stations on highways.
4.	Running Cost Savings	15% (Concern)	10% (Concern)	Most see this as a benefit, not a concern.
5.	Environmental Benefit	80% (Motivator)	65% (Motivator)	Desire to reduce carbon footprint.

(5) Implications: The data suggests that while environmental awareness is high, economic factors and infrastructure reliability remain significant hurdles. Metro cities show higher readiness compared to Tier-2 cities, largely due to better infrastructure availability.

(6) Conclusion: To accelerate EV adoption, stakeholders must address the 'range anxiety' and cost disparity. Government subsidies and rapid expansion of charging networks are critical.

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Answer the following questions, based on the given passage:

(i) Complete the following suitably:

The researcher links the momentum of Electric Vehicles (EVs) to the global strategy of _____. (1)

(ii) What would the following be classified as?

To analyze consumer perception regarding EVs in India.

Select the appropriate response: (1)

- (A) Research Outcome
- (B) Primary Objective
- (C) Data Analysis
- (D) Survey Method

(iii) Mention two reasons why Tier-2 cities show higher concern regarding "Charging Infrastructure" compared to Metro cities. (2)

(iv) Paragraph 4 includes 'High Initial Cost' and 'Running Cost Savings'. Classify these as a Barrier or a Benefit. (1)

(v) Read the following text:

Mr. Sharma lives in a Metro city and wants to buy an EV to save the planet. Mr. Verma lives in a Tier-2 city and is afraid he will get stuck on the highway without charge.

Select the option that correctly identifies their primary motivators/concerns based on the table. (1)

- (A) Sharma: Cost; Verma: Environment
- (B) Sharma: Environment; Verma: Range Anxiety
- (C) Sharma: Infrastructure; Verma: Cost
- (D) Sharma: Range Anxiety; Verma: Infrastructure

(vi) Why is 'Running Cost Savings' listed with a low percentage in the "Concern" column? (1)

(vii) Analyze how addressing 'Range Anxiety' can significantly improve EV adoption stats in Tier-2 cities. (2)

(viii) What is the ultimate requirement from stakeholders based on the conclusion? (1)

- (A) Ban petrol cars immediately.
- (B) Increase the price of EVs.
- (C) Address cost disparity and expand charging networks.
- (D) Focus only on Metro cities.

SECTION B-Creative Writing Skills(18 marks)

3. Attempt any one of the two, (a) or (b), in about 50 words.

(4 marks)

(a) You are Sumit/Sumita, the Head Boy/Head Girl of Veda Public School, Jaipur. Your school is organizing a 'Blood Donation Camp' in association with the Red Cross Society. Write a notice to be displayed on the school notice board urging students of Class XII and staff members to volunteer for the cause. Mention the date, time, and venue. Put your notice in a box.

OR

(b) You are the Secretary of the Residents' Welfare Association (RWA), Green Park, New Delhi. Write a notice informing the residents about the 'Power Cut' in the colony due to maintenance work by the Electricity Board. Mention the date, timing, and areas affected. Put your notice in a box.

4. Attempt any one of the two, (a) or (b), in about 50 words.

(4 marks)

(a) You are Dr. Stuti/Dr. Sameer. You have received an invitation from the Principal of Global School to preside over their Annual Science Exhibition as the Chief Guest. Draft a formal reply of acceptance in not more than 50 words.

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OR

(b) Your friend, Rahul, has invited you to his sister's wedding. You are unable to attend due to a prior engagement. Draft an informal reply declining the invitation. You are Arjun/Anjali.

5. Attempt any one of the two, (a) or (b), in 120-150 words.

(5 marks)

(a) You are Rohan/Riya, a resident of 12, Seaview Apartments, Mumbai. You are disturbed by the increasing noise pollution caused by the indiscriminate use of loudspeakers during festivals and processions in your locality, which disturbs the elderly and students. Write a letter to the Editor of 'The National Times' drawing attention to this problem and suggesting solutions.

OR

(b) You are Kartik/Kritika. You saw an advertisement in 'The Daily News' for the post of Graphic Designer at Creative Minds Agency, Bangalore. Write an application for the post along with your bio-data.

CREATIVE MINDS AGENCY

Requires: Graphic Designer

Qualification: Degree in Design/Fine Arts

Experience: Minimum 2 years

Skills: Proficiency in Adobe Suite, Creativity

Contact: HR Manager, Creative Minds, MG Road, Bangalore

6. Attempt any one of the two, (a) or (b), in 120-150 words.

(5 marks)

(a) "Health is Wealth." Despite knowing this, the youth today is prone to junk food and a sedentary lifestyle. Write an article on the topic 'The Importance of Physical Fitness and Balanced Diet for Students'. You are Aman/Amrita.

Cues:

- Rise in obesity and health issues.
- Impact of fast food culture.
- Benefits of sports and yoga.
- Need for a balanced lifestyle.

OR

(b) Your school recently organized a 'Career Counselling Workshop' for the students of Class XI and XII. Write a report on the event for your school magazine. You are Sahil/Sneha, Student Editor.

Cues:

- Who - What - When - Where - Why - How

SECTION C-Literature(40 marks)

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (a) or (b):

(6 marks)

(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...
(My Mother at Sixty-six)

(i) What is the "familiar ache" that the poet feels? (1)

(ii) The comparison of the mother to a "late winter's moon" signifies: (1)

(A) Her beauty and shine.

(B) Her anger and frustration.

(C) Her aging, decay, and lack of vitality.

(D) Her distance from the poet.

(iii) "All I did was smile and smile and smile." The repetition of the word 'smile' suggests: (1)

(iv) The childhood fear referred to in the extract is the fear of _____. (1)

(v) True or False: The poet's parting words "See you soon, Amma" are a genuine promise of return without any doubt or fear. (1)

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(vi) Identify the poetic device used in "pale as a late winter's moon". (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.

(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

(i) What do the "tigers" represent in contrast to Aunt Jennifer? (1)

(ii) The phrase "ringed with ordeals" suggests that: (1)

(A) She wore many rings.

(B) She was trapped in an oppressive marriage.

(C) She was fond of jewelry.

(D) She was a master of the tigers.

(iii) Why are the hands described as "terrified"? (1)

(iv) The attitude of the tigers is described as _____ and _____. (1)

(v) Explain the irony in the last two lines of the extract. (1)

(vi) What is the rhyme scheme of the given stanza? (1)

8. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (a) or (b): (4 marks)

(a) He turned to the sand-dunes. They were white and clean. The horizon was thick with mist. He turned his back to the island and looked out to the sea. He saw nothing. He walked back to the house.

"Who is he?" Hana whispered.

"He is an American," Sadao said. "He is a prisoner of war."

(The Enemy)

(i) Where did Sadao and Hana find the man? (1)

(ii) The fact that the man is an "American" creates a conflict between Dr. Sadao's _____ and _____. (1)

(iii) Why was the horizon thick with mist significant in this scene? (1)

(A) It made the weather pleasant.

(B) It provided cover, hiding the man's arrival.

(C) It scared Hana.

(D) It indicated a storm.

(iv) What was the physical condition of the man when they found him? (1)

OR

(b) The clerk figured the fare — he glanced at my fancy hatband, but he figured the fare — and I had enough for two coach tickets, one way. But when I counted out the money and looked up, the clerk was staring at me. He nodded at the bills. "That ain't money, mister," he said, "and if you're trying to skin me, you won't get very far," and he glanced at the cash drawer beside him. (The Third Level)

(i) Why did the clerk stare at the narrator? (1)

(ii) What does the phrase "trying to skin me" mean in this context? (1)

(iii) Where did the narrator want to go with the two tickets? (1)

(A) New York

(B) Galesburg, Illinois

(C) The Second Level

(D) The Library

(iv) What did the narrator do immediately after this interaction? (1)

9. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (a) or (b): (6 marks)

(a) "Poor man! It was in honour of this last lesson that he had put on his fine Sunday clothes, and now I understood why the old men of the village were sitting there in the back of the room. It was because they were sorry, too, that

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they had not gone to school more. It was their way of thanking our master for his forty years of faithful service and of showing their respect for the country that was theirs no more."(The Last Lesson)

- (i) Who is the "Poor man" referred to in the extract? (1)
- (ii) Why were the village elders sitting in the back of the room? (1)
- (iii) The phrase "the country that was theirs no more" refers to the loss of Alsace to _____. (1)
- (iv) Select the option that best describes the tone of the narrator in these lines. (1)
(A) Mocking
(B) Regretful and Respectful
(C) Angry
(D) Indifferent
- (v) What did M. Hamel's "fine Sunday clothes" symbolize on this day? (1)
- (vi) Complete the sentence: The lesson being taught was the last lesson in French because _____. (1)

OR

(b)"Why do you do this?" I ask Saheb whom I encounter every morning scrounging for gold in the garbage dumps of my neighbourhood. Saheb left his home long ago. Set amidst the green fields of Dhaka, his home is not even a distant memory. There were many storms that swept away their fields and homes, his mother tells him. That's why they left, looking for gold in the big city where he now lives.(Lost Spring)

- (i) What does "scrounging for gold" metaphorically mean in this context? (1)
- (ii) Where is Saheb originally from? (1)
- (iii) Why did Saheb's family leave their native land? (1)
(A) To find better schools. (B) Because of political unrest.
(C) Because storms destroyed their fields and homes. (D) To visit the big city.
- (iv) What is the full name of Saheb and what is the irony in it? (1)
- (v) The "big city" referred to in the extract is _____. (1)
- (vi) What does the author's question "Why do you do this?" reveal about her attitude towards Saheb? (1)

10. Answer any five of the following six questions in 40-50 words each: **(5×2=10)**

- (i) Why was Douglas determined to get over his fear of water? (Deep Water)
- (ii) What made the peddler think the world was a rattrap? (The Rattrap)
- (iii) How did Gandhi manage to turn the tide in favor of the sharecroppers in Champaran? (Indigo)
- (iv) According to John Keats, how does a 'thing of beauty' provide joy forever? (A Thing of Beauty)
- (v) Why do the people who run the roadside stand ask for some city money? (A Roadside Stand)
- (vi) Why did Sophie want to have a boutique? What were the other options she considered? (Going Places)

11. Answer any two of the following three questions in 40-50 words each: **(2×2=4)**

- (i) How did the hundredth tiger take its final revenge upon the Tiger King? (The Tiger King)
- (ii) Mr. Lamb calls his bees 'singing', not 'buzzing'. What does this tell us about his character? (On The Face Of It)
- (iii) What are the 'phytoplankton' and why are they important to the Earth's ecosystem? (Journey to the End of the Earth)

12. Answer any one of the following two questions in 120-150 words: **(1×5=5)**

- (a) The bangle makers of Firozabad make beautiful bangles and make everyone happy but they live and die in squalor. Elaborate on the vicious circle of poverty and injustice portrayed in 'Lost Spring'.

OR

- (b) Fear is a paralyzing emotion, but determination can overcome it. Compare how William Douglas (Deep Water) and the Peddler (The Rattrap) overcame their respective fears/traps.

13. Answer any one of the following two questions in 120-150 words: **(1×5=5)**

- (a) Dr. Sadao faced a dilemma between his duty as a doctor and his duty as a patriot. How did he resolve this conflict, and what does it reflect about human nature? (The Enemy)

OR

- (b) "The Third Level" was a medium of escape for Charley. Do you agree? Justify your answer with reference to the modern world's stress and anxiety. (The Third Level)