

# SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER

## English – Language and Literature

Time allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80

### General Instructions:

1. The Question Paper contains **three** sections – Reading, Grammar & Writing and Literature.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

### Section A: READING SKILLS

20

#### 1. Read the passage given below.

10

1. Long years ago, sometimes it seems many lives ago, I was at Oxford listening to the radio programme Desert Island Discs with my young son Alexander. It was a well-known programme (for all I know it still continues) on which famous people from all walks of life were invited to talk about the eight discs, the one book beside the Bible and the complete works of Shakespeare, and the one luxury item they would wish to have with them were they to be marooned on a deserted island. At the end of the programme, which we had both enjoyed, Alexander asked me if I thought I might ever be invited to speak on Desert Island Discs. “Why not?” I responded lightly. Since he knew that in general only celebrities took part in the programme, he proceeded to ask, with genuine interest, for what reason I thought I might be invited. I considered this for a moment and then answered: “Perhaps because I’d have won the Nobel Prize for Literature,” and we both laughed. The prospect seemed pleasant but hardly probable. (I cannot now remember why I gave that answer, perhaps because I had recently read a book by a Nobel Laureate or perhaps because the Desert Island celebrity of that day had been a famous writer.)
2. In 1989, when my late husband Michael Aris came to see me during my first term of house arrest, he told me that a friend, John Finnis, had nominated me for the Nobel Peace Prize. This time also I laughed. For an instant Michael looked amazed, then he realized why I was amused. The Nobel Peace Prize? A pleasant prospect, but quite improbable! So how did I feel when I was actually awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace? The question has been put to me many times and this is surely the most appropriate occasion on which to examine what the Nobel Prize means to me and what peace means to me.

3. As I have said repeatedly in many interviews, I heard the news that I had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on the radio one evening. It did not altogether come as a surprise because I had been mentioned as one of the frontrunners for the prize in a number of broadcasts during the previous week. While drafting this lecture, I have tried very hard to remember what my immediate reaction to the announcement of the award had been. I think, I can no longer be sure, it was something like: “Oh, so they’ve decided to give it to me.” It did not seem quite real because in a sense I did not feel myself to be quite real at that time.

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

- i. Which of the following statements is incorrect? 1  
On the show, Desert Island Discs,
- a. guests had to pick eight gramophone records they would carry to the island.
  - b. guests could choose a luxury item they want while marooned on the island.
  - c. the Bible and the complete works of Shakespeare were compulsory books to take.
  - d. any book of their choice and interest could be included in the items to carry.
- ii. What was the reaction of the author and her son after they had listened to the programme? Write your answer in about 40 words. 2
- iii. “Perhaps because I’d have won the Nobel Prize for Literature,” and we both laughed.  
The author’s above-given statement and the fact that after many years she did go on to win a Nobel Prize could be termed as prophetic.  
Is this statement True or False? 1
- iv. Complete the following sentence appropriately. 1  
All the guests who were invited on the radio show were .....
- v. A pleasant prospect, but quite improbable! The word ‘improbable’ here means 1
- a. likely to take place very soon.
  - b. difficult to do.
  - c. impossible to carry out.
  - d. unlikely to take place.

vi. Why wasn't the author surprised when she heard that she had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize? Write your answer in about 40 words. 2

vii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1

The author had once joked with her son that she would get the Nobel prize for Literature because .....

viii. Select the correct option. 1

From our reading of the passage, we understand that the author was

- a. an environmental activist.
- b. a famous political activist.
- c. a well-known literary writer.
- d. a literature academician.

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

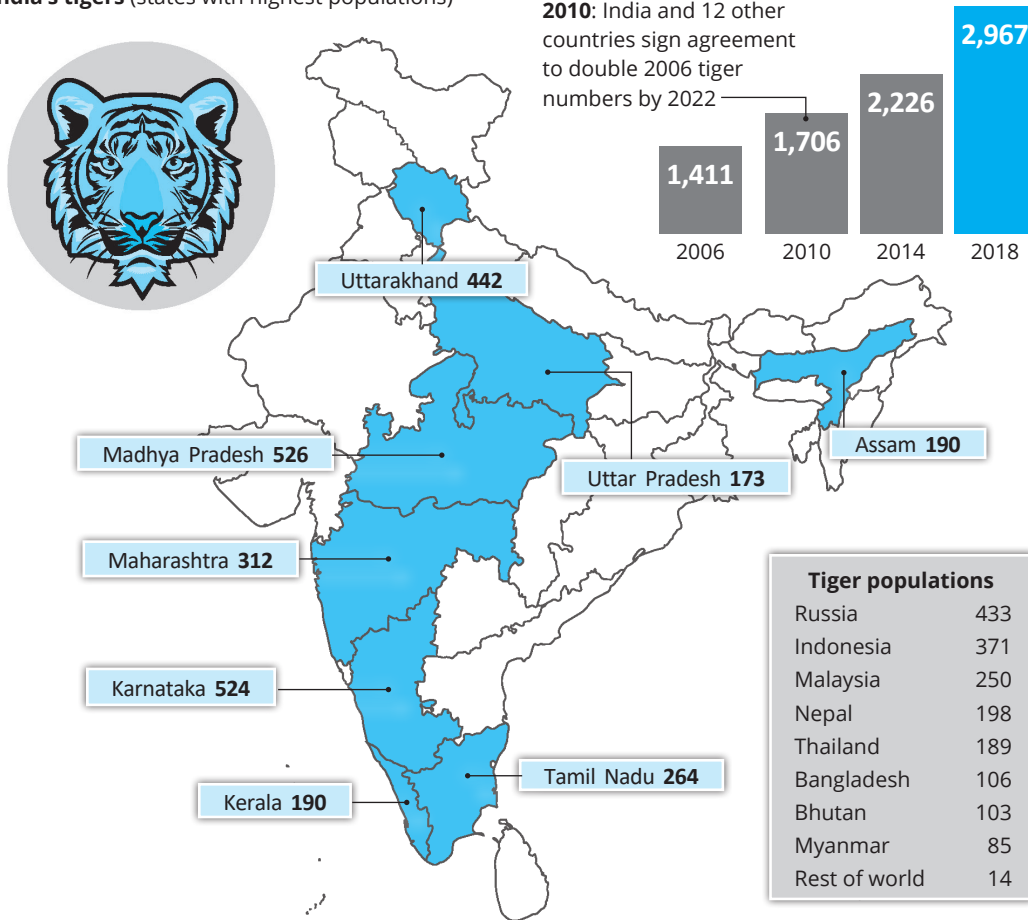
1. Here's good news for tiger conservationists, tiger authorities and wildlife lovers celebrating International Tiger Day. According to the latest census of 2018 released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on International Tiger Day, India is home to 2,967 tigers. What makes this figure significant is that it is an increase by a third as compared to 2014 and more than double as compared to 2006. The latest census also reveals the states with the highest tiger populations and those with the lower ones, along with the economic value (pegged between 4200 crores to 16000 crores annually) of tiger reserves in the country. See the given infographic.
2. The latest tiger census is very encouraging, and points to the successful strategies, methods and techniques being adopted and pursued by wildlife authorities and wildlife conservationists to protect the tiger.
3. The tiger census 2018 was taken after a painstaking 15 months' work where the forest officials surveyed 3,81,400 sq km of forested habitats. During the same period of time, they also installed 26,760 camera traps, with wildlife biologists going through 35 million images of wildlife. Of this astounding number of images, 76,523 were those of tigers. It is estimated that almost 83% of the entire tiger population was represented in these images.
4. The figures are certainly cause for enthusiasm, and a great deal of it was reflected in the address by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on International Tiger Day. In it, he also stressed on the need for striking a healthy balance between development and environment. Addressing this issue, he went on to say, "There is a very old debate – development or environment. Both sides present views as if they are mutually exclusive. In our policies, in our economics, we have to change the conversation about conservation. I am confident that India will prosper both economically and environmentally.

India will build more roads and India will have cleaner rivers. India will have better train connectivity and also greater tree coverage.”

## India is home to 2,967 tigers

The total number of tigers in India stands at 2,967, or more than 70 per cent of the wild tigers that inhabit the world, according to the All India tiger Estimation Report for 2018

**India's tigers** (states with highest populations)



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

- i. With regard to the statement, ‘Here’s good news for tiger conservationists, tiger authorities and wildlife lovers celebrating International Tiger Day’, state any one inference that can be drawn from this. 1
- ii. Complete the following analogy appropriately, based on your understanding of the passage. 1

When the figures of the tiger population in 2018 are compared to those in 2006, one can agree with the idiom that Rome wasn't built in a day because .....

- iii. Justify the following, in about 40 words. 2

The credit for the 2018 tiger census goes to the work done by wildlife authorities and wildlife conservationists in order to protect the tiger.

- iv. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of paragraph 2. 1

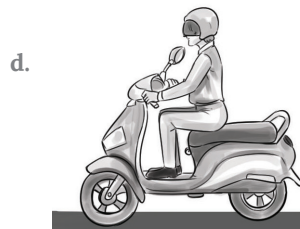
Tigers, the endangered big cats, are not only a ..... (symbol/token) of beauty and power but also play a vital role in maintaining the balance of ecosystems. However, tigers face numerous threats that have pushed them to the ..... (brink/ledge) of extinction.

- v. Which of the following is true regarding the number of tigers in each state? 1

- a. Madhya Pradesh vies closely with Karnataka for the first place.
- b. Uttarakhand trails behind Karnataka by over 100 tigers.
- c. The combined tiger population of Kerala and Tamil Nadu is less than that of Uttarakhand alone.
- d. Assam has more tigers as compared to Tamil Nadu.

- vi. Based on the content of the Prime Minister's speech, which two factors should be kept in mind while regarding conservation? 1

- vii. Select the option that correctly displays what 'conservation' signifies. 1 (Reference Paragraph 4)



- viii. Infer the benefits of making policies based on both development and environment. Answer in about 40 words. 2

## Grammar

10

**3. Attempt any ten of twelve of the following tasks, as directed. (10 × 1 = 10)**

- i. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the railway update.

The New Delhi-Kolkata Rajdhani express train ..... the station a few minutes back.

- |               |                           |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| a. is leaving | b. have left              |
| c. left       | d. will have been leaving |

- ii. Read the conversation between a teacher and her student. Complete the sentence by reporting the student's reply correctly.

TEACHER: That is a beautiful painting, Garima!

GARIMA: Thank you, Ma'am!

The teacher saw Garima painting a beautiful picture. Garima .....

- iii. Select the option to fill in the blank for the given sentence.

You ..... approach the school for admission in March.

- |          |                      |
|----------|----------------------|
| a. would | b. could             |
| c. can   | d. Options b. and c. |

- iv. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line, from a report.

In India, teachers has been accorded a high pedestal.

Option No.	Error	Correction
a.	teachers	teacher's
b.	has	have
c.	accorded	accord
d.	high	highest

- v. Complete the given narrative, by filling in the blank with the correct option.

Nitya told Aditya that she was looking forward to the picnic. Aditya asked her where she ..... going for the picnic.

- |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| a. would be | b. is       |
| c. was      | d. could be |

- vi. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word given in the bracket.

My father has not ..... (return) from the office.

- vii. Read the given sentence from a film review. Identify the error and supply the correction.

This film on the life of Napoleon is a extravagantly disaster.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

- viii. Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction.

When electricity flew through a wire, tiny particles called electrons pass through the wire.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

- ix. Varun shared his travel plan with Mudit. Report Varun's travel plan.

I will visit my aunt next week.

- x. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the advisory issued by the travel agency.

You ..... visit Manali. It is so beautiful there.

- |           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| a. should | b. shall   |
| c. would  | d. need to |

- xi. Select the correct option to complete the narration of the dialogue between Charles and Natasha.

CHARLES: How was your first day as a mathematics teacher?

NATASHA: It was good.

Charles asked Natasha how her first day as a mathematics teacher had been.

She replied that .....

- |                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a. it had been good.        | b. it has been good.        |
| c. it would have been good. | d. it could have been good. |

- xii. Identify the error in the following sentence which a part of the introduction on Black widow spiders.

Black widow spiders are commonly find in North America.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

## Writing

10

4. Attempt any one of the following in 100–120 words. (1 × 5 = 5)

[A] You are Ramya/Ramesh, a resident of Maharshi Colony, Lucknow. Over the last few weeks, more than a dozen trees have been felled in your area to make space for a local market.

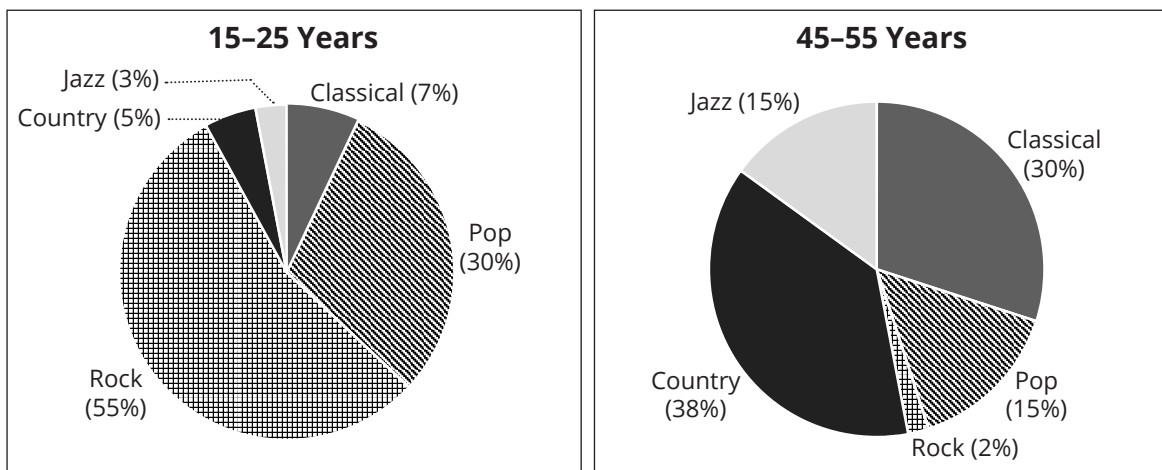
Write a letter to the Editor of *Lucknow Times*, drawing attention to this indiscriminate felling of trees. Raise the question as to how such an action could be permitted by the authorities. Express the hope that the newspaper will highlight the issue and thereby stop any further felling of trees.

Or

[B] You are Sumaya/Somesh from Palta Nagar, Asansol, West Bengal. Write a letter to the Manager, Park View Resorts, Ooty, enquiring about the rates for a 4-day, 3-night budget accommodation and the amenities available at the resort. Also ask about the availability of transportation facility and sightseeing services offered by the resort.

5. Attempt any one of the following in 100–120 words. (1 × 5 = 5)

[A] Study the pie charts given below. They show the music preferences of two age groups, 15–25 years and 45–55 years. Observe the data and write a paragraph on it.



Or

[B] India is a world leader today in the global pharmaceutical sector. An overview of the Indian pharmaceutical industry is given below. Based on the cues, write a paragraph on the topic.

- i. India largest provider of generic drugs globally – supplies 50% of global demand for vaccines – 80% of antiretroviral drugs used to combat AIDS



- ii. Market size:
  - a. By 2025 Indian pharma sector expected to reach USD 100 billion
  - b. India's domestic turnover USD 20.03 billion in 2019, up 9.8% from 2018
  - c. Exports from India USD 20.70 billion in 2020
- iii. Recent initiatives and developments:
  - a. Indian pharmaceutical exports boosted as branded drugs worth USD 55 billion became off-patent in 2017-2019
  - b. USD 1.3 billion fund to manufacture pharmaceutical ingredients domestically by 2023
  - c. 'Pharma Vision 2020' to make India a global leader in end-to-end drug manufacture – approval time reduced to boost investment

## Section C: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT

40

**6. Read the extracts given below and attempt any one, by answering the questions that follow.** **5**

[A] 'Paper has more patience than people.' I thought of this saying on one of those days when I was feeling a little depressed and was sitting at home with my chin in my hands, bored and listless, wondering whether to stay in or go out. I finally stayed where I was, brooding: Yes, paper *does* have more patience, and since I'm not planning to let anyone else read this stiff-backed notebook grandly referred to as a 'diary', unless I should ever find a real friend, it probably won't make a bit of difference.

- i. Which other quality, do you think, would have appealed to Anne in having a diary as a best friend? 1
- ii. Why did Anne feel that paper had 'more patience than people?' Answer in about 40 words. 2
- iii. Which of the following is a reason why Anne was at home brooding? 1
  - a. She had to stay home to finish her school work.
  - b. She was bored and restless as she had nothing to do.
  - c. She was forced to stay in as it was too cold outside.
  - d. She had to decide whether she wanted to keep a diary.
- iv. Read the following descriptions (a)–(c) and identify which one correctly corresponds to the definition of a diary. 1

- a. A private record of entries which describes what happened over the course of your life.
- b. An official written account of what happens each day.
- c. Any non-fiction narrative writing based on the author's personal memories of a specific period or event.

Or

**[B]** It was the first time this important scientific journal had ever published the work of college students. In sports, that would be like making the big leagues at the age of fifteen and hitting a home run your first time at bat. For Richard Ebright, it was the first in a long string of achievements in science and other fields. And it all started with butterflies.

- i. State any one inference about the 'important scientific journal' from the given context. 1  
'It was the first time this important scientific journal had ever published the work of college students.'
- ii. Select the option below, which best explains the given statement. 1  
'And it all started with butterflies.'
  - a. Butterflies helped him get started on his scientific career.
  - b. His curiosity for science was because of his love for butterflies.
  - c. It was his fascination for butterflies that opened the world of science to him.
  - d. His scientific career got started only because of his theory on butterflies.
- iii. For what reason is Ebright's publication compared to an achievement in sports? Give your answer in about 40 words, with reference to the extract. 2
- iv. When an article, such as that of Ebright's, is 'published,' what does it mean? 1

**7. Read the extracts given below and attempt any one, by answering the questions that follow.** **5**

**[A]** Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears,  
 And Ink and Blink chased lions down the stairs,  
 Mustard was as brave as a tiger in a rage,  
 But Custard cried for a nice safe cage.

- i. In what way has the poet used irony in the above stanza? 1

- ii. For what reasons did Custard want to live in a 'nice, safe cage? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- iii. Complete the sentence with the appropriate option. 1  
Custard's cowardice is an example of the saying 'Appearances are .....,'

  - a. false. b. deceptive.
  - c. fake. d. artificial.

- iv. Identify the literary devices used in the context of describing Belinda. 1

Or

[B] (I am an orphan, roaming the street.

I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet.  
The silence is golden, the freedom is sweet.)

- i. Fill in the blank with one word. 1  
For a child to wish to live like an orphan shows how ..... Amanda was by her mother's nagging.
- ii. Why do you think Amanda imagined herself to be 'roaming the street' in 'bare feet' after what her mother had said to her? 1
- iii. With reference to Amanda's mind, which of the following best describes Amanda? 1
  - a. A gifted child b. An escapist
  - c. A day-dreamer d. A visionary
- iv. Comment on the poet's use of punctuation in the poem. Answer in about 40 words. 2

**8. Answer any four of the following five questions in about 40–50 words. (4 × 3 = 12)**

- i. As a young man, Mandela realized that his boyhood freedom had been an 'illusion'. Why?
- ii. Where would you find the largest concentration of tea plantations in the world? Discuss.
- iii. Why was it difficult to transport Mijbil to England? What did the author do about it?
- iv. Amanda does not look at her parent when she speaks to her. What does this tell you about how Amanda feels?
- v. In 'The Ball Poem', why is a dime or another ball worthless to the boy?

9. Answer any two of the following three questions in about 40–50 words.

(2 × 3 = 6)

- i. Mrs Pumphrey kept Tricki in the lap of luxury. But Tricki needed something else. Discuss briefly.
- ii. Who do you think was more sensitive as a parent – Bholi’s mother or her father? Give reasons.
- iii. Anil was not only a trusting but also a most empathetic employer. Discuss this statement with regard to Anil’s behaviour towards Hari.

10. Answer any one of the following two questions in about 100–120 words.

(1 × 6 = 6)

[A] *The Proposal* is a play about rich people wanting to marry for economic reasons, overlooking the fact that they do not get along well. Discuss.

Or

[B] Sometimes one needs to be unkind to be kind. Discuss this statement with reference to ‘His First Flight.’

11. Answer any one of the following two questions in about 100–120 words.

(1 × 6 = 6)

[A] Imagine you are one of the people at the Inn. Write a brief description of what happened the day Jaffers came to arrest Griffin.

Or

[B] The Loiseles had been scrupulously honest. They returned the necklace even if they had to run into huge debts for it. Yet, had they been honest with Mrs Forestier at the beginning, they could have avoided ten years of hardship. Discuss the irony of the situation.