

# SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER

## English – Language and Literature

Time allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80

### General Instructions:

1. The question paper comprises 11 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. The Question Paper contains **three** sections – Reading Skills, Grammar & Writing Skills and Literature Textbook.
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

### Section A: READING SKILLS

20

#### 1. Read the following text.

10

1. As the internet has evolved to transform the ways in which we access information and engage with various topics, it has led to the rise of a new audio format which, in recent years, has seen a huge surge in popularity. This modern medium is the podcast. Podcasts have revolutionised the way audio content is consumed on the internet, reaching over 546 million listeners worldwide. What makes podcasting superior to traditional audio formats such as the radio is its ease of access and control, listener-centric approach, and convenience.
2. Unlike the radio, podcasts are automatically delivered to your computer or smartphone once you subscribe to the Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feed of your favourite podcaster. The RSS feed acts as a standardised channel of content distribution which ensures that only the content authorised by the publisher is added to the feed, thus preventing the risk of spam and viruses. Through podcast aggregators such as Spotify or iTunes, each new show listed in the feed is automatically downloaded to your device as it becomes available. Podcasts also allow listeners to have complete control over their list of subscriptions, and simply unsubscribe if they no longer wish to receive the content added by a publisher to the feed.
3. Podcasts are primarily MPEG-1 Audio Layer-3 (MP3) audio files, which have a relatively small size and can thus be easily downloaded from the internet. The MP3 file format is instrumental in delivering the clear, steady audio of podcasts that is not only superior in quality to AM and FM radio, but also available for the listener whenever and wherever they like.
4. While traditional radio is a form of mass broadcasting that is characterised by advertising and generic programming, podcasts offer a personalised

listening experience that caters to the individual needs and interests of its audience. Essentially, podcasts are radio shows on demand, time-shifted to fit into the schedule of the listeners.

5. Podcasting has proved to be a game-changer in the world of audio content due to the high sound quality of MP3 encoding, the convenience of subscribing and downloading, and the portability of these files. Globally, an increasing number of podcasts are being produced, published, downloaded, and created every day. There are currently free shows available on topics ranging from the mainstream to the niche. Every day, seasoned experts, talented enthusiasts, and amateurs create new, exquisitely created content that is available for easy listening. If you have a hobby, an interest, or a curiosity about anything, chances are there is a podcast for you. (423 words)

**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.**

- i. In Paragraph 1, what does the phrase “revolutionised the way audio content is consumed” emphasise? **1**
- ii. Complete the following sentence with the correct option from the two given. **1**  
Podcasters add their content to the .....
- a. Really Simple Subscription feed.
  - b. Really Simple Syndication feed.
- iii. Support the writer’s idea that podcasts offer a more individualised listening experience than traditional radio. **2**
- iv. The phrase ‘clear, steady audio’ in Paragraph 3 refers to **1**
- a. the sound quality of MP3 files.
  - b. the sound quality of AM or FM radio.
- v. State whether the following statement is True or False. **1**  
Podcasts are designed to fit the schedule of the listeners.
- vi. Which of the following is not a characteristic of podcasts? **1**
- a. Ease of access
  - b. Portability
  - c. Generic content
  - d. High sound quality
- viii. Describe any two ways in which podcasts ensure a listener-centric approach to the consumption of audio content. **2**
- viii. Fill in the blank with the correct option from those given. **1**  
The term ‘mass broadcasting’ in Paragraph 3 applies to .....
- a. all forms of audio content.

- b. podcasts.
- c. the internet.
- d. traditional radio.

**2. Read the following text.**

**10**

1. A small village in Rajsamand district in Rajasthan, called Piplantri, has shown the world how social transformation can happen in the most unexpected of ways. The Piplantri Model has merged the goals of environmental sustainability and gender equality through its remarkable community initiative to plant 111 trees for every girl child born in the village. Once reduced to a barren and denuded land, Piplantri has increased its forest cover by more than 3 lakh trees since 2007.
2. Piplantri's transformation was spearheaded by Shyam Sunder Paliwal, the former sarpanch of the village. In the early 2000s, Piplantri faced a severe crisis engendered by industrialization, as the village was dominated by marble mines and quarries. The village lacked basic infrastructure and agriculture. Water levels fell below 800 feet and drinking water was scarce. Amidst these harsh conditions, Shri. Paliwal lost his 17-year-old daughter to dehydration in 2006. This tragic incident fueled his passion for transforming Piplantri, and upon her demise, he planted the first tree in memory of his daughter 'Kiran'. This moment was the seed of the revolution of Piplantri village.
3. Gradually, awareness grew in the village about the importance of planting trees to save water. The decision to plant 111 trees to celebrate the birth of a girl child came in 2007, and tackled the twin issues of declining gender ratios and deforestation in one fell swoop. As a result of collective action, water levels that were below 800 feet in Piplantri have risen up 15 feet to ground level in a span of 5 years. (252 words)

**Table: Selected District-wise Forest Cover in Rajasthan (2019 Assessment, in sq km)**

District	Geographical Area (GA)	Very Dense Forest	Mod. Dense Forest	Open Forest	Total	% of GA
Ajmer	8,481	0.00	43.00	262.11	305.11	3.60
Bikaner	30,239	0.88	27.23	227.50	255.61	0.85
Jaipur	11,143	12.00	97.11	443.65	552.76	4.96
Rajsamand	4,655	0.00	134.91	386.88	521.79	11.21
Udaipur	11,724	0.00	1,213.88	1,543.66	2,757.54	23.51

**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.**

- i. What unique practice does the 'Piplantri Model' in Paragraph 1 encourage when a girl child is born?

- a. Building a school
  - b. Planting trees
  - c. Organising a festival
  - d. Starting a cleanliness drive
- ii. Select the option that is true for the reason and assertion given below. 1  
*Assertion:* The landscape of Piplantri was barren in the early 2000s.  
*Reason:* The village was grappling with the problem of excessive mining activity.
- a. Both the assertion and reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
  - b. Both the assertion and 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.
- iii. Identify the word in Paragraph 2 that indicates to be the cause of something. 1
- iv. What was the incident in Shyama Sunder Paliwal's life that indirectly triggered the Piplantri revolution? 1
- v. Read the given prompt and select the correct option in the brackets to fill in the blank. 1  
 Since 2007, the forest cover in Piplantri has grown by more than .....  
 ( 10 / 5 / 3 ) lakh trees.
- vi. Complete the following sentence suitably. 1  
 The initiative in Piplantri addresses the problems of declining gender ratios and ..... at the same time.
- vii. Complete the following sentence suitably. 1  
 One of the major consequences of deforestation in Piplantri was .....
- viii. What has been the environmental impact of the Piplantri model? 2
- ix. Based on the table given, which district had the lowest forest cover in 2009? 1

## Section B: WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR 20

### Grammar 10

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

- i. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the brackets.

The maid had already ..... (leave) for home before I returned from the market.

- ii. Read the given sentence. Identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence.

All these years, Rob has lived out of suitcase.

Error	Correction

Use the above format for your response.

- iii. Seema and Jose discuss the condition of the bank.

Report Seema's question.

Seema: Do you want to quit serving the bank?

Jose: Yes I am seriously thinking about it.

- iv. Read the dialogue between two football players.

Ronaldo: The food is disgusting here.

Diego: Yes! I cannot understand how the others are enjoying their meals!

Based on the conversation above, report the dialogue between the two actors by completing the sentence.

Ronaldo was unhappy about the food being served. Diego agreed and replied that he ..... understand how the others were enjoying their meals.

Select the correct option from those given below.

- a. could not
  - b. will not
  - c. can not
  - d. was not
- v. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option in the brackets to complete the sentence.
- They ..... (had cleaned/will clean/ clean) the garage before I parked my car.

- vi. Identify the error and supply correction for the given sentence.

Neither Seema nor Jackie are reliable.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

- vii. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the sentence.

The area covered by this field are huge.

Option	Error	Correction
a.	The	This
b.	area	areas
c.	this	these
d.	are	Is

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

The refusal by the Principal left her ..... disheartened.

- a. feeling
- b. felt
- c. to feel
- d. feels

- ix. Report the dialogue between a teacher and her student by completing the sentence.

*Teacher:* Where did you go to attend primary school?

*Student:* I had enrolled in primary school in Poland.

The teacher asked her student where he attended primary school. He informed her that ..... in primary school in Poland.

- x. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the sentence.

The cow quickly ..... over the low fence.

- a. jumped
- b. jump
- c. will have jump
- d. has jumped

- xi. Fill with the correct option.

Since last month, he ..... getting better.

- a. has been
- b. was
- c. am
- d. were

- xii. Identify the error and supply the correction.

She is going in the seminar.

Use the following format for your response.

Error	Correction

### Writing Skills

10

NOTE: All details presented in the questions in the writing section are imaginary and created for assessment purposes.

**4. Attempt any one of the following.** **5×1=5**

[A] You are Radhika Madan, Hostel Warden, Wisdom Public School, Mumbai. Write a letter to the Sales Manager of R.K. Electronics Ltd, Mumbai, placing order for a few fans, microwave ovens and geysers that you wish to purchase for the hostel specifying the details. Additionally, ask for the discount permissible on the purchase.

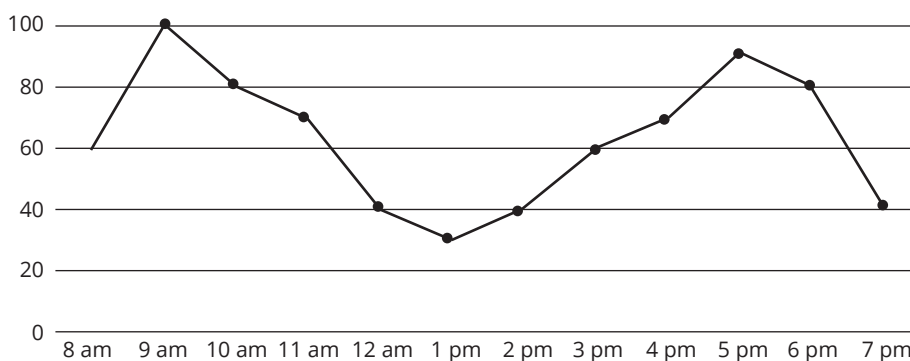
OR

[B] You are Smita/Samarth Anand, a Class X student and a resident of D-105, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi. You are interested in learning acting through the summer classes offered by the National School of Drama. In about 120 words, write a letter to the Director of the National School of Drama, seeking information about their course, admission process, eligibility criteria and other necessary details.

**5. Attempt any one of the following.** **5×1=5**

[A] The line graph given here shows the coffee sales in a café throughout a weekday. Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words.

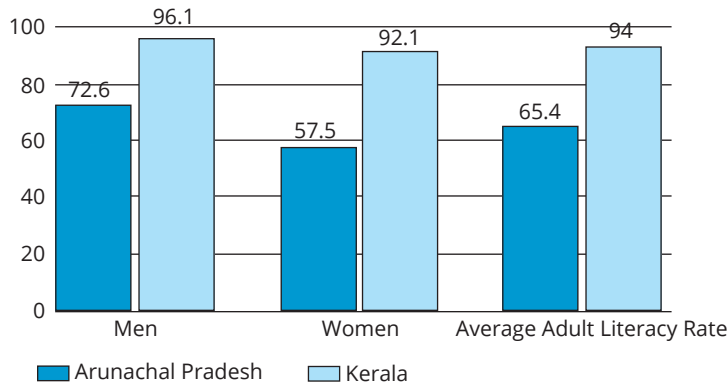
**Coffee sales on a weekday**



OR

[B] The following bar graph shows the literacy rate in two states of India. Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words.

### Adult Literacy Rates



## Section C: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK

40

6. Read the given extracts and answer any one of the two questions given below 5×1=5

[A] Natalya Stepanovna is an excellent housekeeper, not bad-looking, well-educated. What more do I want? But I'm getting a noise in my ears from excitement. [Drinks] And it's impossible for me not to marry. In the first place, I'm already 35 – a critical age, so to speak. In the second place, I ought to lead a quiet and regular life. I suffer from palpitations, I'm excitable and always getting awfully upset; at this very moment my lips are trembling, and there's a twitch in my right eyebrow.

- i. What are the reasons, on his part, that convince Lomov that it is 'impossible' for him 'not to marry'? 2
- ii. In Lomov's eyes, what are Natalya Stepanovna's positive qualities that make her a suitable partner for marriage? 1
- iii. Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets. 1  
Lomov considers his current age a 'critical age' because it is clearly some years removed from full ..... (youth/childhood).
- iv. Lomov's listing of his symptoms indicates that his health is not ideal. Which of the following aspects of his health appears most badly affected? Select the most suitable option. 1
  - a. Brain
  - b. Digestion
  - c. Blood circulation
  - d. Nerves

OR



**[B]** When I returned, there was an appalling spectacle. There was complete silence from the box, but from its airholes and chinks around the lid, blood had trickled and dried. I whipped off the lock and tore open the lid, and Mij, exhausted and bloodspattered, whimpered and caught at my leg. He had torn the lining of the box to shreds; when I removed the last of it so that there were no cutting edges left, it was just ten minutes until the time of the flight, and the airport was five miles distant.

- i.** How does Maxwell come to realise that transporting Mijbil the otter would be a difficult task? 2
- ii.** Why is there blood on the lid of Mijbil's box? 1
- iii.** Which of these adjectives can be used instead of 'appalling' in the phrase 'appalling spectacle'? Select the most suitable option. 1
  - a. Awesome
  - b. Bloody
  - c. Terrible
  - d. Saddening
- iv.** Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets. 1  
Mijbil had used his claws and teeth to rip apart the ..... of the box (lines/lining).

**7. Read the given extracts and answer any one of the two questions given below. 5×1=5**

**[A]** (There is a languid, emerald sea,  
where the sole inhabitant is me—  
a mermaid, drifting blissfully.)

- i.** What feelings does Amanda express in this fantasy in her head? 2
- ii.** Fill in the blank with ONE word. 1  
On the basis of the word 'emerald,' the colour of the sea is .....
- iii.** Why does Amanda wish to be by herself in the sea of her dream? 1
- iv.** Select the option that applies the same rhyme scheme as the lines of the given extract. 1
  - a. The deep, dark hollow  
Eats a void into the night,  
Ringed pale with dark light.
  - b. The swing of the axe  
Tears into bark, stem, and root,  
Then, my memory.

- c. The moon is an iris,  
Set within a cloud-puffed eye;  
Still, steady it is.
- d. I would not go there,  
Without some nerve and some spare:  
I tell you, beware.

OR

- [B] The Crocodile you always may  
Tell from the Hyena thus:  
Hyenas come with merry smiles;  
But if they weep they're Crocodiles.
- i. How does the poet attribute human behaviours to the Hyena and the Crocodile to humorously characterise these animals? 2
  - ii. What is the common idiom associated with crocodiles that the poet refers to in these lines? 1
  - iii. Complete the following suitably. 1  
The Hyena is said to be 'merry' because of the .....
  - iv. What is the primary quality conveyed in these lines to the reader?  

1. Fear	2. Irony
3. Jubilation	4. Humour
5. Horror	
- Select the most suitable option. 1
- a. 1 and 2
  - b. 2 and 3
  - c. 3 and 5
  - d. Only 4

**8. Answer any four of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words.**

**4×3=12**

- [A] Compare the attitude of the postmaster towards the letter with how Lencho conceives it.
- [B] Do the people on the bus treat Valli in a rather peculiar, humorous manner as she boards it for her ride? Explain how this episode is referred to in the title of the short story.
- [C] Mandela believes that the racial hatred he has experienced is a quality that is not a natural human quality. How does he justify this belief?

- [D] The poet imagines a situation where the tiger would be free, and in its natural environment. What are the ways in which they see the tiger exercising its freedom in such a situation?
- [E] Examine how the repetition of the name 'Amanda' shapes the rhythm of the poem, especially with respect to Amanda's unspoken stanzas.

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

2×3=6

- [A] Comment on the root cause of Matilda's unhappiness at the beginning of the story, 'The Necklace'.
- [B] How does Horace Danby prepare for his burglary at the Shotover Grange house?
- [C] Compare Tricki's appearance described at the beginning of the story with the description at the end.

10. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. 6×1=6

- [A] Compare and contrast the tone of the excerpts from Anne Frank's diary and Nelson Mandela's autobiography.

OR

- [B] Quiet resistance is explored and lauded in Rich's 'The Trees' which symbolically presents the human urge to break free of shackles. The centrality of freedom is also candidly explored in Mandela's autobiography. Does the genre of the text influence its impact on the reader? Justify your response with examples from both the texts referred to here.

11. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. 6×1=6

- [A] Ausable is able to turn a precarious situation to his advantage through his wit and a stroke of luck. Do you agree? Give a reasoned answer.

OR

- [B] Evaluate how Think-Tank's characterization shows the damaging consequences of half-baked knowledge. Support your answer with evidence from the text.