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| GRADE - XII | TERM 1 [2024-2025] | Max Marks - 80 |
| DATE - 01 Oct 2024 | ENGLISH (Language and Literature) | TIME - 3 Hours |

SECTION A : READING SKILLS (22 marks)
Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages

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| 1 | Read the following text. | 12 mark s |
| | <p>Arthur lay in his cabin, still trying to piece together the events of the last few hours. He had watched his home planet of Earth be demolished to make way for a hyperspace bypass, been saved by his friend Ford, and then whisked away on a ship that was powered by an "infinite improbability drive." It was all too much for him.</p> <p>5. Just then, Ford stuck his head around the door. "Hey, Earthman," he said, "come and have a look at this." Arthur stumbled after him down a corridor and into the ship's control room. He gazed in amazement at the banks of controls and flashing lights. In the center of the room was a large console covered in buttons and switches, and in the middle of the console was a small, white mouse.</p> <p>10. "What's that?" asked Arthur. "That's the ship's computer," said Ford. Arthur stared at the mouse. "That's a computer?" he said. "Yup," said Ford. "Five-dimensional, biologically-based, super intelligent, and in the form of a white lab mouse. Pretty neat, huh?"</p> <p>15. "I don't know," said Arthur. "I don't think I really understand anything anymore. Why is a mouse the ship's computer?" "It's a long story," said Ford. "But the short version is that the mice built the Earth as a giant computer to figure out the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything. Then they ran out of money and had to destroy it to make way for a hyperspace bypass. So now they're using the Heart of Gold to finish the calculation."</p> <p>Arthur was about to say something, but at that moment the ship's intercom crackled to life. "Good evening, Heart of Gold," said a smooth, computerised voice. "This is Eddie, your shipboard computer. I'm feeling a bit depressed today. Would you like me to sing you a song?" "Oh, not again," groaned Ford.</p> <p>25. "Eddie, would you mind shutting up?" said Arthur.</p> | |

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| | <p>Arthur sighed and leaned back against the console, trying to make sense of everything. But as he closed his eyes, he heard a voice inside his head. "Hello?" it said. Arthur jumped, startled. "Who's there?" he said.</p> <p>30. "It's me," said the voice. "Marvin."</p> <p>"Marvin?" said Arthur. "Who's Marvin?" "The Paranoid Android," said the voice. Arthur looked around, but he didn't see anyone. "Where are you?" he said. "I'm down here," said the voice.</p> <p>35. Arthur looked down and saw a small, metal figure shuffling across the floor. It was about three feet tall, with a round head and a body that looked like it had been cobbled together from spare parts. Its eyes were a dull red, and its voice was a monotone. "I've been waiting for someone to talk to me for over two million years," said Marvin.</p> <p><i>Adapted - An excerpt from "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" by Douglas Adams / 444 words</i></p> | |
| | Answer the following questions, based on the passage above. | |
| i | <p>Select the option that classifies Arthur's confusion about drastic events such as the destruction of his home planet and the introduction of new technologies, correctly.</p> <p>A. Routine and boredom B. Adventure and excitement C. Loss and change D. Calm and relaxation</p> | 1 |
| ii | <p>What is the significance of the white lab mouse in the control room of the Heart of Gold spaceship?</p> <p>A. It is the captain of the ship B. It serves as the ship's computer C. It is a pet of the crew D. It is used for scientific experiments</p> | 1 |
| iii | Share evidence from the text, in about 40 words to support the view that the writer's writing style is descriptive and humorous. | 2 |
| iv | Complete the sentence appropriately with a characteristic or its description. Based on the information given in the excerpt, one can infer that the mice who built the Earth are _____. | 1 |
| v | <p>Select the option that is similar in meaning to Ford's expression , "Pretty neat, huh?".</p> <p>A. Easy , isn't it? B. Could be worse, no? C. Impressive, yes? D. Too difficult for you?</p> | 1 |
| vi | Explain, in about 40 words, why the name "The Paranoid Android" is considered ironic. | 2 |
| vii | In the line, "...a body that looked like it had been cobbled together from spare parts...", what comparison does the word "cobbled" refer to? | 1 |
| viii | How does the following impact the reader, even though they know Marvin is just an android? "I've been waiting for someone to talk to me for over two | 2 |

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| | million years," said Marvin. Answer in about 40 words | |
| ix | <p>Read the five headlines (a) -(e), given below:</p> <p>(a) HUMANITY'S JOURNEY WITNESSED BY A DEPRESSED ROBOT</p> <p>(b) HITCHHIKING THROUGH SPACE: A COMICAL TAKE ON THE END OF THE WORLD</p> <p>(c) NEW STUDY FINDS ALIENS LIVING AMONG US</p> <p>(d) GROUNDBREAKING TECHNOLOGY WILL SOON ENABLE TIME TRAVEL</p> <p>(e) INTERGALACTIC TRAVEL VIA NEW INFINITE IMPROBABILITY DRIVE</p> <p>Identify the option that displays the headline/s that DOES/ DO NOT correspond with occurrences in the passage.</p> <p>A. Only (a) B. (b) (c) and (d) C. Only (e) D. (a) and (e)</p> | 1 |
| 2 | Read the following text. | 10 |
| 1 | In recent years, there has been a surge in both group and solo travel among young adults in India. A survey conducted among young adults aged 18-25 aimed to explore the reasons behind their travel preferences and recorded the percentage variation for 10 common points that influence travel choices. | |
| 2 | Among those who prefer solo travel, the most common reason cited was the desire for independence and freedom (58%), followed closely by the opportunity for introspection and self-discovery (52%). Additionally, solo travellers appreciated the ability to customise their itinerary to their preferences (44%) and the chance to meet new people on their own terms (36%). | |
| 3 | On the other hand, those who prefer group travel often cited the desire for socialising and making new friends (61%) as their primary reason. Group travel also provided a sense of security and safety in unfamiliar places (52%) and allowed for shared experiences and memories with others (48%). Additionally, group travellers enjoyed the convenience of having pre-planned itineraries and organised transportation (38%). | |
| 4 | Interestingly, both groups had similar levels of interest in exploring new cultures and trying new experiences (40% for solo travellers, 36% for group travellers). Similarly, both groups valued the opportunity to relax and escape from the stresses of everyday life (36% for solo travellers, 32% for group travellers). | |
| 5 | However, there were also some notable differences between the two groups. For example, solo travellers placed a higher priority on budget-friendly travel options (38%) compared to group travellers (24%). Conversely, group travellers were more likely to prioritise luxury and comfort during their travels (28%) compared to solo travellers (12%). | |
| 6 | Overall, the survey results suggest that both group and solo travel have their own unique advantages and appeal to different individuals, based on their | |

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| | preferences and priorities. <i>Created for academic usage / 290 words</i> | |
| | Answer the following questions, based on the given passage. | |
| i | Infer two possible ways that the survey , (mentioned around 1st paragraph) could be beneficial. Answer in about 40 words. | 2 |
| ii | Which travel choice point of the survey would influence tour operators to incorporate group dinners, social events, and shared accommodations in their itinerary? A. Freedom to customise itinerary B. Luxury and comfort C. Security and safety D. Desire for making new friends | 1 |
| iii | What do the top choices in the survey, for travelling solo and in a group suggest about young adults? | 1 |
| iv | Identify the solo traveller from the following three travellers: (a) Reshma- I don't want to keep hunting for rickshaws or taxis. A pre-booked vehicle is perfect. (b) Nawaz-I'm happy sharing a room in a hostel. I don't need hotel accommodation. (c) Deepak-I'm not worried about my well-being , even while exploring remote areas. | 1 |
| v | Which of the following is an example of an opportunity for self-discovery, as mentioned in paragraph 2? A. Trying new cuisine B. Hiring a tour guide C. Purchasing local artifacts D. Advance booking travel tickets | 1 |
| vi | How might the differences in budget priorities between solo and group travellers impact the types of accommodations and activities offered by the travel industry in India? | 2 |
| vii | Complete the sentence appropriately. The similarities in the percentage of both solo and group travellers who are interested in exploring new cultures and trying new experiences may be due to _____. | 1 |
| viii | State TRUE or FALSE. The title, "Wanderlust: The Solo Travel Trend Among Young Adults in India", is appropriate for this passage. | 1 |
| | SECTION B : CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (14 marks) Note : All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purposes. Attempt the following questions. Any one question from Question Number 4 has to be attempted without fail. | |
| 3 | Bali High Public School has recently created CureGreen, a dedicated area for local medicinal herbs and shrubs, adjacent to the flower garden, on campus. As Rachel Tiwari, Captain of the Eco-Club ,draft a notice for the school notice | 4 |

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| 4 | <p>board, informing students of classes XI-XII, about a guided walk through CureGreen , post assembly, on Friday, 10 July. Invite care-giver applications for CureGreen.</p> <p>You are Prem/Parul of 16, TT Nagar, Bhopal. You would like to apply for the post of Marketing Manager in a reputed firm in Mumbai. Write a letter to the Public Relations Officer, Chantac Enterprises, Mumbai, applying for the job. Write the letter in 125-150 words giving your biodata.</p> | 5 |
| <p>Answer the below question , in about 120-150 words.</p> | | |
| 5 | <p>Despite being an essential component of road safety infrastructure, many people do not respect zebra crossings and fail to follow traffic rules, which results in hazardous situations on the roads. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, sharing your concern, and examining the reasons for such behaviour. Provide suggestions for spreading awareness of rules and etiquettes involved, and ways to ensure adherence. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this letter. You are Soma Baruah, a concerned city resident.</p> <p>For awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● General public/Educational institutions ● How ? in person/social media <p>Dire consequences - self and others</p> <p>Adherence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fines and penalties ● Revoking driving licences ● Strengthening Traffic police Force - monitoring resources and technology | 5 |
| <p style="text-align: center;">SECTION C : LITERATURE(44 marks)</p> <p>Read the given extract and answer the questions given.</p> | | |
| 6 | <p>Those who prepare green wars, wars with gas, wars with fire, victory with no survivors, would put on clean clothes and walk about with their brothers in the shade, doing nothing. (Keeping Quiet)</p> | |
| i | <p>What is a common outcome of all the wars described?</p> | 1 |
| ii | <p>What does the imagery of 'walking about with their brothers in the shade' primarily represent?</p> <p>A. The readiness for further conflicts. B. A return to normal activities post-conflict. C. A moment of unity and peaceful reflection. D. The physical environment of a typical war zone</p> | 1 |

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| iii | Complete the following suitably. The putting on of 'clean clothes' by the warmongers, symbolises_____. | 1 |
| iv | Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank. The excerpt tells us that the speaker _____ (condemns / glorifies) the destructive nature of modern warfare. | 1 |
| v | Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract. Assertion: The poet advocates for 'doing nothing' as a way to prevent the devastation of war. Reason: 'Doing nothing' refers to a time for stopping any action for a few moments. Choose the correct option regarding their relationship. A. Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion. B. Both the assertion and the 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. | 1 |
| vi | How can the message in the excerpt, about the outcome of wars be applied to promote peace? | 1 |
| 7 | Read the given extract and answer the questions given. | |
| | In other words, the Tiger King is dead. The manner of his death is a matter of extraordinary interest. It can be revealed only at the end of the tale. The most fantastic aspect of his demise was that as soon as he was born, astrologers had foretold that one day the Tiger King would actually have to die. "The child will grow up to become the warrior of warriors, hero of heroes, champion of champions. But..." they bit their lips and swallowed hard. When compelled to continue, the astrologers came out with it. "This is a secret which should not be revealed at all. And yet we are forced to speak out. The child born under this star will one day have to meet its death." (The Tiger King) | |
| i | Complete the sentence appropriately. The author's purpose in using foreshadowing, is to _____. | 1 |
| ii | In the given extract, what emotion were the astrologers feeling when they "bit their lips and swallowed hard"? A. Humiliation B. Disbelief C. Grief D. Unease | 1 |
| iii | Which trait are the astrologers lauding when they say "warrior of warriors, | 1 |

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| | hero of heroes, champion of champions"? | |
| iv | How is the line, "the most fantastic aspect of his demise", an example of contrast? | 1 |
| 8 | Read the given extracts and answer the following questions. | |
| | <p>Unaware of what his name represents, he roams the streets with his friends, an army of barefoot boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon. Over the months, I have come to recognise each of them.</p> <p>"Why aren't you wearing chappals?" I ask one.</p> <p>"My mother did not bring them down from the shelf," he answers simply.</p> <p>"Even if she did, he will throw them off," adds another who is wearing shoes that do not match. When I comment on it, he shuffles his feet and says nothing. "I want shoes," says a third boy who has never owned a pair all his life. Travelling across the country I have seen children walking barefoot, in cities, on village roads. It is not lack of money but a tradition to stay barefoot, is one explanation.</p> <p>(Lost Spring)</p> | |
| i | What is the writer's purpose in allowing the boys to speak for themselves via dialogue, as opposed to only a writer's commentary ? | 1 |
| ii | The line, "It is not lack of money but a tradition to stay barefoot" can be best classified as: A. A fact B. An opinion C. A theme D. A plot point | 1 |
| iii | Explain any one possible inference that can be drawn from the line, "an army of barefoot boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon". | 1 |
| iv | Identify the line from the text that bears evidence to the fact that the writer's association with the boys is not a recent one. | 1 |
| v | Based on the context provided in the extract, select the most likely comment that the writer would have made, based on the boy's reaction to the mismatched shoes. A. "Why are your shoes mismatched? That's not a good look." B. "Don't worry about your shoes, you can wear a matching pair later." C. "I like your shoes. What matters is that they protect your feet." D. "Have you chosen to mismatch your shoes?" | 1 |
| vi | Complete the sentence with ONE word. The phrase "he answers simply", suggests that the boy's response to the writer's question about why he wasn't wearing chappals was _____. | 1 |
| vii | Why does the narrator use the word tradition in the above passage ? | 1 |

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| 9 | Answer the following questions, in about 40-50 words. | |
| i | What does the contrasting imagery of the church clock and the Prussian trumpets represent, in 'The Last Lesson'? | 2 |
| ii | How does the setting of the remote forest location in 'The Rattrap' contribute to the overall tone and mood of the story? | 2 |
| iii | How might the message of the poem, 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' be different, if the following last four lines were omitted? 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. | 2 |
| iv a b | Prepare a brief character sketch of the following characters. Edla Wilmansson. (Rat trap) M.Hamel (The Last Lesson) | 2 |
| v | Why do you think that the poet is asking us to stand still and not to speak in any languages. (Keeping Quiet) | 2 |
| vi | What led to the death of the Tiger king? Explain. | 2 |
| 10 | Answer the following questions, in about 120-150 words. | |
| | <p>Imagine you are Pablo Neruda , the poet of Keeping Quiet. What advice might you offer to Adrienne Rich, the poet of Aunt Jennifer's Tiger, in the context of her conflicted emotions, as displayed in the given lines- (The content of the answer will be given priority, not the format as the question falls in the 'Literature' section and not in the 'Writing' section).</p> <p><i>Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool Find even the ivory needle hard to pull. The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.</i></p> <p><i>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></p> <p>Pen down your advice , in a letter to Mrs.Adrienne Rich. You may begin this way: Dear Madam I recently read your poem, "Aunt Jennifer's Tiger," and... You may end this way: I hope this advice is helpful to you. Please let me know if there is anything</p> | 5 |

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| | <p>else I can do to support you. Warmly, Pablo Neruda</p> | |
| 11 | <p>Discuss the narrative techniques used by the author in The Rattrap. How do these techniques effectively convey the themes of escapism and entrapment? Provide specific examples from the text to support your analysis.</p> | 5 |
| 12 | <p>In what ways does "The Tiger King" critique the relationship between humans and nature? Analyze how the king's obsession with tigers serves as a metaphor for the exploitation of wildlife.</p> | 5 |