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SET-2

Series SRQP2/2

Q.P. Code **1/2/2**

Roll No. | | | | | | | | |

Candidates must write the Q.P. Code on the title page of the answer-book.

- Please check that this question paper contains **19** printed pages.
- Please check that this question paper contains **13** questions.
- Q.P. Code given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer-book by the candidate.
- **Please write down the serial number of the question in the answer-book before attempting it.**
- 15 minute time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed at 10.15 a.m. From 10.15 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., the students will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.

ENGLISH (Core)

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.*

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SECTION A

Reading Skills (22 marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully : *12*

(1) As a young adult, life can be stressful and overwhelming at times. Juggling among school, work, social life, and other responsibilities, it can be easy to feel alone and disconnected from the world around us. Dogs are the ultimate companions for anyone looking to alleviate stress and loneliness. We'll explore many reasons why dogs make the best companions for young adults.

(2) Unconditional love : Dogs are known for their loyalty and love for their owners, no matter what. They don't judge us, criticize us, or hold grudges against us. No matter how flawed or imperfect we may be, our dogs will always love us unconditionally. This kind of unwavering support and affection can be incredibly comforting for young adults struggling to find their place in the world.

(3) Social connection : Dogs are great ice-breakers and conversation starters. Whether you're walking them in the park, taking them to the dog beach, or simply hanging out at home, dogs have a way of bringing people together. For young adults who may feel isolated or disconnected from their peers, having a dog by their side can be a great way to connect with others and form new friendships.

(4) Increase physical activity : Dogs require regular exercise in order to stay healthy and happy. This means that young adults who own dogs are more likely to engage in physical activity themselves. Whether its going for a run, playing frisbee, or simply taking a leisurely stroll, getting out with your dog can be a great way to boost your mood and energy levels.

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(5) Emotional support : Dogs are also great emotional support animals for those struggling with mental health issues such as anxiety and depression. Their presence alone can provide a sense of calm and comfort, and their ability to sense their owner's emotions can be incredibly comforting. For young adults dealing with mental health challenges, having a dog as a companion can be a life-changing experience.

(6) Improve responsibility and self-care : Owning a dog also comes with a great deal of responsibility and self-care. Dogs require regular feeding, grooming, exercise, and attention, which can be a great way for young adults to develop a sense of responsibility and self-discipline. Additionally, having a dog as a companion can encourage young adults to take better care of themselves, such as making sure they get enough sleep, eat healthy, and engage in regular exercise.

(7) For all these reasons and more, dogs make fantastic companions for young adults. Whether you're looking for emotional support, social connection, increased physical activity , or simply someone to love and be loved by, a dog can provide all these things and more. So the next time you're feeling stressed or overwhelmed, consider finding a furry friend to take on the world with you.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(i) What is the significance of owning a dog for a young adult who is striving for acceptance in society ? *1*

(A) It means increased physical activity.

(B) It builds a sense of responsibility.

(C) It helps young adults get more sleep.

(D) It is a source of unconditional love.

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(ii) A dog can encourage its owner to lead a healthier life by _____.

Complete the above sentence appropriately, in about 40 words, with a characteristic or description. *2*

(iii) Share evidence from the text, in approximately 40 words, to support the view that dogs provide a sense of calm and comfort to those struggling with mental health issues. *2*

(iv) Explain in about 40 words the statement that 'dogs are great ice-breakers'. *2*

(v) Which of the following activities help(s) young adults, owning a dog, build their sense of responsibility and self-discipline ? *1*

(A) walking the dog daily

(B) feeding it regularly

(C) engaging the services of a dog trainer

(D) Both (A) and (B)

(vi) What does this article aim to do ? *1*

(A) Explain the benefits of owning a dog.

(B) Provide advice on how to get a dog.

(C) Discuss how to take proper care of a dog.

(D) Describe the experiences of dog owners.

(vii) Select the option that is similar in meaning to the phrase 'take on the world'. *1*

(A) travel the world

(B) accept a responsibility

(C) to be pessimistic

(D) have a global outlook

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(viii) What does the underlined part in the sentence "consider finding a furry friend to take on the world with you" refer to ? *1*

(ix) What is the tone of the article ? *1*

(A) critical but supportive

(B) indifferent and bored

(C) positive and informative

(D) humorous and casual

2. Read the following passage carefully : *10*

(1) A recent survey conducted by an independent research firm sought to measure levels of happiness among youth aged 16 – 24 years in seven countries. The findings revealed some intriguing insights into what makes today's youth happiest, as well as which factors influence their overall well-being. In India, an overwhelming majority of the youth reported feeling satisfied with their lives, with 87% rating of their overall happiness as 'high' or 'very high.' Financial security was identified as the primary source of happiness for 66%, followed by family support (89%), having a purpose in life (50%), and work or studies (40%). Unfortunately, 65% reported feeling stress related to academic performance or workload, while 25% reported feeling lonely. These figures point to a need for increased mental health support among India's youth.

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(2) These surveys also revealed that family support is an important source of contentment for young people across countries. In Europe, 59% of respondents said that their families were a major source of happiness; in France this figure was 67%, and 63% in Germany. In North America, 64% rated family as an important factor for well-being in Canada, while 61% did so in the United States. Similarly, 89% of survey respondents in India named family support as a major contributor to their overall contentment level.

(3) It is clear that stress has a significant impact on the happiness of today's youth. The findings suggest that young people need better resources to manage their mental health and well-being. This may include access to counselling services, mindfulness activities and support groups to help them cope with challenging circumstances. It is also important to provide financial support so as to reduce some of the economic pressures.

(4) In India, 65% of youth surveyed reported feeling anxious about their academic performance or workload, while 25% felt lonely. These figures are especially significant given how important family support is for young people's overall contentment.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(i) What are the two findings that the survey mentioned in paragraph 1 reveals ? Answer in about 40 words. *2*

(ii) Explain in about 40 words the statement "It is also important to provide financial support so as to reduce some of the economic pressures." *2*

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(iii) Elaborate giving data, the statement "Stress has a significant impact on the happiness of today's youth." *1*

(iv) Which of the following factors, with reference to the given passage, does ***not*** play a substantial role in the well-being of Indian youth ? *1*

(A) Family support and strong ties

(B) Social connection and technology

(C) Books and literature

(D) Economic stability

(v) State whether *True* or *False,* with reference to the given passage :

It is not necessary to provide financial support to the youth as only academic performance plays an upper hand in deciding the stress level. *1*

(vi) What are the top choices which are of maximum value to today's youth ? *1*

I. Collectivism

II. Social media

III. Individualistic society

IV. Family ties

Options :

(A) I and II

(B) II and III

(C) I and IV

(D) II and IV

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(vii) The mental health of today's youth can be managed by resources like _____ and _____. *1*

(viii) Write the following sources that provide happiness to today's youth in descending order : *1*

(a) purposefulness

(b) financial status

(c) family support

(d) stress

SECTION B

Creative Writing Skills (18 marks)

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

(a) You are Nidhi/Nihal, student editor of your school magazine 'Jyoti.' Write a notice for the school notice board inviting short stories, poems, articles, etc. from students of all classes for the school magazine. Invent all necessary details.

OR

(b) You are Secretary of Vishal Housing Society, Prem Nagar. Draft a notice for the society notice board informing and inviting residents to the annual get-together to be held in the society compound, followed by dinner, on 28th March, 2024 from 7 pm onwards. Invent other details like contribution per family, guest charges, etc.

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

(a) You are the President, Literary Society of Hans Public School, Railpura. Draft a formal invite to the renowned author Ms. Savita Patil, requesting her to conduct a workshop on 'Creative Writing' in your school. Invent necessary details. You are Anita/Amit.

OR

(b) You have received an invite on the wedding of your friend, Akshat. As Radhika/Rakesh, write a letter expressing your extreme happiness at the news and explaining your inability to attend the function. Convey your best wishes for the future to the couple.

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

(a) You are Amit/Amita, a resident of Sujata Towers, Khelnagar. You came across the following advertisement and consider yourself an ideal candidate for the same. Apply for the job giving all details.

UPKAR TRANSPORT LTD.

REQUIRES

HR MANAGER

WHOM DO WE NEED

- Qualified – MBA
- Minimum – 5 years experience
- Willing to travel

SKILLS

- Excellent verbal and written skills
- Excellent interpersonal negotiation and conflict resolution skills
- Organizational ability

CONTACT : DIRECTOR, UPKAR TRANSPORT LTD.
76/A2 - PRABHA NAGAR, VAYUBAGH

OR

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(b) The concept of working from home has been a significant shift in the world today. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, sharing your views on this trend and examining both, the benefits and the negative effects of remaining indoors for work. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this letter. You are Rachit/Rachana, a concerned citizen.

Benefits	Disadvantages
• flexible hours • relief from travel hours	• isolation and loneliness • communication challenges • digital fatigue

Solutions

- set daily routine
- maintain clear boundaries
- build social connections
- practice self-care exercises

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

(a) With constant emphasis on improvement of road infrastructure, there is a widening of roads to accommodate the growing traffic, yet leading to traffic congestion and incidents of road rage. Write an article to the editor of a local newspaper expressing your observations, concerns and suggestions. Support your ideas with the outline cues given below. You are Sucheta/Sanjay.

Infrastructure Development

Benefits	Disadvantages	Suggestions
• wide roads	• air pollution	• organized development
• increased connectivity	• traffic jams	• manned signals
• smooth traffic	• road rage	• meeting timelines

OR

(b) A one-day cricket match was played by your school, Ratan Public School against Wali Public School. Ratan Public School won the match by 14 runs. Write a report on the same for your school magazine. You are Sonakshi/Sohan. You may use the given cues.

- finals of Inter-school tournament
- Ratan Public School is defending champion
- venue, day, date, time
- team details
- highlights
- result - Chief Guest closing speech

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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*

(a) 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.

(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

(i) Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract ? *1*

(A) The maturity of adulthood

(B) The glory of feminity

(C) Victim of male domination

(D) The superficial beauty

(ii) State whether the following statement is *True* or *False*, with reference to the extract. *1*

Aunt Jennifer is nervous and traumatized because of the constraints of her marriage.

(iii) Complete the following sentence appropriately : *1*

The fingers fluttering through her wool symbolize _____.

(iv) The use of the words "massive weight" creates a powerful image of _____. *1*

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(v) Based on the rhyme scheme in lines 3 and 4, which word would rhyme with 'band' and 'hand' ? *1*

(A) stand
(B) wind
(C) bent
(D) tent

(vi) The heavy wedding ring is a source of : *1*

(A) joy.
(B) freedom.
(C) dignity.
(D) burden.

OR

(b) 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 :

(A Thing of Beauty)

(i) Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract ? *1*

(A) The beautiful things in nature
(B) Things that cause unhappiness
(C) The immortality of human beings
(D) The early morning fragrance of flowers

(ii) State whether the given statement is *True* or *False*, with reference to the extract. *1*

The paths we follow are often not worthy of our noble nature.

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(iii) Complete the following sentence appropriately : *1*

We wreathe for ourselves a flowery band every morrow because _____.

(iv) The use of the word 'dearth' creates a powerful image of _____. *1*

(v) Based on the rhyme scheme in lines 4 and 5, which of the following word will rhyme with 'days' and 'ways' ? *1*

(A) craze

(B) pays

(C) haste

(D) waste

(vi) The lack of punctuation at the end of line 3 in the extract is to : *1*

(A) create a sense of continuity and flow that connects it with the fourth line.

(B) encourage the reader to understand grammar.

(C) forewarn the reader of gloomy days ahead.

(D) keep us connected to this earth.

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

(a) "If I am able, are you ?" Sadao asked.

"No," Hana said, "But if you can do it alone…"

Sadao hesitated again. "The strange thing is," he said, "that if the man were whole I could turn him over to the police without difficulty. I care nothing for him. He is my enemy. All Americans are my enemy. And he is only a common fellow. You see how foolish his face is. But since he is wounded…"

(The Enemy)

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(i) Complete the sentence appropriately. *1*

The dilemma faced by the couple was _____.

(ii) What does Hana ask Dr. Sadao to do alone ? *1*

(A) Treat the wounded soldier

(B) Give him shelter in the outhouse

(C) Throw him back into the sea

(D) Hand him over to the authorities

(iii) Explain the expression : "if the man were whole". *1*

(iv) Dr. Sadao says, "All Americans are my enemy." What character trait of Dr. Sadao does it reflect ? *1*

OR

(b) Derry : I'd not come to steal anything.

Mr. Lamb : No, no. The young lads steal….scrump the apples. You're not so young.

Derry : I just….wanted to come in. Into the garden.

Mr. Lamb : So you did. Here we are, then.

Derry : You don't know who I am.

Mr. Lamb : A boy. Thirteen or so.

Derry : Fourteen. [*Pause*] But I've got to go now. Good-bye.

Mr. Lamb : Nothing to be afraid of. Just a garden. Just me.

Derry : But I'm not....*I'm* not afraid. *[Pause]* People are afraid of *me*.

(On the Face Of It)

(i) Why does Mr. Lamb feel that Derry has not come to steal ? *1*

(ii) Cite instances from the extract which show that Mr. Lamb is trying to put Derry at ease. *1*

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(iii) Choose the correct statement : *1*

(A) Derry entered the garden as he was fascinated by the bees.

(B) Derry came to meet Mr. Lamb.

(C) They were well acquainted with each other.

(D) Derry entered as he wanted to see the garden.

(iv) People are afraid of Derry because _____. *1*

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

(a) "Children grow up in them, becoming partners in survival. And survival in Seemapuri means rag-picking. Through the years, it has acquired the proportions of a fine art. Garbage to them is gold. It is their daily bread, a roof over their heads, even if it is a leaking roof. But for a child it is even more."

(Lost Spring)

(i) Complete the sentence appropriately.
Children become partners in survival suggests that _____. *1*

(ii) Rag-picking has acquired the proportion of a fine art means : *1*

(A) artistic bend of mind is required.

(B) it has proportionately displaced art.

(C) it has become a highly skilful activity.

(D) it has discovered pieces of art.

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(iii) State whether the given statement is *True* or *False* with reference to the extract. *1*

The children and their parents have left Dhaka to live in Seemapuri.

(iv) Why does the author say 'survival in Seemapuri means rag-picking' ? *1*

(v) What does the phrase "for a child it is even more" reveal about the children's dreams ? *1*

(vi) Which of the following headlines suggests the central idea of the extract ? *1*

(A) Seemapuri, A Pot of Gold

(B) Rag-picking – Different Perspectives

(C) Art in Delhi and in Seemapuri

(D) Saheb-e-Alam in Seemapuri

OR

(b) This settlement was adopted unanimously by the commission. Gandhi explained that the amount of the refund was less important than the fact that the landlords had been obliged to surrender part of the money and, with it, part of their prestige. Therefore, as far as the peasants were concerned, the planters had behaved as lords above the law. Now the peasant saw that he had rights and defenders. He learned courage.

(Indigo)

(i) What was Gandhi's purpose in agreeing to the settlement, even at a lesser amount ? *1*

(ii) Complete the sentence with one word : *1*

The commission agreed by common consent, or in other words, they agreed to the settlement _____.

(iii) Explain the impact on the landlords as a result of the settlement. *1*

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(iv) Based on the content provided in the extract, select the most likely option about the behaviour of the landlords. *1*

(A) The landlords were sorry for their behaviour.

(B) The landlords were obstinate and refused Gandhi's suggestion.

(C) The landlords had to refund the money.

(D) The landlords and the planters became partners in the Indigo plantation.

(v) What did the peasants realize from the Champaran incident ? *1*

(vi) Complete the sentence appropriately. *1*

The phrase 'lords above the law' suggests that _____.

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

(i) What was more tempting for Franz than the rule for participles ? Did he get tempted ? (The Last Lesson)

(ii) Explain the sentence "an army of barefoot boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon." (Lost Spring)

(iii) The lesson 'The Rattrap' is both entertaining and philosophical. Do you agree with the statement ? Give reasons. (The Rattrap)

(iv) Bring out the contrast between Jansie and Sophie in the story 'Going Places'. (Going Places)

(v) How was there a great deal of national integration in the make-up department ? (Poets and Pancakes)

(vi) Did Umberto Eco like to be identified as a novelist ? Give reasons in support of your answer. (The Interview)

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

(i) Do you think the prediction made by the state astrologer "was indisputably disproved" ? Give reasons in support of your answer.
(The Tiger King)

(ii) "Then I lost my spirit." What are the incidents that led Zitkala-Sa to feel this way ? (Memories of Childhood)

(iii) Tishani Doshi considered the programme 'Students on Ice' a success. Do you agree with her ? Why/Why not ?
(Journey to the End of the Earth)

12. Answer any ***one*** of the following two questions in 120 – 150 words : *5*

(a) If Aunt Jennifer speaks to Pablo Neruda, the poet of "Keeping Quiet", about her problems and constraints, would it be right for her to accept his response of introspection, reflection and silence ? Write a letter to Pablo Neruda expressing her views.

OR

(b) Imagine you are Mukund Padmanabhan (The Interview) and you interviewed M. Hamel, after he had finished delivering the last lesson (The Last Lesson). Write a paragraph on Hamel's views on individual responsibility and nationalism.

13. Answer any ***one*** of the following two questions in 120 – 150 words : *5*

(a) Justify the statement, 'It may take a long time for oppression to be resisted but the seeds of rebellion are sowed early in life.'
(Memories of Childhood)

OR

(b) The story 'The Tiger King' is a satire on the conceit of those in power. How does the author employ the literary device of dramatic irony in the story ? (The Tiger King)

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