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Series : S7PQR

SET ~ 2

Roll No.

Q.P. Code 1/7/2

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

ENGLISH (Core)

*Time allowed : **3** hours* *Maximum Marks : **80***

(I) Please check that this question paper contains **19** printed pages.

(II) 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.

(III) Please check that this question paper contains **13** questions.

(IV) **Please write down the Serial Number of the question in the answer-book at the given place before attempting it.**

(V) 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 candidates will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.

[ ]

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.

(vi) All the names, addresses, etc. used in the questions are fictitious. Resemblance, if any, is purely coincidental.

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SECTION A
Reading Skills (22 marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully : *12*

(1) Almost everyone engages with social media in some form. Whether it is updating a status, sharing photos of a family gathering, or scrolling through friends' vacation highlights, it is inevitable that most individuals use online social platforms.

(2) People tend to view social media as synonymous with shallow interactions, digital obsession, or the carefully curated presentation of an idealised life. But researchers often define it as "an extension of human social connection", says a professor of digital anthropology. "It is something that fulfils the fundamental human need for belonging" as it is an integral part of modern communication, relationship maintenance and even identity formation.

(3) "It is not inherently harmful", adds a social psychologist. "It can be positive or neutral." Some researchers argue that social media helped us adapt to an increasingly mobile world. Digital sociologists pioneered this perspective, comparing social media usage to the community gatherings our ancestors valued as a means of maintaining social bonds.

(4) People are usually resistant to thinking about social media as anything but problematic. It is true that there are some types of engagement that should be avoided, such as social media use that fosters unhealthy comparisons or contributes to a poor self-image. In such scenarios, no one benefits. Social media engagement can also be both active and passive. Active engagement refers to directly creating and sharing content, commenting on others' posts or initiating online conversations. An active user contributes original material and drives discussions. Passive consumption, on the other hand, involves more observational behaviour like scrolling without interacting, watching without commenting or reading updates without acknowledging them, while still allowing content algorithms to shape one's feed through these subtle interactions.

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(5) It is interesting to note that social media usage also reveals something about the relationships people have with themselves and others. The type of content someone shares often reflects their values and self-perception, which are key aspects of personal identity.

(6) Research has found that mindful social media use can enhance connection, while other studies have found it can serve as a platform for self-expression and creativity. So, approach your feed thoughtfully, remembering that some benefit can come from it when used with the right intentions.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(i) Why does the author say that social media usage is a reflection of relationships ? *1*

(ii) Mention any two benefits of 'social media'. *2*

(iii) Complete the following sentence suitably with one difference between the author's opinion and that of people about social media. Generally, people do not readily accept _____. *1*

(iv) There is also a behavioural distinction to be drawn between active and passive engagement in social media. (Paragraph 4) *1*

Based on the above statement, classify the following sentences as active or passive engagement.

Sentence 1 : Meera posted photos of her art exhibition and responded to every comment.

Sentence 2 : Aditya spent two hours scrolling through his feed without liking or commenting on anything.

(v) Choose the correct option : *1*

..... mindful social media use can 'enhance connection' (Paragraph 6)

The above statement is true because :

(A) We can maintain relationships despite physical distance.

(B) We always enjoy seeing what others are doing.

(C) We believe everything that we see posted online.

(D) To connect, one needs to follow many accounts.

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(vi) Complete the following suitably : *1*

The author puts forth the fact that people can never _____ (avoid/appreciate) social media.

(vii) Complete the analogy with one word from paragraph 2. *1*

genuine : authentic : : _____ : fabricated

(A) idealised (B) curated

(C) shallow (D) extension

(viii) In the line 'People tend to view social media as synonymous with shallow interactions, digital obsession .....' (Paragraph 2) *1*

By the phrase 'digital obsession', the writer means _____.

(ix) What type of social media usage does the author disapprove of and why ? *2*

(x) The phrase – 'It is something that fulfils the fundamental human need for belonging' suggests that social media should not merely be associated with shallow interactions.

Choose the correct response (A) or (B) which confirms that the concern this phrase points towards is about : *1*

(A) Some types of social media engagement should be avoided.

(B) Social media can be viewed as part of our need for social connection.

2. Read the following passage carefully : *10*

(1) **Introduction :**

Students constantly seek methods to enhance their learning experience and academic performance. This research shows that music has long been considered a potential factor in creating productive study environments. It examines the influence of different music genres, including classical Indian music, on students' concentration, retention, and overall study effectiveness. The current investigation provides insights into how various musical elements impact cognitive functions during study sessions among secondary school students. The study is relevant in the present times as digital influences govern our lives to quite an extent and pose a distraction.

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(2) **Methodology :**

A structured questionnaire along with controlled study sessions was employed to gather information on the subject. Participants were exposed to different music conditions while completing standardized comprehension and memory tasks to measure performance objectively.

(3) **Survey Examination :**

Among the 140 study participants, 68 were boys and 72 were girls. For analytical purposes, the study considered both subjective preferences and objective performance metrics for each type of music condition during study sessions.

(4) **Results :**

S.No	Music Type	Preference (%)	Performance Improvement (%)
1.	No music	21·4	27·8
2.	Classical Indian (Instrument)	18·6	33·5
3.	Popular music with lyrics	42·1	12·3
4.	Ambient/Background	17·9	26·4

It is also seen that students showed varying preferences in music while they are studying. Though popular songs were most preferred, classical Indian instrumental music (particularly ragas like Bhupali and Yaman) demonstrated the highest performance enhancement. Instrumental compositions without lyrics generally yielded better results than vocal music across all genres.

(5) **Implications for Learning :**

It was observed that classical Indian ragas, designed with specific melodic patterns, had unique benefits for concentration and memory. The structured mathematical patterns in these compositions appeared to stimulate neutral pathways associated with logical thinking, however, familiar songs with lyrics frequently caused distraction by activating language processing centres. The tempo and complexity of music also significantly affected concentration levels, with moderate complexity providing optimal stimulation without overwhelming cognitive resources.

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(6) **Conclusion :**

Although individual preferences vary considerably, objective performance metrics indicate that instrumental music, particularly classical Indian compositions, can enhance study effectiveness for most students. The absence of lyrics, structured melodic patterns and appropriate tempo appear to be key factors in creating an optimal auditory study environment. Students would benefit from experimenting with different music conditions to determine what works best for their individual cognitive styles rather than simply choosing based on their personal preferences.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage.

(i) Choose the correct option : *1*

..... instrumental music outperforms vocal music for study efficiency.

The above statement is true as :

(A) Instrumental music is less distracting than songs with lyrics.

(B) Classical compositions are inherently superior to modern music.

(C) Students prefer instrumental music as they can play the instruments.

(D) Vocal processing interferes with memory formation.

(ii) Why does the author suggest that classical Indian ragas have unique benefits for concentration ? *1*

(iii) How does the author validate the claim that classical Indian music improves performance ? *2*

(iv) "The ideal study environment is highly individualised." Analyse the statement with reference to the text. *1*

(v) Complete the following suitably : *1*

The author puts forth the fact that personal music preference should not be the only _____ for selecting study accompaniment.

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(vi) Paragraph 4 includes the phrases, "preference" and "performance improvement". *1*

Classify the following sentences according to these concepts.

Sentence 1 : Most students chose to listen to popular music with lyrics during study sessions.

Sentence 2 : Test scores improved by 33·5% when students studied with classical Indian instrumental music.

(vii) Give two points to support how music selection makes a major impact on study effectiveness. *2*

(viii) Read and complete the following sentence suitably :

The study is very relevant in contemporary times, because : *1*

(A) music is increasingly accessible to students.

(B) academic pressure requires optimal study methods.

(C) classical traditions are being forgotten.

(D) concentration challenges are more prevalent with digital distractions.

SECTION B

Creative Writing Skills (18 marks)

3. Attempt any ***one*** of the two, (a) or (b), in about 50 words. *1×4=4*

(a) You are Isha/Ishaan, Secretary of the Literary Club of Mountain Ice School, Shimla. Your school is organising an inter-house poetry writing competition. Draft a notice informing the students of Classes IX – XII about the competition and invite registrations for the same. Include all necessary details. Put your notice in a box.

OR

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(b) You are Leela/Lalit Verma, President of Sunrise Apartments Welfare Association. You are planning to organise a security awareness workshop in collaboration with the local police station for the residents of your society. Draft a notice informing the residents about the workshop. Include all necessary details. Put your notice in a box.

4. Attempt any ***one*** of the two, (a) or (b), in about 50 words. *1×4=4*

(a) As secretary of the Career Guidance Club, draft a formal invitation card on behalf of the Principal, inviting parents of students of Classes X and XII to a day-long Career Counselling Workshop, discussion and interaction with Rajesh Bose, and his team of career counsellors. Include all the necessary details.

OR

(b) You have received an invite to be a lead speaker at a conference on 'Fitness – a Habit'. Write a reply expressing gratitude and giving your acceptance. You are Sharda/Sharad, a renowned health coach.

5. Attempt any ***one*** of the two, (a) or (b), in 120 – 150 words. *1×5=5*

(a) Your are Gayatri/Ganesh from Vasant Chowk, Amritsar. You have recently come across reports of increasing air pollution in your city. This situation has caused health problems for many residents, especially children and the elderly. As a responsible citizen, write a letter to the editor of a national daily expressing your concern and also suggest measures to reduce air pollution. You may use the following cues along with your own ideas.

- major sources of air pollution
- impact on the health of residents
- role of individuals, industries, and the Government
- contribution of communities in reducing pollution and promoting cleaner air

OR

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(b) You are Shreshtha from Bahagarh. You read the given advertisement and intend to apply for the post advertised. Write a job application for the concerned post.

Samarpan Public School
needs
Dance Teacher

- Qualifications : Graduation/Diploma in performing arts
- Skills : Dance proficiency is one form of classical dance.
  Organisational skills – plan and organise school events
  Communication skills – connect and engage with children
- Experience : 2 – 3 years

Contact : Principal, Samarpan Public School, 17 Boulevard, Bahagarh

6. Attempt any ***one*** of the two, (a) or (b), in 120 – 150 words. $1 \times 5 = 5$

(a) From individual celebrations to community festivals — there is a move to strengthen community cohesion and bring people together. In a society of increasing loneliness, it is important to create these bonds for both the individual, and the overall health of the community. You are Raksha/Rakesh. Write an article for your school magazine on 'The Importance of Community Festivals'. You may use the following cues with ideas of your own to compose the article.

- brings people together and builds community ties
- promotes, preserves, showcases culture
- creates shared memories

OR

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(b) You are Deepa/Dinesh of Class XII B and a member of the School Social Service Club. Write a comprehensive report detailing the activities undertaken by students as volunteers in the Each One Teach One initiative as part of the community outreach programme. You may use the following cues to help you create the report.

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) : $6 \times 1 = 6$

(a) Such the sun, the moon,
Trees old, and young, sprouting a shady boon
For simple sheep; and such are daffodils
With the green world they live in; and clear rills
That for themselves a cooling covert make
'Gainst the hot season; the mid forest brake,
Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms;
And such too is the grandeur of the dooms
We have imagined for the mighty dead;
All lovely tales that we have heard or read;
An endless fountain of immortal drink,
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.

(A Thing of Beauty)

(i) The expressions 'shady boon' and 'cooling covert' are used by the poet to indicate the _____ quality of nature. *1*

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(ii) Read the Assertion and the Reason below, with reference to the given extract. *1*

Assertion : The poet believes stories and myths add to life's beauty.

Reason : The 'grandeur of the dooms' comforts humans.

Choose the correct option regarding their relationship :

(A) Both Assertion and Reason are true and Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion.

(B) Both Assertion and Reason are true, but Reason is ***not*** the correct explanation of the Assertion.

(C) Assertion is true, but Reason is false.

(D) Assertion is false, but Reason is true.

(iii) Select the correct option from those given in the brackets, to fill in the blank. *1*

According to the poet, the trees, the sun, the moon, the flowers are things of _____ (beauty/disdain).

(iv) What does the imagery of an 'endless fountain' ***not*** represent in the given extract ? *1*

(A) abundance

(B) eternity

(C) limitation

(D) sustenance

(v) Complete the following suitably : *1*

The beautiful tales that we have heard or read give us _____ .

(vi) Complete the sentence suitably : *1*

Keats paints a picture of an endless fountain of nectar that pours of _____.

OR

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(b) 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.
What I want should not be
confused
with total inactivity.
Life is what it is about;
I want no truck with death.
If we were not so single-minded
about keeping our lives moving,
and for once could do nothing,
perhaps a huge silence
might interrupt this sadness
of never understanding ourselves
and of threatening ourselves with
death.

(Keeping Quiet)

(i) Select the phrase that suggests the following : *1*

The poet feels that the whole speculation of wars would be negated as there will be no one left to enjoy the result.

(ii) What does the imagery of 'green wars' ***not*** represent in the given extract ? *1*

(A) soil erosion (B) deforestation

(C) conservation (D) pollution

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(iii) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank. *1*

The poet clarifies that what he wants should not be misunderstood as _____. (procrastination/death)

(iv) Read the Assertion and the Reason below, with reference to the given extract. *1*

Assertion : The poet criticizes humanity's obsession with constant activity.

Reason : Our busy lives prevent us from understanding ourselves.

Choose the correct option regarding their relationship :

(A) Both Assertion and Reason are true and Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion.

(B) Both Assertion and Reason are true, but Reason is ***not*** the correct explanation of the Assertion.

(C) Assertion is true, but Reason is false.

(D) Assertion is false, but Reason is true.

(v) Complete the following suitably : *1*

Walking with fellow human beings in the shade symbolises _____.

(vi) State in one sentence, the significance of productive silence as brought out by the poet in this excerpt. *1*

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8. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any ***one*** of the given two, (a) or (b) : $4 \times 1 = 4$

(a) After I had watched all this, at last I went home. My elder brother was there. I told him the story in all its comic detail. I fell about with laughter at the memory of a big man, and an elder at that, making such a game out of carrying the parcel. But Annan was not amused. Annan told me the man wasn't being funny when he carried the package like that. He said everybody believed that they were upper caste and therefore must not touch us. If they did, they would be polluted.

(Memories of Childhood)

(i) What emotion did the narrator initially feel on seeing the elder carrying the packet by the string ? *1*

(A) anger
(B) amusement
(C) disgust
(D) sympathy

(ii) What realization struck the narrator while speaking with her brother about the elder ? *1*

(A) people from their community were forbidden from eating *vadai*
(B) they must never question the actions of elders
(C) caste-based discrimination was responsible for their humiliation
(D) elders were not respectful towards food

(iii) Who does 'us' in the passage refer to ? *1*

(iv) How might the discrimination mentioned in the passage help us to build a more inclusive society ? *1*

OR

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(b) Human civilisations have been around for a paltry 12,000 years — barely a few seconds on the geological clock. In that short amount of time, we've managed to create quite a ruckus, etching our dominance over Nature with our villages, towns, cities, megacities. The rapid increase of human populations has left us battling with other species for limited resources, and the unmitigated burning of fossil fuels has now created a blanket of carbon dioxide around the world, which is slowly but surely increasing the average global temperature.

(Journey to the end of the Earth)

(i) What does the author suggest about human impact on the Earth ? *1*

(ii) Complete the following suitably : *1*

On the geological clock, human civilizations have existed for _____.

(iii) Cite evidence from the passage that indicates that humans and other species compete with each other. *1*

(iv) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blanks. *1*

In the given excerpt, the main reason for the increase in the temperature world wide is the _____ (stoppable/unstoppable) burning of fossil fuel.

9. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any ***one*** of the given two, (a) or (b) : *6×1=6*

(a) At last, around four in the afternoon, the poet (or the editor) arrived. He was a tall man, very English, very serious and of course very unknown to all of us. Battling with half a dozen pedestal fans on the shooting stage, The Boss read out a long speech. It was obvious that he too knew precious little about the poet (or the editor). The speech was all in the most general terms but here and there it was peppered with words like 'freedom' and 'democracy'. Then the poet spoke. He couldn't have addressed a more dazed and silent audience — no one knew what he was talking about and his accent defeated any attempt to understand what he was saying. The whole thing lasted about an hour; then the poet left and we all dispersed in utter bafflement — what are we doing? What is an English poet doing in a film studio which makes Tamil films for the simplest sort of people?

(Poets and Pancakes)

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(i) Choose the correct option : *1*

How did the Boss introduce the English poet to the audience ?

(A) with detailed knowledge about his work

(B) with a speech about freedom and democracy

(C) by reading the poet's famous poems

(D) by discussing Indian cinema

(ii) Choose the correct option from those given in brackets. *1*

"He couldn't have addressed a more dazed and silent audience." The statement reflects the audience's _____ (engagement/bewilderment)

(iii) "Battling with half a dozen pedestal fans on the shooting stage." This phrase indicates : *1*

(A) technical problems at the studio.

(B) the poet's discomfort with the heat.

(C) the Boss struggling to be heard.

(D) a dramatic performance by the Boss.

(iv) Complete the following suitably :

The presence of an English poet in a film studio that makes Tamil films showcases the author's _____. *1*

(v) Complete the following suitably : *1*

"The whole thing lasted about an hour, then the poet left and we left in utter bafflement."

The mood of the Gemini Studios staff after the poet's speech was _____.

(vi) Complete the following with a suitable reason : *1*

The audience dispersed in utter bafflement because _____.

OR

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(b) Rudyard Kipling expressed an even more condemnatory attitude towards the interviewer. His wife, Caroline, writes in her diary for 14th October 1892 that their day was 'wrecked by two reporters from Boston'. She reports her husband as saying to the reporters, "Why do I refuse to be interviewed? Because it is immoral! It is a crime, just as much of a crime as an offence against my person, as an assault, and just as much merits punishment. It is cowardly and vile. No respectable man would ask it, much less give it," Yet Kipling had himself perpetrated such an 'assault' on Mark Twain only a few years before. H.G. Wells in an interview in 1894 referred to 'the interviewing ordeal', but was a fairly frequent interviewee.....

(The Interview)

(i) Complete the following suitably : *1*

Kipling's 'condemnatory attitude' towards interviews indicates _____.

(ii) Select the textual option that is closest to indicating the disruption of the day's plan. *1*

(A) why do I refuse to be interviewed

(B) it is cowardly and vile

(C) wrecked by two reporters

(D) was a fairly frequent interviewee

(iii) Select the correct option form those given in brackets to fill in the blank. *1*

"Kipling's comparison of interviews to assault reflects his _____ towards this journalistic practice." (ambivalence/hostility)

(iv) Complete the following statement suitably : *1*

The author points out Kipling's hypocrisy by mentioning that _____.

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(v) What does the following line from the extract showcase ? *1*

It is immoral! It is a crime, just as much of a crime as an offence against my person, as an assault, and just as much merits punishment.

(A) affirmation

(B) disgust

(C) acceptance

(D) denial

(vi) Choose the correct option : *1*

Caroline's response to the reporters is an indication of her _____ acceptance of interviews as necessary despite personal discomfort.

(A) impractical

(B) visionary

(C) pragmatic

(D) idealistic

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

(i) Why did the crofter show the thirty kronor to the peddler ?

(The Rattrap)

(ii) "Their eyes are more adjusted to the dark." What does this phrase imply about the working conditions of the bangle makers ?

(Lost Spring)

(iii) Sophie notices the incongruity of the delicate bow that fastened her mother's apron strings and her crooked back. What is the significance of this ?

(Going Places)

(iv) The roadside stand and the moving cars are a contrast around which the entire poem revolves. Explain.

(A Roadside Stand)

(v) What, according to Umberto Eco, will happen if all the empty spaces are eliminated from the universe ?

(The Interview)

(vi) What role did Kasturbai play in the Champaran Movement ?

(Indigo)

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

(i) Why does Sam urge Charley and Louisa to keep looking for the Third Level ?

(The Third Level)

(ii) State one reason why the Maharaja ordered fifty diamond rings for the British officer's wife.

(The Tiger King)

(iii) Why does Derry's mother forbid him from going back to Mr. Lamb ?

(On The Face Of It)

12. Answer any ***one*** of the following two questions in 120 – 150 words : $1 \times 5 = 5$

(a) Both poems, 'My Mother at Sixty-six' and 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers', explore women's experiences of vulnerability and strength but in distinctly different circumstances and landscapes. Elucidate.

OR

(b) Both 'The Last Lesson' and 'Deep Water' explore the transformative power of fear but in contrasting ways. How does Franz's fear of losing his language differ from Douglas's struggle to conquer his fear of water. Discuss with reference to the given texts.

13. Answer any ***one*** of the following two questions in 120 – 150 words : $1 \times 5 = 5$

(a) To choose between professional loyalty and patriotism was a dilemma for Dr. Sadao. How did Dr. Sadao emerge as a saviour for humanity ?

(The Enemy)

OR

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