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Series 7DEFG

Set – 2

Q.P. Code **2/7/2**

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.
- 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 check that this question paper contains **11** questions.
- **Please write down the Serial Number of the question in the answer-book at the given place 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 candidates will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.

ENGLISH
(Language and Literature)

Time allowed : 3 hours *Maximum Marks : 80*

General Instructions :

Read the instructions very carefully and strictly follow them :

(i) *This question paper comprises **11** questions. All questions are compulsory.*

(ii) *The question paper contains **three** sections :*
***Section A** – Reading Skills*
***Section B** – Grammar and Creative Writing Skills*
***Section C** – Literature*

(iii) *Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.*

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SECTION A

Reading Skills *20 marks*

1. Read the following passage carefully : *10*

(1) Traffic congestion is one of the most visible, pervasive and immediate transport problems plaguing not only cities of India, but also of the world on a daily basis. Traffic congestion on urban road networks has increased substantially since the 1950s.

(2) Traffic congestion occurs when vehicle volume exceeds the capacity of the road network, causing a slowdown in the overall traffic flow. Several key factors contribute to this issue, including rapid population growth, increasing urbanization, insufficient or poorly planned transport infrastructure, inadequate public transportation systems, and the rising use of private vehicles. Congestion has become a persistent challenge not only in large metropolitan areas, but also in medium and smaller cities, where infrastructure development often struggles to keep pace with growing demand.

(3) Traffic congestion has a wide range of negative effects on both individuals and the economy. It wastes time for motorists and passengers, leading to loss in productivity and harming regional economic performance. Delays can cause people to be late for work, school, or important meetings, resulting in lost business opportunities and personal setbacks. As travel times become unpredictable, drivers are forced to leave earlier than necessary, reducing time available for more productive or meaningful activities.

(4) Additionally, congestion contributes to environmental and mechanical issues. Idling and constant acceleration and braking waste fuel, increase carbon emissions, and cause wear and tear on vehicles, leading to more frequent repairs. Drivers often experience stress and frustration, which can negatively impact mental health and encourage road rage. Emergency vehicles may also be delayed, putting lives at risk. Furthermore, congestion can spill over into side streets as drivers seek alternative routes, disrupting local communities. The frequent stopping and close spacing between vehicles also raise the likelihood of traffic accidents.

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(5) Traffic congestion can be solved by improving public transportation, optimising road networks, and encouraging alternative travel options like carpooling, cycling and walking. Additionally, the infrastructure needs to be modernised. Road networks must be expanded with roundabouts which reduce conflict points and accidents. Implementing smart traffic management systems offers benefits including reduced congestion and travel time, improved safety, fuel efficiency and better emergency response. These systems use real time data to dynamically adjust traffic signals, predict traffic patterns, and enable quicker incident detection, leading to smoother traffic flow and less pollution.

(6) Ultimately, tackling traffic congestion requires a combined effort from the government, businesses and individuals. By investing in smart infrastructure and public transit while also encouraging sustainable commuting habits, cities can move to enhanced mobility.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(i) Complete the following appropriately. *1*

In paragraph (1), the author uses the word 'plaguing' to emphasise _____.

(ii) Complete the following with the correct option from the given two : *1*

Traffic congestion arises when _____.

(1) the volume of vehicles on a roadway exceeds its designed capacity, leading to a significant reduction in the efficiency of traffic movement.

(2) the number of vehicles on the road remains within the network's capacity, allowing for efficient movement, minimal delays and consistent travel speeds.

Paragraph (2)

(iii) How does traffic congestion impact the economy ? Support with textual evidence. Paragraph (3) *2*

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(iv) Considering the impact of traffic congestion on daily life and the economy, which of the following statements best reflects the challenges caused by unpredictable travel times and delays ? *1*

(A) Unpredictable travel times allow motorists to plan their trips more efficiently, increasing overall productivity and reducing stress.

(B) Due to delays and uncertainties, drivers often leave earlier than necessary, which decreases the time available for productive or personal activities and leads to lost business opportunities and personal setbacks.

(C) Traffic congestion generally improves regional economic performance by encouraging alternative modes of transport and reducing the number of vehicles on the road.

(D) Delays caused by congestion have minimal impact on individuals' punctuality or economic outcomes and rarely affect their daily schedules. Paragraph (3)

(v) Traffic congestion affects the condition of vehicles. Justify the statement by providing evidence from the text. *2*

Paragraph (4)

(vi) State whether the following statement is True or False : *1*

Roundabouts reduce traffic congestion by facilitating a continuous flow of vehicles which minimizes idling time and accidents. Paragraph (5)

(vii) In what ways can an individual adjust her/his habits to effectively cope with regular traffic congestion ? Choose the best option according to the text provided. *1*

(A) By ignoring congestion and assuming it will resolve itself over time.

(B) By choosing alternative transport methods like cycling or public transit and adjusting travel times to avoid peak hours.

(C) By avoiding travel altogether, even when necessary.

(D) By continuing to use the same route and travel time regardless of delays. Paragraph (5)

(viii) Which collaborative approach involving the government, businesses and individuals is necessary to effectively tackle urban traffic congestion ? Paragraph (6) *1*

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2. Read the following passage carefully : *10*

(1) Research says that by 2050, 68% of the global population will live in cities, that's 2.5 billion more people than today. As our cities grow and more people move into already crowded spaces, researchers are working on plans of optimising the physical and organisational structures of urban areas to transform our urban areas into healthy places to live. Green spaces in cities mitigate the effects of pollution and can reduce a phenomenon known as the urban heat island effect. This refers to heat trapped in built-up areas.

(2) The urban heat island effect appears in towns and cities as a result of human activity. The heat generated by people, transport, shops and industry is trapped in the narrow roads and concrete structures, unable to escape to the atmosphere. This can bring the temperature in urban areas up 3 – 4°C higher than the surrounding countryside. With that comes a vicious cycle.

(3) Increased temperatures in summer lead to an increased demand for cooling. This expands our energy consumption, which in turn intensifies fossil fuel consumption, increasing pollutants in the air and harmful smog on our streets.

(4) Planning cities to include green spaces wherever possible is the first step in making our urban areas healthier. For example, adding a layer of vegetation to rooftops and creating green roofs has proven to reduce the urban heat island effect. Greenery also helps to sequester carbon (to trap and isolate it in a natural or artificial storage area) with one tree absorbing 25 kilograms of CO_2 each year.

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(5) Simply having access to green spaces in cities can do wonders for our stress levels and concentration at work. People need to interact with nature whenever the opportunity arises. Something as simple as a five- to ten-minute break during the workday can improve well-being and boost productivity. Access to urban open green space encourages physical activity and reduces ambient air pollution, heat, traffic noise and emissions. All are factors which contribute to the risks of chronic disease and mental illness. Individuals and families who live closer to 'formal' parks or open space are more likely to achieve recommended amounts of physical activity.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(i) Which of the following factors is most likely to contribute to the transformation of urban areas into healthier living spaces by 2050 ? *1*

(A) Decreased population growth in urban centres

(B) Increased rural-to-urban migration

(C) Expansion of urban areas to accommodate more people

(D) Improved urban planning and infrastructure development

(ii) Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below. *1*

Assertion : Green spaces in cities help mitigate the urban heat island effect.

Reason : The urban heat island effect is caused by heat being trapped in built-up areas due to human activities.

(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.

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(iii) What urban design feature contributes to the trapping of heat in cities, intensifying the urban heat island effect ? *1*

(iv) While talking about the urban heat island effect, the writer says, "with that comes a vicious cycle". Explain, what he means by 'vicious cycle'. *2*

(v) Why do we need to transform our urban areas into healthy places to live ? Give one reason. *1*

(vi) Complete the sentence appropriately.

Integrating green spaces into urban planning is essential for _____. *1*

(vii) What is the significance of trees in reducing carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere ? *1*

(viii) How can access to green spaces in urban environments influence workplace well-being and productivity ? *1*

(ix) Which of the following statements best summarizes the benefits of urban open green spaces ? *1*

(A) Urban green spaces solely provide aesthetic value and have no impact on public health.

(B) Access to urban open green spaces encourages physical activity and reduces environmental stressors, thereby mitigating risks of chronic diseases and mental illness.

(C) Living near urban open green spaces leads to increased exposure to environmental pollutants.

(D) Urban open green spaces are primarily beneficial for recreational purposes and do not influence physical activity levels.

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SECTION B

Grammar and Creative Writing Skills *20 marks*

Grammar

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

(i) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the verb in the brackets, for the given portion of a letter. *1*

I am eager to bring my expertise in 'research editing' to your organization and contribute to its _____ (continue) success.

(ii) Identify and correct the error in the given sentence from a travel journal. *1*

Travel provide the opportunity to build meaningful connections with new people and creates shared experiences with loved ones.

Use the given format for your response :

Error	*Correction*

(iii) Suman and Anaisha had a conversation about mobile phones. Report Suman's question. *1*

Are mobile phones allowed in the school ?

(iv) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the sentence taken from an article about wildlife. *1*

The ancient forest served as a/an _____ (arbitrary/sanctuary/monastery) for endangered wildlife, offering them safety and peace away from human activity.

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(v) Read the conversation between the manager and an applicant. *1*

Manager : Have you ever worked on a similar project before ?

Applicant : Yes, I have worked on numerous such projects.

Select the correct option to complete the reporting of the above dialogue.

The manager asked the applicant whether _____. The applicant replied in the affirmative and said that he had worked on numerous such projects.

(A) he has ever worked on a similar project before

(B) he had ever worked on a similar project before

(C) he would have ever worked on a similar project before

(D) he have had ever worked on a similar project before

(vi) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line taken from an aircraft's safety manual. *1*

Demonstrate use of seat belts and ensuring that all passengers have their seat belts fastened before take-off and landing.

Option No.	*Error*	*Correction*
(A)	use	uses
(B)	ensuring	ensure
(C)	are	will be
(D)	and	or

(vii) Identify and correct the error in the given sentence from an article about modern technology. *1*

Modern technology have made it possible to alter genetic material to create novel traits in plants, animals, bacteria and fungi.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	*Correction*

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(viii) Complete the given narrative with the correct option to fill in the blank. *1*

Yesterday, Harshi baked a cake and _____ her friends over for dessert. Next weekend, she plans to try a new recipe.

(A) is inviting
(B) invited
(C) will invite
(D) did invited

(ix) Complete the given sentence about the reaction of some friends, by selecting the correct option. *1*

It's already 10 pm; they _____ have taken a different route if they're still not home.

(A) ought to
(B) should
(C) might
(D) can

(x) Report the dialogue between two friends, by completing the sentence. *1*

Ravi : I will join the gym next week.

Karan : That sounds like a good idea! Do you need help in choosing one ?

Ravi told Karan that _____. Karan replied that it sounded like a good idea and asked if he needed help in choosing one.

(xi) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the notice on a school notice board. *1*

All students of Class X are informed that an educational trip to the Science Museum is _____ (scheduled/completed) on 20th August, 2026. Interested students must submit the consent form by 10th August.

(xii) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line taken from an article about modern education. *1*

The use of tablets and educational apps are increasing rapidly in modern classrooms.

Option No.	*Error*	*Correction*
(A)	apps	app
(B)	are	is
(C)	rapidly	quick
(D)	in	for

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Creative Writing Skills

Note : *All details presented in the questions in writing section are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.*

4. Attempt any ***one*** from (a) and (b) given below : *5*

(a) You are Amita / Amit, a resident of Green Udyan Colony, Hawapur. Your locality has been facing frequent and long power cuts, especially during the evenings, causing great inconvenience to students, working professionals and senior citizens. Write a letter, in about 120 words, to the officer-in-charge of the Electricity Department of your area, complaining about this issue. In your letter, explain the problems caused by the power cuts and request immediate action to resolve the matter.

OR

(b) You are Anita / Ajay, the parent of a young student, who is concerned about the growing disinterest in reading habits among teenagers. With the increasing use of smartphones and social media, many students are spending less time reading books, newspapers or magazines. Write a letter, in about 120 words, to the editor of a national newspaper, expressing your concern about the decline in reading habits among teenagers. Mention the possible reasons for this trend, its negative impact on students, and suggest ways to encourage reading among the students.

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5. Attempt any ***one*** from (a) and (b) given below : *5*

(a) The table below presents the average number of hours students spend on different daily activities.

Activity	**Time Spent (in hours)**
School	6
Homework / Study	3
Screen Time	4
Outdoor Games	2
Sleep	8
Others (meals, rest)	1

Carefully examine the data and write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words, analysing how students are allocating their time throughout the day.

Identify any areas where time management may be lacking and suggest practical ways to create a more balanced and productive daily routine. You are Megha/Manav.

OR

(b) Study the product details on the label of a Reuseable Stainless Steel Water Bottle :

* Premium Stainless Steel Water Bottle
* Crafted from food grade, BPA-free stainless steel
* Double-wall insulation maintains temperature for up to 12 hours
* Leak-proof and sweat-resistant design
* Wide opening for easy cleaning and adding ice-cubes
* Highly durable and resistant to rust
* Offered in various sizes and attractive colours

Write an analytical paragraph, in about 120 words, explaining why this water bottle is a wise and environment-friendly choice for students. Consider its ecological benefits, practical features, durability, health and safety advantages and the variety of design options available. You are Naina/Navdeep.

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SECTION C
Literature

40 marks

6. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any ***one*** of the given two, (a) or (b) : *5*

(a) We, who were outlaws not so long ago, have today been given the rare privilege to be host to the nations of the world on our own soil. We thank all of our distinguished international guests for having come to take possession with the people of our country of what is, after all, a common victory for justice, for peace, for human dignity.

(Nelson Mandela – Long Walk to Freedom)

(i) Which one of the following is the main message conveyed by the speaker in the passage ? *1*

(A) The country is hosting a sporting event for the first time.

(B) Former outlaws have become international criminals.

(C) The transformation from oppression to freedom is a shared global victory.

(D) Justice has been achieved only for the people of one nation.

(ii) What does the phrase "were outlaws not so long ago", signify with reference to the given context ?

Answer in not more than 40 words. *2*

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(iii) Complete the sentence by choosing the right phrase.

Today, we have been granted the _____ (regular obligation / extraordinary honour) of welcoming the nations of the world to our own land. *1*

(iv) What does the speaker mean by calling the event "a common victory for justice, for peace, for human dignity" ? *1*

OR

(b) And that is why it was so difficult to rob him. It's easy to rob a greedy man, because he can afford to be robbed; but it's difficult to rob a careless man — sometimes he doesn't even notice he's been robbed and that takes all the pleasure out of the work.

Well, it's time I did some real work, I told myself; I'm out of practice. And if I don't take the money, he'll only waste it on his friends. After all, he doesn't even pay me.

(The Thief's Story)

(i) Why does the narrator say that it is easier to deceive a greedy man ? *1*

(ii) What can we make out about the narrator's character from the given extract ? *2*

(iii) "Well, it's time I did some real work, I told myself;" — What is referred to as "real work" ? *1*

(iv) The narrator finds it difficult to rob a careless man because the lack of _____ (awareness / ignorance) removes the usual enjoyment of the act. *1*

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7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any ***one*** of the given two, (a) or (b) : *5*

(a) The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree

(Dust of Snow)

(i) In the given lines from the poem, what role does the crow play ? *2*

(ii) Select the option that applies the same rhyme scheme as the lines of the given extract. *1*

(A) How good to lie a little while
And look up through the tree!
The sky is like a kind big smile
Bent sweetly over me.

(B) Upon a nice mid-spring day
Let's take a look at Nature's way
Breathe the scent of nice fresh air
Feel the breeze within your hair.

(C) The people along the sand
All turn and look one way
They look at the sea all day
They turn their back on the land

(D) This bird so small and
Sings aloud in the morn
Perched on a green branch
Singing its own melody

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(iii) What images come to your mind when you think of a 'hemlock' tree ? *1*

(iv) What does the 'dust of snow' in the given extract represent ? *1*

OR

(b) Did you finish your homework, Amanda?
Did you tidy your room, Amanda?
I thought I told you to clean your shoes,
Amanda!
(I am an orphan, roaming the street.
I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet.)
(Amanda!)

(i) How does the poet bring about the contrast between what the speaker wants and what Amanda desires ? *2*

(ii) Fill in the blank with one word. *1*
Amanda daydreams of being an orphan to _____ constant nagging and control.

(iii) What kind of picture is painted by the poet through the line 'I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet' ? *1*

(iv) What tone is conveyed through the repetition of Amanda's name in the given extract ? *1*

(A) loving (B) nagging

(C) appreciating (D) escaping

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

(i) Is Lencho's faith truly admirable or does it verge on blind superstition ? Justify your answer. (A Letter to God)

(ii) The boy learns the 'epistemology of loss' from the loss of his ball. Elaborate. (The Ball Poem)

(iii) "Only God, my dear, could love you for yourself alone." How is God's love different from the love of young lovers ?

(For Anne Gregory)

(iv) What did the Buddha want Kisa Gotami to understand when he asked her to get a handful of mustard seeds from a house where no one had lost a loved one ?

(v) How does the writer use his childhood memories to show what village life in Goa was like ?

(A Baker from Goa)

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9. Answer any ***two*** of the following three questions in 40 – 50 words each : *2×3=6*

(i) What is the biggest irony in "The Necklace" and how does it change the ending of the story ?

(ii) How did Ausable demonstrate presence of mind and outwit Max ?

(The Midnight Visitor)

(iii) The story highlights the power of books and imagination.

Justify the statement in the light of the chapter, "The Book That Saved the Earth".

10. Answer any ***one*** of the following two questions in 100 – 120 words : *6*

(a) Compare how Valli in the story "Madam Rides the Bus", and Maxwell in "Mijbil the Otter" experience independence and adventure.

OR

(b) What distinguishes the portrayal of the tiger in the poem "A Tiger in the Zoo" from the depiction of the tiger in the poem, "How to Tell Wild Animals" ?

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11. Answer any ***one*** of the following two questions in 100 – 120 words : *6*

(a) In the story "Footprints Without Feet", the invisibility of the scientist reflects both the power he gains and the loneliness he suffers. Explain how this dual effect of invisibility shapes his actions and overall character in the story.

OR

(b) How were Richard Ebright's scientific achievements the result of a combination of personal qualities, external support, and opportunities ? Which factor do you think played the most important role and why ?

(The Making of a Scientist)

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