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Series : EFG6H

SET – 2

Q.P. Code 2/6/2

Roll No.

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

ENGLISH
(Language and Literature)

Time allowed : 3 hours *Maximum Marks : 80*

- Please check that this question paper contains **15** printed pages.
- Please check that this question paper contains **11** 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 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. ~

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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 Textbook*

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

Section – A (20 Marks)

Reading Skills

1. Read the following text : **10 M**

(1) Creativity is our most precious resource and the most inexhaustible one. As anyone who has ever spent any time with children knows, every single human being is born creative; every human being is innately endowed with the ability to combine data and perceptions, materials and ideas and devise new ways of thinking and doing. What fosters creativity ? More than anything else : the presence of other creative people, contrary to that creativity is the province of great individual geniuses. In fact creativity is a social process. Our biggest creative breakthrough comes when people learn from, compete with, and collaborate with other people.

(2) Cities are centres of creativity. With their diverse populations, dense social networks and public spaces, people can meet spontaneously and spark or catalyse new ideas. With their infrastructure for finance, organization and trade, they allow the idea to swiftly reach its destination.

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(3) A study tracking the decline of unconventional thinking ability as children age, states that while 98 percent of 3 to 5 years olds exhibited creative thinking, this dwindled to 10 percent among 13 to 15 years olds and a mere 2 percent among 25 years olds. Thus, adulthood witnesses the erosion of innate creativity. There is a variance in creative vitality across cities. Although all cities harbour creative individuals by default, some are saturated with leaders, institutions, and people that inhibit creativity.

(4) Creativity (or the lack of it) follows the same general contours of the great socio-economic divide – our rising inequality – that plagues us. According to estimates, roughly one-third people are able to do work which engages our creative faculties to some extent, whether as artists, musicians, writers, techies, innovators, entrepreneurs, doctors, lawyers, journalists or educators. That leaves a group termed "the other 66 percent", in which their creativity is subjugated, ignored or wasted.

(5) Creativity itself is not in danger. It is flourishing all around us – in science and technology, arts and culture, in our rapidly revitalizing cities. But we still have a long way to go if we want to build a truly creative society that supports and rewards creativity of each one of us. (Created for academic usage / 410 words)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above :

(i) The central idea of this passage is that : **1**

(A) social interaction is necessary to nurture creativity.

(B) creativity and ideas are gradually declining in all societies.

(C) the creativity divide is widening in societies in line with socio-economic trends.

(D) more people should work in jobs that engage their creative faculties.

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

Assertion : Creativity is the province of great individual genius is not true.

Reason : Creativity is a social process.

(A) Both the Assertion and Reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation and assertion.

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

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

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

(iii) Identify the word in paragraph 1 which means something that cannot be used-up or depleted. **1**

(iv) What important trends does a study tracking the decline in creative thinking ability in children reveal ? Answer in about **40** words. **2**

(v) Read the given prompt and select the correct option in the brackets to fill in the blank. **1**

Our biggest creative breakthrough comes when people learn from, compete with, and collaborate with other people.

Creativity is thus a _____ (economic, industrial, social) process.

(vi) According to the passage, where does creativity thrive apart from arts and culture ? **1**

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

About thirty-three percent citizens engage their creative faculties in tasks that use _____.

(viii) In the context of the last paragraph, explain how does the passage view the future of creativity in society. **2**

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2. Read the following text : **10 M**

(1) In today's contemporary online shopping landscape, a perfect storm of choice engulfs consumers. Research consistently indicates that individuals presented with a limited selection tend to make more confident and efficient decisions compared to those confronted with overwhelming choices.

(2) Consequently, assisting consumers in navigating the vast expanse of options available online has evolved into a thriving industry on a global scale. Many brands and retailers now employ marketing strategies revolving around the aspects given in the table below :

Aspect	Description
Industry	Helping consumers decide what to buy online.
Marketing tools	Selecting, differentiation and discovery.
Data utilization	Digital advertising, cataloging people by gender, income level, personal interests and more.
Retail Assistance	Algorithms, influencers and ad tech.
Challenge	Choice fatigue due to the overwhelming volume of consumer choices.
Solution	Lifestyle influencers on Instagram providing aspirational content and product recommendations.

(3) For a relatively new breed of consumer product startups, a different approach emerges entirely. Rather than attempting to navigate the existing sea of products, these companies claim to revolutionize conventional consumer choices. Some brands offer limited, functional, mid-priced products, instilling customer confidence and breaking the cycle of consumerism.

(4) The global product abundance could be more equitable. Unfortunately, creators often prioritize wealthier consumers.

(5) For startups promising accessible simplicity, their very structure may eventually lead them back to an overwhelming array of choices. Most of these companies rely on hundreds of millions of dollars in venture capital funding, and their inventors typically expect rapid growth. (Adapted for academic usage)

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Answer the following questions, based on the passage above :

(i) What does the use of the phrase 'a perfect storm of choice', by the writer, in paragraph 1, tell us about their feelings ? **1**

(A) The consumers are elated (B) The consumers are confused
(C) The consumers are confident (D) The consumers are decisive

(ii) Identify the word in paragraph 2, that indicates that the writer feels assisting consumers has become a profitable industry. **1**

(iii) Based on the aspects mentioned in the table, mention the marketing approach that is primarily concerned with understanding consumers based on various factors. **1**

(iv) Complete the following analogy approximately, based on your understanding of the table : **1**
Cataloging people by gender, income level, personal interests etc. is to Data utilization as Algorithms, influencers, and ad tech are to _____.

(v) Which aspect in the table pertains to presenting consumers with carefully selected choices to assist decision-making ? **1**

(A) Challenge (B) Data utilization
(C) Marketing trends (D) Retail assistance

(vi) Based on your understanding, fill the blank with the appropriate option from those given in brackets : **1**
The solution to combat choice fatigue to _____ (follow / employ / recommend) lifestyle influencers on Instagram who provide self-improving content and product references.

(vii) Complete the sentence suitably : **1**
The different approach to revolutionise consumer choices is to _____.

(viii) Complete the following with a suitable reason : **1**
The writer believes that the global product abundance cannot be equitable because _____.

(ix) In the context of the last paragraph though the startups promise simplicity of access, what are the drawbacks of such a structure ? **2**

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Section – B (20 Marks)

Grammar and Creative Writing Skills

Grammar 10 M

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

(i) Read the given sentence from a story. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket : **1**

As I entered the room, the first thing that struck me as odd, was the candle still _____ (burn) on the table. The curtains had been drawn back and the room was bright.

(ii) Identify and correct the error in the sentence taken from the article – 'The Hidden Health Risks of Bread Consumption'. **1**

Health experts worldwide are concerning about the surge in health problems.

Error	Correction

(iii) Complete the given statement, by filling the blank with the correct option. **1**

A mask is used to hide the identity _____ a person.

(A) of (B) for

(C) being (D) at

(iv) Read the following conversation : **1**

Student : Hello. I've come to ask about the English courses you run for international students.

Administrator : Are you a student at the university ?

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

The student greeted and mentioned that she _____ to inquire about the English courses for international students. The administrator enquired if she was a student at the university.

(A) has come (B) has came

(C) had came (D) had come

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(v) Identify the error and supply the correct word in the format given below : **1**

"Embrace change as an opportunity for personal growth and allowed it to improve your life."

Error	Correction

(vi) Report the dialogue between a shopkeeper and Ramesh : **1**

Shopkeeper : What book do you want ?

Ramesh : A reference book for Physics which I can use for my project work.

The shopkeeper asked Ramesh which book did he want. Ramesh replied that _____.

(vii) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete an article published in a science magazine. **1**

There are many inventions of science _____ (those / which / such) have benefitted human beings in many ways.

(viii) Complete the statement made by a career counsellor by filling the blank with the correct option : **1**

In our country, _____ universities offer a range of courses. That's why foreign students prefer Indian universities.

(A) more (B) each

(C) many (D) few

(ix) Report the dialogue between the residents' and the city planner, by completing the sentence : **1**

City planner : "The new park is a result of several months of research and planning."

Residents : "We don't know who is more excited – we or our children !"

The city planner said that the new park _____ of several months of research and planning. The residents expressed their excitement, stating that they were unsure who was more excited – they or their children.

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(x) Choose the correct statement : **1**

(A) He sweared that he had not stolen the bag.

(B) He swore that he had not stolen the bag.

(C) He was swearing that he had not stolen the bag.

(D) He swears that he had not stolen the bag.

(xi) The following is an excerpt from a travelogue : **1**

There is an error in the statement. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction.

Kanyakumari is popular for its beautiful beaches, unique Vivekananda Rock Memorial and stunning sunrise and sunset view.

	Error	Correction
(A)	is	are
(B)	for	of
(C)	and	also
(D)	view	views

(xii) Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct options to conclude the report. **1**

The report concludes that _____ learners have _____ knowledge of astrophysics.

(A) very few / some (B) some / every

(C) every / no (D) no / a lot of

Creative Writing Skills **10 M**

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

4. (a) As a resident of B/66 Mall Road, Guwahati, and a parent of a Grade X student, you are deeply concerned about the declining writing habits among students in today's digital age. This trend significantly impacts their academic performance. **5**

Writing skills require consistent practice, but increased dependence on internet resources has adversely affected children's ability to express themselves effectively through writing.

Write a letter in **100-120** words to the editor of 'The Geo Youth Times' expressing your concern about this issue. Also, suggest measures to emphasize the importance of reading and writing skills in schools. You are Vidhi/Vaibhav.

OR

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(b) You are Anuradha/Ashish, residing at 45, Westwood Street, Nainital. After being inspired by a billboard advertisement for a seaside resort promoting relaxation and rejuvenation, you are interested in planning a family getaway.

Let the waves of the water drench you with the ultimate bliss of being alive ! Book a stay with us and experience the best holiday ever !

Write a letter (**100-120** words) to the Resort manager requesting details about the costs, room options, nearby attractions and available activities. Please include any additional necessary information for planning the trip.

5. (a) The Pros and Cons of using the internet in everyday life are numerous. The internet is like a double-edged sword. Based on the information provided in the table below, write an analytical paragraph on the topic 'Advantages and Disadvantages of the Internet' in not less than **120** words. **5**

Pros and Cons of Internet

Pros	Cons
(1) Connectivity	(1) Data Security
(2) Communication speed and versatile working	(2) Social Isolation
(3) Learning Re-defined	(3) Addiction towards it
(4) Transfer of Data	(4) Plagiarism and copyright

OR

(b) Read the following details :

Students today are becoming victims of cyber-crime and cyber bullying in schools, which is affecting the mental health of students.

Write an analytical paragraph in **120** words on the problems and causes of cyber-crimes.

⇒ Misuse of Information Technology with the intention to trouble others.
⇒ It comes in various forms – hacking, negative comments – spreading rumours
Impact – spoils image, self-doubt, results in insecurities and complexes.
Causes – desire of power, seeking entertainment, escapism, inadequate regulations.

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Section – C (40 Marks)

Literature Textbook 40 M

6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for any **one** of the two given. **5**

(a) It is from these comrades in the struggle that I learned the true meaning of courage. Time and again, I have seen men and women risk and give up their lives for an idea. I have seen men and women stand up to attacks and torture without breaking, showing a strength and resilience that defies the imagination. I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear. (Nelson Mandela : A Long Walk to Freedom)

(i) What effect does the experience as described in the lines below have on the speaker ? **1**

Time and again, I have seen men and women risk their lives for an idea.

(ii) Select one inference about the idea of courage from the given context : **1**

I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it.

(A) being fearless (B) absence of fear

(C) feeding your fears (D) ability to overcome fear

(iii) Answer in about **40** words, with reference to the extract : **2**

According to the author, what does true courage entail ? How does this perspective differ from a common misconception about courage ?

(iv) Fill in the blank with the correct phrase from the bracket in the context of the given extract : **1**

Men stood up to torture showing strength and resilience that is _____ (impossible to understand / seeped in reality).

OR

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(b) There was a fifty rupee note between his fingers. My heart sank. I thought I had been discovered. "I made some money yesterday," he explained. "Now you'll be paid regularly." My spirits rose. But when I took the note, I saw it was still wet from the night's rain. "Today we'll start writing sentences," he said.
He knew. But neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything.

(The Thief's Story)

(i) In the context of the given extract : **1**
What was the feelings UNLIKELY to have been on seeing 'a fifty rupee note between his fingers' ?

(A) joyous (B) sad
(C) unhappy (D) worried

(ii) How does the prospect of being paid regularly affect the narrator's motivation and hope for the future ? **2**
Answer in about **40** words.

(iii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket : **1**
The person spoken about did not let the narrator realise that his act of stealing was caught. It reflects the _____ (nobility / dishonesty) of his character.

(iv) Compare the meanings of the expressions : **1**
"My heart sank", and "My spirits rose".

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for any **ONE** of the given two, given. **5**

(a) My head is full of whispers
which tomorrow will be silent.
Listen. The glass is breaking.
The trees are stumbling forward
into the night. Winds rush to meet them.
The moon is broken like a mirror,
its pieces flash now in the crown
of the tallest oak. (The Trees)

(i) The metaphorical expression used by the poet to describe the movement of the trees is _____. **1**

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(ii) Based on the tone, discuss how Adreinne Rich presents the conflict between man and nature. **2**

(iii) What is the mood or atmosphere conveyed by the imagery in the passage ? **1**

(A) Calm and tranquil (B) Eerie and foreboding

(C) Joyful and celebratory (D) Melancholic and traumatic

(iv) Why would the whispers be silent tomorrow ? **1**

OR

(b) (I am Rapunzel, I have not care; **5**
life in a tower is tranquil and rare;
I'll certainly never let down my bright hair !)
Stop that sulking at once, Amanda !
You're always so moody, Amanda !
Anyone would think that I nagged at you,
Amanda ! (Amanda)

(i) Complete the following suitably :
Amanda sulked and became moody because _____. **1**

(ii) What does the girl constantly yearn for ? What do you pattern about Amanda from the poem ? **2**

(iii) What kind of picture is painted by the poet through the line, "life in a tower is tranquil and rare" ? **1**

(iv) The tone of the speaker in the exclamation "Stop that sulking at once, Amanda !" is **1**

1. uncertain 2. aggressive
3. dominating 4. meek
5. moody

(A) 1, 2, 4 (B) 2 and 3

(C) 2, 4 and 5 (D) 4 and 5

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

(i) What did Buddha say about death and suffering ? Explain this with reference to the story 'A Sermon at Benaras'. (A Sermon at Benaras) **3**

(ii) 'Dust of Snow' highlights the poet's positive attitude towards nature. Comment on how Robert Frost presents the power of nature in his poem. (Dust of Snow) **3**

(iii) Faith is like a ray of hope in a distressful situation. Discuss 'A Letter to God' with reference to Lencho's unflinching faith in God. (A Letter to God) **3**

(iv) Why was the seagull afraid to fly ? Why was the young seagull alone ? (Two Stories about Flying) **3**

(v) The Tiger in the Zoo is denied its natural habitat. Describe its behaviour and routine as a captive in the concrete cell. (A Tiger in the Zoo) **3**

9. Answer any **two** out of the three questions, in about **40-50** words : **2 × 3 = 6**

(i) "The only way was to get Tricky out of the house for a period." Evaluate why James Herriot had planned this in advance and how did he execute this plan at the surgery. (A Triumph of Surgery) **3**

(ii) Considering 'The Necklace' as a tale of dissatisfaction and excessive materialism, analyze Matilda's primary flaw. (The Necklace) **3**

(iii) According to a popular quote – "Kindness is stronger than iron bars." Anil did not hand the thief over to the police. In what way did Anil's act of wisdom and forgiveness transform Hari Singh ? (The Thief's Story) **3**

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

(a) Examine the role of Nature in the poems 'The Dust of Snow' and 'Fog'.

OR

(b) The journeys of Anne Frank and Valli teach us the vital lesson that optimism and self-assurance empower women to rise above circumstances and overcome obstacles. Examine the similarities. (Diary of Anne Frank & Madam Rides the Bus)

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11. Answer any **one** of the following two questions in about **100-120** words.

1 × 6 = 6

(a) Ebright's journey of becoming a leading scientist conveys a strong message to us. His inquisitiveness and competency drove him to become a great scientist. In what manner does Richard Ebright's perseverance, dedication and inquisitiveness inspire you to pursue your dreams ? (The Making of a Scientist)

OR

(b) It is truly said that a good teacher is the light that helps one cross even the darkest of paths through honing their inherent qualities which enable them to shine bright and strong in life. In what ways, does Sulekha's teacher epitomize this saying ? How did she become the pillar of support and strength for Sulekha ? (Bholi)

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