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Series : 1MKLN

SET-2

Q.P. Code 2/1/2

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*

NOTE :

(I) Please check that this question paper contains **15** printed pages.

(II) Please check that this question paper contains **11** questions.

(III) 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.

(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 instructions very carefully and strictly follow them :

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

(ii) *This question paper contains **THREE** sections :*

***Section – A :** Reading Skills*

***Section – B :** Grammar and Creative Writing Skills*

***Section – C :** Literature Text Book*

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

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SECTION – A

READING SKILLS 20 Marks

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

(1) Pancakes, a beloved breakfast dish across the world, has a surprisingly long and diverse history. Archaeological evidence shows that people were cooking pancake as food as far back as 30,000 years ago on hot stones and primitive griddles.

(2) In ancient Greece and Rome, pancakes were made from wheat flour, olive oil, honey, and curdled milk. They were often served as a sweet treat during festivals or special occasions. In medieval Europe, pancakes became a popular dish during Shrove Tuesday, the day before Lent began. In France, thin crepes became a national delicacy, often filled with sweet or savoury ingredients. In Russia, blinis were made using buckwheat flour and served with sour cream or caviar. In Ethiopia, the spongy injera became a staple food, made from teff flour and used as both a plate and utensil. Similarly, in China, pancakes are often savoury while in Japan, fluffy "soufflé pancakes" have become a modern favourite.

(3) The American version of pancakes, thick and soft, gained popularity in the 18th century. The use of baking powder made them light and airy, and they were often served with butter and maple syrup – a symbol of hearty comfort food. Over time, pancakes became a universal dish, symbolizing community and celebration. Whether sweet or savoury, thick or thin, every culture has found a way to adapt this simple food to its own taste and traditions.

(4) India has its own rich tradition of similar dishes that have been enjoyed for centuries. Across the country, almost every region has a version of a pancake – whether sweet or savoury – made from grains, pulses, or rice. These Indian pancakes not only satisfy hunger but also reflect the diversity of India's culinary culture. In South India, dosas and adai are the most famous forms of pancakes. Made from a fermented batter of rice and lentils, dosas are crisp and light, while adai is thicker and more filling. The fermentation process adds a unique sour flavor and makes them nutritious and easy to digest. In Kerala, the appam,

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made with fermented rice batter and coconut milk, is soft in the center and crispy at the edges. Moving north, we find the western style cheela, a simple and wholesome Indian pancake made from gram flour, spiced with onions, chillies and coriander. In Maharashtra, the thalipeeth is a multigrain pancake that uses flours like jowar, bajra and rice mixed with spices and vegetables. It is both flavorful and filling, providing a good balance of carbohydrates and proteins.

(5) In the eastern parts of India, pitha is a traditional pancake made during festivals and special occasions. Varieties like patishapta in Bengal are sweet, filled with coconut and jaggery. In Assam and Odisha, pithas can be steamed, fried, or roasted, depending on the custom and region. In the western deserts of Rajasthan and Gujarat, people prepare chilla and handvo, which are savoury western pancake-like dishes baked in traditional ovens. These pancakes are a blank canvas for toppings, waiting for a splash of fruit or a scattering of condiments.

(6) Today, pancakes continue to evolve with new recipes, from vegan and gluten-free varieties to those infused with fruits, oats, or even protein powder. Despite their many forms, they remain a timeless reminder of how food connects mankind through shared history and creativity. Each pancake tells a story of regional identity, food traditions and a deep love for food that brings people together. Pancakes are warm, edible hugs that are a perfect comfort on a bleak day.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above : **10**

I. In paragraph 1, what does the phrase 'has a surprisingly long and diverse history' mean ? **1**

II. Complete the following with the correct option from the two given :

The uniqueness of the spongy injera, is that _____ . **1**

(A) it is both a savoury and a sweet

(B) it can be used for cooking and also for eating

(Paragraph 2)

III. How are American pancakes made light and fluffy ? When did the American-style pancakes gain popularity ? (Paragraph 3) **2**

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IV. State whether the following statement is True or False :
Every culture has adopted the pancake and tempered it with its own ingredients, flavour and taste. (Paragraph 3) **1**

V. The writer mentions 'fermentation process'. Based on the information given in the passage, which of the following pancakes are made from the fermentation process ? **1**

(A) Dosa and appam
(B) Chilla and thalipeeth
(C) Blinis and soufflé
(D) Pitha and patishapta

VI. Select the option that best explains the phrase about pancakes being, 'a blank canvas' (Paragraph 5) : **1**

(A) Like a painter starts with a blank canvas, a diner can get creative.
(B) Pancakes reflect the 30,000 old lineage of being the first food.

VII. List any two points from the passage that support the statement, 'pancakes are a timeless reminder of how food connects people.' **2**
(Paragraph 6)

VIII. Fill in the blank with the correct option from those given :
In the line 'warm, edible hugs that are a perfect comfort on a bleak day' the phrase 'warm, edible hugs' refers to _____. **1**
(Paragraph 6)

(A) comfort food that provides a sense of emotional security
(B) the pancake that represents the history of the region
(C) the choice of eating hot steaming pancakes
(D) the food that gives you energy

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

(1) Rate of Internet Reach in India : 2014-2024

The rate of internet reach in India rose over 52% in 2024 from about 14% in 2014. Although these figures seem relatively low, it meant that more than half of the population of 1.4 billion people had internet access that year. This also ranked the country second in the world in terms of active internet users.

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(2) Internet availability and accessibility

By 2021 the number of internet connections across the country tripled in urban areas because of a higher density of population leading to an increase in the number of connections. However, despite of incredibly low internet prices, internet usage in India has yet to reach its full potential. Lack of awareness about the internet in India persists, especially in rural areas and among women, driven by digital divide, infrastructure limitations, and a lack of perceived need for the internet. This hinders digital adoption, with many not knowing how to use the internet or even being aware of its existence. Targeted awareness campaigns and digital literacy programs are crucial to bridge this gap and ensure people understand and can benefit from the digital ecosystem.

(3) Digital living

Home to one of the largest bases of netizens in the world, India is abuzz with internet activities being carried out every moment of every day. From information and research to shopping and entertainment to living in smart homes, Indians have welcomed digital living with open arms.

Rate of Internet Reach in India

S. No.	Year	Percentage
1.	2017	24.0
2.	2018	28.5
3.	2019	33.7
4.	2020	43.4
5.	2021	46.3
6.	2022	48.1
7.	2023	51.5
8.	2024	52.4
9.	2025	55.3

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above : **10**

I. What does the use of the term "active internet users" convey ? **1**

(A) Active people who use internet

(B) Active people who use active internet

(C) People who use active internet

(D) People who use internet actively

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II. Select the option that is true for the **Assertion** and **Reason** given below : **1**

Assertion : India is home to one of the largest bases of netizens in the world.

Reason : Lack of awareness and a tangible gender gap lie at the heart of the matter.

(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.

III. Identify the word that indicates that internet reach is 'comparatively' low. (Paragraph 1) **1**

IV. Based on the table which of the following time period illustrates the maximum internet usage ? **1**

(A) 2017 to 2020

(B) 2023 to 2025

(C) 2020 to 2023

(D) 2019 to 2022

V. From the passage identify one reason why there are less internet users among women ? **1**

VI. Fill in the blank with a suitable word given in brackets :

Infrastructure limitations _____ (impedes/spurs) digital adoption. **1**

VII. Complete the following with a suitable reason :

An increase in the number of connections in urban areas is because of _____. **1**

VIII. Which are the two ways to bridge the gap of digital unawareness ? **2**

IX. In the context of the last paragraph how does the author justify the statement, 'Indians have welcomed digital living with open arms'. **1**

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SECTION – B

GRAMMAR AND CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS 20 Marks

GRAMMAR

3. Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed : 10×1 = 10

I. Fill in the blank with correct option to complete a message from Yogita to her friend Shobit :

Dear Shobit,

Let's meet at 5 p.m. for the rehearsal but I need to go home first as I _____ anything since morning. **1**

(A) did not eat

(B) had not eaten

(C) have not eaten

(D) am not eating

II. Read the given sentence from a self-help book. Identify the error and supply the correction in the given format : **1**

To identifying your goal is the biggest step in your success story.

Error	Correction

III. Yamini asked her friend Shifa, " Would you like to come for my birthday party tomorrow ?"

Report Yamini's question correctly. **1**

IV. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete a newspaper clipping :

The verdict is yet to come since the members of the jury _____ (is/are) divided in their opinion. **1**

V. Read Somil's request to his mother :

"Can you teach me to swim ?"

Report Somil's request by completing the following sentence correctly :

Somil asked his mother _____ **1**

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VI. Identify and correct the error in the given line taken from a critical review of a recently staged play :

'As an actor, Ravi Raj, is superior then any other contemporary actor.' **1**

Options	Error	Correction
(A)	an	the
(B)	is	were
(C)	then	to
(D)	other	another

VII. Complete the given line from 'Rules and Regulations' section of a school diary :

Minimum 75% attendance is _____ to appear for the final examinations. **1**

(A) recorded

(B) mandatory

(C) secured

(D) obtained

VIII. Detect the error and supply the correction for the given newspaper report on a proposal by a Member of Advisory Board :

After the meeting it was obvious that most stakeholders would not support _____ proposals. **1**

(A) this
(B) that
(C) the
(D) these

IX. Report the dialogue between a flight attendant and a passenger by filling in the blank :

Attendant : Did you have your dinner, sir ?
Passenger : Yes, thank you!
The flight attendant asked the passenger _____. The passenger replied in affirmation and thanked him. **1**

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X. Select the correct option to complete the given sentence from the memoir of your grandparent :

'When I was the team Captain, I _____ often organise get-togethers to develop bonding among the team mates.' **1**

(A) could
(B) will
(C) shall
(D) would

XI. Complete the given sentence about the reaction of a tourist to another, by selecting the correct option :

Yesterday you loved the spicy Indian curry, _____ you ? **1**

(A) hasn't
(B) weren't
(C) did
(D) didn't

XII. Read the conversation between a professional writer and a school student :

Student : What prompted you to become a professional writer ?

Writer : My childhood library housed books of all kinds. I was fascinated with the compelling stories and wanted to create my own.

Report the student's question. **1**

CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

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

4. Attempt ANY ONE from (A) and (B) given below :

(A) You are Raksha / Rakesh, school Counselor of a leading public school in Pune. In the past few months there has been an increase in the number of children reporting bullying in the school. This is leading to poor mental health and is becoming a matter of grave concern. Write a letter to the Principal highlighting the need to conduct workshops on socio-emotional learning to spread awareness and promote a positive school culture. Suggest that parents can be involved to help and implement such programs. **5**

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OR

(B) You are Sherin / Suresh, an active member of the RWA of Sunshine Colony. You have observed that the community parks are poorly maintained, with broken benches and uneven walking tracks. There are piles of garden waste which have become breeding grounds for mosquitoes and other vermin. Even the pavements and colony roads are full of pot holes leading to accidents and injuries. Write a letter to the editor of a local daily expressing your views on the role of civic authorities in the maintenance of local infrastructure. **5**

5. Attempt ANY ONE from (A) and (B) given below :

(A)

Improvements in sports infrastructure with a focus on multi-purpose sustainable facilities as well as the integration of technology along with a grassroot centric approach is the key to bring Indian athletes on the world stage.

Write an analytical paragraph on the above statement in about **120** words, expressing your views on how improved infrastructure can help Indian athletes win accolades for the nation. **5**

OR

(B) Read the following details about the characteristics of the Indian start-up ecosystem :

1. one of the most vibrant and largest in the world.
2. drives innovation across various fields.
3. brings unique solutions to major challenges both domestic and international.
4. has entered various fields - healthcare, e-commerce, agriculture.
5. supported by funding and government initiatives.

In about **120** words analyse the future of startups in India considering factors that have supported its growth in the country. Focus on aspects of the need, benefits, and support needed for these startups. **5**

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SECTION – C

LITERATURE TEXT BOOK **40 Marks**

6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given :

(A) We have, at last, achieved our political emancipation. We pledge ourselves to liberate all our people from the continuing bondage of poverty, deprivation, suffering, gender and other discrimination. Never, never, and never again shall it be that this beautiful land will again experience the oppression of one by another. The sun shall never set on so glorious a human achievement.

(Nelson Mandela – Long Walk to Freedom)

I. What is the tone Nelson Mandela is UNLIKELY to have used in his speech ? **1**

(A) inspirational

(B) assertive

(C) conflicted

(D) direct

II. According to Mandela, emancipation is not merely political. Elaborate. **2**

III. Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket :

Mandela's speech swings between references to the past and a _____ (bleak/promising) future. **1**

IV. With reference to the extract explain the sentence, "The sun shall never set on so glorious a human achievement." **1**

OR

(B) OOP : I haven't a clue. I've been to seven galaxies, but I've never seen anything like this. Maybe they're hats. (He opens a book and puts it on his head.) Say, maybe this is a haberdashery!

OMEGA : (bowing low) Perhaps the Great and Mighty Think-Tank will give us the benefit of his thought on the matter.

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THINK-TANK : Elementary, my dear Omega. Hold one of the items up so that I may view it closely. (Omega holds a book on the palm of her hand.) Yes, yes, I understand now. Since Earth creatures are always eating, the place in which you find yourselves is undoubtedly a crude refreshment stand.

OMEGA : (to Iota and Oop) He says we're in a refreshment stand.

OOP : Well, the Earthlings certainly have a strange diet.

(The Book that Saved the Earth)

I. "Elementary, my dear Omega." What is Think-Tank's tone in the sentence ? **1**

(A) patronising
(B) admonishing
(C) ironic
(D) sarcastic

II. Why does Omega call Think–Tank great and mighty ? **2**

III. Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket :

After viewing the book closely, Think-Tank concludes that Earth creatures _____ (enjoy/dislike) eating food. **1**

IV. Why does Oop open the book and put it on his head ? **1**

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given :

(A) Some say the world will end in fire some say in ice.
From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favour fire.

(Stanza 1)

But if it had to perish twice,
I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction ice
Is also great
And would suffice. (Fire and Ice)

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I. Complete the following suitably :

According to Robert Frost, fire refers to _____. **1**

II. Why does the poet believe both fire and ice can destroy the world equally ? **2**

III. Fill the blank with one word :

In the line "But if it has to perish twice", 'it' refers to the _____. **1**

IV. Select the option with same rhyme scheme as lines in Stanza 1 : **1**

(A) They are all gone away,
The House is shut and still,
There is nothing more to say.

(B) Tell me not, in mournful numbers,
Life is but an empty dream!
For the soul is dead that slumbers.

(C) The dog chased the ball down the lane,
He ran with such incredible speed,
His tail was a blur, a joyful glee.

(D) The Sun is high,
The clouds drift past,
In the blue sky which is so vast.

OR

(B) Though to distinguish beasts of prey
A novice might nonplus,
The crocodile you always may
Tell from the Hyena thus :
Hyenas come with merry smiles
But if they weep they're crocodiles.

(How to tell Wild Animals)

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I. What is the most likely reason the poet uses the word 'nonplus' instead of confused ? **1**

II. Explain the irony in the last two lines of the stanza. **2**

III. Fill in the blank with one word :
The word 'novice' signifies a/an _____ person. **1**

IV. What kind of atmosphere is created through these lines ?

Select the correct option :

1. humorous 2. mysterious 3. aggressive
4. confusing 5. fearful **1**

Options :

(A) 1 and 4
(B) Only 5
(C) 1, 2 and 3
(D) 4 and 5

8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words each : 4×3 = 12

I. Explain the irony in Lencho blaming the postmaster for stealing money. (A Letter to God)

II. Support with textual evidence that the poem 'The Trees' symbolises emotion and exhaustion.

III. Explain with examples, why the poet uses allusions in the poem 'Amanda'.

IV. Describe the physical appearance of Mijbil, the Otter. (Mijbil the Otter)

V. During her journey, Valli absorbed the natural beauty and clapped her hands in happiness on seeing a young cow running very fast. What does this reveal about Valli. (Madam Rides the Bus)

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9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words each : **2×3 = 6**

I. Describe the role of the 'balcony' in the story 'The Midnight Visitor'.

II. Explain why Anil chose to overlook the breach of trust in spite of being aware of it. (The Thief's Story)

III. Who did the teacher compare herself with when she sees the transformed version of Bholi ? Why did she feel so ? (Bholi)

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words :

I. Examine the similarities and differences between the tiger in "A Tiger in the Zoo" and the dragon in "The Tale of Custard the Dragon". **6**

II. "The Sermon at Benaras" and "For Anne Gregory", deal with the themes of 'love' and 'life'. Discuss. **6**

11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words :

I. Evaluate how "A Triumph of Surgery" is a lesson in thoughtful parenting. **6**

II. Evaluate how "The Necklace" critiques the obsession with appearances and social status. **6**

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