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Series : MLNK5 SET~2

Q.P. Code 2/5/2

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) 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 **11** 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.

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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) Forests are often called the lungs of the Earth, and in India, they are an integral part of the country's ecological, economic, and cultural fabric. They regulate temperatures and help keep the air clean. Covering about 21.71% of India's geographical area, forests play a pivotal role in sustaining biodiversity, regulating climate, and supporting the livelihoods of millions of people. However, these verdant expanses face numerous challenges, raising important questions about conservation, sustainable development, and policy priorities.

(2) India's forests are incredibly diverse, ranging from the lush tropical rain forests to the alpine vegetation of the Himalayas. This diversity is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna, many of which are endemic or endangered, such as the Bengal tiger, Indian elephant, and Nilgiri Tahr. Forests also provide critical ecosystem services like water conservation, soil fertility, and carbon sequestration, which are essential in combating climate change.

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(3) Economically, forests contribute significantly through timber, medicinal plants and Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) like honey and bamboo. They are also central to the lives of tribal communities who depend on them for sustenance and cultural practices. However, this dependence brings to light the complex relationship between human development and forest preservation.

(4) Is it possible to achieve economic growth without degrading forest resources ? The pressures on India's forests are immense. Rapid urbanization, industrial expansion, mining, and agricultural encroachment have led to significant deforestation. According to recent reports, India lost around 66,000 hectares of forest cover between 2019 and 2021. This loss not only threatens biodiversity but also exacerbates climate-related challenges such as rising temperatures and erratic rainfall.

(5) Policy measures like the Forest Conservation Act of 1980 and initiatives such as Compensatory Afforestation and Van Mahotsav (Forest Festival) reflect efforts to preserve and expand forest areas. However, critics argue that these measures often fail to address ground realities. For instance, afforestation projects may involve planting monoculture species that disrupt ecosystems rather than restore natural biodiversity. Similarly, conflicts arise when policies overlook the rights of indigenous communities, leading to displacement and social tensions. India's forests are a microcosm of the global struggle to balance development with conservation.

(6) Solutions lie in adopting sustainable practices, such as agroforestry, eco-tourism, and community-based conservation models. Empowering local communities to act as custodians of forests ensures both their livelihoods and the health of forest ecosystems. Moreover, raising awareness about the importance of forests can inspire collective action at all levels.

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Answer the following questions, based on the passage above :

(i) In paragraph 1, what does the phrase 'Lungs of the Earth' refer to with reference to the passage ? **1**

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

Forests play a significant role in sustaining biodiversity by _____

(a) balancing climate change and creating livelihoods for people.

(b) Providing wood for fuel and industries worldwide. (Para 1) **1**

(iiii) Support the writer's idea that forests provide critical ecosystem services with textual evidence. (Para 2) **2**

(iv) What do the recent statistics on deforestation reveal about the state of India's forests ? **1**

(A) Deforestation has decreased significantly.

(B) Forest loss has been stabilized.

(C) Forest cover is rapidly declining.

(D) There is no significant impact on forest cover. (Para 4)

(v) Select the concept that best reflects the complex relationship between human development and preservation. (Para 3) **1**

(a) Rapid urbanization has led to widespread deforestation depriving flora and fauna of its natural habitat.

(b) The introduction of initiatives like Van Mahotsav serve as compensatory afforestation.

(vi) State whether the following statement is true or false : **1**

Deforestation is one of the reasons for erratic rainfall. (Para 4)

(vii) List one challenge that critics see in compensatory afforestation measures. (Para 5) **1**

(viii) How do community-based conservation models benefit both forests and local communities ? (Para 6) **2**

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2. Read the following passage carefully : **10 M**

The Rise of Electric Vehicles in India :

(1) Electric Vehicles (EVs) are gaining significant traction globally. In India, the push for EVs is driven by concerns over air pollution, rising fuel costs and government's commitment to reducing carbon emissions. The Indian Government has set ambitious targets for EV adoption, aiming for 30% of private cars, 70% of commercial vehicles, and 80% of two wheelers and three-wheelers to be electric by 2030.

(2) The benefits of EVs extend beyond environmental impact :
Lower running cost due to cheaper electricity, reduce maintenance because of fewer moving parts, and lowers noise pollution in urban areas.

(3) Despite the promising outlook, the EV industry in India faces several challenges currently. While public charging stations are slowly increasing, their availability, especially in semi-urban and rural areas, remains a bottleneck. The initial high purchase cost of EVs and concerns about range or the fear of running out of charge are other causes of anxiety.

(4) To overcome these hurdles, the government is offering subsidies and tax benefits to make EVs more affordable. Private companies are investing in developing new EV models with improved battery technology for longer ranges and battery swapping technology is also being explored as a quick alternative to traditional charging.

(5) The Indian EV market is witnessing rapid growth, with sales figures steadily climbing. In 2023, India recorded sales of over 1.5 million EVs, a significant jump from previous years. Two-wheelers dominated the sales, followed by three-wheelers and then passenger cars. States like Maharashtra, Delhi, and Karnataka have emerged as leaders in EV adoption, largely due to supportive state policies and greater awareness among consumers.

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Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(i) Electric vehicles offer multiple benefits in India.
Support the above statement in 40 words with evidence from the text. **2**

(ii) Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below : **1**
Assertion : EVs are gaining traction in India.
Reason : The Indian government is committed to reducing carbon emissions.

(A) Both the assertion and reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the 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) Justify the following statement : **1**
Despite governmental support, the initial cost of EVs remains a challenge for consumers.

(iv) Complete the following with one suitable reason from the text : **1**
The silent operation of EVs contributes to better urban living because _____.

(v) "In 2023, India recorded sales of over 1.5 million EVs, a significant jump from previous years."
State any one inference that can be drawn from the above statement. **1**

(vi) According to the passage, what is 'range anxiety' in the context of electric vehicles ? **1**

(vii) Based on the given text, which type of EV dominated sales in India in 2023 ? **1**

(viii) Complete the sentence suitably : **1**
To address the challenge of charging infrastructure, various initiatives are being undertaken, such as _____.

(ix) Give one reason to support why the adoption of EVs is slow in some parts of India. **1**

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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 :

(i) A manager wrote a report to his seniors about his team. Fill in the blank with the correct option to complete the report :

By the end of this quarter, the assistant manager _____ on this campaign for eight months. **1**

(A) will be working (B) will have been working

(C) will have working (D) would have been working

(ii) Read the given sentence from a sales report. Identify the error and supply the correction in the given format : **1**

Being checked all the figures twice, she was sure there were no errors.

Error	Correction

(iii) Read the conversation between the store supervisor and the salesman : **1**

Supervisor : "Did you switch off all the lights before leaving office yesterday ?"

Salesman – "Yes, I did and I also handed over the keys to the night supervisor."

A store supervisor asked the salesman whether he had switched off all the lights before leaving the office the day before.

The salesman confirmed _____.

Report the salesman's response.

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(iv) A school Principal addressed Board aspirants and said : **1**

"_____ candidates must carry their identification proof."

Fill in the blank with the appropriate option :

(A) Each (B) All

(C) Every (D) One

(v) Isha said to her parents, "My mentor will always guide me, even after this programme ends." **1**

Report what Isha said to her parents.

(vi) Find the error in the following sentence and supply the correction : **1**

I was disappointed to see that in the library there was less books on the subject than expected.

Error	Correction

(vii) Fill in the blank with correct option : **1**

My friends _____ the movie tickets before we even reached the ticket counter.

(A) has collected (B) had collected

(C) collect (D) will collect

(viii) Select the correct option to complete the given sentence from a recipe book for students : **1**

After stirring the cocoa into the melted butter, you _____ add the eggs one at a time before adding the flour.

(A) would (B) might

(C) may (D) must

(ix) Report the following sentence by a customer : **1**

"Did you double-check the address before dispatching the washing machine ?"

(x) Complete the following sentence by choosing the correct option : **1**

If we had consulted the engineer, we _____ this mistake.

(A) would avoid (B) will avoid

(C) would have avoided (D) had avoided

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(xi) Complete the following newspaper report by filling in the blank : **1**

The number of road accidents _____ increased this year.

(A) have (B) are

(C) has (D) were

(xii) The speaker in conversation with a group of ministers said, **1**

"I feel reassured after hearing your opinions."

What did the speaker say to the ministers ?

Creative Writing Skills **10 M**

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 :

(A) You are Neha/Nitin Verma, a senior teacher at Pragati International School. **5**

Write a letter to the editor of a leading daily showing your concern over the rising misuse of artificial intelligence tools by students today. Share your thoughts on how there is loss of critical thinking skills, erosion of creativity, and academic dishonesty among children. This trend needs to be checked and children be made aware of the responsible use of AI and how AI should be integrated within the education system itself.

OR

(B) Recently, there has been a series of chain snatchings in your colony due to poor street lighting. These incidents have raised issues of safety and security, making residents feel unsafe, increasing risk of accidents and providing cover for criminal activity. You are Radha / Rakesh. Write a letter to the Municipal Commissioner drawing attention to the non-functioning street lights. You may also request for repair of existing non-functional lights and installation of new ones. **5**

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5. Attempt any **one** from (A) and (B) given below :

(A) The data given below shows how teenagers spend their daily screen time across different digital activities. **5**

S. No.	Digital Activities	Percentage
1.	Social media	35
2.	Watching videos / streaming	30
3.	Gaming	20
4.	Online learning	10
5.	Others (browsing, reading news, etc.,)	5

Analyse the data provided and write a paragraph analyzing how teenagers allocate their daily screen time.

Focus on the activity that occupies the largest proportion of time and on other major and minor activities in descending order, and on the balance between entertainment and educational screen use. Conclude with an observation about the overall trend.

OR

(B) Read the given details of a community library designed for your neighbourhood : **5**

- A well lit and ventilated reading lounge.
- A digital section with computers, tablets and e-books.
- A dedicated children's corner with picture books and storytelling sessions.
- A quiet study area with desk lamps and soundproof partitions for students.
- Outdoor reading space under trees for senior citizens.
- Book-sharing stands where people can donate and borrow books freely.

Analyse the details and write an analytical paragraph in about **120** words about the suitability of this library.

Focus on factors such as accessibility, reading environment, suitability for different age groups, and community engagement.

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Section – C

Literature (40 Marks)

6. Read the given extract and answer any **one** of the following questions (A) and (B) given below : **5**

(A) Ausable did not fit any description of a secret agent Fowler had ever read. Following him down the musty corridor of the gloomy French hotel where Ausable had a room, Fowler felt let down. It was a small room, on the sixth and top floor and scarcely a setting for a romantic adventure. Ausable was, for one thing, fat, very fat. And then there was his accent. Though he spoke French and German passably, he had never altogether lost the American accent he had brought to Paris from Boston twenty years ago. "You are disappointed," Ausable said wheezily over his shoulder. *(The Midnight Visitor)*

(i) Which of the following describes how Fowler felt on seeing Ausable for the first time ? **1**

(A) excited and happy

(B) indifferent and disgusted

(C) surprised and disappointed

(D) envious and in awe

(ii) How did the hotel's atmosphere influence Fowler's mood ? **2**

(iii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket : **1**

Ausable's reaction on seeing how Fowler felt shows that he was _____. (observant/ embarrassed)

(iv) In what way does Ausable defy the typical spy image ? **1**

OR

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(B) "I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die".

(Nelson Mandela : Long Walk to Freedom)

(i) What is the main ideal Mandela is talking about ? **1**

(A) economic prosperity (B) representative and free society

(C) absolute power (D) finishing racism

(ii) How does the statement reflect Mandela's commitment to justice ? (Answer in about 40 words) **2**

(iii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket : **1**

Nelson's vision was not simply to reverse the oppression but to end it completely as he wishes to _____ (fight / appease) all forms of domination in which all persons live with equal opportunities.

(iv) The phrase "prepared to die" shows Mandela's : **1**

(A) anxiety (B) desperation

(C) passion (D) uprightness

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any **one** of the two (A) and (B) : **5**

(A) What, what is the boy now
who has lost his ball.
What, what is he to do.
I saw it go
Merrily bouncing, down the street and then Merrily over – there it is in the water !"
No use to say 'O there are other balls'.

(The Ball Poem by John Berryman)

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(i) What does the repetition of the word "merrily" suggest in the context of the ball's movement ? **1**

(ii) How does this moment contrast the mood of the poem before and after the ball falls into the water ? (Answer in about 40 words) **2**

(iii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket : **1**

The poet uses the ball as a symbol of the boy's _____. (childhood/adventure)

(iv) The line, 'No use to say, oh there are other balls' signifies : **1**

(A) Words of consolation are inappropriate.

(B) The boy must be left alone and play with other toys.

(C) The boy should not be left alone.

(D) No ball will be as expensive as the one the boy has lost.

OR

(B) "All night the roots work
To disengage themselves from the cracks
in the veranda floor. The leaves strain towards the glass
small twigs stiff with exertion
long-cramped boughs shuffling
under the roof
like newly discharged patients
half dazed, moving to the clinic doors *(Trees)*

(i) What do the roots work upon all night ? **1**

(ii) Each part of the trees works to get itself free. Describe their struggle.

(answer in about 40 words) **2**

(iii) Fill the blank with one word. **1**

The long branches are compared to _____.

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(iv) The phrase 'half-dazed' is used for the branches as they adjust from being indoors to being in the open. It highlights the branches' : **1**

(A) disorientation and fragility

(B) experience and privilege

(C) hurt and injury

(D) barrenness and pain

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

(i) In 'From the Diary of Anne Frank', how does Anne's relationship with her diary help her cope with isolation and the fear of hiding ? **3**

(ii) In 'Fire and Ice', how does the poet use extreme symbols to warn against self-destructive emotions ? **3**

(iii) In 'Two Stories About Flying – Part I', how does the young seagull's hesitation reflect a universal human fear ? How is it eventually overcome ? **3**

(iv) While arguing with Lomov, Natalya always emerged the winner. Justify. *(The Proposal)* **3**

(v) In 'Glimpses of India – Part I (Goa)', how is the baker portrayed as a symbol of cultural nostalgia and changing times ? **3**

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

(i) How did education change Bholi's personality ? *(Bholi)* **3**

(ii) Richard Ebright's mother gifted him a book which became the turning point in his life. Discuss. *(Making of a Scientist)* **3**

(iii) Had Anil really forgiven Hari Singh ? Support your answer with evidence from the text. *(The Thief's Story)* **3**

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

(A) How does Lencho's faith in God, as shown in 'A Letter to God' contrast with the skepticism of Kisa Gotami in 'Sermon at Benares'. Support your answer with details from the two texts. **6**

OR

(B) Analyse how Amanda in the poem 'Amanda' and the dragon in the poem 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' yearn for acceptance and a life free from criticism. **6**

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

(A) In 'The Necklace', Madam Loisel spends years repaying a debt for a necklace that was never valuable. How does this irony expose the illusion of wealth and the consequences of chasing appearances ? **6**

OR

(B) In 'The Book That Saved the Earth', how does the play use humour and irony to comment on both futuristic technology and human assumptions ? What message do you think the author conveys through the Martians' misinterpretation of a nursery rhyme ? **6**

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