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Series S4PRQ

SET-2

Q.P. Code **1/4/2**

Roll No. | | | | | | | | |

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

[ ]

NOTE

(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.

ENGLISH (Core)

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

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) Looking at his pile of unpaid bills always makes Ramesh feel uneasy. More often than not, Ramesh leaves his paperwork undone and sweeps the floor or watches TV instead, waiting until the last moment to write the monthly cheques. Sometimes he incurs late fees because of his habit of putting things off, but in many ways the emotional toll is worse. "The longer the bills go unpaid," says Ramesh, 58, "the more my anxiety soars."

(2) Everyone procrastinates. "It's part of the human condition," says Suresh Kumar, a psychology professor at Universal University. "One of the ways we cope is avoidance, and that's what procrastination comes down to. We want to feel good at that moment. The way to do that is avoid the task."

(3) You can procrastinate on nearly anything, even enjoyable tasks such as planning a vacation. "Some people procrastinate cleaning. Some people procrastinate by cleaning," says Dr. B.V. Rao, a management professor. Research has shown that the top tasks people delay are cleaning, advancing their careers, taking care of their health, and planning their finances.

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(4) One big factor for them is fear of failure, of not living up to expectations. Arti Singh, a 57-year-old functional health coach, procrastinated about looking for a new job for years. That inability to take action only confirmed her belief that she would never do any better. Some people embrace procrastination, believing that they thrive under pressure. But researchers have debunked that notion. "I did an experiment several years ago, putting procrastinators under restriction of time," says John Brown, a psychology professor. "They did worse than non-procrastinators, but they thought they did better. They made more errors. They took longer."

(5) "Procrastinators experience higher levels of stress, both from leaving things to the last minute and from their own negative and self-critical feelings about their procrastination," says Farah Ahmed, a psychology lecturer. "Some of the research has shown that this stress increases their vulnerability for catching colds and experiencing digestion issues, insomnia, migraines, and muscle tension."

(6) Bedtime procrastination can lead to sleep deprivation, which in turn can bring about obesity, heart disease and many other health issues. There's one bit of good news: People tend to procrastinate less as they age.

(7) For those of us in need of motivation, the best advice might be to think small. Next, try sending yourself signals to prompt action. For instance, you might put your lights on a timed dimmer switch to encourage a consistent bedtime. Finally, reward yourself for each step you take towards your goal. After you've gone to the gym, take a relaxing bath. After you've paid the bills, watch your favourite TV show.

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Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(i) How, according to paragraph 1, is Ramesh penalised for his habit of procrastinating ? *1*

(ii) Explain with two suitable reasons, man's tendency to procrastinate. *2*

(iii) In paragraph 3, what does "Some people procrastinate cleaning. Some people procrastinate by cleaning." convey ? *1*

(iv) How does John Brown, the professor of psychology, prove the claim of procrastinators wrong ? (Paragraph 4) *1*

(v) Complete the analogy with one word from paragraph 4 : *1*

incompetency : inability : : discredit : _____

(A) failure (B) debunk

(C) embrace (D) confirm

(vi) What lesson do you learn from Arti Singh's experience ? (Paragraph 4) *1*

(A) Procrastination offers job security.

(B) People work better under pressure.

(C) Procrastination saves one from failure.

(D) Procrastination leads one to underestimate his or her own ability.

(vii) Give textual evidence to bring out the adverse impact of bedtime procrastination. (Paragraph 6) *2*

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(viii) 'There's one bit of good news.' (Paragraph 6)

'good news' here, refers to : *1*

(A) procrastination safeguards one's comfort.

(B) nothing to feel bad about procrastination as everyone does it.

(C) tendency to procrastinate reduces with age.

(D) procrastinators experience less stress.

(ix) What inference do you get from the expression 'to think small' in paragraph 7 ? *1*

(A) narrow thinking

(B) breaking down larger tasks

(C) to avoid bigger tasks

(D) taking small breaks

(x) How can rewarding oneself help procrastinators ? (Paragraph 7) *1*

2. Read the following passage carefully : *10*

(1) **Introduction :** Biodiversity refers to the wide variety of living organisms — plants, animals, and microorganisms — that exist on Earth. India is one of the 17 megadiverse countries in the world, with ecosystems ranging from the Himalayas to the coastal regions. Biodiversity ensures food, medicine, oxygen, soil fertility, and balance in the environment. However, it is under serious threat due to deforestation, overpopulation, industrial pollution, and climate change.

(2) **Methodology :** This case study is based on data collected from government reports, field surveys, and interviews with farmers, students, and forest workers. Researchers focused on biodiversity in forests, rivers, and agricultural land to understand its importance and the challenges of conservation.

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(3) **Survey Examination :** A survey was carried out in three states — Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, and Assam. Local people were asked how biodiversity affected their lives. Farmers reported that many crops were failing due to climate change. Students recognized that forests are essential for clean air and water. Forest workers shared that several species like elephants and tigers are decreasing in number. The survey revealed both awareness and concern among people about the urgent need for conservation.

(4) **Results :** The findings showed that :

- forest cover has declined in several regions.
- endangered species are at risk of extinction.
- communities are directly affected by reduced rainfall, poor soil quality, and crop loss.
- people believe that conservation programmes and stricter laws are urgently required.

(5) **Implications for Interventions :** To protect biodiversity, the government should increase afforestation programmes and create strict rules against illegal hunting and logging. Schools should promote biodiversity education to raise awareness among children. Farmers should be encouraged to use organic farming, water conservation, and mixed cropping. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local communities must work together to restore forests, rivers, and wetlands.

(6) **Conclusion :** Biodiversity is the foundation of human survival. It gives us food, medicine, water, and clean air. If biodiversity is destroyed, humans will also suffer. This case study highlights the urgent need for conservation efforts in India. Only by working together — governments, communities, and individuals — can we protect biodiversity and ensure a healthy future for generations to come.

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Answer the following questions, based on the given passage.

(i) Complete the following suitably :

India is one of the _____ countries in the world. (Paragraph 1) *1*

(ii) Which would the following be classified as ?

Researchers focused on biodiversity in forests, rivers, and agricultural land to understand its importance and the challenges of conservation. *1*

(A) Primary purpose (B) Secondary objective

(C) Method of analysis (D) Research outcome

(Paragraph 2)

(iii) Give two points to support how biodiversity affects forest workers and farmers. (Paragraph 3) *2*

(iv) Based on the case study, analyse areas that have revealed urgent need for awareness and conservation. (Paragraph 3) *1*

(v) Paragraph 5 uses words like 'afforestation' and 'awareness'. Classify the following sentences as 'afforestation' and 'awareness'. *1*

Statement 1 : Local communities must work together to restore forests, rivers, and wetlands.

Statement 2 : Schools must promote biodiversity education.

(vi) Identify the stakeholders who should come together to create a healthy future for generations to come. (Paragraph 6) *1*

(vii) In what way is biodiversity the foundation of human survival ? *1*

(Paragraph 6)

(viii) Mention two eco-friendly farming methods in India from the passage. *2*

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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) The Resident Welfare Association (RWA), High-rise Colony, Roopgarh, is planning to organize park clean-up weekends. As Saloni/Suresh Joshi, President of the RWA, draft a notice inviting residents to join in this community venture. Include necessary details. Put your notice in a box.

OR

(b) Gram Shakti School, is organizing a book cover design competition for students of classes VI – VIII. As President of the Book Reading Club, draft a notice informing the students about the competition and submit their names for participation. Include necessary details. You are Reema/Rohit. Put your notice in a box.

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

(a) You are the Principal of G.K.S. Public School, Suryashahar. Your school is planning to organize its Annual Theatre Festival. Draft a formal invitation card to be sent to parents, inviting them for the event. Include necessary details.

OR

(b) You are Kiran/Keshav Kumar, scientist at ISRO. You are invited to be a key speaker in the science symposium to be held at S.V.M. College, Badalnagar. Write a formal reply accepting the invitation.

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

(a) You are Dr. Shilpa/Shyam Sundar of G.T. Road, Akashpur. You strongly feel that teenagers today suffer from lack of concentration, mood swings, and poor academic performance due to sleep deprivation. As a concerned doctor, write a letter to the editor of a national daily expressing your concern on the impact of sleep deprivation on youngsters and suggest remedies. You may use the following cues along with your own ideas to compose the letter.

Causes	**Remedies**
• increasing screen time	• consistent bedtime routine
• academic stress/anxiety	• reduce screen time
• poor sleep habits	• avoid coffee, tea intake
• poor diet	• indulge in physical activity

OR

(b) You are Nilesh/Neetu Bhasin of Church Road, Panigarh. You have recently come across an advertisement for the post of Primary Teacher. Write an application along with your bio-data.

ADARSH VIDYALAYA, Panigarh

Requires

Primary Teacher

Qualification : Diploma in Elementary Education or Graduation with B.Ed.

Experience : 1 – 3 years

Skills : Proficiency in communication skills, classroom management, lesson planning, student assessment.

Apply to the Principal, Adarsh Vidyalaya, Panigarh.

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

(a) You are Varsha/Veer of Class XII. You have observed that healthcare systems in rural areas face a lot of challenges such as infrastructure and limited resources. Write an article expressing your concern and suggesting ways to improve the situation. You may use the following cues along with your own ideas to compose the article.

Challenges :	• Workforce shortage
	• Financial constraints
	• Lack of awareness
Solutions :	• Improve public funding
	• Volunteer professionals
	• Community-based health education

OR

(b) You are Surina/Somesh. Your school recently conducted an Inter-House Folk Dance Competition. Write a comprehensive report of the event including details like date, venue, number of participants, felicitation, etc. and the overall impact of the event on the school community. You may organize your report by using the following cues.

Who – What – When – Where – Why – How

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SECTION C

Literature (40 marks)

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

(a) 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 heaven's brink.

(A Thing of Beauty)

(i) "All lovely tales that we have heard or read."

What is the idea conveyed by Keats in the above expression ? *1*

(A) stories glorify martyrs' deaths
(B) reading expands one's horizon
(C) death is inevitable
(D) eternity of art and literature

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

The 'mighty dead' refers to _____ (cowardly/heroic) death.

(iii) Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract. *1*

Assertion : Keats compares tales of the mighty dead to the endless fountain of immortal drink.

Reason : The tales have the power to build our stamina and fight with our adversaries.

Choose the correct option :

(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 false, but the reason is true.
(D) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.

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(iv) Complete the following suitably : *1*

In the poem, Keats uses the word 'brink' in the above extract to suggest _____.

(v) What is common between 'grandeur of the dooms' and 'lovely tales' ? *1*

(vi) How can the message in the extract be applied to mitigate stress in today's times ? *1*

OR

(b) The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.
When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.
The tigers in the panel that she made
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.

(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

(i) 'Wedding band' in the above extract symbolises : *1*

(A) freedom

(B) togetherness

(C) oppression

(D) understanding

(ii) Complete the following suitably : *1*

'Ordeals' in the above extract refers to _____.

(iii) How is the situation of the tigers in the panel different from that of Aunt Jennifer's ? *1*

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(iv) Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract : *1*

Assertion : Aunt Jennifer embroidered tigers in the panel.

Reason : Aunt Jennifer expressed her desire to be free and fearless through her art.

Choose the correct option :

(A) Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is ***not*** the correct explanation of the assertion.

(B) Both the assertion and the reason are true and the reason is 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.

(v) Select the phrase that suggests that art does not perish. *1*

(vi) In the given extract, Aunt Jennifer is a victim of a _____ (patriarchal/matriarchal) society. *1*

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

(a) Some fifty rings arrived. The Maharaja sent the whole lot to the British officer's good lady. The king and the minister expected the *duraisani* to choose one or two rings and send the rest back. Within no time at all the *duraisani* sent her reply: 'Thank you very much for your gifts.'

In two days a bill for three lakh of rupees came from the British jewellers. The Maharaja was happy that though he had lost three lakh of rupees, he had managed to retain his kingdom.

(The Tiger King)

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(i) Why did the king order a set of fifty rings ? *1*

(ii) Identify one trait of the Maharaja revealed in the above extract. *1*

(A) careless (B) irresponsible

(C) loyal (D) manipulative

(iii) In the extract, how does the author bring out the paradox 'gain through loss' ? *1*

(iv) Complete the following suitably :
The king's expectations were not met when the *duraisani* _____. *1*

OR

(b) At the stamp and coin store I go to, I found out that Sam bought eight hundred dollars' worth of old-style currency. That ought to set him up in a nice little hay, feed and grain business; he always said that's what he really wished he could do, and he certainly can't go back to his old business. Not in Galesburg, Illinois, in 1894. His old business? Why, Sam was my psychiatrist.

(The Third Level)

(i) Complete the following suitably :
Sam bought old-style currency because _____. *1*

(ii) Select the suitable option to complete the following : *1*

Sam in his "old business" was a :

(A) farmer (B) psychiatrist

(C) carpenter (D) consultant

(iii) What inference do we get about the life in Galesburg in 1894 ? *1*

(iv) How might the understanding of life in 1894 help us in living a better life in these stressful times ? *1*

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

(a) "I am thinking of this stranger here," said the young girl. "He walks and walks the whole year long, and there is probably not a single place in the whole country where he is welcome and can feel at home. Wherever he turns he is chased away. Always he is afraid of being arrested and cross-examined. I should like to have him enjoy a day of peace with us here — just one in the whole year."

The ironmaster mumbled something in his beard. He could not bring himself to oppose her.

(The Rattrap)

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

The attitude of the girl towards the stranger is _____. (compassionate/contemptuous)

(ii) Select the textual option that is closest to indicating a sense of homelessness. *1*

(A) I am thinking of this stranger here

(B) wherever he turns he is chased away

(C) he is afraid of being arrested

(D) could not bring himself to oppose her

(iii) What does the following line from the extract highlight about the stranger's life ? *1*

"I should like to have him enjoy a day of peace with us here."

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(iv) The expression 'cross-examined' in the above extract suggests that the stranger : *1*

(A) walks across the village.

(B) often undergoes interrogation.

(C) looks untidy.

(D) fights with people in the village.

(v) Complete the following suitably : *1*

The young girl keeps thinking about the stranger because she is moved by _____.

(vi) Why was the ironmaster not able to oppose her ? *1*

OR

(b) She wished she could be admitted more deeply into her brother's affections and that someday he might take her with him. Though their father forbade it and Geoff had never expressed an opinion, she knew he thought her too young. And she was impatient. She was conscious of a vast world out there waiting for her and she knew instinctively that she would feel as at home there as in the city which had always been her home. It expectantly awaited her arrival. She saw herself riding there behind Geoff.

(Going Places)

(i) '...their father forbade it.' What does 'it' refer to ? *1*

(A) opening a new boutique

(B) going to school

(C) having a ride with Geoff

(D) meeting Danny Casey

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(ii) What was she impatient about ? *1*

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

She longs to earn her brother's trust as _____.

(iv) Pick up one sentence from the extract to show that she sensed a big world beyond her current life that was beckoning her. *1*

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

Geoff did not take her too seriously because _____.

(vi) What inference do we get about her father's character from the above extract ? *1*

(A) strict and conventional

(B) friendly and liberal

(C) adaptable and non-interfering

(D) sensitive and serious

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

(i) Why does the poet describe the 'exotic moment' as 'strange' ?
(Keeping Quiet)

(ii) Gandhi felt that the surrender of part of the money to the peasants by the landlords was significant. Explain. (Indigo)

(iii) Subbu was tailormade for films. Justify the statement with reference to the story 'Poets and Pancakes'.

(iv) Having looked at the mother, why does the poet look at the 'merry children' ? (My Mother at Sixty-six)

(v) What is the belief in some primitive cultures about being photographed ? (The Interview)

(vi) Why does the poet describe the trees as 'sprinting' as she drives past ?
(My Mother at Sixty-six)

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

(i) How has man's dominance over nature led to environmental degradation as described in 'Journey to the end of the Earth' ?

(ii) Zitkala-Sa felt like sinking to the floor when she saw the way the Indian girls were dressed. Explain. (Memories of Childhood)

(iii) 'It's got nothing to do with my face and what I look like.'

How do the above words of Derry reflect his changed perspective towards life ? (On The Face Of It)

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

(a) Analyse the theme of poverty and exploitation as reflected in 'Lost Spring' and 'A Roadside Stand'.

OR

(b) Lack of realisation and the casual attitude of the people of Alsace led to the loss of their mother tongue. In contrast, Douglas's understanding of his fear of water and its impact urged him to overcome his handicap and emerge as a successful person. Analyse 'The Last Lesson' and 'Deep Water' in the light of the above comparison.

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

(a) Education enables one to rise above narrow prejudices. Analyse the character of Dr. Sadao in the light of the above statement.

(The Enemy)

OR

(b) Mr. Lamb's influence on Derry, saved Derry from his life of frustration and alienation. Substantiate the above statement, citing evidences from the text 'On The Face Of It'.

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