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Series : ZX7YW

Set – 1

Q.P. Code	1/7/1

Roll No.

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

ENGLISH (Core)

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

- 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 **13** 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. #

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.

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SECTION A

Reading Skills (22 marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully : *12*

(1) In the heart of a bustling city, amidst the cacophony of traffic and the incessant buzz of urban life, there lies a sanctuary of tranquility — a sprawling public park that offers a respite from the daily grind. This park, with its verdant lawns and serene water features, attracts visitors from all walks of life, seeking solace and rejuvenation.

(2) A public park is an area of open space owned and maintained by the local government, providing recreational opportunities for citizens. Public parks are places of leisure integrated into the community and are generally considered safe places. They provide essential environmental, aesthetic, and recreational benefits to our cities.

(3) As the sun rises, joggers and fitness enthusiasts can be seen navigating the winding paths, their faces set with determination. Meanwhile, yoga practitioners find their own quiet corners, their movements graceful and meditative. The air is filled with the chirping of birds and the rustling of leaves, creating a natural symphony that soothes the soul.

(4) By midday, the park transforms into a lively gathering spot. Families spread out picnic blankets, sharing meals and laughter, while children chase each other across the grass, their joyous shouts echoing through the trees. Elderly couples sit on benches, reminiscing about days gone by as they watch the world go by.

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(5) As dusk approaches, the park takes on a magical quality. The setting sun casts a golden hue over the landscape, and the water features glisten in the fading light. Street performers and musicians add to the enchantment, drawing crowds with their captivating acts. The park, now aglow with lanterns, becomes a haven for stargazers and dreamers alike.

(6) In this urban oasis, people find a connection with nature and one another, a reminder that amidst the chaos of modern life, moments of peace and tranquility are still within reach. Especially in cities, parks encourage native flora and fauna to thrive.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(i) Why does the writer refer to the park as a 'sanctuary of tranquility' in paragraph (1) ? *1*

(ii) Why is it important for governments to set up public parks ? *1*

(iii) According to the passage, what activities can be observed in the park during the early morning hours ? *1*

(iv) Describe the transformation of the park by midday. *1*

(v) Complete the following suitably. *1*

The park at dusk is described as taking on a magical quality because of _____.

(A) the setting sun casting a golden hue and water features glistening

(B) the bustling activities of joggers and fitness enthusiasts

(C) the lively gathering of families and children playing

(D) the quiet solitude and meditation of yoga practitioners

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(vi) Provide one textual evidence with reference to paragraph (4) to prove the following : *1*

Elderly couples feel a sense of nostalgia.

(vii) In the line "The park, now aglow with lanterns, becomes a haven for stargazers and dreamers alike," what does the phrase 'haven for stargazers and dreamers' refer to ? (Paragraph 5) *2*

(viii) Complete the analogy with one word from paragraph (6). *1*

urban life : chaos : : park : _____

(A) connection

(B) reminder

(C) tranquility

(D) oasis

(ix) Why is it fair to say that the statement "In this urban oasis, people find a connection with nature and one another" from paragraph (6) is significant ? *1*

(A) It highlights the park's role in promoting physical activities.

(B) It emphasizes the park's importance as a social and natural retreat.

(C) It mocks the idea of nature within a bustling city.

(D) It underplays the park's significance in modern life.

(x) Assess the potential benefits of an urban park. *2*

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2. Read the following passage carefully : *10*

(1) **Introduction** : As the world grapples with climate change, renewable energy has emerged as a crucial solution. This case study aims to analyze the increasing use of renewable energy in India, its adoption across different sectors, and the implications for society and the environment.

(2) **Methodology** : A survey was conducted among households, businesses, and industries across various regions in India. Participants were asked about their primary source of energy (traditional fossil fuels or renewable energy) and the reasons for their preferences. The data was then analyzed to identify trends and patterns among different demographics and sectors.

(3) **Survey Examination** : The survey encompassed a comprehensive examination of energy consumption habits, not only focusing on the preferred sources of energy but also delving into the underlying motivations and influences guiding these choices. Beyond mere preference, participants were encouraged to articulate the reasons behind their selections, providing invaluable insights into the multifaceted nature of energy consumption.

(4) **Results** : The survey results revealed interesting insights into the energy preferences among different groups :

S. No.	Demographic Preferences	%	Preferred Source	Reasons for Preference
1.	Households	62%	Renewable	Environmental concerns, cost savings, government incentives
2.	Small Businesses	55%	Renewable	Cost efficiency, public image, sustainability
3.	Large Industries	48%	Renewable	Long-term savings, corporate responsibility compliance
4.	Rural Areas	71%	Renewable	Accessibility, reliability, local employment opportunities
5.	Urban Areas	58%	Renewable	Environmental awareness, incentives, modern infrastructure

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(5) **Implications for Interventions** : By discerning the diverse preferences among different demographics, policymakers, and energy providers, one can tailor interventions to address specific needs. For instance, increasing government incentives and subsidies for renewable energy can encourage more households and businesses to adopt sustainable practices. Concurrently, efforts to improve the infrastructure for renewable energy can enhance its reliability and accessibility. By harnessing the insights gleaned from this study, stakeholders can collaboratively work towards building a cleaner and more sustainable future for generations to come.

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage.

(i) Complete the following suitably : *1*

In the introduction, the researcher links climate change with the rise of renewable energy by highlighting _____.

(ii) What would the following be classified as ?

To examine energy preferences across various demographics in detail, and assess their implications. *1*

Select the appropriate response :

(A) Primary purpose

(B) Method of analysis

(C) Secondary objective

(D) Research outcome

(iii) Mention the two steps adopted in the survey methodology. *2*

(iv) Paragraph (3) includes the words – 'motivations' and 'influences'. Classify the following sentences as influence or motivation. *1*

Sentence 1 : Government incentives lead households to prefer renewable energy over traditional fossil fuels.

Sentence 2 : The desire for long-term savings makes large industries choose renewable energy.

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(v) Read the following text : *1*

Rajan, a rural household head, prefers using solar panels for energy due to their reliability and the local employment opportunities they provide. His neighbour, Rama, a small business owner, values renewable energy for its cost efficiency and sustainability. Meanwhile Suresh, who runs a large industry, opts for renewable energy due to corporate responsibility and compliance with regulations.

Select the option that identifies the correct demographic they belong to.

(A) Rajan – household worker; Rama – small business owner; Suresh – large industry owner

(B) Rajan – rural employee; Rama – urban worker; Suresh – household head

(C) Rajan – rural household head; Rama – small business owner; Suresh – large industry owner

(D) Rajan – urban worker; Rama – large industry owner; Suresh – rural worker

(vi) Although both rural and urban areas prefer renewable energy, why is the preference percentage higher among rural areas ? *1*

(vii) Analyse how targeted interventions based on diverse energy preferences of different demographics can lead to improved environmental outcomes. (Paragraph (5)) *2*

(viii) What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders, based on the insights from the study ? *1*

(A) increase profitability through enhanced renewable infrastructure

(B) build a sustainable future

(C) reduce the cost of energy

(D) expand the range of renewable energy products available

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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) Your school is celebrating its Annual Awards Function. As the school counsellor, write a notice for the school notice board informing students about the details of the programme, asking them to submit their achievement forms for selection of awardees. Include necessary details. Put your notice in a box.

OR

(b) Your school will be conducting the annual 'Student Council Elections'. As school Director, write a notice informing students of the same. Remember to include eligibility, last date of form submission and details of the election procedure. Put your notice in a box.

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

(a) As activity incharge of your school, draft an invitation card in not more than 50 words inviting parents and students to the school career fair (for students of Class XI and XII). Mention a compelling highlight of the event along with necessary details.

OR

(b) An invitation had been issued by Leena/Lokesh Kapoor, the HR Head of your company, inviting you to a workshop on diversity and inclusion. As Rajni/Rakesh Sharma, senior analyst, draft a reply in not more than 50 words, consenting to attend.

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

(a) Write a letter to the editor of a local daily about the significance of voting and encouraging young people to participate in elections. Also suggest the importance of making informed decisions. You may use some of the given cues along with your own ideas to draft the letter. You are Ragini/Raghu, a responsible citizen, residing at M-5, View Nagar, Vayupur.

- Youth population – a substantial vote bank
- Future stakeholders
- Youth – agents of change
- Creates responsible and informed youth
- Strengthens democracy
- Citizen duty and responsibility – an appeal

OR

(b) You are Shanti/Satwik from, 375/P-I, Rasalpur, Bahutnagar. You came across the following advertisement for the post of a dance teacher in a reputed public school. Write an application for the position advertised along with your bio-data.

SUNSHINE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Requires qualified and experienced

Dance Teacher for Junior classes

Responsibilities

- Teach students from classes 6 – 10
- Choreograph performances for school events

Qualifications

- Degree in Performing Arts
- Skilled in both classical and contemporary forms of dance
- Good communicator, student-friendly, creative and innovative.

Contact : The Director, Sunshine Public School, 14 A Michael Road, Bahutnagar

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

(a) You are Suman/Sharman, a Class XII student. Write an article for the school magazine exploring the importance of digital literacy for Indian youth. Provide examples to illustrate your points. You may use the following cues along with your own suggestions.

- Influence of advancements in technology on education and employment opportunities for today's youth.
- Enhancement of digital skills – a necessity.
- Challenges faced by youth in achieving digital literacy.
- Impact of digital literacy on future career prospects.
- Suggestion : Educational institutions should promote digital literacy, create internship opportunities.

OR

(b) You are Radha/Rahul Batheja, a Class XII student and a member of the school magazine editorial board. Write a comprehensive report detailing the activities undertaken by students as part of Environment Awareness Week, including description of the event, participation details, and overall impact of these activities 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) : *1×6=6*

(a) If we were not so single-minded
about keeping our lives moving,
and for once could do nothing,
perhaps a huge silence
might interrupt this sadness
of never understanding ourselves
and of threatening ourselves with
death.

(Keeping Quiet)

(i) Select the phrase from the above extract that suggests the following :
The ceaseless activity in our daily life. *1*

(ii) What does the imagery of 'single-mindedness' ***not*** represent in the given extract ? *1*
(A) flexibility
(B) unwavering determination
(C) dedication
(D) persistent efforts

(iii) Complete the following suitably : *1*
In the line, 'might interrupt this sadness', the phrase 'this sadness' refers to _____.

(iv) The poet has used phrases like 'never understanding ourselves' to illustrate the _____ (irony/humour) in continuous movement without reflection. *1*

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

Assertion : The poet emphasizes the need for productive silence and reflection.

Reason : Purposeless continuous movement leads to sadness and existential threats.

Choose the correct option from the following :

(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.

(vi) State in one sentence, what advice you would give to people who are always busy. *1*

OR

(b) For simple sheep; and such are daffodils
With the green world they live in; and clear rills
That for themselves a cooling covert make
'Gainst the hot season; the mid forest brake,
Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms;
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 the heaven's brink.

(A Thing of Beauty)

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(i) Select the phrase that suggests the following :
The small streams make a shelter for themselves. *1*

(ii) What does the phrase 'An endless fountain of immortal drink, Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink" ***not*** imply in the extract ? *1*

(A) unlimited beauty
(B) eternal inspiration
(C) finite resources
(D) everlasting joy

(iii) Complete the following suitably :
In the line, 'the grandeur of the dooms', the word 'dooms' refers to _____. *1*

(iv) The poet has used phrases like 'mighty dead' to illustrate the _____ (irony/satire) in the lasting impact of beauty and heroism. *1*

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

Assertion : The poet views beauty as a finite source of inspiration.

Reason : Natural elements and tales of heroism provide a continuous flow of joy and inspiration.

Choose the correct option regarding their relationship :

(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.

(vi) State in one sentence, what message you would give to those seeking inspiration from nature. *1*

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

(a) My journey began 13·09 degrees north of the Equator in Madras, and involved crossing nine time zones, six checkpoints, three bodies of water, and at least as many ecospheres.

By the time I actually set foot on the Antarctic continent I had been travelling over 100 hours in combination of a car, an aeroplane, and a ship; so, my first emotion on facing Antarctica's expansive white landscape and uninterrupted blue horizon was relief, followed up with an immediate and profound wonder.

(Journey to the end of the Earth)

(i) Complete the following suitably. *1*

The passage suggests that the author's journey to Antarctica was _____.

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

The author highlights the numerous challenges and difficulties to emphasise the _____ (remoteness/proximity) of Antarctica.

(iii) How does the mention of crossing multiple time zones, checkpoints and bodies of water impact the writer ? *1*

(A) is excited by the adventure of travel

(B) feels indifferent towards the journey

(C) is surprised by the number of obstacles

(D) feels overwhelmed by the logistical challenges

(iv) How does the description of the journey reflect the author's initial emotions upon arriving in Antarctica ? *1*

OR

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(b) At another time he was in danger of losing his throne. A high-ranking British officer visited Pratibandapuram. He was very fond of hunting tigers. And fonder of being photographed with the tigers he had shot. As usual, he wished to hunt tigers in Pratibandapuram. But the Maharaja was firm in his resolve. He refused permission. "I can organise any other hunt. You may go on a boar hunt. You may conduct a mouse hunt. We are ready for a mosquito hunt. But tiger hunt! That's impossible!"

(The Tiger King)

(i) Complete the following suitably.

The passage suggests that the Maharaja was in danger of losing his throne because _____. *1*

(ii) What phrase in the above passage indicates that the Maharaja was a determined man who stuck to his decision ? *1*

(iii) By saying 'that's impossible', the Maharaja in the above passage means _____. *1*

(A) he will not give up his throne

(B) that the British officer cannot go on a tiger hunt in his kingdom

(C) he would pass a law which forbade hunting of boars

(D) that the Maharaja would accompany the officer on a tiger hunt

(iv) List any one characteristic of the Maharaja as demonstrated in the above passage. *1*

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

(a) The make-up room had the look of a hair-cutting salon with lights at all angles around half a dozen large mirrors. They were all incandescent lights, so you can imagine the fiery misery of those subjected to make-up. The make-up department was first headed by a Bengali who became too big for a studio and left. He was succeeded by a Maharashtrian who was assisted by a Dharwar Kannadiga, an Andhra, a Madras Indian Christian, an Anglo-Burmese and the usual local Tamils. All this shows that there was a great deal of national integration long before A.I.R. and Doordarshan began broadcasting programmes on national integration. This gang of nationally integrated make-up men could turn any decent-looking person into a hideous crimson hued monster with the help of truck-loads of pancake and a number of other locally made potions and lotions.

(Poets and Pancakes)

(i) Why does the author compare the make-up room to a salon ? *1*

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

The term 'crimson hued monster' refers to the make-up applied to actors to make them look ugly so that they look _____ (beautiful/terrified) on screen.

(iii) Complete the following sentence appropriately. *1*

The make-up team's ability to transform actors reveals two things about their skills :

First, their _____ and second, their use of _____.

(iv) Give textual evidence to prove that the make-up team reflected national integration. *1*

(v) Explain the phrase 'fiery misery' with reference to the given extract. *1*

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(vi) What does the following line from the extract showcase ? *1*

"With the help of truck-loads of pancake and a number of other locally made potions and lotions."

(A) creativity

(B) normalcy

(C) exaggeration

(D) simplicity

OR

(b) So it is hardly surprising that opinions of the interview — of its functions, methods and merits — vary considerably. Some might make quite extravagant claims for it as being, in its highest form, a source of truth, and, in its practice, an art. Others, usually celebrities who see themselves as its victims, might despise the interview as an unwarranted intrusion into their lives, or feel that it somehow diminishes them.

(The Interview)

(i) What does the author mean by the phrase 'extravagant claims' ? *1*

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

The phrase 'hardly surprising' indicates that the writer is _____ (taken aback/unsurprised) at the varied opinions of the interview.

(iii) Complete the following sentence suitably. *1*

The people have diverse opinions about an interview. Some consider it _____, while others _____.

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(iv) What does the phrase 'unwarranted intrusion' illustrate about an interview ? *1*

'... might despise the interview as an unwarranted intrusion into their lives.'

(A) celebration

(B) confession

(C) invitation

(D) interference

(v) Select the textual option that is closest to indicating a feeling of deep dislike : *1*

(A) celebrities see themselves as victims

(B) extravagant claims

(C) despise the interview

(D) vary considerably

(vi) Why do celebrities feel that interviews 'diminish' them ? *1*

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

(i) What is the complaint of the country folk against the 'party in power' ? (A Roadside Stand)

(ii) Why did Sophie dream of having a boutique after leaving school ? (Going Places)

(iii) Why is the Englishman's visit referred to as an unexplained mystery ? (Poets and Pancakes)

(iv) Why did Gandhi agree to a settlement of 25% refund to the farmers ? (Indigo)

(v) Explain why Umberto Eco said, "I started writing novels by accident." (The Interview)

(vi) How would humanity benefit if people maintained silence ? (Keeping Quiet)

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

(i) How did the Maharaja's harmless wooden tiger lead to his death ? (The Tiger King)

(ii) Why were the servants not in favour of Sadao's decision to keep the American prisoner of war in their house ? (The Enemy)

(iii) What, according to the psychiatrist, was Charley's problem ? (The Third Level)

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

(a) Analyse how freedom is curbed in the context of Franz in 'The Last Lesson' and Saheb in 'Lost Spring'.

OR

(b) Illustrate how symbols and images in the poems, 'My Mother at Sixty-six' and 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' enhance the reader's understanding of the characters' experiences and emotional landscapes.

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

(a) Compare and contrast the characters of Mr Lamb and Derry in the play 'On The Face Of It'.

OR

(b) Untouchability is not only a crime, it is inhuman too. Why and how does Bama decide to fight against it ? (Memories of Childhood)

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