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Series : ZYWX5

Set – 1

Q.P. Code	1/5/1

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 recent years, air pollution has emerged as one of the most pressing environmental and public health issues in India. Cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru often record Air Quality Indices (AQI) that fall into the 'hazardous' category, posing several health risks to their inhabitants. The thick blanket of smog that shrouds these urban areas is composed of harmful pollutants such as particulate material (PM 2·5 and PM 10), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and sulphur dioxide (SO_2). These pollutants originate from various sources including vehicular emissions, industrial activities and construction dust.

(2) The constant emission of pollutants from vehicles, industrial activities and construction works exacerbate the problem. Residents of these cities are often seen wearing masks and using air purifiers in a desperate attempt to mitigate the effects of polluted air. The 'urban haze' not only affects physical health but also impacts mental well-being. Studies indicate that prolonged exposure to high pollution levels can lead to respiratory issues, such as cardiovascular diseases and even cognitive decline.

(3) Furthermore, children and the elderly are the most vulnerable groups. Children, with their developing respiratory systems, and the elderly, often with pre-existing health conditions face the brunt of this environmental crisis. Schools frequently shut down during peak pollution periods, disrupting education and daily life. The economic cost of air pollution is staggering, with increased healthcare expenses and lost labour productivity. Businesses also suffer as employees' health issues lead to increased absenteeism and decreased efficiency.

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(4) Government initiatives, such as the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) aim at reducing air pollution levels across the country. However, these measures require robust implementation and public cooperation to be effective. Simple actions like reducing vehicle use, promoting public transportation and adopting cleaner technologies can significantly alleviate the situation. Additionally, the enforcement of stricter emission norms for industries and vehicles is crucial. Public awareness campaigns can play a pivotal role in encouraging others to adopt environmentally friendly practices.

(5) The role of technology in combating air pollution is also noteworthy. Innovative solutions such as air quality monitoring systems, green buildings and electric vehicles are gaining attraction. These technologies not only help in reducing pollution but also promote sustainable development. Urban planning that incorporates green spaces can also mitigate the effects of pollution by improving air quality and providing residents with a healthier living environment.

(6) As we navigate this challenge, it is imperative to remember that the solution lies not just in policy changes but also in the behavioural shifts of individuals. Embracing a lifestyle that prioritizes environmental health will pave the way for a cleaner, healthier India. Collective efforts and sustained commitments are crucial for ensuring breathable air for future generations. It is a shared responsibility that requires action from every segment of society from policy makers to ordinary citizens.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(i) According to paragraph (1), what components make up the 'urban haze' that envelops Indian cities ? *1*

(ii) The writer refers to air pollution as a 'public health issue' in paragraph (1) because : *1*

(A) it is a threat to the physical well-being of the people.

(B) it disrupts the daily activities of urban inhabitants.

(C) it leads to the closure of schools during peak pollution periods.

(D) it disrupts industrial activities and construction works.

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(iii) Complete the analogy with one word from paragraph (2). *1*

blanket : cover : : extended : _____

(A) composed

(B) attempted

(C) declined

(D) prolonged

(iv) Complete the following sentence suitably (Paragraph (2)) : *1*

'The prolonged exposure to high pollution levels leads to cognitive decline' indicates that it impacts _____.

(A) mental health

(B) economic development

(C) respiratory functions

(D) mobility

(v) Provide one textual evidence with reference to paragraph (3), to prove the following :

"Children and the elderly are the most vulnerable groups affected by air pollution." *1*

(vi) Complete the following suitably with one advantage with reference to paragraph (4) : *1*

Implementing stricter emission norms for vehicles can help to _____.

(vii) Assess the potential challenges and benefits of promoting public transportation as a solution to air pollution, as outlined in paragraph (4). *2*

(viii) What is the significance of urban planning in mitigating air pollution according to paragraph (5) ? *1*

(ix) How does technology help in resolving the problem of air pollution ? *1*

(x) Why does the author say that just the policy change is not the solution ? *2*

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2. Read the following passage carefully : *10*

(1) **Introduction :** In the digital age, social media has become an integral part of daily life, profoundly affecting how individuals interact and perceive the world. This case study aims to analyze the impact of social media on the mental health of different age groups in Indian society and explore the implications for overall well-being.

(2) **Methodology :** A survey was conducted among individuals across various age groups, ranging from teenagers to seniors, to determine their social media usage patterns. Participants were asked to indicate the amount of time they spend on social media platforms and describe their feelings and experiences related to its use. The data was then analyzed to identify trends and patterns among different age demographics.

(3) **Survey Examination :** The survey encompassed a comprehensive examination of social media habits, including not only the frequency and duration of usage but also the emotional and psychological effects of social media engagement. Participants were encouraged to articulate their experiences, providing invaluable insights into the multifaceted nature of social media's impact on mental health.

(4) **Results :** The survey results revealed interesting insights into social media usage and its effects on mental health among different age groups. Teenagers are deeply entrenched in exploring their self image and forming their identity. They are heavily reliant on their peer relationships and are vulnerable to the social aspects of online platforms to connect with friends and share experiences. As a result, their usage is higher that of other age groups.

S.No.	Age group	%	Average daily usage (hours)	Reported effects
1.	Teenagers	72	3.5	Anxiety, peer pressure, cyberbullying
2.	Young Adults	68	3.0	Stress, depression, Fear of Missing Out (FOMO)
3.	Middle-aged	54	2.0	Information overload, sleep disturbance
4.	Seniors	32	1.5	Loneliness, sense of connection, digital fatigue

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(5) **Implications for Interventions :** By discerning the diverse effects of social media among different age groups, policy makers and mental health practitioners can tailor interventions to address specific demographic needs, e.g., educational campaigns aimed at teenagers could empower them to navigate social media more responsibly, while support groups for seniors can enhance their digital literacy and reduce feelings of loneliness.

(6) **Conclusion :** The survey outcomes serve as a roadmap for designing targeted interventions that not only cater to diverse demographic needs but also promote mental well-being. By harnessing the insights gleaned from this study, stakeholders can collaboratively work towards building healthier online communities and promoting sustainable digital practices for generations to come.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(i) Complete the following suitably :

In the introduction, the researches link the digital age with the impact of social media on mental health to highlight _____. *1*

(ii) Choose the correct option :

To examine social media usage patterns across various age groups in detail and assess the mental health implications will be classified as : *1*

(A) Primary purpose

(B) Method of analysis

(C) Secondary purpose

(D) Research outcome

(iii) Give two points to support why it is likely that social media usage was a key factor in the study on mental health. *2*

(iv) Paragraph (3) includes the words – 'emotional and psychological'. Classify the following sentences as 'emotional' or 'psychological'. *1*

(A) Educational campaigns aimed at teenagers could empower them to navigate social media more responsibly.

(B) Support groups for seniors can enhance their digital literacy and reduce feelings of loneliness.

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(v) Read the following text : *1*

Rahul has a tendency to spend late night hours engaging in social media to avoid missing out on latest updates on different events. His friend, Rajneesh spends many hours on social media due to peer pressure whereas their close friend, Dr. Sharma uses social media to stay connected with his near and dear ones.

Select the option that identifies the correct demographic Rahul, Rajneesh and Dr. Sharma belong to :

(A) Rahul – middle-aged, Rajneesh – young adult, Dr. Sharma – teenager.

(B) Rahul – young adult, Rajneesh – middle-aged, Dr. Sharma – senior.

(C) Rahul – middle-aged, Rajneesh – young adult, Dr. Sharma – senior.

(D) Rahul – young adult, Rajneesh – teenager, Dr. Sharma – senior.

(vi) Why is the average daily usage of social media highest among teenagers ? *1*

(vii) According to paragraph (5), analyze how targeted interventions based on the diverse effects of social media on different age groups can lead to improved mental health outcomes. *2*

(viii) Select the appropriate response :

What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders, based on the insight from the study ? *1*

(A) increase profitability through enhanced social media marketing.

(B) build healthier online communities.

(C) reduce the cost of healthcare services.

(D) expand the range of available social media platforms.

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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 planning to conduct an inter-school science symposium. As the Head of the school cultural committee, write a notice to inform all students about the event, date, time and venue, with participation details and deadlines, contact information, etc. Put your notice in a box.

OR

(b) The Trips and Treks Department of your school is planning a week-long trip to Rajasthan for the students of class IX during the autumn holidays. Write a notice to inform students about the trip details. Include excursion dates, cost, and last date of payment. 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 Rubaya/Roopesh Khan, the Principal of St. Rose School, Bhagirath Lane, Uttarbagh. You want to add a new wing to your school building. Write a formal invitation inviting guests to a cultural evening aimed at raising funds. Mention a compelling highlight of the programme along with other necessary details.

OR

(b) An invitation has been issued by Mr. Rajan, your School Principal inviting you to the graduation ceremony of the outgoing class 12 students. Draft a formal letter in not more than 50 words, consenting to attend the same. You are Paulina/Peter of 14, ABC Lane, Greencity.

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

(a) Write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper expressing your concerns about the increasing "Pollution levels in your city". You are an environmentalist, Radha/Rakesh, 46, Peak Colony, Haranagar. You may use the following cues along with your own ideas :

- Current pollution levels – reasons
- Impact on health and environment
- Urgent need for action
- Suggestions for reducing pollution
- Request for raising public awareness

OR

(b) You are Monika Gupta/Piyush Gupta residing at 57/A, R Street, Morbagh. You read the following advertisement and wish to apply for the job of Content Writer. Write the job application along with your bio-data.

XYZ Media House
requires
Qualified and Experienced
Content Writer

Job Profile

- Write a wide variety of topics for multiple platforms (website blogs, articles, social updates, etc.)
- Use creative skills to help build a following for a brand on social media.
- Create eye-catching and innovative headlines

Minimum 5 years experience, Graduate in
Journalism, Computer proficiency

Contact : The Director
XYZ Media House,
Madhapur
Morbagh

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

(a) Write an article exploring the importance of mental health awareness among Indian youth, providing examples to illustrate your points. You are Neha/Nitin Kapoor, a class XII student. You may use the cues given below along with your own ideas.

- How have social media and peer pressure influenced mental health in today's youth ?
- What are the challenges in addressing mental health issues ? (Lack of resources and awareness)
- What are the benefits of mental health awareness for young people ?
- Suggest ways in which young people and institutions can work together to promote mental health awareness.

OR

(b) Write a comprehensive report detailing the activities undertaken by students as part of the World Environment Day celebrations. Describe the events, give participation details and mention the overall impact of these activities on the school community. You are Ranjana/Rajan, a student of class XII and a member of the school magazine editorial board.

You may organise 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) Those who prepare green wars,
wars with gas, wars with fire,
victory with no survivors,
would put on clean clothes
and walk about with their
brothers
in the shade, doing nothing.

(Keeping Quiet)

(i) Select the line/s that suggests the following : *1*

The so-called victors of the wars are indifferent to the consequences of their actions.

(ii) What does the imagery of 'green wars' ***not*** represent in the given extract ? *1*

(A) environmental conflict
(B) harmful destruction
(C) sustainable peace
(D) continuous deforestation

(iii) Complete the following suitably.

"Would put on clean clothes ?"

'Clean clothes' here refers to _____. *1*

(iv) Choose a word from the brackets to complete the following suitably :

Phrases like 'victory with no survivors' illustrate the _____ (irony/satire) in the situation where those claiming victory actually achieve nothing of true value. *1*

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(v) Read the Assertion and the Reason below with reference to the given context. *1*

Assertion : The poet criticizes the superficial actions of those involved in conflicts.

Reason : The actions described are meant to highlight the futility and destructiveness of wars.

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 true, but the reason is false.

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

(vi) What is the message that you would give to the warmongers, based on the given extract ? *1*

OR

(b) A thing of beauty is a joy forever

Its loveliness increases, it will never

Pass into nothingness; but will keep

A bower quiet for us, and a sleep

Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.

(A Thing of Beauty)

(i) Which of the above lines suggests that 'the enduring nature of beauty brings everlasting joy ?' *1*

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(ii) The phrase 'A bower quiet for us' does ***not*** imply : *1*

(A) A restful place

(B) A noisy surrounding

(C) Peace and calm

(D) Shelter and protection

(iii) In the line 'Its loveliness increases', the word 'its' refers to _____. *1*

(iv) Choose a word from the brackets to complete the following suitably :

The phrase 'joy forever' implies that the essence of beauty is a source of _____ (eternal/transient) peace and happiness. *1*

(v) Read the following statements : *1*

Assertion : The poet believes that beauty provides everlasting joy and comfort.

Reason : Beauty creates an environment conducive to health and well-being.

Choose the correct option from among the following :

(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 you would include in your address to those who seek beauty. *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 Antarctic experience was full of such epiphanies, but the best occurred just short of the Antarctic Circle at 65.55 degrees south. The *Shokalskiy* had managed to wedge herself into a thick white stretch of ice between the peninsula and Tadpole Island which was preventing us from going any further. The Captain decided we were going to turn around and head back north, but before we did, we were all instructed to climb down the gangplank and walk on the ocean. So there we were, all 52 of us, kitted out in Gore-Tex and glares, walking on a stark whiteness that seemed to spread out forever. Underneath our feet was a metre-thick ice pack, ... In the periphery Crabeater seals were stretching and sunning themselves .... much like stray dogs .... It was nothing short of a revelation.

(Journey to the end of the Earth)

(i) Complete the following suitably. *1*

The passage suggests that the author's Antarctic experience was _____.

(ii) Choose the correct option :

The *Shokalskiy* was wedged in a thick stretch of ice. As a result the captain _____. *1*

(A) felt frustrated by the obstacles

(B) decided to surge ahead

(C) remained there till the ice melted

(D) decided to turn around

(iii) What did the Captain instruct the team to do ? *1*

(iv) Why does the writer describe what happens as an epiphany ? *1*

OR

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(b) It was celebration time for all the tigers inhabiting Pratibandapuram.

The State banned tiger hunting by anyone except the Maharaja. A proclamation was issued to the effect that if anyone dared to fling so much as a stone at a tiger, all his wealth and property would be confiscated.

The Maharaja vowed he would attend to all other matters only after killing the hundred tigers. Initially the king seemed well set to realise his ambition.

(The Tiger King)

(i) Complete the following suitably : *1*
It was celebration time for all the tigers because _____.

(ii) What strategy does the king use to ensure that he hunts all the tigers ? *1*

(iii) The king's 'vow' indicates that he is a _____ man. *1*
(A) resilient
(B) determined
(C) generous
(D) cautious

(iv) What were the consequences of going against the king's proclamation ? *1*

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

(a) At last, around four in the afternoon, the poet (or the editor) arrived. He was a tall man, very English, very serious and of course very unknown to all of us. Battling with half a dozen pedestal fans on the shooting stage, The Boss read out a long speech. It was obvious that he too knew precious little about the poet (or the editor). The speech was all in the most general terms but here and there it was peppered with words like 'freedom' and 'democracy'. Then the poet spoke. He couldn't have addressed a more dazed and silent audience — no one knew what he was talking about and his accent defeated any attempt to understand what he was saying.

(Poets and Pancakes)

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(i) Give a brief description of the editor. *1*

(ii) The Boss's long speech and the visitor's serious demeanour indicates _____. *1*

(iii) The poet addressed _____ (a puzzled/an enthusiastic) audience. *1*

(iv) What, added as a last straw, made the poet's speech difficult to understand ? *1*

(v) Select the textual option that is closest to indicating a sense of unfamiliarity about the poet (or the editor). *1*

(A) He was a tall man, very English.

(B) Battling with half a dozen pedestal fans on the shooting stage.

(C) Very serious and of course very unknown to all of us.

(D) The Boss read out a long speech.

(vi) Why was the speech by The Boss in 'most general terms' ? *1*

OR

(b) Umberto Eco : Aah, now that is more difficult to explain. I have some philosophical interests and I pursue them through my academic work and my novels. Even my books for children are about non-violence and peace...you see, the same bunch of ethical, philosophical interests.

And then I have a secret. Did you know what will happen if you eliminate the empty spaces from the universe, eliminate the empty spaces in all the atoms ? The universe will become as big as my fist.

(The Interview)

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(i) Complete the following suitably : *1*

Eco suggests that his books for children also share his ethical interest because they are about _____ (violence/peace).

(ii) Complete the following suitably :

Umberto Eco's philosophical interests are _____ in his academic work and novels, making them interconnected. *1*

(iii) Select the textual option that is closest to indicating how his philosophical interests are represented. *1*

(A) Aah, now that is more difficult to explain.

(B) I have a secret.

(C) I pursue them through my academic work and my novels.

(D) The universe will become as big as my fist.

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

"The same bunch of ethical, philosophical interests".

(A) separation

(B) interconnectedness

(C) isolation

(D) division

(v) "I work in empty spaces." Choose the option that most accurately captures Eco's idea of empty spaces. *1*

(A) management of time

(B) integration of work

(C) management of space

(D) tasks of a writer

(vi) What according to Umberto Eco will happen if all the empty spaces are eliminated from the universe ? *1*

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

(i) Comment on the contrast brought out in the poem 'A Roadside Stand'.

(ii) How does Sophie plan to get the kind of money she wanted for her boutique ? (Going Places)

(iii) Why was Kothamangalam Subbu considered No. 2 in Gemini Studios ? (Poets and Pancakes)

(iv) Why is Rajkumar Shukla described as being resolute ? (Indigo)

(v) Bring out Umberto Eco's humility and modesty as evident in 'The Interview'.

(vi) How is beauty seen in the 'grandeur of the dooms' ?

(A Thing of Beauty)

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

(i) Why does Charley say, "He (Sam) certainly can't go back to his old business" ? (The Third Level)

(ii) What could be the reason for the disintegration of Gondwana ?

(Journey to the end of the Earth)

(iii) What did the hunters decide to do when they realized that the tiger was not dead ? (The Tiger King)

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

(a) Both the poems, 'My Mother at Sixty-six' and 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers,' delve into experiences of life. How do these poems bring out the internal conflict in each of the women ?

OR

(b) How do the stories 'The Last Lesson' by Alphonse Daudet and 'Lost Spring' by Anees Jung illustrate the impact of socio-political factors on education ?

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

(a) The author vividly describes the trauma of Zitkala-Sa and Bama in 'Memories of Childhood'. Support with examples from the texts, to illustrate the prejudices that were present in society.

OR

(b) How did Dr. Sadao plan the American prisoner's escape ?

(The Enemy)

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