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Series : EFGH/S

Set – 2

Q.P. Code	2/S/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***

- Please check that this question paper contains **15** 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 **11** 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 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*

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

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SECTION A

Reading Skills *20 marks*

1. Read the following passage carefully : *10*

(1) On a Sunday full of possibilities, I'm confused by too many choices. I unlock my phone and innumerable choices pour : movies, music, podcasts, games, and this truly perplexes me. Amidst my indecision, a dust-ridden copy of 'The Bell Jar' falls from the bookshelf. My guilt finds respite in the puddle of addictive videos online.

(2) In a hyperconnected world, books are left to age pale yellow. Reading is seen by the newer generations as mundane. Though the benefits of reading are common knowledge, the privilege of choice overpowers. Many publishers and bookstores have now shut down.

(3) 'The blast of the digital' has made everything catering to shrinking attention spans, with overwhelming choices from online poetry to captions to tweets. The reading fabric of Gen Z is brief. They are reading rapidly and recklessly. Reading for sole bliss seems to be a thing of the past. Though digital reading might be a new avenue for words, studies suggest that printed text develops better comprehension.

(4) The Reading Manifesto of October 2023 rightly argues that digital reading is 'superficial' and confined to mere text decoding. Reading text, on the other hand, helps cultivate better cognitive abilities, attention span and vocabulary. We live in an age where fake news prevails. The much required ability to distinguish between fact and fiction can only be developed by critical reading of printed texts.

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Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(i) In paragraph (1), what causes the indecision in the author's mind ? *1*

(ii) How does the author describe the current state of reading among the new generation ? *1*

(A) They are more engaged with books than ever before.

(B) They find reading more exciting than digital media.

(C) They view reading as mundane and prefer digital media.

(D) They balance their reading between digital media and printed texts.

(iii) Complete the following with the correct option from the given two.

'Privilege of choice' in paragraph (2) means : *1*

(A) Easy and readily available options

(B) Rare and valuable opportunities

(iv) Complete the following suitably and support it with a reason. *2*

The difference between digital reading and reading printed text is _____. Paragraph (3)

(v) The phrases "reading rapidly and recklessly" and "overwhelming choices" convey that Gen Z _____. *1*

Paragraph (3)

(vi) State whether the following statement is True or False : *1*

Reading only for pleasure is a thing of the past. Paragraph (3)

(vii) The Reading Manifesto states that digital reading _____. *1*

Paragraph (4)

(A) is deep and comprehensive

(B) is superior to traditional reading

(C) fosters superficial reading confined to text decoding

(D) has an impact on cognitive skills

(viii) Support the writer's idea that reading has many advantages and it can counteract the spread of fake news. Paragraph (4) *2*

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2. Read the following passage carefully : *10*

(1) Among the most visible effects of environmental global warming are rising seas around the world : since 1880, the global mean sea level (GMSL) has increased by 20 cm. There's no easy way to halt or reverse this change. Earth's oceans and ice sheets respond slowly to changes in the heat they receive from the atmosphere. They hold onto heat for decades to centuries. As a result, sea levels globally will continue to rise well beyond the 21st century.

(2) The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that it is very likely that the climate-induced sea level will affect much of the world's coasts in the coming decades. An estimated 800 million people will experience impacts of high tide flooding. In many coastal settings, even a small increase in baseline sea level can increase the frequency and magnitude of flooding during high tides, storm surges and extreme weather.

(3) The direct impact of all this will be on communities, infrastructure, natural resources and biodiversity on all the world's coastline. It is already unavoidable that many communities will be displaced and forced to migrate as climate refugees. The need for counter measures against the adverse impacts of climate change is imperative.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(i) What message does the use of the phrase 'visible effects' by the writer, in paragraph (1) send to the reader ? *1*

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(ii) Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below. *1*

Assertion : There is no way to reverse the rising global mean sea level.

Reason : The oceans hold onto heat for centuries.

(A) Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.

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

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

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

(iii) Identify the word that indicates that the writer anticipated an approximate number of people who would face the impact.

Paragraph (2) *1*

(iv) The effects of human footprints on the environment are _____. *1*

(A) devastating (B) reversible

(C) adaptable (D) temporary

(v) Read the given prompt and select the correct option in the brackets to fill in the blank. *1*

In the coming decades almost _____ (350, 800, 900) million people will suffer the consequences of high tide.

(vi) Earth's oceans and ice sheets respond slowly to changes in the heat they receive from the atmosphere. Explain. *1*

(vii) Complete the sentence suitably

The sea level globally will continue to rise because _____. *1*

(viii) Complete the following with a suitable reason.

Frequent flooding in coastal settings can increase when _____. *1*

(ix) In the context of the last paragraph, who are climate refugees and why are they called so ? *2*

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SECTION B

Grammar and Creative Writing Skills *20 marks*

Grammar

3. Complete any ***ten*** of the following twelve tasks, as directed. *10×1=10*

(i) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket. *1*

My sister Mona _____ (fall) down when the dog leapt at her.

(ii) Read the given sentence. Identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence.

In the last five decades, the Rubik Cube has become one of the much absorbing puzzles for children. *1*

Error	*Correction*

(iii) Neha and Rudra were doing a theatre presentation. Report Neha's question. *1*

Are the costumes and props ready for the rehearsal tomorrow ?

(iv) Read the dialogue below : *1*

Vinay : Did you attend the seminar on "Effective Speaking," yesterday ?

Vineeta : Yes I did. I learnt some valuable skills from the speaker.

Choose the correct option to complete the dialogue.

Vinay asked Vineeta _____. Vineeta responded positively and said that she had learnt valuable skills from the speaker.

(A) whether she had attended the seminar on "Effective Speaking", the day before

(B) if she had attended the seminar on "Effective Speaking", yesterday

(C) whether the seminar on "Effective Speaking", the day before was good

(D) whether she will be attending the seminar on "Effective Speaking" the day after

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(v) Identify the error and provide the correction. *1*

A good bookstore not only sells books but also offer a great experience.

Error	*Correction*

(vi) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option. *1*

(Less/Much/Many) _____ people wonder why the food processing and packaging industry adds extra oil and sugar to their products.

(vii) Select the option that identifies the error and provides the correction. *1*

The complicated story line of the novel kept me engross.

Option No.	*Error*	*Correction*
(A)	line	lines
(B)	of	for
(C)	the	a
(D)	engross	engrossed

(viii) Select the correct option to complete the following sentence from a newspaper article. *1*

Most major cities _____ significantly over the last 30 years.

(A) has been growing

(B) grew

(C) have grown

(D) will grow

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(ix) Report the following dialogue between two friends by completing the sentence. *1*

Neena : The air in Shimla is refreshing.

Meena : Since yesterday the temperature has been below 20°C.

Neena said that the air in Shimla was refreshing. Meena added _____.

(x) Fill in the blank by choosing the right option. *1*

_____ I was not feeling well, I ventured out for a walk.

(A) However

(B) Though

(C) Through

(D) Nevertheless

(xi) Complete the sentence using the correct option.

Nitya is so intelligent that she _____ solve the puzzle in less than a minute. *1*

(A) may

(B) ought

(C) might

(D) can

(xii) Identify the error and provide the correct answer. *1*

The background music and sound effects plays a major role in the film's success.

Error	*Correction*

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Writing

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 : *5*

(a) In the recent years, there has been a spurt in the commercialization of residential properties. This is a cause of great nuisance and annoyance to the residents in the adjoining areas. Write a letter to the editor of a national newspaper, in about 120 words, drawing attention to the growing problem in the city and the inconveniences that follow. You are Ritika/Ritik, residing at 46, New Town, Roshnipur.

OR

(b) Write a letter in about 120 words to the Chairman, Sports Authority of your city. Draw his attention to the poor sports facilities for the public. Mention the disadvantages of the situation, and give suggestions on how sports infrastructure can be improved. You are Sujata/Shreyas, residing at 8-A, Sea View Apartments, Samudrashahar.

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5. Attempt any ***one*** from (a) and (b) given below : *5*

(a) Aarti/Aarav of class X is preparing for her/his exams and members of her/his study circle wish to learn how to manage their time well. Aarti/Aarav prepares the notes below on the principles of time management.

* Principles of Time Management
* Prioritize — identify important tasks
* Plan — create timelines
* Expect change in routine
* Anticipate problems
* Delegate tasks — gather resources

Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words either accepting or rejecting Aarti's/Aarav's plan.

OR

(b) Read the given details of a new mall that has recently opened in your area.

- Location
- Physical description
- Number of stores, food courts, cafés, entertainment zone
- Amenities – escalators, wheelchair ramp
- Congestion on roads, traffic jams

Analyse the details and write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words.

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SECTION C
Literature

40 marks

6. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any ***one*** of the given two, (a) or (b) : *5*

(a) NOODLE : (*bowing*) O Great and Mighty Think-Tank, most powerful and intelligent creature in the whole universe, what are your orders ?

THINK-TANK : (*peevishly*) You left out part of my salutation, Apprentice Noodle. Go over the whole thing again.
(The Book That Saved the Earth)

(i) According to the extract, Noodle is a _____ to Think-Tank. *1*
Select the correct option :
(A) carpenter (B) subordinate
(C) master (D) friend

(ii) What does the above extract reveal about the character of Think-Tank ? *2*

(iii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets. *1*

The use of the word 'peevishly' suggests that Think-Tank was feeling _____ (elated/annoyed).

(iv) How does Noodle describe Think-Tank in his salutation ? *1*

OR

(b) NATALYA : Forgive us, Ivan Vassilevitch, we were all a little heated. I remember now: Oxen Meadows... really are yours.

LOMOV : My heart's beating awfully. My Meadows... My eyebrows are both twitching....

NATALYA : The Meadows are yours, yes, yours. Do sit down. [*They sit*] We were wrong. (The Proposal)

(i) 'We' refers to _____. *1*

(ii) Why was Lomov's heart beating 'awfully' ? *1*

(iii) Fill in the blank with a correct word from the brackets. *2*

The use of the phrase 'twitching eyebrows' adds to the sense of _____ (agitation/pleasure).

(iv) Why does Natalaya say "Forgive us, Ivan... We were wrong" ? Substantiate in about 40 words from the given extract. *1*

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7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any ***one*** of the given two, (a) or (b) : *5*

(a) The trees inside are moving out into the forest,
the forest that was empty all these days
where no bird could sit
no insect hide
no sun bury its feet in shadow (The Trees)

(i) Where are the trees moving out from ? *1*

(ii) How does the author's use of descriptive language enhance the impact on the reader ? *1*

(iii) Complete the following suitably :
The emptiness of the forest is highlighted by _____. *1*

(iv) Explain the phrase "no sun bury its feet" with reference to the extract. *2*

OR

(b) Belinda embraced him, Mustard licked him,
No one mourned for his pirate victim.
Ink and Blink in glee did gyrate
Around the dragon that ate the pirate.
(The Tale of Custard the Dragon)

(i) Complete the following suitably : *1*

Belinda's and Mustard's reaction reflected a sense of _____.

(ii) 'Embraced' in this context means : *1*

(A) to accept
(B) to feel awkward and sheepish
(C) to put your arms around someone
(D) to show disagreement

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(iii) Select the option that applies the same rhyme scene as the lines of the given extract. *1*

(A) I have a cat
I have a house
I have a mouse
I have a hat.

(B) She went there
The house was bare
Not a sound was heard
Except the tweet of a bird.

(C) People along the sand
all turn to look one way.
The wetter ground like glass
swept their gaze away.

(D) The bird flew
to the sky blue
It was beauty true
I have to say

(iv) What is the irony in the behaviour of the characters in the given extract ? *2*

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

(i) How, according to Robert Frost, will the world end twice in the poem "Fire and Ice" ?

(ii) Why was Rajvir in "Glimpses of India" excited ? Why did Pranjol not share his excitement ?

(iii) Why does the poem "For Anne Gregory" use the reference of 'an old religious man' ?

(iv) Why did Maxwell call the airhostess 'the very queen of her kind' ?

(Mijbil the Otter)

(v) Describe Anne's relationship with her grandmother.

(From the Diary of Anne Frank)

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

(i) What did Mrs. Pumphrey do to bring Tricki to normal health ? Was she successful ? (A Triumph of Surgery)

(ii) Describe Griffin's room as seen by the Hall couple.

(Footprints without Feet)

(iii) What changes came into the life of the Loisels after the necklace was lost ? (The Necklace)

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10. Answer any ***one*** of the following two questions in 100 – 120 words : *6*

(a) What challenges do Siddhartha in 'The Sermon at Benares' and Valliammai in 'Madam Rides the Bus' face ? How do their journeys reflect on the themes of human experience and self-realisation ?

OR

(b) The protagonist in 'The Ball Poem' and the young seagull in 'His First Flight' face challenges. Discuss with reference to the two texts.

11. Answer any ***one*** of the following two questions in 100 – 120 words : *6*

(a) 'The devil is in the details' captures the power of unexamined details and how it results in unforeseen difficulties. Discuss the statement in context to "The Midnight Visitor".

OR

(b) The chapter 'Bholi' enables the readers to question values and customs prevailing in society. With reference to the text, discuss the above statement.

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