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Series : WXYZ/S

Set – 2

Q.P. Code	1/S/2

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) Travel, they say, broadens the mind, but who exactly are 'they' ? These mysterious sages seem to know a thing or two about the transformative power of packing a suitcase and jetting off to distant lands. As Mark Twain wisely put it, "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness." Indeed, leaving behind your familiar surroundings and completely involving yourself in a new culture is like enrolling in a crash course in the School of Life.

(2) Take, for instance, the confusing world of foreign languages. You might think you know how to navigate a city because you can book a hotel and call a taxi, but try finding your way through a maze of winding streets in an old European town. Suddenly, "Where is the train station ?" seems sadly not enough. It's a humbling experience, much like realising that 'piazza' is Italian for 'square' and not a type of pizza. But therein lies the beauty: each navigational blunder is a lesson, each wrong turn a new entry in your personal map of life.

(3) Then there are the historical landmarks. Visiting the Colosseum isn't just a chance to take an Instagram-worthy selfie; it's a real-life history lesson that textbooks can only dream of. As you stand in the shadow of this ancient arena, you might find yourself daydreaming about gladiators and emperors, only to be jolted back to reality by a selfie stick to the face. Travel has a way of making history real, even if it sometimes includes the odd bruise.

(4) Moreover, travel teaches resilience and adaptability. Missed flights, lost luggage, and questionable hotel rooms can turn even the most meticulously planned vacation into a comedy of errors. Yet, these are the moments that foster growth and creativity. Who knew you could fashion a comb out of a hotel toothbrush and a bit of resourcefulness.

(5) Travel is a passport to a world of knowledge, where every stamp tells a story and every journey is a chapter in the grand, unfinished novel of your life. So, next time you find yourself lost in a foreign city, remember: you're not just a tourist; you're a student of the world, and the curriculum is as vast as your curiosity.

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Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(i) According to Mark Twain, how does travel influence people ? *1*

(ii) How does the author use the metaphor of 'crash course in the School of Life' to interpret the value of travel ? *1*

(iii) The comparison of 'navigational blunder' to a 'lesson', in the context of travel, primarily highlights : *1*

(A) the inevitability of getting lost while travelling.
(B) the educational value of travel experiences.
(C) the frustration of not knowing a foreign language.
(D) the importance of planning every detail of a trip.

(iv) Provide one textual evidence with reference to paragraph (4) to prove that travel promotes creativity. *1*

(v) The significance of historical landmarks in the context of travel, according to the passage, is _____. *1*

(vi) Give two instances of the author's resilience and adaptability during his travels. *2*

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

fragility : weakness : : _____ : strength

(A) adaptability
(B) ingenuity
(C) resilience
(D) creativity

(viii) How does the following statement define a traveller ? (paragraph (5)) *1*

'You're not just a tourist; you're a student of the world, and the curriculum is as vast as your curiosity.'

(ix) Reflect on the author's perspective on travel as an educational journey. How does this viewpoint of the author challenge conventional forms of education ? *2*

(x) Complete the sentence suitably : *1*

The author refers to travel as a passport to the world of knowledge because _____.

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2. Read the following passage carefully : *10*

(1) **Introduction :** One of the unfortunate paradoxes of our lives today is that despite adequate food production and unimaginable advances in technology, one in three persons worldwide is not getting enough of the right food to eat and approximately 800 million of seven billion sleep hungry every night. Not surprisingly, this makes poor diet the No. 1 risk factor by far, for the global burden of disease.

(2) **Findings :** Poor diets globally are more responsible for ill health as compared with the combined effect of drugs, tobacco and alcohol. Women and children continue to be the most vulnerable, with 156 million stunted children in the world and 40% of women anaemic. Add to this the fact that the world adds 2,00,000 new people to its population every day, of which India adds 58,000. This translates to the need to feed two billion more people by 2050 and to support a higher demand for major crops, estimated to increase by 50%, from 2·5 to 3·5 billion tonnes.

(3) **Purpose :** Target 3 for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12 is to "halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer level, and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses". Food loss is valued at $ 1 trillion globally by the Food and Agriculture Organisation, enough to feed the 800 million who sleep hungry every night. The SDGs have put the spotlight on food loss and waste, prompting discussions on solutions through better farming practices, technology, information, and consumer behaviour changes.

(4) **Implications :** In developed countries, 'food waste' occurs more at the consumer household level, whereas in emerging economies, it is the supply chain that leads to 'food loss' during harvest, storage or transit, due to poor infrastructure and inadequately aligned processes. Investment in creating adequate cold storage capacity alone can significantly reduce food loss. Food loss is also nutrition loss, productivity loss, and GDP loss. India, for instance, loses 40% of its food, translating to approximately $ 7·5 billion .

(5) **Suggestions :** To provide a dignified quality of life, India must enhance agricultural productivity, diversify crops, and eliminate food loss and waste with a firm resolve and timely action. Investments in infrastructure, information systems, technology, and public-private partnerships are critical. Minimising food loss has the potential to be transformative in multiple ways.

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Answer the following questions, based on the given passage.

(i) Complete the following suitably.

The 'paradox' that the author mentions in the introduction refers to _____. *1*

(ii) Analyse why poor diet is the No. 1 risk factor for diseases globally. *1*

(iii) What would the following be classified as ? *1*

'This makes poor diet the No. 1 risk factor by far for the global burden of disease.'

Select the appropriate response.

(A) Primary purpose (B) Secondary objective

(C) Method of analysis (D) Research outcome

(iv) Target 3 for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12 is to : *1*

(A) produce enough food to feed the 800 million who sleep hungry every night.

(B) reduce food waste worth $ 1 trillion globally.

(C) reduce per capita global food waste by 50% at all levels.

(D) reduce per capita global food waste by 50% along production and supply chains.

(v) Discuss the difference in food waste with regard to developed countries and emerging economies. Answer in about 40 words. *2*

(vi) Paragraph (2) includes the words – effect and demand. Classify the following sentences as 'effect' or 'demand'. *1*

Sentence 1 – 156 million stunted children in the world.

Sentence 2 – This translates to the need to feed two billion more people by 2050.

(vii) Analyse what impact food loss has on a country's economy. *1*

(viii) India can ensure a dignified way of life for its citizens by : *2*

(A) _____

(B) _____

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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) You are the sports captain of Greenleaf Public School, Vayunagar. Write a notice informing the students about a summer camp being organized by the school for training in Swimming and Tennis. Provide all necessary details. Do not forget to put your notice in a box.

OR

(b) Your school is organizing a two-day National Integration Camp at Zenith International School, Khushipur. There will be art, music, song and dance competitions. As Cultural In-charge, draft a notice giving details and inviting participation from students of classes IX – XII. Do not forget to 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 Srihaan Bhatia, the Head Boy of Bharti School, Gaganshahar. Your school is holding an Inter-school Pickleball Championship from 10th October to 18th October, 2025. Write a formal invitation to the renowned tennis player, Shri Mahesh Bhupathi, to inaugurate the championship at your school grounds. Provide all necessary details.

OR

(b) The Residents' Welfare Society of your colony is organising a carnival on Children's Day. There will be food stalls, games and rides, along with many attractive prizes. Extend an invitation to the residents to participate in the same. Provide the necessary details.

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

(a) Child labour remains a pressing issue in India, despite numerous legal frameworks and initiatives to combat it. As a concerned citizen, write a letter to the editor of a national daily highlighting the socio-economic, cultural, and political factors that contribute to this issue. Explore the roles of both government and society in eradicating this problem. You may use some of the given cues along with your own ideas to draft the letter. You are Julia/John of 14, Old Street, New Town.

- Economic conditions and inadequate access to education
- Exploitation by industries
- Cultural norms and traditions
- Impact on child development : physical, emotional and psychological
- Solutions : at the level of government and society

OR

(b) You are Ashna/Anshul Chauhan of Block B/II, Geet Apartments, Suryapur. Write a job application along with your bio-data, in response to the following advertisement that you came across in a newspaper.

ARCADE ARCHITECTS

Requires

- Creative and detail-oriented Junior Architect to assist in designing residential and commercial buildings
- Candidate must have a Bachelor's degree in Architecture
- 1 – 3 years relevant experience
- Proficiency in CAD software
- Experience in project design, drafting and site supervision
- A passion for innovative design and sustainable architecture is a must

Apply within 15 days to : hr_manager@buildwell.com

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

(a) Artificial Intelligence (AI) has increasingly become an integral part of our daily lives, influencing various sectors such as healthcare, education, entertainment, and business. While AI offers significant benefits in terms of efficiency and innovation, it also raises ethical and societal concerns. Write an article on the role of AI in modern life, examining both its advantages and potential risks. You may use some of the given cues along with your own ideas. You are Amaya/Ashok.

- AI in everyday tasks – communication, transportation, household management
- Impact on education, employment, healthcare
- Privacy concerns – data collection, surveillance
- Ethics and decision-making

OR

(b) You are Saloni/Sahil, President of the Technology Club of your school. The club recently organised a Tech-fest, showcasing various innovations, projects, and competitions related to technology. Write a detailed report on the event. You may organise your report by the following :

- 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) Fishermen in the cold sea
would not harm whales
and the man gathering salt
would look at his hurt hands.

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) Choose the correct option from those given below to complete the following sentence :
The image of the fishermen here represents : *1*

(A) the entire human population.

(B) people of the fishing community.

(C) the big corporations that pollute the seas.

(D) the indiscriminate exploitation of resources by human beings.

(ii) What will be the outcome when fishermen stop harming whales ? *1*

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(iii) What do the 'hurt hands' of the man gathering salt symbolize ? *1*

(A) Salt gathering is a very hazardous activity.

(B) Workers of the salt-mining industry are exploited by their masters.

(C) Exploitation of nature will eventually harm humans too.

(D) Humans are unconscious of their actions.

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

According to the poet, fishermen will not harm whales only when _____.

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

The excerpt tells us that humans need _____ (introspection/discussion) to understand the consequences of their actions.

(vi) The poetic device used in 'hurt hands' is the same as the one used in which of the following options ? *1*

(A) The tree groaned under the weight of its fruit.

(B) The red apples looked beautiful in the blue bowl.

(C) He pledged to climb mountains to reach his goal.

(D) The building collapsed like a house of cards.

OR

(b) No, in country money, the country scale of gain,
The requisite lift of spirit has never been found,
Or so the voice of the country seems to complain,
I can't help owning the great relief it would be
To put these people at one stroke out of their pain.

(A Roadside Stand)

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(i) Select the phrase, from the lines given above, that suggests the following : *1*

The essential boost in morale and well-being has till now remained elusive.

(ii) The tone reflected in the first three lines of this extract is that of _____. (expectation/disappointment) *1*

(iii) The 'voice of the country', in line 3, is a reference to : *1*

(A) the general mood and feelings of people living in the countryside.

(B) the collective complaints and grievances of the urban communities.

(C) the common opinions and beliefs of the city folk.

(D) the traditional folklore of the rural poor.

(iv) The poet's attitude towards the country folk is one of : *1*

(A) friendliness

(B) callousness

(C) superiority

(D) sympathy

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

Assertion : The poet suggests that the country people's pain is exploited by those in power.

Reason : The money given to the country people is a genuine attempt to improve their lives.

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.

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(vi) The statement 'put these people at one stroke out of their pain' by the poet reveals his : *1*

1. helplessness
2. cruelty
3. insensitivity
4. frustration
5. ruthlessness
6. compassion
7. exasperation

Choose the correct option :

(A) 1, 6, 7 (B) 3, 4, 5
(C) 2, 4, 5 (D) 1, 4, 7

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

(a) MR LAMB : I'm not fond of curtains. Shutting things out, shutting things in. I like the light and the darkness, and the windows open, to hear the wind.

DERRY : Yes. I like that. When it's raining, I like to hear it on the roof.

MR LAMB : So you're not lost, are you ? Not altogether ? You do hear things. You listen.

(On The Face Of It)

(i) What facets of Mr. Lamb's nature are brought out in the above lines ? *1*

1. Openness
2. Appreciative
3. Reclusive
4. Hostility
5. Positivity
6. Shyness
7. Cautious

Choose the correct option :

(A) 1, 2, 5 (B) 2, 4, 7
(C) 3, 5, 6 (D) 1, 3, 7

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(ii) "So you're not lost, are you ?" What Mr. Lamb is saying to Derry in this line is that : *1*

(A) he has followed his mother's instructions carefully.

(B) he has the ability to hear the sounds around him.

(C) he has the ability to reflect on and appreciate nature.

(D) he has come to the right place.

(iii) Choose the correct option to complete the following statement. *1*

Derry's feelings in this extract move from :

(A) bitterness → reluctance → friendliness

(B) shyness → reluctance → disappointment

(C) curiosity → nostalgia → disappointment

(D) curiosity → openness → eloquence

(iv) When he says, "I like the light and the darkness", the message that Mr. Lamb is conveying to Derry is _____. *1*

OR

(b) "Then certainly I can allow nothing to happen to you," the General said with anxiety. His long pale Japanese face became expressionless, which meant that he was in deep thought. "You cannot be arrested," the General said, closing his eyes. "Suppose you were condemned to death and the next day I had to have my operation ?"

(The Enemy)

(i) "You cannot be arrested." What could be the reason for this ? *1*

(A) Harbouring an American soldier

(B) He was a soldier

(C) He needed to treat the soldiers

(D) The General might need an operation

(ii) Why was the Japanese face without any expression ? *1*

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(iii) What qualities of the General are revealed in this extract ? *1*

1. Compassionate
2. Revengeful
3. Decisive
4. Selfish
5. Powerful
6. Cruel

Choose the correct option :

(A) 1, 3, 5

(B) 2, 4, 6

(C) 3, 4, 5

(D) 1, 2, 6

(iv) Dr. Sadao's feelings at this point would be of _____. (anxiety/relief) *1*

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

(a) While every other member of the Department wore a kind of uniform — khadi dhoti with a slightly oversized and clumsily tailored white khadi shirt — the legal adviser wore pants and a tie and sometimes a coat that looked like a coat of mail. Often he looked alone and helpless — a man of cold logic in a crowd of dreamers — a neutral man in an assembly of Gandhiites and khadiites. Like so many of those who were close to The Boss, he was allowed to produce a film and though a lot of raw stock and pancake were used on it, not much came of the film. Then one day The Boss closed down the Story Department and this was perhaps the only instance in all human history where a lawyer lost his job because the poets were asked to go home.

(Poets and Pancakes)

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(i) The legal adviser stood out among the others of the Story Department because of his _____ (Western/Indian) attire. *1*

(ii) Other members of the Story Department wore 'a kind of uniform' because : *1*

(A) they were influenced by Gandhi's ideals.

(B) they also participated in the freedom movement.

(C) it was comfortable attire for the summer months.

(D) the Studio bosses insisted on it.

(iii) Which of the following statements is ***not*** true about the legal adviser ? *1*

(A) He had an interest in film-making.

(B) He was a down-to-earth and practical person.

(C) He was on friendly terms with everyone at Gemini Studios.

(D) He did not have a herd mentality.

(iv) Why were the members of the Story Department called 'a crowd of dreamers' ? *1*

(v) Choose the correct option to complete the following sentence. *1*

The lawyer lost his job because _____.

(A) The Boss was unhappy that the film he had produced had not done well.

(B) The Story Department, of which he was a part, was discontinued.

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(vi) The word 'pancake' has been used in the extract in the same context, as which of the following sentences : *1*

(A) She flipped the pancake perfectly, golden brown and ready to eat.

(B) After the storm, the tent was pancaked under the weight of the fallen tree.

(C) She applied a thick layer of pancake makeup for the stage performance.

(D) The cyclist pancaked onto the pavement after losing his balance.

OR

(b) When I presented my first Doctoral dissertation in Italy, one of the Professors said, "Scholars learn a lot of a certain subject, then they make a lot of false hypotheses, then they correct them and at the end, they put the conclusions. You, on the contrary, told the story of your research. Even including your trials and errors." At the same time, he recognised I was right and went on to publish my dissertation as a book, which meant he appreciated it.

At that point, at the age of 22, I understood scholarly books should be written the way I had done — by telling the story of the research. This is why my essays always have a narrative aspect. And this is why probably I started writing narratives (novels) so late — at the age of 50, more or less.

(The Interview)

(i) What sets Umberto Eco apart from other scholars was that he wrote his research papers in a (statistical/descriptive) manner. Choose the correct option from the words given in the brackets. *1*

(ii) What did the Professor appreciate about Eco's dissertation ? *1*

(A) He had paid great attention to accuracy.

(B) He had made interesting hypotheses.

(C) He had arrived at the right conclusions.

(D) He had presented his research like a story.

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(iii) According to the Professor, what was the general pattern of dissertations submitted by scholars ? *1*

(iv) The word 'dissertation' as used in the extract does ***not*** mean : *1*

(A) thesis (B) discourse

(C) treatise (D) synopsis

(v) Choose the correct option to answer the following question : *1*
What realisation did Umberto Eco come to at the age of 22 ?

(i) Scholars should avoid false hypotheses.

(ii) Scholars could be successful as novelists.

(iii) Scholars should have a narrative aspect in their work.

(iv) Scholars could never be successful as novelists.

(vi) What prepared Umberto Eco to become a novelist so late in life ? *1*

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

(i) Who did M. Hamel blame for the neglect of learning on the part of boys like Franz ? (The Last Lesson)

(ii) What contrast do you notice between the colours of the bangles and the atmosphere of the place where these bangles are made ? (Lost Spring)

(iii) Identify instances from the lesson 'Going Places' to show that Sophie's dreams and disappointments are all in her mind. (Going Places)

(iv) Discuss any two symbols from the poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers'.

(v) Discuss two emotions of the mother-daughter relationship that come across in the phrase 'smile and smile'. (My Mother at Sixty-six)

(vi) How does the experience at Warm Lake contrast with the earlier incident at the YMCA pool, and what does this contrast suggest about the narrator's growth ? (Deep Water)

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

(i) How is the ending of the story 'The Third Level' ironic ?

(ii) How does the author satirise the upbringing and education of crown princes of Indian states ? (The Tiger King)

(iii) How does Zitkala-Sa's reaction to having her hair cut reflect her feelings about cultural identity and personal autonomy ?

(Memories of Childhood)

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

(a) In the poems 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' by Adrienne Rich and 'A Thing of Beauty' by John Keats, how do the themes of beauty and art function as mechanisms for coping with pain and suffering ? Discuss how each poet uses imagery and symbolism to convey the power of art and beauty in transcending life's hardships.

OR

(b) In the stories 'The Rattrap' by Selma Lagerlöf and 'Indigo' by Louis Fischer, both the rattrap peddler and Rajkumar Shukla face significant struggles. Compare and contrast their approaches to handling these challenges. How do their differing circumstances and decisions reflect their character and the broader social context ?

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

(a) Bama is grateful to her brother for raising her awareness about the discrimination faced by her community and for guiding her to pursue education to build her own identity and overcome the stigma associated with their marginalised status in society. Support your answer with textual evidence.

(On The Face Of It)

OR

(b) Tishani Doshi, after her transformative experience in Antarctica, understands the importance of environmental awareness, responsible stewardship and proactive efforts to combat climate change for the preservation of the planet. Support your answer with details from the lesson 'Journey to the end of the Earth'.

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